

Nishi Family Residence

The home of the Nishi family, who operated a confectionery shop fronting on the Nagasaki Highway, was constructed in the late eighteenth century. The highway, nicknamed “Sugar Road” due to the large amounts of sugar transported along it from the port at Nagasaki, led to Kokura in northern Kyushu.

The Nishi family business was famous for sweets. One was *ikkoko*, a large pancake with a crispy exterior, a soft, airy interior, and a strong, sweet aroma. It was a local specialty.

The second was *kinkato*, a colorful, decorative sweet made from sugar that enjoyed great popularity in Japan during the Edo period (1603–1867). To make *kinkato*, sugar was pressed into a variety of distinctive shapes using wooden molds. It was a popular gift for weddings and other celebrations.