

***Taiko* (Drum) Tower**

This solidly fortified tower defends the eastern side of the castle. Completed around 1599, it is one of the oldest extant parts of the castle. Despite being named “Drum Tower” during the Edo period (1603–1867), it was actually used as a guardhouse. The current name originated in the late 1800s when the tower was used to store *taiko* drums.