

Stone Windmill of Toge

In 1657, Ichiemon Sato from the Karuizawa wholesaler, and Heihachiro Sato, a local governor, made the stone pavements in front of this shrine (Kumano Kotai Shrine) to pray for people's happiness in their present and future lives. This stone monument was carved to commemorate the donation as a dedication by engraving the Sato family crest, Genji-guruma (a cartwheel of a cattle-drawn carriage), in 1688. As a strong wind blows from autumn to winter, travelers coming and going on Nakasendo Road affectionately called the monument "stone windmill," which was also sung in Oiwake-bushi (a horse driver's song) as; "Windmill of Usui-toge (Usui Pass).

Who are you waiting for while swinging?"

Karuizawa Town Board of Education

The Protection of Cultural Properties Review Committee of Karuizawa Town