

Site of Kuni Palace (Site of Yamashiro Kokubun-ji Temple)

The Kuni Palace was built by Emperor Shomu, in the Nara period, for his capital. At the time, the people were suffering from epidemics and wars, and to try to alleviate this unsettled situation, the emperor abandoned Heijokyo (Nara) and settled in a number of places before deciding on this site, in what is now Mikanohara, Kamo-cho, in the city of Kizugawa, in 740. However, the new capital was abandoned just four years later, in 744.

Following the shifting of the capital, the site of the main palace hall was repurposed as the Yamashiro Kokubun-ji temple. This temple, with the relocated main palace hall as its own main hall, had vast grounds covering an area of about 330 meters north-south and 275 meters east-west. The site of the Yamashiro Kokubun-ji (Kuni Palace) still retains the stone foundations for both the main hall (former palace main hall) and the pagoda. The pagoda, which was enclosed by a wall, is believed to have been seven levels tall, based on the foundation site and the size of the foundation stones.

Board of Education, Kizugawa City