

Nishikawa Jingoro House and Museum

This house was the home of the family that founded the Nishikawa company, now best known for its bedding and other textiles. The founder, Nishikawa Niemon (1549–1644), established a trading business when he was 17 years old. At 36, he moved from his home in the village of Minamitsuda to the nearby town of Hachiman (now Omihachiman) when he was commissioned to supervise construction at Hachimanyama Castle. Two years later, he opened a shop in Hachiman called Yamagataya that sold mosquito nets and tatami mat surface covers, laying the foundations for a company that was to profit greatly through its business in Edo (now Tokyo) from the seventeenth century onward.

Members of the Nishikawa family resided in this house from 1587 to 1942. The structure bears the name of Nishikawa Jingoro (also Jingo; 1582–1675), who was the fourth son of Niemon and took charge of the family business after his father in 1628. Jingoro is credited with laying the groundwork for the Nishikawa company's future success through shrewd marketing tactics, including dyeing the company's mosquito nets green to make them more visually pleasing.

Also on the premises are a museum that tells the story of the Nishikawa family through the centuries and a shop selling souvenirs and Nishikawa products.