

## Manager's Office and Residence

This building served as an office and residence for the manager of Sugaya Ironworks. The manager was appointed by the Tanabe family, the owners of the site, and oversaw all business at the ironworks, such as the purchase of raw materials and arrangements for shipments of iron and steel.

The residence is attached to the room where specialists performed the final sorting and grading of the metal. Due to the high value of these products, the manager kept a close eye on this critical stage of production through the lattice wall facing the *takadono* workshop. Such a wall allowed the manager to comfortably observe the sorting process from inside the attached residence.

The current two-story structure was likely rebuilt shortly after a fire in 1833. In addition to the workroom, it comprises six rooms with tatami flooring, a kitchen, and a bath. When compared to the humbler rowhouse where the *murage* (foreman) and the assistant manager lived, the much larger and more finely appointed manager's residence reflects his privileged position in the village.

The manager took whatever steps he thought necessary to protect the ironworks' precious stocks of metal. As an example, the paper slips pasted on the wall near the kitchen are thought to be charms meant to ward off burglars. The only thing written on them is a single date: "twelfth day, twelfth month." According to popular legend, this is the day in 1594 when the infamous thief and outlaw Ishikawa Goemon was boiled alive for his crimes.