

Keishoden Hall

The Keishoden was built in 1699 and is used by the priests of Kasuga Taisha to pray for the peace and stability of Japan. It was donated to Kasuga Taisha Shrine by Keishoin (1627–1705), the mother of the fifth Tokugawa shogun, Tsunayoshi (1646–1709).

The architectural style is typical of the Genroku period (1688–1704), with a facade that looks like a residential building. This building is a symbol of the strong connection between Kasuga Taisha Shrine and the Tokugawa shogunate, which ruled Japan during the Edo period (1603–1867). The Keishoden is normally closed to visitors, but it is occasionally open to the public for ceremonies and special events.

Despite her low birth, Keishoin became one of the concubines of Shogun Tokugawa Iemitsu (1604–1651) and gave birth to Iemitsu's heir. After Iemitsu's death, Keishoin became a Buddhist nun, but continued to advise her son, the fifth shogun Tsunayoshi, until her death in 1705. Keishoin is remembered for her wisdom and her patronage of temples and shrines, including Kasuga Taisha Shrine.