

Stables (*Umayaya*) and Horse Care

The *nagaya-mon* (“longhouse gate”) owned by the Takada family includes a room for servants (*chugen*) on its right half and a stable (*umayaya*) on the left, viewed from within the residence.

In the Kaga domain (feudal-era Ishikawa, centered on Kanazawa), samurai families of middle rank (*heishi*) or above were permitted to build and maintain a stable of horses in their residential compounds. These samurai most often rode on horseback when moving through the city on business. While particularly wealthy households may have kept many horses, it is thought that the Takada family’s stable held only two.

Some of the *chugen* serving in the Takada residence were responsible for the horses’ care. These servants rose early in the morning to walk the horses through the grounds for exercise, and then brushed them while the straw in the stables was being changed. They had to remain near the stables, ready to saddle and bridle the horses as soon as they received word that their master was preparing to leave the residence. They also usually accompanied him to his destination, running alongside his mount.