

Honjo Castle Town Explanation Board 5

Castle Town's transport hub "Kamiyokomachi" "Nakayokomachi"

During the Edo period, Osawa River at Honjo Castle Town to the west area, the basic town layout was a long, narrow, and oblong of residences running north-south along roads running east-west. On the other hand, along the north-south road leading from the Daimon gate intersection to Yuri Bridge, the town is divided into long, narrow, and oblong of residences running east-west. Due to this difference in the layout of the residences, as the names of the towns were "Kamiyokomachi" and "Nakayokomachi", the area along the roads running north-south was Yokomachi in contrast to the main road running east-west through Sakanamachi, Nakamachi, Omachi.

With Yokomachi as the border, the western part was Choninmachi (merchant town) and the eastern part was mostly Bukemachi (samurai town). Both towns had different atmospheres, such as the shape and the size of the residences. The intersections of Kamiyokomachi and Nakayokomachi were crossroads that were different from each other due to the defense of the castle town. It can still be observed around the intersections even today, after the land readjustment.

Besides, the current location is also a key transport hub and nodal point at the intersection of arterial roads running east-west and north-south. From the Ushuhama Road (also known as Sakata Road or Hokkoku Road), which passed along the coast of the Sea of Japan, passing through Furuyukimachi, Sakanamachi, Nakamachi, Omachi, the road turns north at its present location and crosses the Koyoshi River from the "Owatariguchi", located in Kajimachi on the west side of Yuri Bridge, leading to Ishiwaki in the Kameda Domain territory. On the other hand, turning south from the present location and passing through the Daimon gate leads to Honjo Castle. Also, heading directly east from the present location, the road leads to Honjo Road. Thus, the present location was the most important transport hub and nodal point at Honjo Castle Town. As evidence, during the Honjomachi period, an origin road marker post called "Genpyo" was erected in the west of the present location, diagonally opposite the intersection, as a starting point for measuring distances and mileage to various locations.

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