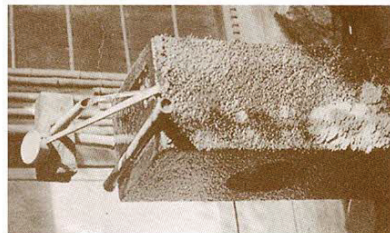




武家屋敷跡
加賀藩 十二石 野村家

Wonderful Garden

Sitting down in Jyōdan-no-ma Chamber and its study, we can enjoy the beautiful garden so skillfully laid out. There is an exquisite waterfall, a clear winding stream running through several stones, a bridge made of cherry granite, various kinds of garden lanterns, and a many-storied tower arranged here and there. In addition, there is a unique, more than four hundred-year-old myrica which is said to be hard to plant here in the Hokuriku district. This garden is highly honored as one of the most typical works among so-called Kobori Enshū style gardens. So now we can fully appreciate the cultural heritage of Japan here in Kanazawa.



A SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NOMURA FAMILY

(One of the Ruins of Samurai House)

1 chōme, 3-32, Naga-machi, Kanazawa

Phone : (076)221-3553

<http://www.nomurake.com>

An introduction to THE ANCIENT SITE OF A SAMURAI HOUSE (The Family of Nomura)



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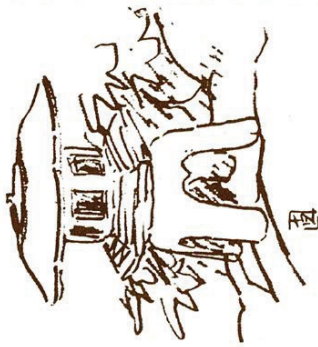
The Ruins of Nomura Family

This is part of the ruins of samurai houses.

Lord Maeda Toshiie took over Kanazawa castle in 1583, and he established the foundation of the following three centuries of peaceful and prosperous Kaga clan, thanks to Kaga's 5 million bushel (a million Koku) annual rice yield. At that time, one of the high-ranked followers, Nomura Denbei Nobusada, was granted by Lord Toshiie a fief of one thousand Koku and later was promoted to twelve hundred Koku. His descendants also served as senior retainers, each given a 1000 tsubo (3305 square meters) estate. The old family estate had been retained for the twelfth generation by the time of the Meiji Restoration. However, because of the break-up of the feudal system, samurai houses have been destroyed; some have been changed into vegetable gardens, others sold out, etc. .

Only parts of the old gate and the wall around the ancient houses are left as they were. The Nomuras also had to submit to the same fate. The last piece of property was bought in the early Showa period by a local industrialist, Kubo Hikobei, who lived in Hashidate Village in the south of Ishikawa Prefecture and traded with people in Hokkaido. Kubo Hikobei moved the drawing room, part of a beautifully constructed old house from Daishoji town near his native village.

Today we are expected to imagine the prosperity of the old industrialist in olden times through the gorgeous architecture, and at the same time, to imagine our ancestors' way of life, overlooking the beautiful garden attached to a formal samurai house.



Jyōdan-no-ma Chamber

This is a drawing room with the Japanese cypress wood, with elaborate designs in rosewood and ebony. The alcove panel is made of paulownia and every nail is kept out of sight with black persimmon-wood designed in open-work style. There are sliding thick-paper doors with a catch making of an Indian ironwood and a sliding paper door with cut glass window which reflects the winding stream near the veranda. These are unusual architectural features, so it must have been a great surprise to people in those days. Every sliding thick-paper door has a grand landscape drawn by Sasaki Senkei, who is highly ranked in the Kano School. Especially one door has a picture called "a figure of tortoises" (Yūki no zu) which is believed to be his first-rate work, one of the most valuable pieces of cultural heritage in Japan.

