

# The Cultural Property of Mr. Furuichi

The Furuichi household is the only cultural designated property on Tanegashima. It was appointed in 1994.

It was appointed for its' traditional building structure and preserved natural surroundings. The house was built during the last years of the Edo period, 1864, which would be 173 years ago using the Christian calendar. The Munafuda, wooden inscribed construction records, were found on the ceiling support beams and confirmed the building year.

Furuichi Gensuke, a businessman and village headman of Sakaimura, built this house. It's said that a feudal lord of Tanegashima invited an ancestor of Gensuke from the Furuichi County of old Kochi, present day Osaka, in the Muromachi era.



▲ Suichi Furuichi

The person in the photograph is Suichi Furuichi, a thirteenth generation of the Furuichi household. He lived in the estate until the beginning of the Heisei era.

The grandchild of Shuichi

Furuichi, the current owner, lives in Chiba. So the management of the house has been entrusted to Nakatane-cho and is taken care of by two caregivers.

The house is a perfect representation of the private homes that were built during that era. The layout of the estate is as follows, Genkan an entrance hall, Engawa balconies, Doma a dirt floored room for cooking with a furnace, Suijiba a kitchen, and an Itama large room with a hearth in the wooden floor. The Itama is where the family would often gather. The estate also features a Tokonoma alcove, Kaminoza higher-level floor, Shimonozaka lower-level floor, and the Chunoza main floor. An Irori hearth and Hibachi brazier were used to heat the rooms. The smoke from the firewood in the hearth would repel mice and other pests that ate rice that resided in the ceiling. The ceiling above the Chunoza was designed to be just above the average height of people who lived during that era.



▲ Genkan



▲ Doma

The pictures below showcase the articles that were used daily by people of that era. A Tomi winnowing fan was used to sort rice and soba. Next is a Mino straw cape that was used as a raincoat. There is also an Ishiusu stone mill that was used to grind wheat grains into powder. When people would go farming, they would use a Kanza backpack to hold either their sickle



▲ Tomi



▲ Mino

▲ Ishiusu



▲ Kanza

or lunch. This oblong chest is called a Nagamochi and it was used to store clothing.



▲ Nagamochi

Currently, there is no admission fee to view the household so tourism has increased. Local people have used the house for many different reasons. Both the calligraphy class from the elementary school and haiku society use it for their activities. In addition, there is also a doll display in March and carp streamer display in May. The kimono-dressed wooden doll Kimekomi Ningyo displayed in the house is the work of Reiko, the daughter of Shuichi Furuichi. In addition, many Tsumabenichio orange tipped butterflies, the symbol of Nakatane-cho, fly around the estate during the rich summertime weather.



▲ Kimekomi Ningyo



▲ Tsumabenichio

Please relax and enjoy the estate!

The Love Tragedy of Zengo Oshan

A long time ago there was a beautiful girl named Oshan in the Furuichi family. She fell in love with a handsome man named Zengo, a son of a peasant in Sakai village. She had a fiancé but they eloped because of their strong passion for one another. However, they could not be together because of their different social status. They committed a love suicide on the stairs of Kumano Shrine. This tale is sung in the Nakatane's theme song.