

North of the main building and storehouse is a restored rice warehouse from the Goto Matabei Ryokan that originally stood in Yamagata city. The two-story building is now used to showcase beautiful and intricately crafted Edo-period (1603–1868) goods including a princess's toys, combs, and wedding kimono. At the time, the kimono was said to have been so well made that the finest weavers from Kyoto were unable to reproduce the gold filigree woven into it. Upstairs are even more amazing artifacts. Even the steps are unique—it is common for traditional two-story Japanese buildings to have cupboards built into the stairs, but instead of being removable from the side, the cupboards open directly over the flats of the stairs. On the second floor, there are over one hundred and twenty ivory *netsuke*, miniature carvings that are used to attach a pouch to the belt of a kimono. Also on display are poems written by famous poets during their stays at the inn, and a daimyo clock, which tells time in the traditional Japanese system that was used during the Edo period (1603–1867). The main support beam for the roof is made from a single piece of Japanese red pine, a notoriously gnarled species of tree whose twisted shape is popular for bonsai. A straight beam of this size is remarkable, and indirectly shows the wealth associated with the construction of this inn.