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Sakamoto Castle Ruins

After the burning of Enryakuji Temple on Mt. Hiei in September 1751, Oda Nobunaga ordered Akechi Mitsuhide to build Sakamoto Castle at Hamasakamoto (also known as Mitsuhamma). According to Luís Fróis, a visiting Jesuit missionary, the castle was praised as the second grandest castle in Japan after Nobunaga's Azuchi Castle. Sakamoto Castle was important not only for monitoring Enryakuji Temple, but also for securing a route between Nobunaga's territory of Mino (present day Gifu Prefecture) and Kyoto, and as a key point for transportation on the water. The castle was burned down in 1582, but was later reconstructed by Niwa Nagahide and used again for several years. According to an excavation conducted in 1979, burned soil and foundational stones believed to belong to one of the castle's facilities, as well as a water well, a gutter, and the foundation for a stone wall were discovered.