

**Key Point: Glass**

Before the late nineteenth century, glass was an expensive material that was rarely used in construction. Despite this, the main building and the classroom wing of the Former Kaichi School Building have roughly 2,600 pieces of glass, including both clear panes for the windows and decorative, colored fragments of stained glass. As a result, the school was given the nickname “the glass school” (*giyaman gakkō*).

Some of the windows in the octagonal tower and the lecture hall on the second floor were made with colored glass. The red, blue, green, and yellow pieces are thought to have been imported from Europe, as Japan lacked the technology to produce them domestically.