Residences of Farmers and Housing Forms

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The housing form can be classified into several categories from the scenery and interviews on the residential site of Akaya Village where Ōta-no-shō existed in the middle ages. One is B: an independent valley, the valley below the ridge of the mountain, and the top of the valley is near the peak or the ridge of the mountain. There is a farm land below. A: valleys eroded by small rivers, the valleys extending dendritically from the main stream. A has further variations. a1: first form is that one house is located at the deep end of a relatively small valley and there is a farm land in front of it. They almost entirely depend on water from the reservoir. a2: second form is that one or several houses are located at the entrance of the valley, not in the deep end. The farm lands are located in front of the houses where the land is flat and is extended toward the inner part of the valley. They depend on the reservoirs for the irrigation and there are more irrigated areas toward the entrance of the valley. a3: the third form is a case where no valley development is made. Several families forming a community live where the slope of the mountain ends at the plain, i.e., at the foot of the mountain. They have farm lands in the plain and along the river. Difference of these forms may be related to the form of development. The form B seems to have retained the old form, relatively speaking. Even for a family with long history or a family having graves in the middle ages, such cases are rare that the same blood relations are maintained. In spite of such fact, the residential sites have been inherited and that is the special feature of this district.