

## **Nagayamon Gate**

Takayama Chōgorō (1830–1886) tore down most of his ancestral home to build his sericulture school in the late 1800s. His family were wealthy samurai, and Nagayamon Gate is the only building that remains of their estate.

Nagayamon Gate is believed to have been built in the late 1600s, making it one of the oldest surviving gates in Japan. Evidence for the structure has been found on a map of the property made in 1891, when the gate was used to store farming and sericulture equipment. The name Nagayamon is a portmanteau of the words *nagaya*, referring to a long or row house, and *mon*, a gate or entranceway. Thus, it is literally a “long house gate.”

In 2016 the original structure was meticulously reconstructed. Every piece of timber was labeled, removed, repaired, and put back into its original place.