

Mōtsūji Temple: Site of the Jōgyōdō (Circumambulation Hall) and Hokkedō (Lotus Hall)

Two square halls connected by a corridor once stood here, but are said to have been lost to fires in 1573. The Jōgyōdō Hall was to the south and the Hokkedō to the north. They were modeled after the linked Jōgyōdō and Hokkedō of Enryakuji Temple, the main Tendai monastery, near Kyoto.

Mōtsūji priests conducted prayers, rituals, and training practices of the Tendai sect of Buddhism, which focuses on the Lotus Sutra, in the two halls. Priests practiced a specific Tendai ritual called *jōgyōdō-zanmai* in the Jōgyōdō Hall. They would walk continually in a circle, often around an image of Amida Nyorai, the Buddha of Infinite Light and Life. The practice of *hokke-zanmai* in the Lotus hall, as the name suggests, focused on contemplation of the Lotus Sutra.

Only foundation stones from the Hokkedō Hall can still be seen here in their original formation. Some of the foundation stones of the Jōgyōdō Hall are thought to have been used for the hall that was reconstructed in 1732. That hall stands just to the west of this site and is still used today for rituals and ceremonies.