

The Katakura Silk Museum was built by Katakura Industries to remember to the Kumagaya silk reeling factory that once stood on the site. The museum is housed in the renovated remains of two of the factory's old cocoon warehouses. The owner, Katakura Industries Co., Ltd., was founded in 1873 and for 121 years was a major part of the silk industry, taking over ownership of the Tomioka Silk Mill and running it until it stopped operations in 1987. The company was responsible for updating the factories to the latest fully-automated silk reeling machines. Examples of these machines can be seen at the Tomioka Silk Mill and Katakura Silk Museum and in fact they are still in use in other parts of the world. While Katakura Industries Co., Ltd. no longer produces raw silk, in order to preserve the knowledge of silk production the museum displays examples of the machines used in each step of the process.