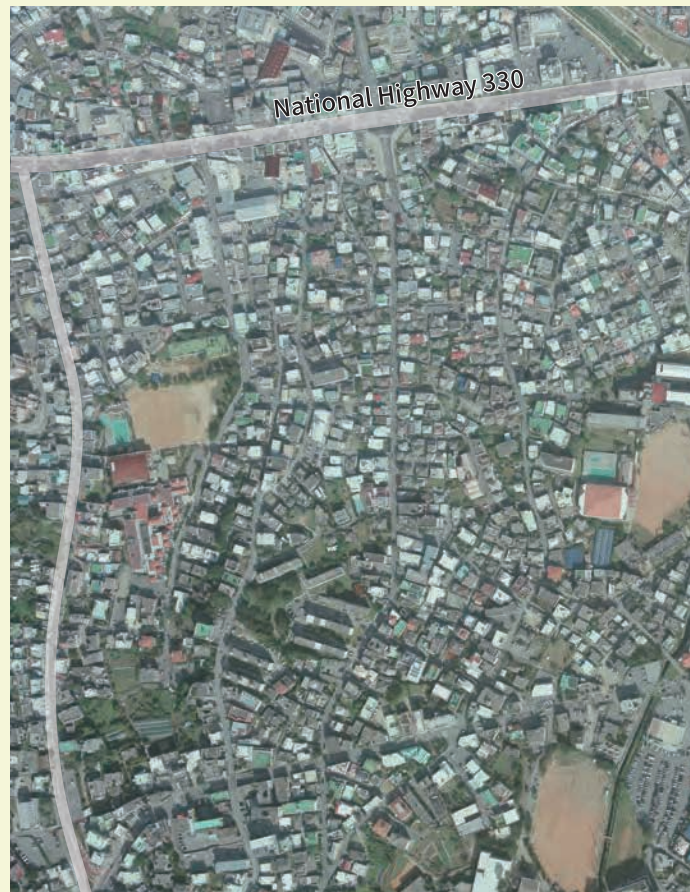


Location of Ageda



Ageda Community in 2010



Source: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan website

Okinawa City Map of Cultural Properties Ageda

Published in March, 2018

Publisher: Okinawa City Historical Museum

Okinawa City Culture Center
3rd floor, 2 -19-6 Uechi, Okinawa City 904-0031

TEL: 098-932-6882
FAX: 098-933-6218

Ageda

Okinawa City Map of Cultural Properties



About Ageda Community

In the Okinawan language, Ageda is pronounced *Ageeda*. The name of this settlement appears in the 1721 historical chronicle Chuzan Denshinroku. In the historical document Kyuyo of 1763, it is noted that the original location of the Ageda community constantly received heavy damage from torrential rainstorms, and residents often found it difficult to secure a reliable source of water and were forced to live in cramped conditions. It is recorded that the settlement had submitted a special request to relocate to a much more spacious plot of land, and that the request was granted. The new location offered better access to water and was more guarded against harsh weather.

Prior to the Battle of Okinawa, the Ageda community had an abundance of fields and paddies, allowing them to flourish in farming and raising domesticated animals, as the land was ideal for grazing. It is said that the fine horses Kuito raised here were famous and were presented to the king during the time of the Ryukyu Kingdom.

After the war, the area centering around the Kamara district, which included the surrounding districts of Murokawa, Goeku, and Ageda, was used as refugee campsite (Camp Koza) housing over 20,000 refugees. The once farm fields and paddies were then later converted to residential areas, and subsequently more people began to settle there. Up to around the time of Okinawa's reversion to Japan, businesses from the manufacturing industry, such as furniture shops, car repair shops, iron factories, and lumber shops lined up along the main street of Ageda (current highway 330).

Ageda Community in 1945



Aerial photograph taken by US military forces ON24146 019-2 (property of the Okinawa Prefectural Archives)



1 Kushibaruka Well

It is said to be the water well used by the Ageda settlement before relocating to its present location. It is the oldest water well in Ageda, and is also known as Furujimaga.

It is told that prayers were offered on an auspicious day in September on the lunar calendar in the Ka Ugami ritual.



2 Ageda Utaki (Sacred site)

There are three deities revered at this Utaki. Facing towards the place of worship, on the left-hand side is the god of fire (Hinukan), at the center is the god of the Utaki, and to the right is the god of heaven and earth.

Presently, there are still rituals and ceremonies held by the local organization members.



3 Agarika Well

This is the well where the people came to collect water when a child was born, and to give the baby its name.

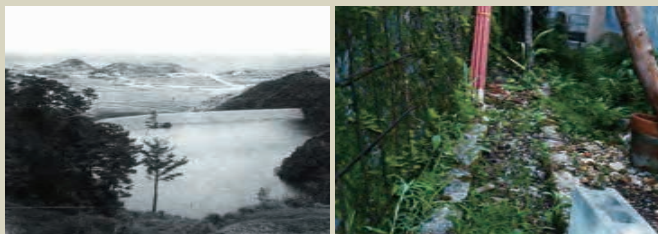
The people of the settlement came to this water well to draw their Wakamizu, or the first water of the year in the early hours on January 1 on the lunar calendar.

Column

Goeku Dam

Before the Okinawa Zoo and Museum opened, the water dam we can see there today was called the Goeku Dam, which was completed in 1953. The dam was constructed to bring water to the rice paddies in Ageda, and the people of the Ageda Community created a small water supply system.

However, in the 1960s, the rice paddies in Ageda turned into residential areas, and the Goeku Dam was no longer needed. Today, we can see a very small portion of the waterway from the past at the corner of the residential area in Ageda.



Goeku Dam in 1957 (from Goya no Konjaku Shashinshi)

A former ditch found in the yard of a private house. A concrete structure with a width of approximately 50 cm.

Pictures From "Tochi to Ikiru—Okinawa no Inasaku"



Ageda Map of Cultural Properties

Column

Ubinadi

Ubinadi.....what is it? It's a kind of spell or charm practiced in the islands of Okinawa. Water drawn from a well or other important water source in the community is poured into a container, then a person's third finger is dipped in the water. Using the same finger, the forehead is rubbed three times. This is believed to be a protective charm and also effective in praying for good health.

Perhaps you or someone you know has experienced it. During the New Year, grandmothers may do this, rubbing water on your forehead. That is called *Ubinadi*. This was done on occasions other than New Year's, too.

Case 1: When a baby is born!
When a baby was born, *Ubinadi* took place using water from the community's treasured water source such as wells. It is said that this gave strength and vitality to the newborn, and to cleanse and purify the

Case 2: At weddings!
Unlike weddings today, marriage ceremonies used to be held at home. *Ubinadi* ritual was conducted at the beginning of wedding ceremonies to symbolize the union between husband and wife.

You may be fortunate to see the two cases mentioned above. In our daily lives, when we come across something scary or when going past a spooky place, some people do the *Ubinadi* for good luck or to keep away bad spirits. If there's no water around, you can lick your finger instead. Give it a try!

4 Nakanuka Well

This well is said to have been used by the Nakayama and Agariui families.



5 Irinuka Well

This area was said to have poor water quality as the marlstone soil made the water stagnant. However, this well was located adjacent to a Sata-gama or sugar stove, so it was essential during the sugar-making season of Sata-shi.



6 Umanuku (Muraya/Kamiya)

On the first floor, inside the Kamiya (memorial building for ancestors), there is a Kamado (cooking stove) and the Hinukan (god of fire) on the left side, and there are two incense burners on the shelf to the



7 Well of Yamayaji

A family with the house name Yamayaji dug this well. It is said to have been dug in the late 1800s.

