

## Takanishi Family House

In the Edo period (1603–1867), *ashigaru* (foot soldiers, the lowest rank of samurai) often lived in continuous rows of tenement housing called *nagaya* (literally “longhouses”). In the prosperous Kaga domain (feudal-era Ishikawa centered on Kanazawa), however, *ashigaru* were allotted detached houses with gardens. This unusual incentive, along with Kaga’s economic opportunities, is thought to have made the domain attractive to *ashigaru*.

The Takanishi Family House, along with the Shimizu Family House next door, is one of the oldest remaining detached houses for *ashigaru* in Kanazawa. Descendants of the original *ashigaru* owners lived in the house until 1994, when it was dismantled and moved here to become part of the Kanazawa City Ashigaru Museum. Previously, the residence was located in the district designated for “fast feet” (*hikyaku*). *Hikyaku* were couriers known for their speed and unique running style; they delivered anything from correspondence and goods to money orders. In the relatively peaceful Edo period, *hikyaku* was the primary occupation of many *ashigaru*.

Inside the Takanishi Family House, visitors can learn more about *ashigaru* organizations, life, residential areas, and housing. The Shimizu Family House next door introduces everyday life and activities.