

Nishioka Family Residence

The Nishioka family found great success in the shipping industry, trading porcelain goods during the Edo period (1603–1867). This main residence of the family was constructed in 1855, taking close to three years to complete. The house is built in the *igura* style, identified by hipped, tiled roofs with triangular sections of wall visible between the roofs. Main entrances are located at both the front and back of the building, connected by a large corridor. The purpose of having two entrances was to be able to conduct their shipping business via the river in back while welcoming customers arriving on the old Nagasaki Highway in front.

Upon entering through either door, one sees an earthen-floored corridor running the length of the house. The eight rooms along the corridor were built with raised floors due to the frequency of flooding from the nearby river. The spacious estate consists of the main house, storehouses, and an annex, reflecting the considerable wealth of the Nishioka family. The weapons on display in some of the rooms may have been kept by the family to show off their wealth, since the wealthiest merchants tended to have such weapons.

The residence was designated a Cultural Property of National Importance on February 5, 1974.