

Traditional technique : Stone bridge

Category : Bridges Sicle : 19th century

River : Kumagawa (Kuma River)

Site : Kikuchi City (Kumamoto Pref.)



1) 48 Nagayama Bridge (Kikuchi City): prefecture-designated important cultural property; the original bridge built in 1824, the new bridge built in 1878; mason for the original bridge: Kosaka Kangoro, mason for the new bridge: Hashimoto Kangoro; length: 61.00 m, width: 4.50 m, height: 16.00 m, span length: 20.60 m, rise: 7.90 m



2) 53 Tatekado Bridge (Kikuchi City): prefecture-designated important cultural property; completed in 1860; mason: Uichi; length: 75.00 m, width: 3.60 m, height: 11.40 m, span length: 21.70 m, rise 8.60 m



3) 67 Jizo Bridge (Otsu City): town-designated cultural property; completed in ca. 1814; mason: Kantaro (probably); length: 7.50 m, width 4.35 m, height: 3.65 m, span length: 6.00 m, rise: 3.00 m



4) 73 Iguchi Bridge (Kikuyo-machi): completed toward the end of the Edo Period; mason: unknown; length: 10.75 m, width: 3.00 m, height: 2.65 m

Source: Personal Experiences with the Kumagawa (Kuma River) Basin (in Japanese), Kikuchi River Work Office and Ryumon Dam Construction Office, Ministry of Construction

Description:

Kumamoto Prefecture is said to be an area that has more stone bridges than any other prefecture. It is generally said that the construction of stone bridges in the Kumagawa (Kuma River) basin began earlier than any other region in the prefecture, and toward the end of the Edo Period, stone bridge construction spread to other parts of the prefecture.