

●Shinagawa Historical Museum Explanatory Sheet

The Model of the Townscape of Shinagawa Post Station

Peek into the Shops

In the mid-16th century, Shinagawa Post Station was divided into Minami-Shinagawa Station in the south and Kita-Shinagawa Station in the north, both near the coast, with the Meguro River forming a border between the two.

In 1601, Tokugawa Ieyasu established the Tokaido Highway which connected Edo with Kyoto and Osaka. Shinagawa was designated as the first post station of the new Highway, and in 1722 the additional Kachi-shinshuku station was added. The surrounding area of Shinagawa Station was five to seven meters wide, and ran north-south for 2,143 meters.

This model of the townscape of Shinagawa Station reproduces a 500-meter portion of the townscape centered on the Meguro River, and is based on maps and ukiyo-e illustrations from around 1845, and on book illustrations from the same period. You can see many tiled-roof buildings, such as inns, restaurants and pubs. Each shop is tailor-made to its trade. While it may be a small model, please take your time enjoying its delightful detail. Each shop displays a label at its base indicating its name.

The *Toiyaba* Station House

Post stations played an important role in providing transportation for travelers and goods, and a relay system was set up between the post stations to forward



▲ *Toiyaba* station house (From *History of Transit*)

goods along. While government officials could use these services for free or at a greatly reduced price, regular travelers had to negotiate the fees with the transporters directly.

The *toiyaba* station house was responsible for managing the business operations of the post station town. At the *toiyaba* house you would find the *toiya* station master, a *toshiyori* assistant, a *chozuke* record keeper, and the *ninsokusashi* porter master and *umasashi* stable master who managed the loads for porters and horses respectively.

Shinagawa Station initially had two *toiyaba* station houses, one at the northeastern corner of



▲ Near the *honjin* lodge



▲ The *toiyaba* and weigh station

Minami-Shinagawa Station 3-chome (the present-day area near Minami-Shinagawa 2-13, Shinagawa City, Tokyo), and the other on the western side of Kita-Shinagawa Station 1-chome (the present-day area around Kita-Shinagawa 2-30, Shinagawa City, Tokyo). Both *toyaba* stations, however, burned down in an enormous fire in 1823, and only the single station house at Minami-Shinagawa Station was rebuilt. A weigh-station was also located in the station house in 1712 to check that shipments of goods were within the designated weight limits.

Shinagawa Station - Types and Numbers of Shops as of 1843

Shop	Num.	Shop	Num.
Hatagoya meal serving inns	92	Sushi shops	9
Tea houses	64	Futon lending shops	8
Used clothing & tool shops	64	Tofu shops	8
General stores	59	Sundry shops	8
Delis	44	Public baths	8
Pawnshops	40	Pharmacies	7
Breweries (miso, soy sauce)	32	Kabayaki shops	5
Rice millers	25	Lantern shops	3
Hira-hatagoya inns	19	Kimono shops	2
Fish mongers	17	Porcelain shops	2
Mochi Confectionary Shops	16	Metalware shops	2
Charcoal & firewood shops	16	Dyeing shops	2
Vegetable shops	15	Medicinal baths	2
Candle & latern oil shops	12	Dried goods shops	1
Tobacco shops	9	Foot baths	1
Soba shops	9		
		Total 601 shops	

The townscape of Shinagawa Station ▶

