

The Construction of Matsumoto Castle

(1) The Arrival of the Ishikawa Family

Ishikawa Kazumasa (d.1592) was a longtime retainer of Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616), the eventual founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. Kazumasa was even entrusted with guarding Okazaki Castle, where Ieyasu had been born. However, in 1585, Kazumasa suddenly deserted and allied himself with Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1537–1598). In reward, he was granted control of Izumi Province (now southern Osaka Prefecture). When Hideyoshi removed the Ogasawara family from Matsumoto Castle in 1590, he chose the Ishikawa family to replace them.

(2) Building the Castle Keep

Kazumasa and his eldest son, Ishikawa Yasunaga (1554–1642), improved the castle grounds and began work on Matsumoto Castle. Kazumasa died only three years after his arrival in Matsumoto, but Yasunaga oversaw the completion of the Great Keep, the Northwest Tower, and the Roofed Passage.

The initial stages of construction are described in an eighteenth-century text on the history and geography of the region called *Shinpu tōki* (Compiled Chronicles of Matsumoto):

“Kazumasa built [the Kosanji Goten] in the second bailey and started planning the layout of the castle. Yasunaga continued his father’s work: he erected the keep, dug the outermost moat, increased the height of the earthen embankments, then laid the stone foundation for the castle, built the Roofed Passage, Kuromon Gate, and Taikomom Gate, repaired the walls, and built a tower above the gate to the third bailey. He built most of the plaster walls around the outermost moat and repaired the residences within the castle compound. He also built residences for his samurai retainers.”

Matsumoto Castle during the Edo Period (1603–1867)

(1) Lords of the Castle

During the Edo period, Matsumoto Castle was governed by 23 successive lords from six families. The castle was the administrative center of Matsumoto domain, which roughly corresponds to what is now the Chūshin region of Nagano Prefecture. At this time, the country was divided into hundreds of such domains, and daimyos were appointed to govern them by order of the Tokugawa shogunate. Daimyos who were loyal to the shogunate would often be relocated to more prestigious domains or given an increased stipend, which was measured in units of rice called *koku*. Matsumoto’s strategic location and subsequently large stipend made it desirable, and the daimyos that governed the domain were often closely related to the shogun or his family.

Family Name	Given Name	Period of Rule
Ishikawa	Kazumasa	1590–1592
	Yasunaga	1592–1613
Ogasawara	Hidemasa	1613–1615
	Tadamasa (Tadazane)	1615–1617

Toda	Yasunaga	1617–1632
	Yasunao	1633–1633
Matsudaira	Naomasa	1633–1638
Hotta	Masamori	1638–1642
Mizuno	Tadakiyo	1642–1647
	Tadamoto	1647–1668
	Tadanao	1668–1713
	Tadachika	1713–1718
	Tadamoto	1718–1723
	Tadatsune	1723–1725
Period of Direct Control by Tokugawa Shogunate		
Toda	Mitsuchika	1726–1732
	Mitsuo	1732–1756
	Mitsuyasu	1756–1759
	Mitsumasa	1759–1774
	Mitsuyoshi	1774–1786
	Mitsuyuki	1786–1800
	Mitsutsura	1800–1837
	Mitsutsune	1837–1845
	Mitsuhisa	1845–1869

Family	High-Level Government Positions	Stipend (<i>kokudaka</i>) 1 <i>koku</i> ≈ 180L	Previous Post	Next Post
Ishikawa	<i>Hōki no kami</i> (“Lord of Hōki Province”): Kazumasa <i>Genba no kami</i> (“Chief of Temples and Foreign Affairs”): Yasunaga	80,000 <i>koku</i>	Izumi Province	Stripped of rank, land seized
Ogasawara	<i>Shinano no kami</i> (“Lord of Shinano Province”): Hidemasa <i>Ukon no taifu</i> (“Fifth-Rank Magistrate of the Right”): Tadazane	80,000 <i>koku</i>	Shinano Province, Iida domain	Harima Province, Akashi domain (10,000 <i>koku</i>)
Toda	<i>Tanba no kami</i> (“Lord of Tanba Province”): Yasunaga <i>Sado no kami</i> (“Lord of Sado Province”): Yasunao	70,000 <i>koku</i>	Kōzuke Province, Takasaki domain	Harima Province, Akashi domain (70,000 <i>koku</i>)
Matsudaira	<i>Dewa no kami</i> (“Lord of	70,000 <i>koku</i>	Echizen Province,	Izumo

a	Dewa Province”): Naomasa		Ōno domain	Province, Matsue domain (186,000 <i>koku</i>)
Hotta	<i>Kaga no kami</i> (“Lord of Kaga Province”): Masamori	100,000 <i>koku</i>	Musashi Province, Kawagoe domain	Shimōsa Province, Sakura domain (110,000 <i>koku</i>)
Mizuno	<i>Hayato no shō</i> (“Commander of the Hayato”): Tadakiyo and others <i>Dewa no kami</i> (“Lord of Dewa Province”): Tadamoto and others <i>Hyūga no kami</i> (“Lord of Hyūga Province”): Tadamoto (r. 1718– 1723)	70,000 <i>koku</i>	Mikawa Province, Yoshida domain	Land confiscated
Toda	<i>Tanba no kami</i> (“Lord of Tanba Province”)	60,000 <i>koku</i>	Shima Province, Toba domain	Abolition of the domain system (<i>haihan- chiken</i>)

(2) Major Events

This timeline describes some of the key events in the history of Matsumoto Castle and the surrounding domain.

Year	Event	Ruling Family
1504	Shimadachi Sadanaga constructs Fukashi Castle (according to available records).	
1550	Takeda Shingen attacks Fukashi Castle, forcing Ogasawara Nagatoki to flee. Shingen begins renovations of Fukashi Castle.	
1582	Oda Nobunaga defeats Takeda Katsuyori, functionally eradicating the Takeda family. After a brief clash between daimyos, Fukashi Castle is claimed by Ogasawara Sadayoshi, who renames the site “Matsumoto Castle.”	
1590	The Ogasawara family is transferred to eastern Japan. Toyotomi Hideyoshi awards Matsumoto Castle to Ishikawa Kazumasa.	Ishikawa
1593	Construction of the Great Keep, the Northwest Tower,	

	and the Roofed Passage progresses.	
1600	The Ishikawa family allies with Tokugawa Ieyasu at the Battle of Sekigahara.	
1613	Ishikawa Yasunaga is implicated in a tax scandal (the Ōkubo Nagayasu Jiken) and stripped of his rank by Ieyasu. Ogasawara Hidemasa is granted control of Matsumoto Castle.	Ogasawara
1614	The Ogasawara family fights alongside Tokugawa forces during the winter campaign of the Siege of Osaka.	
1615	Ogasawara Hidemasa and his eldest son, Ogasawara Tadanaga, die during the summer campaign of the Siege of Osaka.	
1617	Toda Yasunaga is granted control of Matsumoto Castle. He builds more residential areas for samurai to the north of the castle.	Toda
1633	Matsudaira Naomasa is granted control of Matsumoto Castle. He builds the Southeast Wing and the Moon-Viewing Tower and repairs other parts of the castle.	Matsudaira
1649	Mizuno Tadamoto conducts a comprehensive land survey of Matsumoto Domain.	Mizuno
1686	Peasants in the north protest the high annual taxes levied on them by the domainial government. The protest leaders are captured and crucified.	
1725	The Mizuno family is removed from power after Mizuno Tadatsune attacks someone with his sword on the grounds of Edo Castle. In their absence, development of the castle town is completed.	
1726	Matsumoto Castle is briefly placed under the direct control of the Tokugawa shogunate, after which the Toda family is once again granted control of the castle.	Toda
1727	The Honmaru Goten burns down. Its functions are transferred to the Ninomaru Goten and the Kōsanji Goten.	
1743	The shogunate grants the Toda family additional territory valued at 50,000 <i>koku</i> .	
1760	Shinano Province (of which Matsumoto is part) becomes embroiled in a legal dispute regarding sanctions on shipping by horseback along public roads.	
1775	A large fire breaks out in Matsumoto, and parts of the second and third bailey are damaged.	
1793	The domain school Sōkyōkan is opened.	
1803	Another fire breaks out in Matsumoto, and large sections of the city burn. Several samurai residences and temples are damaged or destroyed.	
1816	An irrigation canal called “Jikkasegi” is built in Θ Azumino, a village to the north of Matsumoto Castle.	
1825	Protests erupt in northern Matsumoto domain as tens of	

	thousands of peasants rise up against a sharp increase in the price of rice.	
1832	The Saigawa Canal is expanded to pass through Matsumoto.	
1854	A powerful earthquake damages many buildings at the castle and in the town.	
1862	A samurai from Matsumoto murders two British soldiers in Edo.	
1863	Matsumoto domain is ordered to help guard Uraga Bay.	
1864	Matsumoto domain is ordered to participate in the First Chōshū Expedition. Forces from Matsumoto are defeated by masterless samurai (ronin) from Mito domain at the Wada Pass.	
1865	Fire breaks out in Matsumoto, damaging residential areas in the south. Matsumoto domain is ordered to participate in the Second Chōshū Expedition and dispatches troops to Hiroshima.	
1866	A protest erupts in the south of Matsumoto domain as peasants rally against rising rice prices.	
1868	Matsumoto domain allies with the new imperial government and participates in the Battle of Hokuetsu in Hokkaido.	
1869	Toda Mitsuhsa, the last daimyo of Matsumoto, surrenders his territory to the emperor.	
1870	An anti-Buddhist movement begins after an imperial edict separates the previously syncretic religions of Buddhism and Shinto.	
1871	The shogunal domain system is abolished, and Matsumoto domain becomes Matsumoto Prefecture. Several castle gates are demolished, and the castle is placed under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of War. Matsumoto Prefecture is soon renamed Chikuma Prefecture, and a prefectural office is established in the castle's second bailey.	