

1. World Heritage Property Data

1.1 - Name of World Heritage Property

Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama

1.2 - World Heritage Property Details

State(s) Party(ies)

- Japan

Type of Property

cultural

Identification Number

734

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List

1995




1.3 - Geographic Information Table

Name	Coordinates	Property (ha)	Buffer zone (ha)	Total (ha)	Inscription year
Ogimachi Village, Shirakawa-Mura , Ono-gun , Gifu Prefecture , Japan	36.25 / 136.9	45.6	471.5	517.1	1995
Ainokura Village, Taira-mura , Higashi-tonami-gun , Toyama Prefecture , Japan	36.417 / 136.933	18	3863.6	3881.6	1995
Suganuma Village, Kamitaira-mura , Higashi-tonami-gun , Toyama Prefecture , Japan	36.4 / 136.883	4.4	0	4.4	1995
Total (ha)		68	4335.1	4403.1	

Comment

Ainokura Village,Nanto-City,Toyama Prefecture,Japan
Suganuma Village,Nanto-City,Toyama Prefecture,Japan

1.4 - Map(s)

Title	Date	Link to source
Map indicating the extent of the property: Ogimachi village	21/10/1994	
Map indicating the extent of the property: Ainokura Village	21/10/1994	
Map indicating the extent of the property: Suganuma Village	21/10/1994	

1.5 - Governmental Institution Responsible for the Property

Comment

The Agency for Cultural Affairs 3-2-2 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8959 TEL: +81-3-5253-4111 FAX: +81-3-6734-3822

1.6 - Property Manager / Coordinator, Local Institution / Agency

- TACHI Ryogo
"Gifu Prefectural Board of Education,

Comment

Social Education and Cultural Affairs Division, Gifu Prefectural Board of Education

1.7 - Web Address of the Property (if existing)

1. [Historic Villages of Shirakawa-Go and Gokayama](http://www.shirakawa-go.org/)

Comment

<http://shirakawa-go.org/>
<http://www.city.nanto.toyama.jp/webapps/www/section/index.jsp>
http://www.city.nanto.toyama.jp/webapps/www/kanko/index_legacy.html

1.8 - Other designations / Conventions under which the property is protected (if applicable)

2. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

2.1 - Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Comment

The Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama were remote and isolated, and access to the area was difficult for a long period of time, as it is surrounded by steep mountains in Gifu and Toyama Prefectures. The property comprises three villages: "Ogimachi" in the Shirakawa-go region, and "Ainokura" and "Suganuma" in the Gokayama region. These are rare examples of Gassho-style houses preserved in groups, and their associated landscapes remain intact. Thus the property possesses Outstanding Universal Value. Gassho-style is an extremely unique farmhouse style that makes use of highly rational structural systems evolved to adapt to the natural environment and site-specific social and economic circumstances such as, in particular the cultivation of mulberry trees and the rearing of silkworms. The large houses with their steeply pitched thatched roofs are the only examples of their kind in Japan.

2.2 - The criteria (2005 revised version) under which the property was inscribed

(iv)(v)

2.3 - Attributes expressing the Outstanding Universal Value per criterion

(iv) These Villages are outstanding examples of traditional human settlements that are perfectly adapted to their environment and their social and economic circumstances.
(v) It is of considerable significance that the social structure of these villages, of which their layouts are the material manifestation, has survived despite the drastic economic changes in Japan since 1950. As a result they preserve both the spiritual and the material evidence of their long history.

2.4 - If needed, please provide details of why the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value should be revised

nothing in particular

2.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

nothing in particular

3. Factors Affecting the Property









































3.14. Other factor(s)

3.14.1 - Other factor(s)

nothing in particular

3.15. Factors Summary Table

3.15.1 - Factors summary table

Name	Impact	Origin				
3.1	Buildings and Development					
3.1.5 Interpretative and visitation facilities	   					
3.2	Transportation Infrastructure					
3.2.1 Ground transport infrastructure	  					
3.2.4 Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure	  					
3.5	Biological resource use/modification					
3.5.5 Crop production	  					
3.8	Social/cultural uses of heritage					
3.8.1 Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses	   					
3.8.6 Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation	    					
3.11	Sudden ecological or geological events					
3.11.2 Earthquake	   					
3.13	Management and institutional factors					
3.13.1 Low impact research / monitoring activities	   					
3.13.3 Management activities	   					
Legend	 Current	 Potential	 Negative	 Positive	 Inside	 Outside

3.16. Assessment of current negative factors

3.16.1 - Assessment of current negative factors

No factor is both current and negative.

3.17. Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to factors affecting the property

3.17.1 - Comments

In the Ogimachi district, an increase in tourists has brought intermittent problems with traffic congestion, mainly during the peak tourist season. In response to this, measures to prohibit entry by tour buses into the core zone and restrictions on access by other tourist vehicles have been implemented. In addition, work is underway to establish parking facilities outside the core zone in order to cut down on the number of tourist vehicles entering it.

4. Protection, Management and Monitoring of the Property

4.1. Boundaries and Buffer Zones

4.1.1 - Buffer zone status

There is a buffer zone

4.1.2 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.3 - Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.1.4 - Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property known?

The boundaries of the World Heritage property are known by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.5 - Are the buffer zones of the World Heritage property known?

The buffer zones of the World Heritage property are **known** by both the management authority and local residents / communities / landowners.

4.1.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to boundaries and buffer zones of the World Heritage property

nothing in particular

4.2. Protective Measures

4.2.1 - Protective designation (legal, regulatory, contractual, planning, institutional and / or traditional)

Comment

The properties, the three historic villages, are defined as Important Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings, in accordance with Articles 2 and 144 of the Law for

Protection of Cultural Properties. Ainokura, Suganuma and their immediate surroundings were previously designated as Historic Sites in accordance with Article 109 of the Law.

4.2.2 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.3 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity of the World Heritage property provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection

4.2.4 - Is the legal framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) adequate in the area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone for maintaining the Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Integrity and / or Authenticity of the property?

The legal framework for the area surrounding the World Heritage property and the buffer zone provides **an adequate or better basis** for effective management and protection of the property, contributing to the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value including conditions of Authenticity and / or Integrity

4.2.5 - Can the legislative framework (i.e. legislation and / or regulation) be enforced?

There is **excellent** capacity / resources to enforce legislation and / or regulation in the World Heritage property

4.2.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to protective measures

nothing in particular

4.3. Management System / Management Plan

4.3.1 - Management System

Comment

For each of three villages, the Preservation District was designated under the Preservation Regulations of the Mura government, and each district has been preserved properly under the established Preservation Plans.

4.3.2 - Management Documents

Comment

nothing in particular

4.3.3 - How well do the various levels of administration (i.e. national / federal; regional /

provincial / state; local / municipal etc.) coordinate in the management of the World Heritage Property ?

There is **excellent coordination** between all bodies / levels involved in the management of the property

4.3.4 - Is the management system / plan adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value ?

The management system / plan is **fully adequate** to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value

4.3.5 - Is the management system being implemented?

The management system is being **fully** implemented and monitored

4.3.6 - Is there an annual work / action plan and is it being implemented?

No annual work / action plan exists

4.3.7 - Please rate the cooperation / relationship with World Heritage property managers / coordinators / staff of the following

Local communities / residents	Good
Local / Municipal authorities	Good
Indigenous peoples	Not applicable
Landowners	Good
Visitors	Fair
Researchers	Good
Tourism industry	Good
Industry	Good

4.3.8 - If present, do local communities resident in or near the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

Local communities directly **participate** in all relevant decisions relating to management, i.e. co-management

4.3.9 - If present, do indigenous peoples resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone have input in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value?

No indigenous peoples are resident in or regularly using the World Heritage property and / or buffer zone

4.3.10 - Is there cooperation with industry (i.e. forestry, mining, agriculture, etc.) regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone?

There is **regular contact** with industry regarding the management of the World Heritage property, buffer zone and / or area surrounding the World Heritage property and buffer zone and **substantial co-operation** on management

4.3.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training

nothing in particular

4.3.12 - Please report any significant changes in the legal status and / or contractual / traditional protective measures and management arrangements for the World Heritage property since inscription or the last Periodic report

nothing in particular

4.4. Financial and Human Resources

4.4.1 - Costs related to conservation, based on the average of last five years (relative percentage of the funding sources)

Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc)	0%
International donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Governmental (National / Federal)	57%
Governmental (Regional / Provincial / State)	9%
Governmental (Local / Municipal)	29%
In country donations (NGO's, foundations, etc)	0%
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, parking, camping fees, etc.)	0%
Commercial operator payments (e.g. filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0%
Other grants	5%

4.4.2 - International Assistance received from the World Heritage Fund (USD)

Comment

not applicable

4.4.3 - Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?

The available budget is **sufficient** but further funding would enable more effective management to international best practice standard

4.4.4 - Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?

The existing sources of funding **are secure** in the medium-term and planning is underway to secure funding in the long-term

4.4.5 - Does the World Heritage property provide economic benefits to local communities (e.g. income, employment)?

There is a **major flow** of economic benefits to local communities from activities in and around the World Heritage property

4.4.6 - Are available resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure sufficient to meet management needs?

There are **adequate** equipment and facilities

4.4.7 - Are resources such as equipment, facilities and infrastructure adequately maintained?

Equipment and facilities are **well maintained**

4.4.8 - Comments, conclusion, and / or recommendations related to finance and infrastructure

Expenses borne by individuals have been entered in the "Other grants" column

4.4.9 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Full-time	100%
Part-time	0%

4.4.10 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Permanent	100%
Seasonal	0%

4.4.11 - Distribution of employees involved in managing the World Heritage property (% of total)

Paid	100%
Volunteer	0%

4.4.12 - Are available human resources adequate to manage the World Heritage property?

Human resources are **adequate** for management needs

4.4.13 - Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Good
Promotion	Fair
Community outreach	Good
Interpretation	Fair
Education	Fair
Visitor management	Good
Conservation	Good
Administration	Good
Risk preparedness	Fair
Tourism	Good
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Good

4.4.14 - Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property in the following disciplines

Research and monitoring	Low
Promotion	Low
Community outreach	Low
Interpretation	Low
Education	Low
Visitor management	Low
Conservation	Low
Administration	Low
Risk preparedness	Low
Tourism	Low
Enforcement (custodians, police)	Low

4.4.15 - Do the management and conservation programmes at the World Heritage property help develop local expertise?

A capacity development plan or programme is **in place and fully implemented**; all technical skills are being transferred to those managing the property locally, who are assuming leadership in management

4.4.16 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to human resources, expertise and training
nothing in particular

4.5. Scientific Studies and Research Projects

4.5.1 - Is there adequate knowledge (scientific or traditional) about the values of the World Heritage property to support planning, management and decision-making to ensure that Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Knowledge about the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient**

4.5.2 - Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme of research**, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.5.3 - Are results from research programmes disseminated?

Research results are **shared with local participants and some national agencies**

4.5.4 - Please provide details (i.e. authors, title, and web link) of papers published about the World Heritage property since the last Periodic Report

World Heritage: Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama (Executive Committee for the Historic Villages World Heritage Commemorative Project, 1996); World Heritage Historic Villages (Gifu Shimbun, 1996); A New History of Shirakawa Village (Shirakawa Village History Compilation Committee, 1998); Folklife of World Heritage Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama (The Kitanippon Shimbun, 1996); Ainokura: World Heritage Village (World Heritage Ainokura Historic Village Preservation Foundation, 2009)

4.5.5 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to scientific studies and research projects

nothing in particular

4.6. Education, Information and Awareness Building

4.6.1 - At how many locations is the World Heritage emblem displayed at the property?

In many locations and easily visible to visitors

4.6.2 - Please rate the awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property amongst the following groups

Local communities / residents	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities within or adjacent to the property	Excellent
Local Indigenous peoples	Not applicable

Local landowners	Excellent
Visitors	Excellent
Tourism industry	Excellent
Local businesses and industries	Excellent

4.6.3 - Is there a planned education and awareness programme linked to the values and management of the World Heritage property?

There is a planned education and awareness programme but it only **partly meets the needs** and could be improved

4.6.4 - What role, if any, has designation as a World Heritage property played with respect to education, information and awareness building activities?

World Heritage status has been an **important influence** on education, information and awareness building activities

4.6.5 - How well is the information on Outstanding Universal Value of the property presented and interpreted?

The Outstanding Universal Value of the property is adequately presented and interpreted **but improvements could be made**

4.6.6 - Please rate the adequacy for education, information and awareness building of the following visitor facilities and services at the World Heritage property

Visitor centre	Not needed
Site museum	Excellent
Information booths	Excellent
Guided tours	Not needed
Trails / routes	Excellent
Information materials	Excellent
Transportation facilities	Excellent
Other	Not needed

4.6.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to education, information and awareness building

nothing in particular

4.7. Visitor Management

4.7.1 - Please provide the trend in annual visitation for the last five years

Last year	Static
Two years ago	Minor Increase
Three years ago	Static
Four years ago	Static
Five years ago	Static

4.7.2 - What information sources are used to collect trend data on visitor statistics?

Entry tickets and registries
Accommodation establishments
Transportation services
Other

4.7.3 - Visitor management documents

Comment
not applicable

4.7.4 - Is there an appropriate visitor use management plan (e.g. specific plan) for the World Heritage property which ensures that its Outstanding Universal Value is maintained?

Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but **improvements could be made**

4.7.5 - Does the tourism industry contribute to improving visitor experiences and maintaining the values of the World Heritage property?

There is **limited co-operation** between those responsible for the World Heritage property and the tourism industry to present the Outstanding Universal Value and increase appreciation

4.7.6 - If fees (i.e. entry charges, permits) are collected, do they contribute to the management of the World Heritage property?

The fee is collected and makes a **substantial contribution** to the management of the World Heritage property

4.7.7 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to visitor use of the World Heritage property

Statistical data on visitors gathered from counts of the users of the parking facilities.

4.8. Monitoring

4.8.1 - Is there a monitoring programme at the property which is directed towards management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?

There is a **comprehensive, integrated programme** of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and / or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value

4.8.2 - Are key indicators for measuring the state of conservation used to monitor how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is maintained?

Information on the values of the World Heritage property is **sufficient** for defining and monitoring key indicators for measuring its state of conservation

4.8.3 - Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups

World Heritage managers / coordinators and staff	Excellent
Local / Municipal authorities	Excellent
Local communities	Excellent
Researchers	Excellent
NGOs	Non-existent
Industry	Non-existent
Local indigenous peoples	Not applicable

4.8.4 - Has the State Party implemented relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee?

No relevant Committee recommendations to implement

4.8.5 - Please provide comments relevant to the implementation of recommendations from the World Heritage Committee

nothing in particular

4.8.6 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to monitoring

nothing in particular

4.9. Identification of Priority Management Needs

4.9.1 - Please select the top 6 managements needs for the property (if more than 6 are listed below)

Please refer to question 5.2

5. Summary and Conclusions

5.1. Summary - Factors affecting the Property

5.1.1 - Summary - Factors affecting the Property

No factor is both current and negative.

5.2. Summary - Management Needs

5.2.2 - Summary - Management Needs

Answers provided have not outlined any serious management need.

5.3. Conclusions on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.3.1 - Current state of Authenticity

The authenticity of the World Heritage property has been **preserved**

5.3.2 - Current state of Integrity

The integrity of the World Heritage property is **intact**

5.3.3 - Current state of the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value

The World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been **maintained**.

5.3.4 - Current state of the property's other values

Other important cultural and / or natural values and the state of conservation of the World Heritage property are **predominantly intact**

5.4. Additional comments on the State of Conservation of the Property

5.4.1 - Comments

The authenticity, integrity, outstanding universal value, and other cultural assets of the Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama have been maintained from the time of their World Heritage inscription.

6. World Heritage Status and Conclusions on Periodic Reporting Exercise

6.1 - Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas

Conservation	Very positive
Research and monitoring	Very positive
Management effectiveness	Very positive
Quality of life for local communities and indigenous peoples	Very positive
Recognition	Very positive
Education	Very positive
Infrastructure development	Very positive
Funding for the property	Very positive
International cooperation	Very positive
Political support for conservation	Very positive
Legal / Policy framework	Very positive
Lobbying	Not applicable
Institutional coordination	Very positive
Security	Very positive
Other (please specify)	Not applicable

6.2 - Comments, conclusions and / or recommendations related to World Heritage status

nothing in particular

6.3 - Entities involved in the preparation of this Section of the Periodic Report

Governmental institution responsible for the property

Site Manager/Coordinator/World Heritage property staff

6.4 - Was the Periodic Reporting questionnaire easy to use and clearly understandable?

yes

6.5 - Please provide suggestions for improvement of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire

nothing in particular

6.6 - Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Report questionnaire from the following entities

UNESCO	Very good
State Party Representative	Very good
Advisory Body	Fair

6.7 - How accessible was the information required to complete the Periodic Report?

Most of the required information was accessible

6.8 - The Periodic Reporting process has improved the understanding of the following

Monitoring and reporting

6.9 - Please rate the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the following entities

UNESCO	Not Applicable
State Party	Not Applicable
Site Managers	Not Applicable
Advisory Bodies	Not Applicable

6.10 - Summary of actions that will require formal consideration by the World Heritage Committee

• Statement of Outstanding Universal Value / Statement of Significance

Reason for update: The Historic Villages of Shirakawa-go and Gokayama were remote and isolated, and access to the area was difficult for a long period of time, as it is surrounded by steep mountains in Gifu and Toyama Prefectures. The property comprises three villages: "Ogimachi" in the Shirakawa-go region, and "Ainokura" and "Suganuma" in the Gokayama region. These are rare examples of Gassho-style houses preserved in groups, and their associated landscapes remain intact. Thus the property possesses Outstanding Universal Value. Gassho-style is an extremely unique farmhouse style that makes use of highly rational structural systems evolved to adapt to the natural environment and site-specific social and economic circumstances such as, in particular the cultivation of mulberry trees and the rearing of silkworms. The large houses with their steeply pitched thatched roofs are the only examples of their kind in Japan.

• Geographic Information Table

Reason for update: Ainokura Village, Nanto-City, Toyama Prefecture, Japan Suganuma Village, Nanto-City, Toyama Prefecture, Japan

**6.11 - Comments, conclusions and / or
recommendations related to the Assessment of the
Periodic Reporting exercise**

nothing in particular