

Prototype from the early stages of planetarium production in Japan

Registration No.	Number 00313		
Registration Date	September 14, 2021	Registration Category	Category 2

Name (Model, etc.)	Planetarium Projector (fabricated by Nishimura Co. Ltd)
Location	Tsuyama-shi, Okayama
	Tsuyama Wonder Museum
Owner (Custodian)	Tsuyama Wonder Museum
Manufacturer (Company)	Nishimura Co., Ltd.
Year Manufactured	1967
Year first appeared	1967
Reason For Selection	In 1957, at a time when local production of planetariums was just getting established in Japan, Keizo Morimoto, resident of Tsuyama in Okayama prefecture, asked Shigejiro Nishimura, from astronomical telescope manufacturer Nishimura Co., Ltd., to build a planetarium for the Tsuyama Museum of Science Education (now the Tsuyama Wonder Museum), which was due to open in November 1963. Nishimura took ten years to build his planetarium, which was heavily influenced by the Carl Zeiss II planetarium housed at the Osaka Electric Science Museum. Completed in 1967, it employed lens projection for the fixed stars but had several limitations, such as preset planetary projectors that could not render annual motion. It was installed in the museum as a prototype and although it is no longer operational today, it remained on display to the people of Tsuyama until around 1980. As the only planetarium ever produced by Nishimura Co., Ltd., this prototype provides a fascinating insight into of the early stages of planetarium production in Japan.
Registration Standard	1-D (Constitute a landmark in terms of regional development.) 2-C (Show an important event or phenomenon in the relationship between society and culture on the one hand and science and technology on the other.)

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