

Gokurakuji Temple Sanmon Tsuketari Munafuda (wooden ridge plaque attached to the temple gate), 1 piece

This is a *sangen-ikko* style gate with one opening and four legs, and is described in *Sozoku Ichigu* (a book about local folklore) as a “grand gate”.

The wooden ridge plaque shows it is a structure from 1698, it is 3.28 m long and 2.11 m wide, has a gable roof, entrance parallel to the roof ridge, and a double row of closely spaced parallel rafters, with copper shingles.

The main pillars of the gateway are round, while the remainder are square with wide chamfers.

The bracket complexes are one-stepped, the supports between the bracket complexes are open frog-leg struts, single-board frog-leg struts are used on the gable sides, the embellishments on the gable pediments are rainbow beams (curved transverse tie beams) with large bottle struts and moldings under bottle struts called *yuiwata* feature ornamental carvings.

The granite paving stones are laid in a tight rectilinear pattern in the center, while on either side they are laid diagonally, in what is called the Zen style.

An illustration in *Sozoku Ichigu* shows the paving stone layout just as it is, which highlights the changing times all the more. The architecture is simple and coheres well.

The wooden ridge plaque is 70 cm lengthwise, 10.4 cm crosswise, and 1.8 cm thick. Inscribed on the front is “Built the temple gate, Auspicious Day, first month of the lunar calendar of 1698, Year of Fire Tiger”, while on the back the name of carpenters and donors are listed.

Source: *Kiso-mura no Bunkazai Meguri* (“A Tour of Cultural Properties in Kiso Village”)

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