

Kunikyū Palace Historical Site (Inner Court Section)

Archaeological excavations of the Kunikyū Palace site started in 1974, and by 1996, the extent of the palace grounds (with the great wall surrounding the palace confirmed) was found to be 560 m East-West, and 750 m North-South.

This area is thought to be the Inner Court, where the emperor lived. In the Heijō Palace, this was a single zone, marked off with a post-hole wall, but here it was divided into east and west sections. These are now called the East Inner Court Section and the West Inner Court Section, and collectively, the Inner Court Section.

The West Inner Court Section was surrounded by a post-hole wall, and was 97.9 m East-West and 127.4 m North-South. A post-hole building (SB5303) has been confirmed to have existed in the middle. The East Inner Court Section wall was a roofed, rammed-earth wall along the east, south, and west sides, while the north had the same post-hole wall as the West Section. The walls enclosed a rectangular area 109.3 m East-West and 138.9 m North-South. Here, two south-facing buildings with eaves (SB5501, SB5507) have been confirmed to have existed placed on a North-South axis.

There are clear differences in scale and structure between the East Section and West Section (rammed-earth walls use a stronger construction method than post-hole walls). This unique layout has not been found anywhere else.

Board of Education, City of Kizugawa