

# Storehouse Museum (Former Mori Family Storehouse)

The “Storehouse Museum” is a Japanese-style storehouse which was built in 1893 by Isoji Mori, the landowner of Kannai-machi. It was used as a “Goods Storehouse” to hold household possessions belonging to the Mori family. The storehouse was relocated to its present location and repaired in February 2014. It has since been open to the public as the “Storehouse Museum”.

The term “kannai” in the name “Kannai-machi” means, “within the *Tojin-Yashiki*”. The *Tojin-Yashiki* (Chinese quarters) was constructed in 1689 to house the Chinese nationals who came to trade in Nagasaki. The quarters were built in Juzenji-go, where there used to be a medicinal herb garden belonging to the Shogunate. For 179 years, the *Tojin-Yashiki* played a vital role alongside Dejima as a window of international exchange with the outside world. This was at a time when Japan had entered into a policy of national isolation, and Nagasaki was the only port permitted to carry out international trade. However, the country emerged from isolation in 1859. Following this, the Nagasaki Magistrate’s Office was dismantled in 1868, and the *Tojin-Yashiki* was left without management. The land encompassing the *Tojin-Yashiki* was sold off to Isoji Mori, who became the owner of this large expanse of land. A member of the Nagasaki Prefectural Council, Isoji was a well-known figure in his hometown. In 1913, he had his photograph taken with Sun Yat-sen at a welcome luncheon in the Fukken Hall, which was hosted by local Chinese residents upon the latter’s official visit to Nagasaki. Isoji also worked on the redevelopment of the city, and had stone bridges built over the river in Kannai-machi. Three of these bridges have survived; Mori-bashi Bridge, Morii-bashi Bridge, and Sakae-bashi Bridge. The Nagasaki Shimbun and Brick Hall were built at Mori-machi, a town which was established by Isoji when he developed rice paddies at the mouth of the Urakami-gawa River. The “Mori” in Mori-machi, comes from Isoji’s family name.

The 2-storey storehouse is roughly 5.91m wide x 4.93m long. The central entrance on the north side of the building has outer double doors made of steel. Inside, the single sliding door is made of three layers; a plaster coated screen, a lattice screen, and a net screen. Large beams are exposed amongst the joists in the ceiling which supports the second floor. These doors and ceiling are distinctive features in the storehouse. There are three windows on the second floor. All three have single iron shutters, iron bars, and a wooden sliding door on the inside. The materials and shapes of the fittings have received great praise for being well preserved in their original state.

## Bibliography

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1<sup>st</sup> Floor: Triple Layered Sliding Door

- ① Steel double doors
- ② Plaster coated screen
- ③ Lattice screen
- ④ Net screen



2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Shuttered Window

- ① Single iron shutter
- ② Iron bars
- ③ Wooden sliding door