

# Dejima Excavation Survey Creating the Summary Report!

Starting in FY2021, Nagasaki City has begun to compile a Summary Report on all the excavations done thus far at the Former Dutch Trading Post on Dejima, with the aim of storing these achievements in an easy-to-understand document and to clearly highlight Dejima's value.



## What is a Summary Report?

The results of excavation research conducted at ruins are published as an annual report or a report on project-by-project basis. Important ruins that have had excavation work conducted at them for a long period of time accumulate a lot of research results. Gathering and summarizing these results make the findings made up until today clear. Through this process, having things organized can lead to new discoveries. In addition, as these Summary Reports allow researchers to see what is not sufficient in current surveys, they serve a critical role in the consideration of future survey plans.

## How many Excavation Surveys have we conducted? When did we start?

The first Excavation Survey at Dejima began in 1969. During the Showa Era (1926-1989), small-scale excavations were mainly conducted as needed for modifications done by the people living at Dejima, but starting in the Heisei Era (1989-2019), excavation surveys required for the maintenance of Dejima's historical sites began at full-scale.

When including all of the smaller excavations, there have been a total of 47 excavation surveys conducted over the entirety of the Former Dutch Trading Post on Dejima.

## What have we learned?



Map of Dejima's ruins dated to the early 19th Century. (Combined map of discoveries found between 1989 and 2013).

Currently, we are creating site maps of Dejima by sorting the excavated ruins such as building foundation stones, traces of former roads, and remains of gutters, based on the era of each found object. Now, it is possible to understand the layout of the entire site in a single glance, as well as see the condition of and transitions within the Dutch Trading Post.



## How many artifacts have we found?

There has been over 700,000 artifacts unearthed through the roughly half century of excavation surveys conducted at Dejima. Nearly all of these were items actually used by the Dutch officials of the time and luxury tableware from Hizen, giving us a glimpse into the daily lives of these officials. Teaware and inkstones, thought to be items used by the Japanese officials (such as interpreters or guards) who would regularly come in and out of Dejima, were also excavated.



A blue and white porcelain dish made in Hizen. The "VOC" lettering in the center of the dish is the insignia of the Dutch East India Company.



A broken Roemer glass. Used by a Dutch official at Dejima.

## When will the Summary Report be published?

Due to the high volume of data, we will first publish the report on Dejima's ruins, followed by a planned edition on Dejima's artifacts. We are aiming to complete the report by the end of FY2027.

The Summary Report will be distributed to major public and university libraries in order to be available to as many people as possible. In addition, we are planning to release the Report on our official website.



In order to return Dejima to how it appeared at the beginning of the 19th Century, Nagasaki City has undertaken the Dejima Restoration Project. So far, we have restored 16 buildings, readjusted the outer stone wall, and constructed the Dejima Main Gate Bridge and flagpole. Through these efforts, the old cityscape has now returned and spread from Dejima's western side to its center.

Following the past restoration projects from Phase I to III, we are now conducting Phase IV of the Dejima Restoration Project, which focuses on the southern part of central Dejima, where the Japanese Merchants' Office, Guardhouse, and No.15 Warehouse once stood. In FY2023, we re-excavated and surveyed this area to finalize the location of the Japanese Merchants' Office, and drew the designs of the building for two years throughout 2023 and 2024. With the goal of a FY2028 opening, we will work on the detailed layouts of the Japanese Merchants' Office and exhibit contents, as well as on the constructions of the building and surrounding areas.

### Phase I (Completed 2000)

- I-1: Kitchen, I-2: Deputy Factor's Quarters,
- I-3: First Ship Captain's Quarters, I-4: No. 1 Warehouse,
- I-5: No. 2 Warehouse

### Phase II (Completed 2006)

- II-1: Sea Gate, II-2: Japanese Official's Office,
- II-3: Chief Factor's Residence, II-4: No. 3 Warehouse,
- II-5: Head Clerk's Quarters

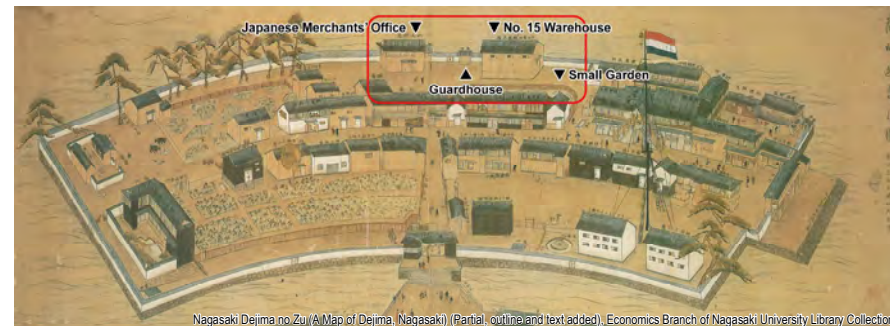
### Phase III (Completed 2016)

- III-1: No. 16 Warehouse, III-2: Clerk's Quarters,
- III-3: No. 14 Warehouse, III-4: Town Elder's Room,
- III-5: Foreman's Room, III-6: Copper Warehouse



## What will happen to Dejima?

I wonder how the project is going to turn out!



A new building and a plaza, how exciting! Can't wait to see the grand opening!



The Japanese Merchants' Office was used as a waiting area for the Dejima merchants when they would arrive at Dejima. These Dejima merchants consisted of 25 wealthy residents of Nagasaki who funded the construction of Dejima and leased the land and properties on Dejima to the foreign residents – first Portuguese, then Dutch – who lived there. In Phase IV of the Restoration Project, we will restore this Office at its original location.

The other buildings include the Guardhouse, which was also used as a waiting area for the guards stationed on Dejima, and the No. 15 Warehouse, which was used as a storage area for sugar and other imported goods. These buildings will not be restored, and the area they stood on will instead be transformed into a plaza. We are planning on utilizing AR technology to digitally project these building's original appearance in this space. We are also planning on setting up a small garden behind the Clerk's Quarters.



Find the latest information here!





Nearly 150 years old! Western-style Architecture from the Meiji Era

# SPECIAL REPORT ON THE FORMER DEJIMA PROTESTANT SEMINARY



Since FY2020, we have continued work on the repair and restoration construction of the buildings in Dejima, including repairs on the Former Dejima Protestant Seminary that will take place in FY2025. The construction will last from September 2025 to around February 2026. During this period, there will be times where the exterior of the building will not be visible and where the interior sections are closed.

In this edition of the Dejima Kawaraban, we are proud to showcase what kind of building this Former Dejima Protestant Seminary is!

If you look closely, you can find this symbol for the Holy Trinity decorated on many spots around the Seminary!



This building served the role of telling Dejima's history before the historical buildings were restored on Dejima.



▲ Photograph of the exhibition room, main building of Dejima Museum of History.

The Seminary came into Japanese hands in 1910, being used as an ophthalmology and surgical hospital until the building was bought by Nagasaki City in 1972. Since this purchase, the city has utilized the site in a variety of ways, such as for the Nagasaki City Museum of History and Folklore and the main building of Dejima Museum of History.

Currently, the first floor of the building serves as a film screening and rest area, while the second is used as an office space.

## The Former Dejima Protestant Seminary

This two-floor wooden building, located in the far-eastern side of Dejima, is distinctive for its light blue exterior and its prominent tower and cross. This building is the oldest Protestant seminary still standing in Japan, first built in 1878 as a church school and opened the next year as the "Dejima Shinbashi-guchi English-Japanese School". Afterwards, the school was renamed as the "Dejima Shinbashi-guchi Episcopal Seminary" and conducted theological education until its closing in 1886, after which it served as a lodging for missionaries came from abroad.

At the English-Japanese School, students were taught typical elementary school subjects in the morning and English and tailoring in the afternoon.

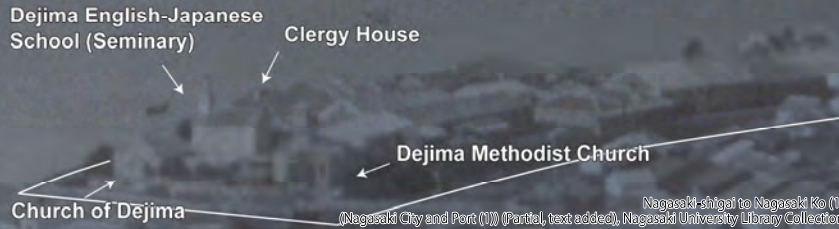


## Churches on Dejima?

After the end of Japan's isolation period and the opening of Dejima as a foreign settlement in 1866, the land and buildings on Dejima were rented to foreigners as a lease, which was typical for the other foreign settlements of Nagasaki of the time. Foreign merchants who had trading rights would rent this land, lining the streets of Dejima with their trade houses and warehouses.

During this period, churches and their related buildings began to appear on Dejima, built by the missionaries of various Christian denominations living on the island. In 1875, missionaries from the Church Missionary Society constructed the Church of Dejima, followed by a clergy house in 1877 and the English-Japanese School in 1878 (which later went on to become the Episcopal Seminary).

In addition, American missionaries from the Methodist Episcopal Church constructed the Dejima Methodist Church and a clergy house in 1876. You can see the church buildings standing at far-eastern side of Dejima in the above antique photograph.



Were people taught about the Bible at Dejima?



Seisho Ryakushi (The Abridged Bible), Book of Genesis



This text was published by the Dejima Shinbashi-guchi Episcopal Seminary as a way to spread the Bible in a more easily understandable way.

## The building looked different at first?

### The Changing Appearance of the Seminary

Originally, the Seminary was not the large building as seen today, but rather consisted of only the western structure that held the bell tower. In 1889, the church building directly next to the Seminary was demolished and moved to another part of Nagasaki City the next year, allowing for the additional construction in 1893 on the eastern side of the building, which includes the site of the old church, that gave the Seminary its modern appearance.

Afterwards, there was some additional construction and a change in the interior layout to use the building as a hospital. However, with the preservation and restoration construction that occurred from 1968-1970, the two sides of the building were restored to their original appearance, 1878 for the western part and 1893 for the added eastern side.



Dejima (2) (Partial), Nagasaki University Library Collection.



Umegasaki Yokan gun to Dejima (4) (Umegasaki Western Style Houses and Dejima (4)) (Partial), Nagasaki University Library Collection.

## Efforts to Protect the Seminary

The Former Dejima Protestant Seminary is a wooden building, and has inevitably aged from the effects of wind and rain, natural disasters, and damage from insects due to standing outside for so long. To combat this, Nagasaki City has undertaken a variety of efforts to preserve the building since purchasing it in 1968, including preservation and restoration construction in order to restore the Seminary to its original appearance, as well as the removal of the years of damage that has accumulated on the building.

In addition to daily smaller repairs, regular repainting of exterior walls is done to protect the building from the rain and the salt carried by the sea breeze, lengthening the lifespan of the interior wooden structure. It is critical to conduct these repairs at the appropriate time so that we can continue to preserve this vital, historic building at its current location.



Condition of the Seminary before preservation and restoration construction, 1968.

## Where is the Seminary's Bell?

The Former Dejima Protestant Seminary's bell tower has two levels, with the lower level serving as the belfry. This belfry held a bell originally cast in England, but this bell, as well as the tower that held it, fell during an earthquake caused by the 1922 eruption of Mount Unzen. The fallen bell was purchased by the Methodist missionary Francis Scott, and following a long series of events ended up at Ginza Church in Tokyo in 1928. This bell was established at the Ginza Church's third building and used there for roughly fifty years, and now having ending its time in service the bell is currently displayed in that same church.

The name and address of the manufacturer, the year "1878", and the words "EPISCOPAL CHURCH NAGASAKI JAPAN" are engraved in the bell.



So the bell was made for the English-Japanese School!



◀ Photo taken at Ginza Church, 2018.

References: KOBAYASHI Nobuo, Ginza no Kane Monogatari (The Story of the Ginza Bell), 2004, The United Church of Christ in Japan, Ginza Church.

Nagasaki Shidankai Ed., Nagasaki Danso Dai 72 Shu (Collection of Nagasaki Stories, Volume 72), 1988, Nagasaki Shidankai.

Nagasaki Holy Trinity Church History Editors, Nagasaki Seikokai Ryakushi (Sei) (Zoku) (Abridged History of the Anglican Episcopal Church in Nagasaki), 1971-81, Anglican Episcopal Church of Japan, Nagasaki Holy Trinity Church.