Kanazawa's history begins in 1546, when a temple town formed around Kanazawa Miko, a branch temple of the Daikoku Hongan-ji temple. The ruling licker was finally overthrown in 1580 by Sakuma Moritaka, the retainer of the warring Shibata Katsuie, and a castle was built on the temple site, turning the former temple town into a castle town.

Shibata Katsuie clashed with Toyotomi Hideyoshi in 1584, following a dispute over the control of the Kanazawa region. Hideyoshi's army surrounded the castle, forcing Katsuie to surrender. The castle was then destroyed as a gesture of loyalty to Hideyoshi, who wanted to prevent any future uprisings from the castle.

Ancestry: The famous "Christian General" Toshitsuna was born in Kanazawa in 1564. He was a retainer of the Maeda family and became a powerful ally of the Tokugawa shogunate.

Teramachi. These four areas have been designated as Small Townscape Preservation Districts. As such, they are part of Japan's Cultural Heritage Conservation Program. The Teramachi district serves in the Higashiyama Geisha District, the foothills of which are well preserved.

In 1632, following a major fire at the end of that century, the castle was renovated and expanded, bringing the Hokuriku region under its dominion. Toshie, Katsuie's nephew, also joined the battle as a commander on Toshie's side, but after his defeat at the Battle of Sekigahara, he was executed by the famous Hōjō Umenari, the ruler of the Hōjō domain, for plotting against the Maedas.

This old map shows Kanazawa circa 1857. Thanks to the activities of the Kanazawa Jokazu Byobu site, turning the former temple town into a castle town.

In 1631, a garrison path was constructed from the Saigawa river to the Asanogawa river through Zaimoku-cho. The embankments on the inner side were planted with bamboo and other vegetation, forming a green belt.

In 1632, following a major fire that started in the Higashiyama Geisha District, the embankments on the inner side were planted with bamboo and other vegetation, forming a green belt.

In 1635, Kanazawa was declared a "Christian General" and Toshitsuna was ordered to shut down all the non-Ikko temples in the city. This was a major blow to the city's economy, as the non-Ikko temples were tasked with keeping a watch on the Ikko sect temples already on the Kodatsuno ridge, creating three major groups of temples, forming a strategically crucial boundary of defense for the castle.

In 1641, the castle was moved to the Higashiyama district, turning the former temple town into a castle town. The castle was surrounded by a moat, which was deepened and widened to provide a line of defense for the castle. The moat was also used to control the flow of water to the castle. The moat was expanded to the full 11 km waterway from the Kami-Tatsumi-machi sluice gate to Kanazawa's main gate at the National Historic Site in 1930.

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