

## **Ninomaru Goten Storehouse**

This white-plastered storehouse was built in 1867 by Toda Mitsuhsa (1828–1892), the last lord of Matsumoto Castle. Although the storehouse was built as a treasury for the Ninomaru Goten, it is unlikely that much money was ever kept here. The Toda family's second appointment as lords of Matsumoto Castle (from 1726 to 1869) was the longest that any family controlled the castle, but they endured financial hardship for much of that time. The land holdings they received were smaller than those of any family before them, and the Toda family's finances had already been stretched thin by the cost of rebuilding secondary residences in Edo (now Tokyo), which had burned down in 1717 and 1727.

The years of the Toda family reign were hard years. The region was struck by the Great Tenmei Famine (1782–1787) and Great Tenpo Famine (1833–1839), both of which caused the price of rice to skyrocket. The Toda family opened their own storehouses to provide relief, and it is said that not a single person starved thanks to this generous act.

When Matsumoto domain was dissolved in 1871 and redesignated as part of Chikuma Prefecture, the Ninomaru Goten became the Chikuma Prefectural Office. During this time, the storehouse was used to store documents. When the prefectural office was destroyed by fire in 1876, the storehouse survived, and today it holds items uncovered during an excavation of the site in 1979.