Matsuyama's local regiment, the 22nd Infantry Regiment, was established in June 1884. The North Castle Drilling Ground (Dogo Drilling Ground) was provided as the exercise ground for the regiment. Although the North Castle Drilling Ground, made in 1889, was normally used as the training ground for the infantry, citizens could come and go freely, and they used it for their leisure. At the time of the Russo-Japanese War, a camp for holding Russian prisoners of war called the North Castle Barracks was built here.

It is portrayed in Ryōtarō Shiba's novel Saka no Ue no Kumo (published by Bungei Shunju) as the place where Shiki Masaoka initiated the younger Kyoshi Takahama and his friends into baseball.