

Nakamura and Awagamachi were post towns on the road that connected the northern mines to the Himeji port. At their peak, there were over forty shops in the combined towns. Two buildings dating from the Edo Period (1603–1867) still stand today: the Takeuchi residence, home to a wealthy merchant, and the Nambashuzo sake brewery. When the Silver Mine Carriage Road (the Ikuno Kozanryo Bashamichi, now known as the Gin no Bashamichi) was built in 1876, Nakamura and Awagamachi remained an important post town along the way. In 1894, the Bantan train line was built to transport silver from Ikuno mine, and for travel between the interior of Hyogo Prefecture and Himeji. Travelers would take horse-drawn carriages from Tsurui train station and change carriages at horse station (*umaya*) in Awagamachi.