Mōtsūji Temple Belfry Site

The earthen platform and foundation stones are all that remains of what is believed to have been the bell tower of Mōtsūji’s main hall (Kondō Enryūji*)* which was destroyed by fire in 1226. Bell towers are a common feature of Buddhist temples throughout Japan. The main hall had two symmetrical corridors extending south towards the Great Spring Pond (*Ōizumi ga Ike*). It is thought that the corridor to the east culminated in a bell tower, and the one to the west in a sutra repository. The architectural structures mirrored each other, creating a harmonious balance. The bell was traditionally rung by priests during ceremonies, as a call to prayer, or to mark the time of day.