

Gookura (food storage container) of Shiozawa

Toward the end of the Edo period, people suffered from food shortages due to frequent bad harvests. To cope with it, food storage containers were made in each village in preparation for famine at the instruction of a feudal lord or on a voluntary basis. This gookura was built around that time. At the time of harvest, each villager provided the food to be stored with its amount declared. It is recorded that paddy millet, barnyard grass, and so on were stored and supervised by a village head. This gookura has a thatched roof of *yosemune-zukuri* (hipped roof) style. It is made from chestnut, with its wall boards placed horizontally. Its floor is raised to prevent damage from a mouse and to ventilate.

Karuizawa Town Board of Education

The Protection of Cultural Properties Review Committee of Karuizawa Town