

Yabuhara Shrine Honden Tsuke Torihazushi Oniita (removable detached ridge end attached to the main hall), 1 piece

According to *Yuisho Ryakki* ("Summarized Lineage"), Yabuhara Shrine was founded after a ritual ceremony in prayer for the Kumano deities to come to the peak of Agatazaka in the 9th year of Emperor Tenmu (681).

The main hall is built in the *Sangensha Nagare-zukuri* style with a gable roof covered with wood shingles.

At 3.27 m in length and 1.85 m in width, the roof protecting the shrine called *ooiya* (about 7.3 m wide and about 12.7 m in depth) forms the hall of worship.

As for the architecture, it is enclosed on three verandas except the back, the balusters have *giboshi* ornaments, and wooden screens stand at the back of the verandas on the left and right.

At the front are five wooden steps, and to enclose it on three sides there is a frame with a podium called *hamayuka*. The bracket complex has two projecting brackets interlocking carvings of waves and clouds in the two-tiered dressed timber, and the open frog-leg struts between the brackets are carved in such a way that they protrude from the frame.

The main hall was built by **Tatekawa Washiro Tomimasa** in the prime of his life in the late Edo period (1603-1867). The architectural sculpture features undulating barge boards on the eaves of the roof built over the steps leading up to the shrine which present numerous carvings in various places depicting a rich array of motifs.

Architectural sculptural features such as the money bag with a motif called *takarazukushi* (a collection of lucky items) on the *manjuto* are very rare for architectural sculptures in this period, and have been appraised as being unparalleled among sculptural works by Tatekawa school artisans.

The two lions with peonies above the rainbow beams (curved transverse tie beams) at the front of the shrine, the head of a tapir and the Chinese lion on the wooden nosing (the tapir is missing on the left), a prawn-style rainbow beam with rising dragon (left) and descending dragon (right), the chrysanthemums on the rafter strut, motives on the frog-leg struts such as the hawk with oak leaves, the waves with plovers, and the bamboo with sparrows, ears of millet with quails (said to be family art sculptures of these same artisans), the wild vines with rabbits, and so on, have been appraised as being particularly fine works.

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

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