

4. The Nagasawa Site

4.1 Traces of the Jomon people's life

Presently 19 sites are confirmed in Fussa City. The Nagasawa Site is located on the edge of Haijima Terrace. It is the largest site in Fussa City. Its center is 300 m northwest of the Fussa Station, and its area is about 50,000 square meters. Because abundant water was supplied from the edge of the terrace, this area must have been a good environment for Jomon people to live.

The first excavation was performed in 1970. A total of 9 excavations have been done to date. These excavations have revealed grave pits and stone-filled pits thought to have been used for roasting or baking food with heated stones, in addition to traces of pit dwellings. Various artifacts were also excavated: things such as Katsusaka type and Kasori E type earthenware and stone implements such as chipped stone tools used for digging.

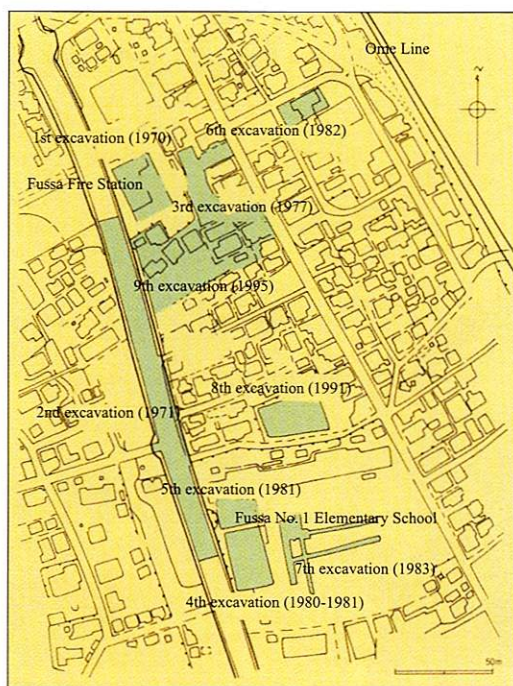


Fig.17 The entire research area of the Nagasawa Site (research year indicated). The Nagasawa Site is a circular village of the Middle Jomon Period dating 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.

4.2 A sketch of the village ruins

This site is believed to be a Middle Jomon Period village dating about 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. Excavated earthenware belongs to the Katsusaka type (Early to Middle Jomon Period) and the Kasori E type (middle to late Middle Jomon Period). Dwelling remains associated with Katsusaka type earthenware dominate the south side of the site, whereas those with Kasori E type earthenware dominate the north side of the site. The village center is believed to have shifted over a long period of time.

Because relatively few artifacts were found in the village center, it is believed that the village center served as an open space, or plaza. If an open space and graveyard (cemetery area) occupy the village center, the site is designated a circular village. In the Nagasawa Site, 10 or more probable grave-pits were confirmed near the center of the open space. This graveyard did not drastically alter as time elapsed. The fact that the same place continued to be used for burials indicates that this graveyard was considered a sanctuary.

NO.	TYPE OF SITE	PERIOD	MAJOR RELICS
1	Plateau, surface finds, connected to Hamura No.9 Site	Early to Late Jomon	Jomon earthenware, chipped stone axes, pebble tools, hajiki earthenware
2	Plateau, isolated find	Middle Jomon	Stone rod
3	Plateau, village, Jomon stone-paved pit-dwelling?	Late Jomon and Heian?	Jomon earthenware, stone arrowheads, hajiki earthenware
4	Plateau, village, Jomon residence, soil pit, arranged stones, chronology uncertain	Early, Middle, Late Jomon and uncertain period	Jomon earthenware, chipped stone axes, stone spears, stone arrowheads, stone spoons, stone plates, recessed stones, earthen figures
5	Plateau, surface finds, Jomon stone-lined baking pit	Earliest, Middle and Late Jomon	Jomon earthenware, chipped stone axes, pebble tools, stone arrowheads, stone plates, polished stones, stamp type stones
6	Plateau, surface finds	Late Jomon and Heian	Jomon earthenware, stone sinkers, Hajiki earthenware
7	Plateau, surface finds	Middle Jomon and Heian	Jomon earthenware, chipped stone implement fragments, Hajiki earthenware
8	Plateau, surface finds	Jomon	Stone arrowhead
9	Plateau, surface finds	Jomon	Stone arrowhead
10	Plateau, surface finds	Jomon	Stone arrowhead
11	Plateau, surface finds, Jomon stone-lined baking pit	Earliest, Middle Jomon and uncertain period	Jomon earthenware, stone arrowheads, Hajiki earthenware
12	Plateau, surface finds	Late Jomon	Chipped stone axes
13	Plateau, surface finds	Early, Middle Jomon and Heian	Jomon earthenware, chipped stone axes, chipped stone implement fragments, Hajiki earthenware
14	Plateau, surface finds	Jomon and Kofun	Chipped stone implement fragments, Hajiki earthenware
15	Plateau, surface finds	Uncertain period	Hajiki earthenware
16	Plateau, surface finds	Middle Jomon and Kofun	Jomon earthenware, Hajiki earthenware
17	Plateau, surface finds	Jomon	Stone arrowheads
18	Plateau, surface finds, Medieval Times, ditch remains	Medieval Times	Itabi (stone monument bearing inscription)
19	Plateau, isolated find, Medieval Times, coins	Medieval Times	Chinese coins

Fig.18 Excavated sites in Fussa City.

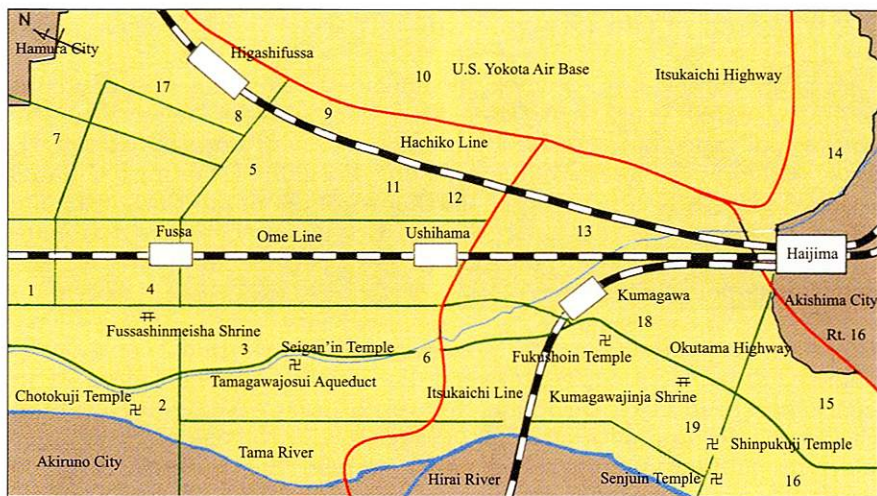


Fig.19 Site distribution in Fussa City.



Fig.20 Nagasawa 7th excavation (schoolyard of the Fussa No. 1 Elementary School). One pit-dwelling was confirmed.



Fig.21 Nagasawa 9th excavation (the south side of the Fussa fire station). Thirteen pit-dwellings were confirmed.



Fig.22 Deep type earthenware (Atamadai type, 2nd excavation). The Atamadai type earthenware distribution centers on the eastern Kanto Plain. It is thought that this earthenware carried special trade items from the eastern Kanto region.



Fig.23 Dwelling pit with postholes (7th excavation). This dwelling was constructed by digging into the earth. It has 4 holes for upright posts.

4.3 Development and decline of the village

There are traces of human habitation in this village from Early to Late Jomon Period. However, clear evidence of Early Jomon Period habitation has not been found yet, only a few artifacts. Therefore, it is likely that Early Jomon people visited Nagasawa, leaving traces of their hunting and other activities, but did not settle there.

The period people most likely settled at Nagasawa and developed this village is the earliest part of Middle Jomon Period. No dwelling remains have been found to date; however, fireplaces indicate settlement and village development. Subsequent village expansion was rapid, indicating a population increase. Furthermore, evidence of dwellings being rebuilt indicates that people continued living in this place for a significant period of time.

Toward the end of the Middle Jomon Period, the size of the village suddenly became much smaller. This was not only at the Nagasawa Site but also a common trend at all sites along the middle Tama River in this period. It is thought that a change in the environment caused the population in this area to decrease. Then, in the Late Jomon Period, traces of settlement disappear and the people leave.

In Fussa, there was a small village for a brief time in Late Jomon Period (No. 6 Site), but this is the last trace of Jomon people in the city. From then until the Medieval Times there are no traces of people living in Fussa. In this same period of the Late Jomon Period, there are many shellmounds along the coasts of the Kanto Plain, and the Jomon people there carried out fishing activities, but it is not clear why Jomon society disappeared from the inland middle Tama River area. Possibly the climate became cooler and the gathering economy suffered.

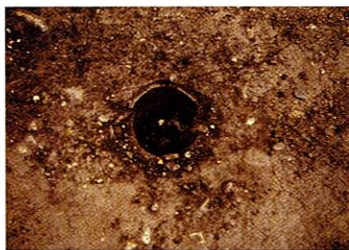


Fig.24 Pot buried in the fireplace (7th excavation). Maiyoro (hearth pot) is an earthenware vessel buried in the ground and used as the fireplace.



Fig.25 Deep earthenware (Goryogadai type, 3rd excavation). This earthenware was found buried in a fireplace. It belongs to the beginning of the Middle Jomon Period, just before the main development of the Nagasawa village.