

Former Sakata Clinic

The former Sakata Clinic is located on the main shopping street of Menua. Its wide street frontage and design details are typical of Western architecture of the 1930s. The clinic was established in 1931 by Dr. Sakata Yasutaro for obstetrics and internal medicine. At the time, the Menua area around Menua Shodenzan Temple was quite rural, and Western architecture was rare.

The single-story reinforced concrete building has a covered entrance porch with stepped archways, leading into a spacious waiting area. The facade is covered in textured ceramic tiles, adding to its distinctive appearance. The clinic has 10 rooms arranged around a long hallway, including a dispensary, an examination room, a delivery room, an operating theater, an X-ray room, and a dark room. Much of the original equipment and fittings remain, including glass syringes and flasks, surgical tools, an examination bed, X-ray equipment, and medical texts.

Original light fittings range from decorative Art Deco pendant lamps to molded milk-glass globes. The light fittings and furnishings are practical, in keeping with the requirements of a medical clinic, but follow the design trends of the time.

The interior changed little over the years until the clinic closed in the 1980s. The clinic has been preserved by the town as an example of Art Deco architecture and of cutting-edge medical technology in the early years of the Showa era (1926–1989). The clinic symbolizes the modernization that was happening at that time and is registered as a Tangible Cultural Property.

The building is opened to the public several times a year.