

Fujii House Floor Plan

This floor plan, drawn on a wooden board in 1787, depicts the *gassho*-style farmhouse of the Fujii family, which was built in the same year. The house appears to have been notably large and impressive in stature, reflecting the wealth and status of the family, a prominent landowner and holder of the rank of village headman. The house burned down in 1945, but the floor plan and other important records kept by the Fujii survived because they were kept in a storehouse some distance from the main building. Such an arrangement was common in Shirakawa, where fire was traditionally one of the greatest threats to the villages' thatched wooden houses.