

## Honjo Castle Town Explanation Board 6 Castle Town's Rice Granary "Iwabuchigura"(Iwabuchi warehouse)

The area where the current City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> building and the city fire station are located is where "Iwabuchigura", a warehouse in the Honjo Castle Town was located during the Edo period. Iwabuchigura was an important facility that was established at the same time as the castle town was built by Honjo clan in the early Edo period. It was taken over by the Rokugo clan of Honjo domain and remained until the domain was abolished in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Meiji era (1871).

There was a Nagayamon gate near the present location, and a map during the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Jokyo (1687) shows a long and narrow warehouse on the site, facing the low ground near the confluence of Koyoshi River and Osawa River, where the riverboats can easily enter. Excavations carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> year of Heisei era (2007, 2013) also revealed the ruins of buildings that were lined up in the same way as in the illustration, as well as the remains of a large waterway, which is assumed to have been used for transporting goods. The present Mikuramachi, known as "Kurakoji" in the Edo period, derives from this Iwabuchigura. Iwabuchigura managed the rice in the territory and functioned as a place where rice was paid to clan members as salary. In addition to this Iwabuchigura, the Honjo clan also had a clan rice warehouse in Kannonmachi near Honjo Minato (honjo harbor) (Furuyuki Minato).

The present location is at the northern end of Bukemachi (samurai town) on the north side of Honjo Castle, an area inhabited by lower-ranking samurai and foot soldiers. The street of Kurakoji expanding to the east became the main road under the castle town through Akanumamachi to the east, leading to the other side of the Koyoshi River and towards Yashima.

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