

## Honjo Castle Town Explanation board 4

### The center of Castle Town “Sakanamachi”, “Nakamachi”, “Omachi”

In the early Edo period, Honjo Castle Town was built to enclose the town of Furuyukimachi, which was also known as Minatomachi. Choninmachi (merchant town) which was between Furuyukimachi and Bukemachi (samurai town) was called as “Detomachi”. Individually called “Detoomachi”, “Detoushiromachi”, “Detoteramachi (Hikijimachi)”, etc. At “Detomachi”, along the road running from east to west, there are long and narrow strip-shaped houses lining the streets from north to south. Even today, the layout of the mansion and the temple can still be seen.

The road from Furuyukimachi to Omachi is the major road from Ushuhama Road (also known as Sakata Road or Hokkoku Road) which runs along the coast of the Sea of Japan to Honjo Castle Town. Sakanamachi, Nakamachi, Omachi areas formed the heart of the district and were lined with prominent merchant houses such as shipping agents.

The site of Yurihonjo Police Station in Nakamachi was the residence of “Hosoyayosozaemon family”, the first of the town’s government officials. A “meeting place” was located at the back of the house, where the town's government affairs were handled, and Kosatsu (public notice of the han-lord's or shogun's proclamations earlier in Japanese history) was set up in front of the gate. Besides, Tadataka Inou, who surveyed the whole country and drew a map of Japan stayed in Hosoya’s house in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Kyowa era (1802). At the present location (Sakanamachi), which is named Kamon Park, there was “Ikedakamonnosuke’s family”, who held the post of second-in-command after the lord of the town, and the name of the park comes from this.

This explanation board is was founded by the East Japan Railway Culture Foundation for local cultural activities.