Component Part No. 1-5 of the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution”
Conservation Restoration, Presentation and Public Utilization Plan
for Shokasonjuku Academy (Area 1 Hagi) (Abstract)

Shoin Shrine drew up a Conservation, Restoration, Presentation and Public Utilization Plan for Shokasonjuku Academy (hereinafter referred to as “Plan”) in FY 2016 and 2017, which became a source of “Conservation Work Programme” pursuant to Recommendation b) in Decision: 39 COM 8B. 14 as adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session in 2015. The Plan comprises detailed measures for the conservation, restoration, presentation and public utilization of the component part of the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution: Iron and Steel, Shipbuilding and Coal Mining” (hereinafter referred to as “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution”). This document provides an abstract of the Plan.

(1) Area 1 Hagi: Location

(2) Distribution of the component parts of “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution” in Area 1 Hagi
1. Vision

Conserve and restore the buildings and grounds comprising Yoshida Shoin’s school and home as the educational institution which was the intellectual starting point of the Meiji Restoration and industrialization, opening them and the surrounding environment for public utilization.

Shokasonjuku Academy is a place of education that fostered many individuals who played an active role in Japan’s modernization and industrialization from late Edo into the Meiji period. The school is located within the grounds of Shoin Shrine (which is built for dedication to Yoshida in 1907), and remains in good condition in its original form thanks to its management and operation by Shoin Shrine (religious corporation), which has also opened it to the public. The hedges and other walls around the property retain the original scale of the grounds and the surrounding environment. Along with the other four component parts of Area 1 Hagi, Shokasonjuku Academy is a component part that illustrates the challenge phase of trial and error in the iron and steel manufacturing and ship-building fields.

The process of historical changes and developments of Shokasonjuku Academy in this context begins in 1830 when Yoshida Shoin was born and focuses on the late Edo period when Yoshida taught at his home and school. It also includes the process of development of the compound of Shoin Shrine through to the present day.

To realize the theme outlined in the Vision, the necessary measures for conservation, restoration, presentation and public utilization will be conducted with a focus on the following two points.

1) **Maintain and restore the buildings as the intellectual starting point of industrialization**

Shoin Shrine will maintain Yoshida’s home and the school building in a good, stable condition and strengthen any areas that become unstable. Regular monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that repairs are made at the appropriate time, maintaining the original design, form, and structure. The state of the trees and hedges, which contribute to the historical atmosphere, will be improved, forming a landscape that is in harmony with the buildings.
(2) Promotion of public understanding through more guidance and improvement of the surrounding environment to make it reminiscent of the time

Reflecting Shokasonjuku Academy’s positioning among the Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution, Shoin Shrine will work with its Shoin Memorial Museum Shiseikan, which also serves as a guidance facility, to provide information to visitors about the life of Yoshida Shoin and the role played by Shokasonjuku Academy in the Meiji Restoration and Japan’s modernization. Visitors will also be encouraged to visit associated places in the surrounding area to deepen their understanding of the place where Shokasonjuku Academy is located.

The hedge surrounding the compound will be replanted based on pictures, etc., restoring the scope and the atmosphere of the original grounds. The routes used by shrine worshippers and site visitors will also be separated to prevent crowding within the shrine compound and mitigate visitor pressure on it.

2. Policy

The policy consisting of following six items has been set to actualize the Vision:

(1) Promoting research and study

The city will undertake excavation surveys as necessary, recording and disseminating the results. The city and Shoin Shrine will identify and collect historical documents and organize and analyze them to clarify the Shokasonjuku Academy’s contribution to Outstanding Universal Value and the role which the Academy has played in the local community. A detailed investigation will also be made of the conservation and restoration history by carefully condensing records of conservation and restoration work, etc., undertaken to date and organizing these in chronological order.

The city and Shoin Shrine will undertake a survey of visitors to confirm the extent of their impact on the component part, and a monitoring charts will be used to identify changes to building exteriors and interiors and how wear and tear to parts and materials changes over time.

(2) Conserving and restoring buildings and remains (preserving, reinforcing, and stabilizing materials and structure)

The city and Shoin Shrine will elucidate the causes of changes such as the roofs of buildings (the school, Yoshida’s home, and the room to which Yoshida was confined while he was under house arrest) subsiding or leaning, or walls and uprights leaning, etc., as well as changes or deterioration in parts and materials (uprights, crossbeams, furnishings, etc.), conducting regular observations to ensure stable conservation and restoration of materials, with monitoring charts used to trace changes over time.

In the case that changes or abnormalities are found in the course of everyday management, conservation and restoration will be undertaken on the basis of the map of current state that has been created. Comprehensive measures will be taken in response to surface-soil runoff in the vicinity of the buildings (the school, home, and confinement room) and resulting drainage issues.

The city will work with the Hagi Museum and related institutions to preserve and restore related historical documents in a manner suited to their materials and form.

(3) Illustrating and explaining the role of Shokasonjuku Academy as the intellectual starting point of industrialization and modernization in the Meiji Government

To indicate to visitors the importance of the two buildings and grounds comprising Shokasonjuku Academy as a place of education that fostered individuals who contributed to Meiji period modernization and industrialization, the scope of the Shokasonjuku Academy grounds will be clearly
delineated within the shrine compound. Additional explanations will also be provided through explanation boards, etc., about the positioning of Shokasonjuku Academy in the context of the Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution and Area 1 Hagi. To promote visitor understanding, the city will provide information in the context of the surrounding region, including laying out a tour route that links Shokasonjuku Academy to associated sites in the same vicinity. Because Shoin Shrine is open day and night, to address concerns about human damage such as graffiti and natural damage such as lightning strikes, the city will systematically improve disaster management equipment and install surveillance cameras. To maintain safety at night, vehicle traffic in and out of the shrine grounds will be restricted.

(4) **Arranging and improving landscape from a scenic perspective**

Shoin Shrine will systematically replace concrete block walls around the shrine with white walls to improve the appearance of the Shrine. Based on the historical drawings and old photographs, etc., the area around the buildings (the school, home, and confinement room) will be arranged to make it reminiscent of the scenery back when Yoshida Shoin was teaching, bearing in mind the scope of the component part and the layout of the town at the time.

(5) **Utilizing the Shokasonjuku Academy as a cultural resource and source of information in the Area**

The city will work with the guidance facility Shoin Memorial Museum Shiseikan, the training facility Risshiden, and the Yoshida Shoin History Museum, all of which are located within the shrine compound, as well as the Hagi Museum, and the World Heritage Visitor Center (Hagi Meiringakusha Visitor Center), on the organized and ongoing provision of information. In addition, regular opportunities will be provided to study and research the teachings of Yoshida Shoin and the role that his school played in the Meiji Restoration and Japan’s modernization and industrialization, conveying this to a wide audience. Guides will provide explanations on site.

The city and Shoin Shrine will hold seminars to boost the abilities of guides and train new guides.

(6) **Implementing projects**

Shoin Shrine will be responsible for managing and operating the Plan, with the city providing across-the-board support. Shoin Shrine and the city will determine the appropriate projects and schedule with consideration to the state of the component part. They will also work with the Government of Japan and with Yamaguchi Prefectural Government to secure financial resources and the necessary specialist knowledge and personnel for implementation of the projects.

The main focus will be to maintain the buildings (the school, home, and confinement room) and grounds as elements contributing to the Outstanding Universal Value. In particular, drastic measures will be taken immediately to deal with surface-soil runoff in the vicinity of the buildings and the resulting drainage issues. Information on the current state of buildings and restoration work undertaken in the past will be gathered with a view to rethatching roofs and dismantling and restoring the buildings over the long term.

3. **Methods**

(1) **Research and study**

(a) **Excavation surveys**

The city and Shoin Shrine will carry out excavation surveys where necessary at the component part, record the results and disseminate them.
(b) **Historical document surveys**

Historical document surveys will be undertaken primarily by the Shiseikan specialist history curator, with cooperation also from specialist history curators at the Hagi Museum and NPO groups.

(c) **Restoration surveys**

The city and Shoin Shrine will create a detailed map of the current state of the buildings (the school, home, and confinement room), recording in detail conservation and restoration work to date and noting this also on the map in preparation for future conservation and restoration work on various scales (minor repairs through to full dismantling and major restoration), as well as structural reinforcement where necessary.

(d) **Visitor surveys**

The city and Shoin Shrine will conduct a survey on visitor numbers, as well as regular surveys and observations of the behavior of regular visitors and their degree of understanding.

(e) **Monitoring**

The city will create monitoring charts that comprehensively and systematically aggregate current information, regularly assessing the state of the component part and the buffer zone.

The city and Shoin Shrine will present monitoring results in annual report for confirmation and agreement at the Hagi Conservation Council, thereafter reporting to the National Committee of Conservation and Management for Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution.

(2) **Restoration of buildings and remains**

To maintain the design and structure of the current buildings (the school, home, and confinement room) and the terrain of the grounds in a stable condition, Shoin Shrine will undertake conservation and restoration in line with the particular characteristics of the buildings and grounds as well as conservation and management issues they present. The buildings and grounds will continue to be maintained in a healthy condition and regular monitoring will be undertaken, with spot repairs made where any issues arise. For the buildings, spot repairs will be made to wooden and plaster walls and furniture, while in other areas, repairs will be made or materials replaced in line with the degree of damage. In future, if any structural defects emerge, roofs will be rethatched and dismantling and major restoration work undertaken. For the grounds, work will be undertaken to ensure that rainwater drains away smoothly and to keep the ground surface stable. A specialist from the city offices will observe this work. If underground archaeological remains are affected, or there is a risk of this occurring, the city will first conduct an excavation survey.

(3) **Public utilization of Shokasonjuku Academy as the intellectual starting point of modernization and industrialization**

(a) **Zoning**

The city has created the following zoning to promote presentation and public utilization as a means of increasing understanding of Shokasonjuku Academy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone name</th>
<th>Zone outline and features</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shokasonjuku Academy Zone</td>
<td>Zone where the school and home (including the confinement room) stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenery Preservation Zone</td>
<td>Zone currently surrounded by pathways within the shrine area, including the ruins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Utilization Zone</td>
<td>Zone forming the Shoin Shrine grounds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(b) Path

The birthplaces and former homes of various individuals who contributed significantly to Japan’s modernization as well as other component parts in the Area are located in the vicinity of Shokasonjuku Academy, and the city and Shoin Shrine will work to promote public utilization of the Academy in the context of its accessibility and connection to these other places.

Yoshida Shoin’s home presents a good example of the residential compound of a middle- to lower-class samurai in the late Edo period, and the northern gate also remains in good condition, with the stone path from the gate to the entranceway also visible. A course will be signposted that has visitors entering from the northern gate, moving from the confinement room at the eastern side of the house to the open space on the southern side and on to the school building. Explanations will also be provided along that course to help visitors experience Yoshida Shoin’s life and education and the process of changes and developments of the component part (Figure 1).

(c) Landscape arrangement, improvement, and vegetation planting

Within the component site and its surrounding area, surface-soil runoff is causing drainage ditch and drainage basin exposure, as well as poor drainage as a result of clogging. Shōin Shrine will maintain and utilize the current facilities to the greatest extent possible, while also constructing even ground which is less likely to suffer surface-soil runoff, and restore drainage facility functions.

The hedge around the compound and the hedge between the home and school will be recreated and landscaped based on historical drawings etc. Where evergreen trees planted in later years are obstruct the view, they will be pruned or felled.

Furthermore, as the black pines on the northern side grow taller, this might lead to falling branches or treed damaging the school and house buildings, so the pines will be monitored and pruned when necessary. In some cases, they may be transplanted or felled as appropriate.

(d) Guidance and explanation facilities
Shoin Shrine will install signage to explain the positioning of Shokasonjuku Academy in the context of the Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution and Area 1 Hagi and its relation to the process of historical changes and developments of Shokasonjuku Academy and other component parts in the Area.

Furthermore, the city and Shōin Shrine will create a tour route, which incorporated associated places in the vicinity such as the Former Ito Hirobumi and Tamaki Bunnoshin residences, and the Birthplace of Yoshida Shōin. Signage explaining the tour route will also be installed. (Figure 1).

(e) Establishment of related facilities

Because Shoin Shrine is open day and night, there is the danger that buildings will be damaged or set alight, or that exhibit items and equipment will be stolen. Disaster management equipment will therefore be systematically improved and surveillance cameras installed. Vehicle traffic in and out of the shrine grounds at night will be restricted by installing car stop poles.

(4) Arrangement and improvement of the landscape in the buffer zone

The front (west entrance) part of the wall around the shrine has been converted into a white earthen wall. The northern and southern walls are currently concrete block walls. The systematic repair of these walls to match the front entrance is being discussed. The former shrine office—a single-story wooden building with a tile roof—still stands on the western side of the component part, but is no longer in service and is gradually deteriorating. Should plans be made for the removal of the building within the shrine compound, with the aid of experts, the history will be researched and the necessary judgement made on its preservation. Even in the case of its removal, a map will first be drawn up, photographs taken and building survey records stored. If a new building is constructed, in coordination with the city, full consideration will be given to its design, form, impact on the appearance of the shrine front, and the degree to which it complements the surrounding area of the component site.

When surface and other repairs need to be made to the carpark on the eastern side of the shrine compound, which lies outside the buffer zone, Shoin Shrine will coordinate with the relevant administrative organizations about harmonizing methods, such as using materials that fit with the appearance of the shrine frontage. With the help of surveys on visitor numbers and trends, careful consideration will be given to whether the carpark needs to be expanded or a new carpark built.

(5) Utilization of the Shokasonjuku Academy as a cultural resource and source of information in the Area

(a) Measures for utilization as a source of information

At the World Heritage Visitor Center (Hagi Meiringakusha Visitor Center), opened by the city within the buffer zone in March 2017 as the central source of guidance and information, the city will explain the Outstanding Universal Value of Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution and the positioning of the five component parts of Area 1 Hagi, as well as holding regular seminars and other events for local residents, guides, and visitors. The more academic and specialist Hagi Museum and Shoin Memorial Museum Shiseikan will hold exhibitions of historical documents and artifacts and of Yoshida Shoin relics and brushwork, deploy curators to explain exhibits and engage in research, conduct studies on related historical documents, and engage in appropriate management of artefacts, etc.

In addition, on the component part, the city and Shoin Shrine will hold lectures and seminars in the Japanese-style drawing room of the school while ensuring management and supervision.
(b) Approaches to engagement with local community

The city and Shoin Shrine will provide support for the group supplying guides for the component part to take the necessary measures to promote understanding of the component part, such as securing the necessary guides, advertising for new guides, and holding seminars.

Local engagement will be promoted by holding lectures as well as drawing and photo competitions, and information will be actively provided to visitors and local residents using apps and websites.

Various annual and special events are held at Shoin Shrine, with many local residents taking part. In particular, students from the nearby elementary school act as guides to Shokasonjuku Academy, much to the appreciation of visitors. Efforts will be made to widen this scope to junior and senior high school students, university students, and adults so that Shokasonjuku Academy is used by the local community not only for learning about the World Heritage component part but also as a form of social engagement.

4. Projects Implementation

(1) Order of priorities

The projects implementation schedule has been created to maintain Shokasonjuku Academy in good condition. It will begin in FY 2017, with the short-term phase continuing until FY 2026 and the medium-term phase until FY 2046, with the long-term phase running from FY 2047 onward (Table 1).

Building repairs, the establishment or renovation of facilities necessary for preservation, and improvement of the surrounding environment will be undertaken over all of these phases. In conjunction with this work, historical document surveys, visitor surveys, and monitoring of any changes to buildings and other elements will also be undertaken, with measures taken on an ongoing basis to communicate information. Priority will be placed on the following projects in order to maintain Shokasonjuku Academy in good condition.

- Installation of related equipment (disaster management facilities, surveillance cameras)
- Conservation and restoration work (repairs to building exteriors and furnishings, etc.)
- Arrangement and improvement of landscape (trees, soil paths, drainage, hedges)
- Installation of guidance and explanation facilities (guidance and explanation boards)

(2) Review of implementation schedule

During the scheduled short-term period (up until 2026), the implementation schedule will be revised in view of Plan progress. However, if any new measures become necessary, the city will review the schedule without waiting for 2026.

(3) Other

Shoin Shrine (religious corporation) has carried out conservation and restoration work, etc. for the Shokasonjuku Academy by securing necessary funds* making use of various subsidy programs available in FY2016 and FY2017, the first two years following inscription of the property on the World Heritage List. To ensure the smooth implementation of the project, it plans to continue such efforts to secure necessary funds in partnership with relevant institutions.

* Approximately 4 million yen was spent in FY2016 and 6 million yen has been budgeted for FY2017, both including costs incurred or earmarked for plan making and the presentation and public utilization of the component part, but excluding the cost for day-to-day maintenance.
Shoin Shrine will also work on the conservation, restoration, presentation and public utilization of Shokasonjuku Academy, in conjunction with Hagi City and the other four component parts in Area 1, to ensure the smooth implementation of the projects.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Short term (2017-26)</th>
<th>Medium term (2027-46)</th>
<th>Long term (2047-)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Research and study</td>
<td>(a) Excavation surveys (where necessary)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) Historical document survey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(c) Restoration surveys</td>
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<tr>
<td>(2) Building restoration</td>
<td>Restoration of buildings and remains</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(b) Path planning (route signage, more explanations)</td>
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<td>(3) Public utilization in light of Shokasonjuku Academy as the intellectual starting point of industrialization and modernization</td>
<td>(c) Landscape arrangement, improvement, and vegetation planting (cover soil paths, improve drainage, repair hedges)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(d) Guidance and explanation facilities (install explanation and information boards)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(e) Establishment of related facilities (improve disaster management equipment, install surveillance cameras)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4) Arranging and improving landscape in the Buffer Zone</td>
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<td>(5) Employing area as a cultural resource and source of information</td>
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</table>

Table 1: Project implementation schedule

Figure 2: Explanation by Shoin Shrine head priest
5. Master Plan

The master plan is shown in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Master Plan