

YUBARI : Revitalization of coal mining city



09/2006

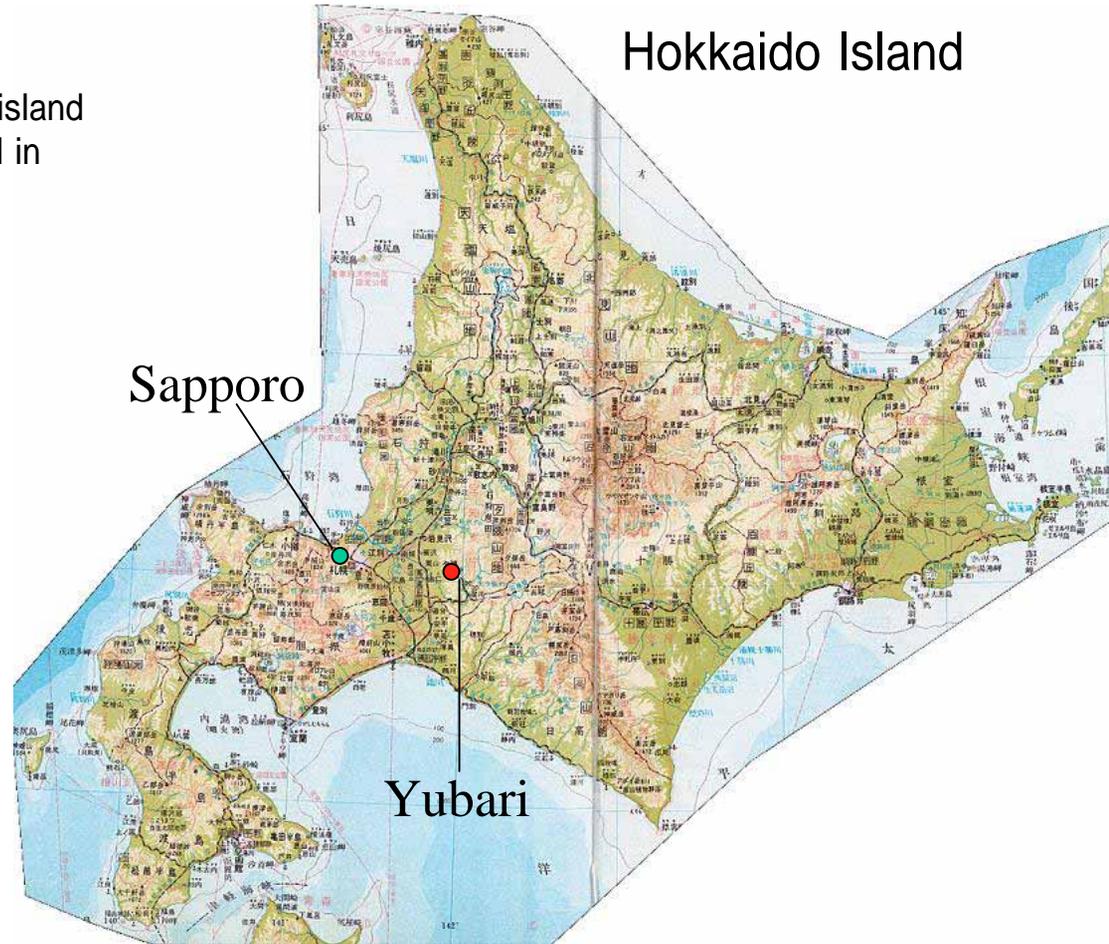
Ryozo Yanagida

Hokkaido & Yubari city

Yubari city is located in northern island of Japan, Hokkaido.

Hokkaido has the different history from main island of Japan. Hokkaido's main development started in mid 19c for developing agricultural settlement, fishery and coal mining.

Yubari is known for coal mine opened in 1892.



Hokkaido's main industry is Agriculture

Topography & Coal Mine

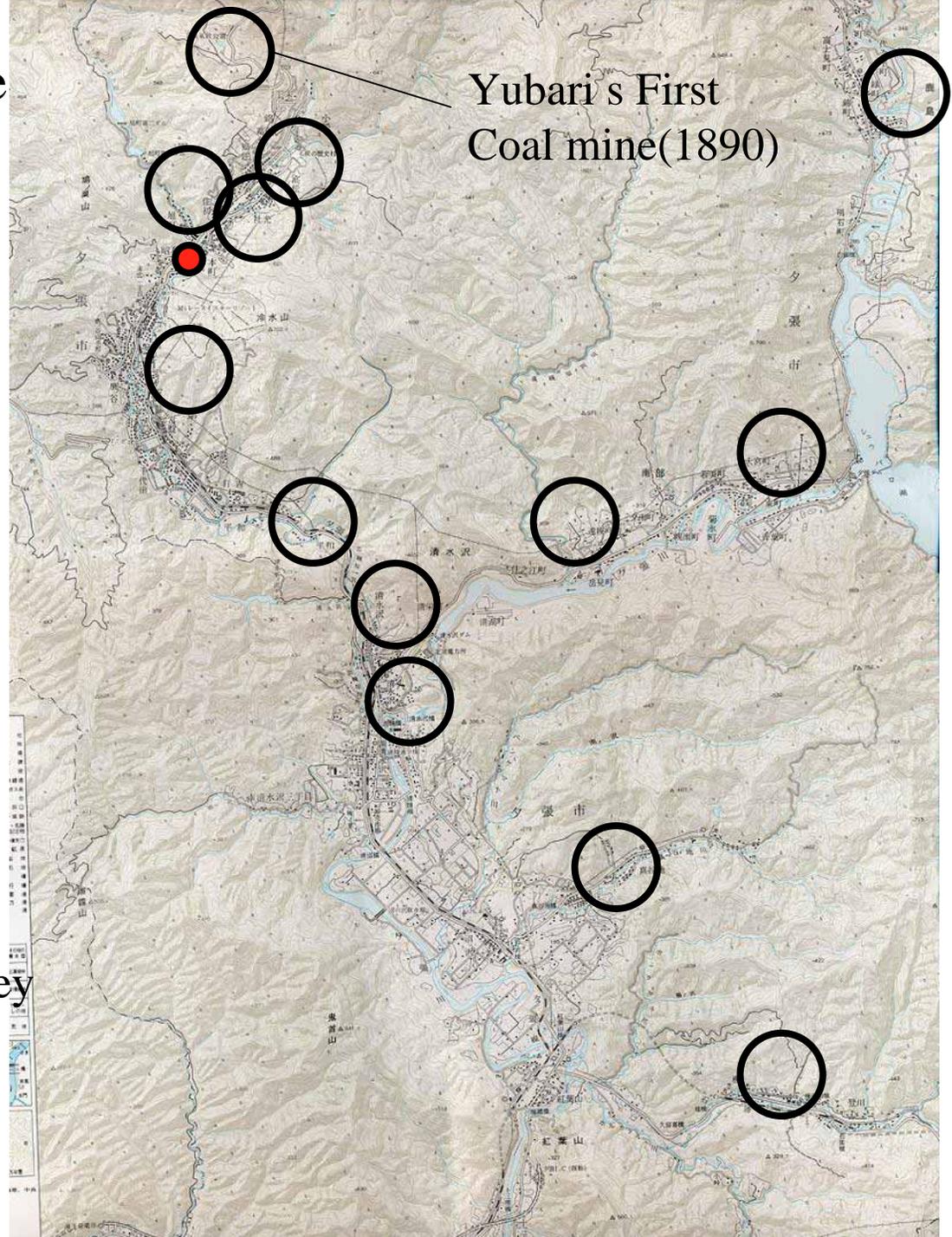
Yubari city is located in small valley.

Yubari is known for coal mine opened in 1890. In 1950's Yubari has 24 coal mines, has become the Japanese largest coal mine city.



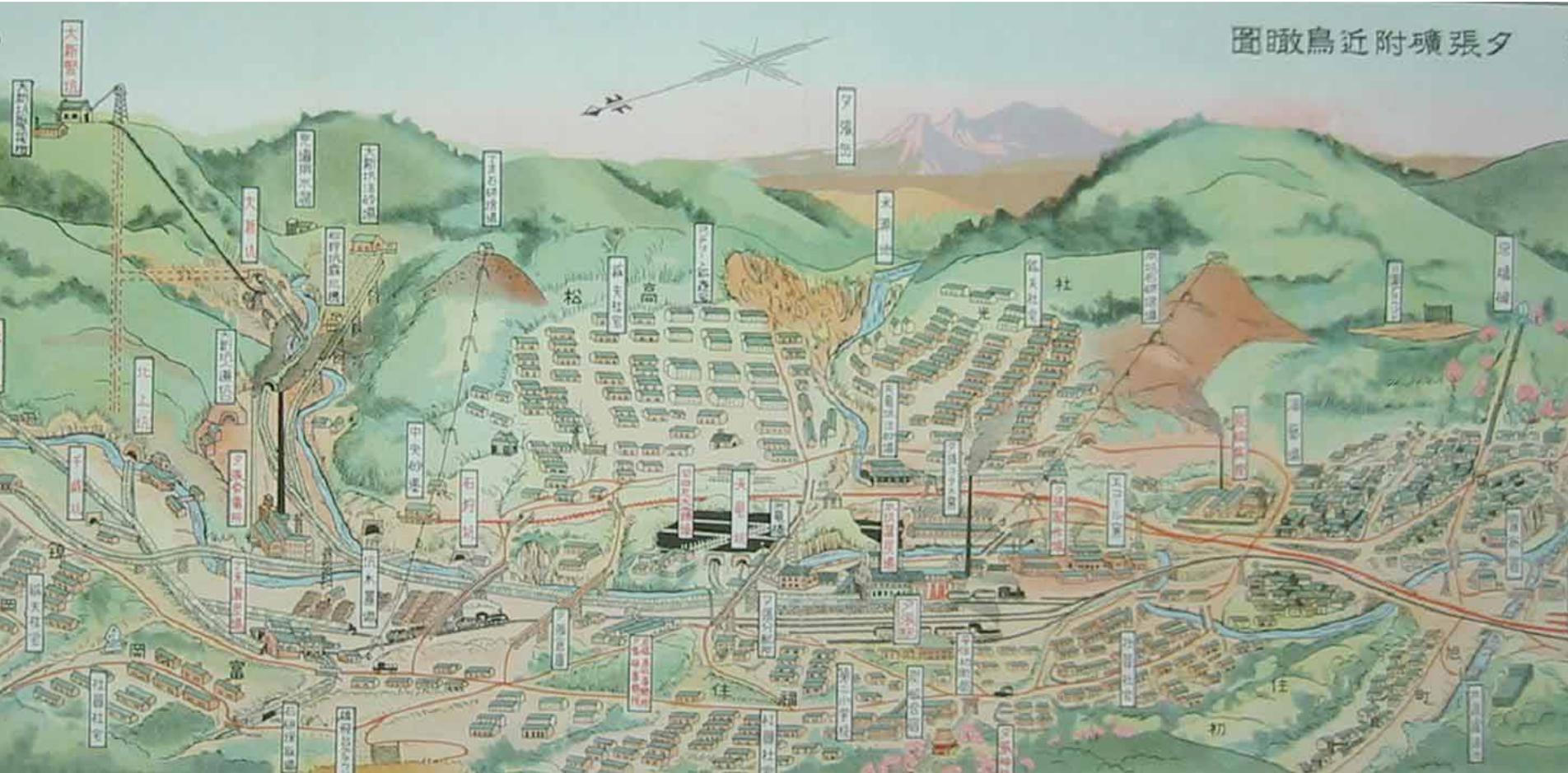
Coal mine & workers housing estates are located in small valley

- Coal mine
- City Hall



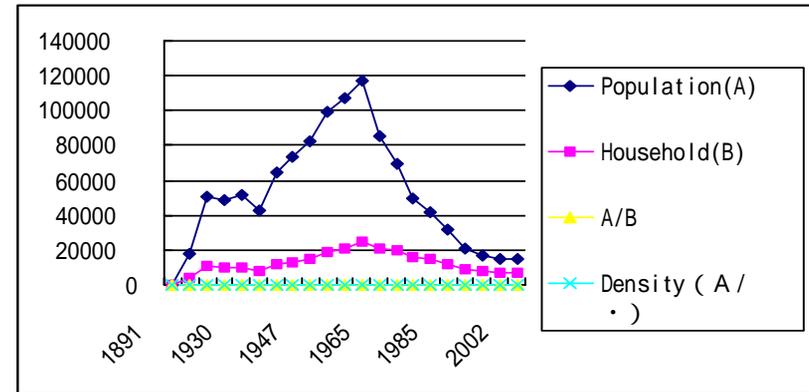
Coal mine & workers housing estates

Picture Map in 1930's



Population of Yubari city

In 1950's Yubari has 24 coal mines ,has become the Japanese largest coal mine city .But in 1960 National energy policy has changed.From that Yubari's coal-mining has been fallen rapidly . In 1989 last coal mine was closed. During its period population has been declining from 116,908(1960) to 20,969(1990).



1890 Yubari`s first coal mine was opened

1939 World War was begun

1950` National energy policy has changed

Coal  Petroleum

1989 Yubari`s last coal mine was closed

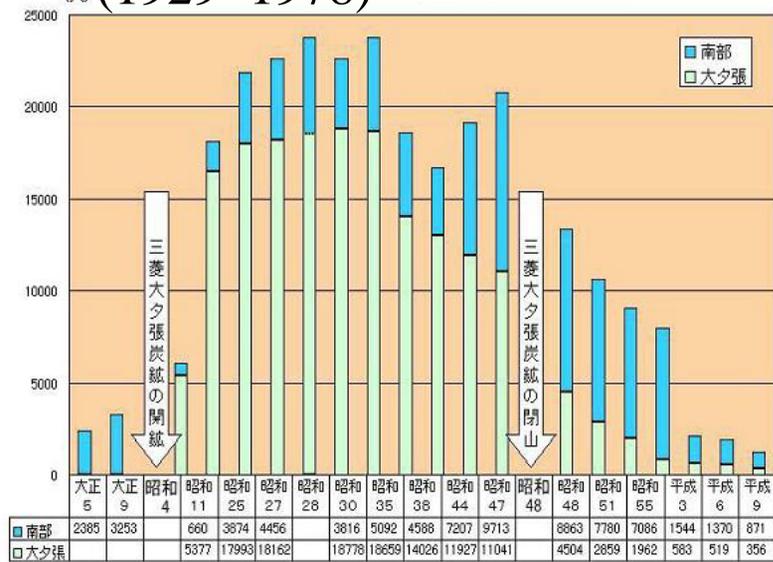
	Population (A)	Household (B)	A/B	Density (A /kmf)
1891	307	69	4.4	0.4
1906	18,142	4,052	4.5	23.8
1920	51,064	10,840	4.7	67
1925	48,697	9,855	4.9	63.9
1930	51,967	10,271	5.1	68.2
1935	42,508	8,109	5.2	55.8
1940	64,998	11,582	5.6	85.3
1943	73,953	12,499	5.9	97.1
1947	82,123	15,141	5.4	107.8
1950	99,530	19,359	5.1	130.7
1955	107,332	21,218	5.1	140.9
1960	116,908	25,156	4.6	153.5
1965	85,141	21,070	4	111.8
1970	69,871	19,862	3.5	91.7
1975	50,131	15,944	3.1	65.8
1980	41,715	14,992	2.8	54.8
1985	31,665	12,152	2.6	41.6
1990	20,969	8,791	2.4	27.5
1995	17,116	7,593	2.3	22.4
2000	14,791	6,878	2.1	19.4
2002	14,719	7,294	2	19.3

District

There are 15~20 Cole mine District in Yubari. Each district has 5,000~15,000 population.

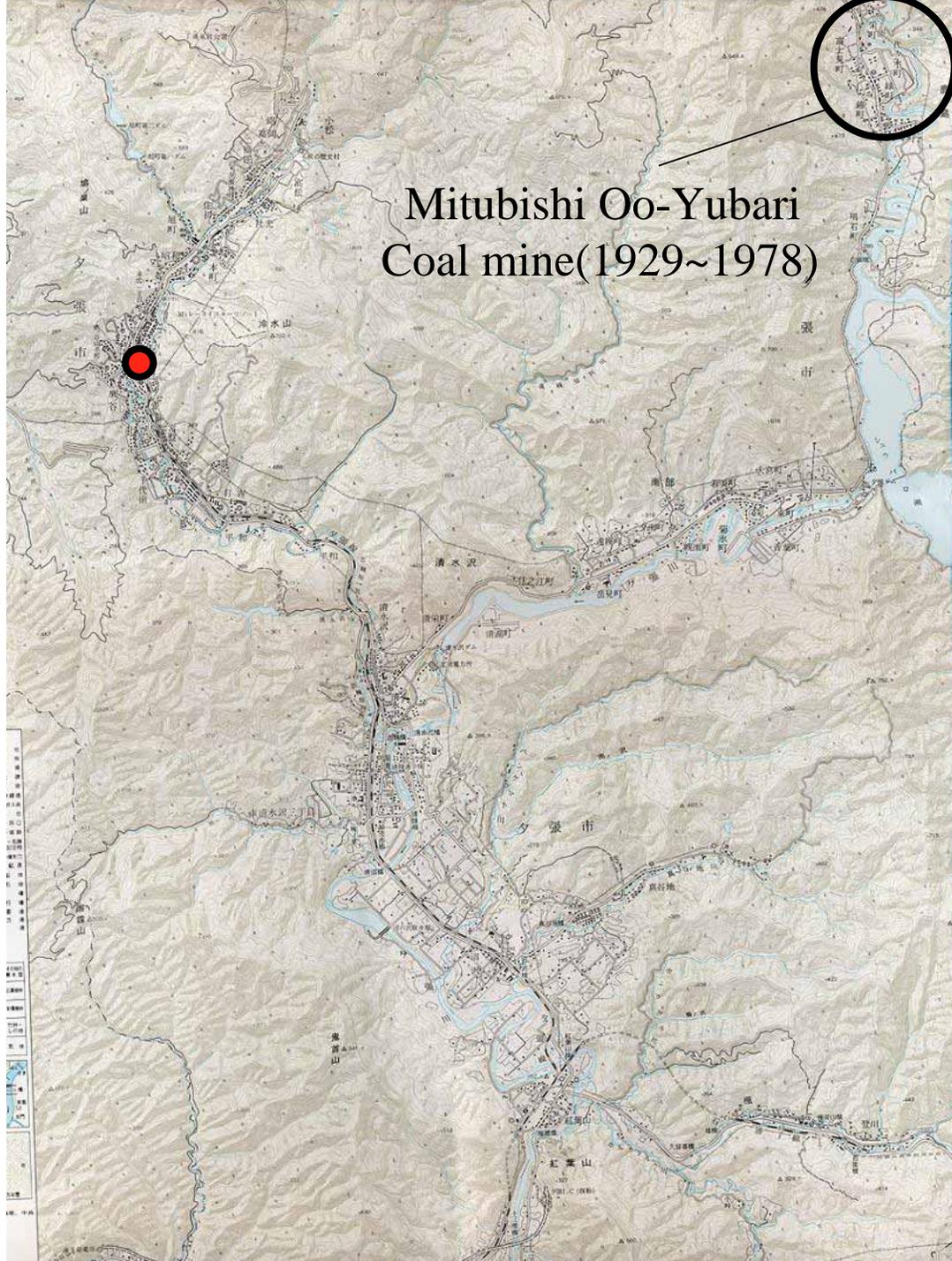
Mitubishi Oo Yubari Coal mine District

(1929~1978)



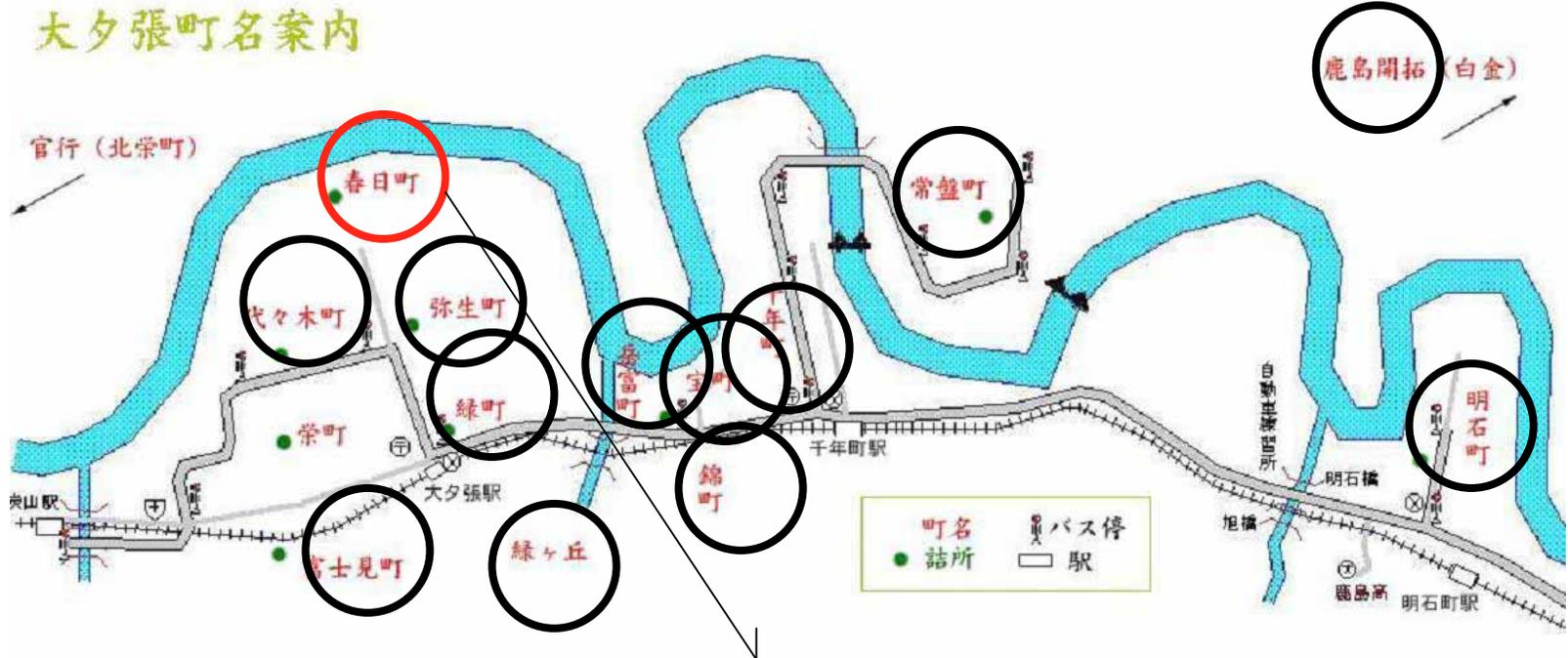
Change of Population

-  Coal mine
-  City Hall



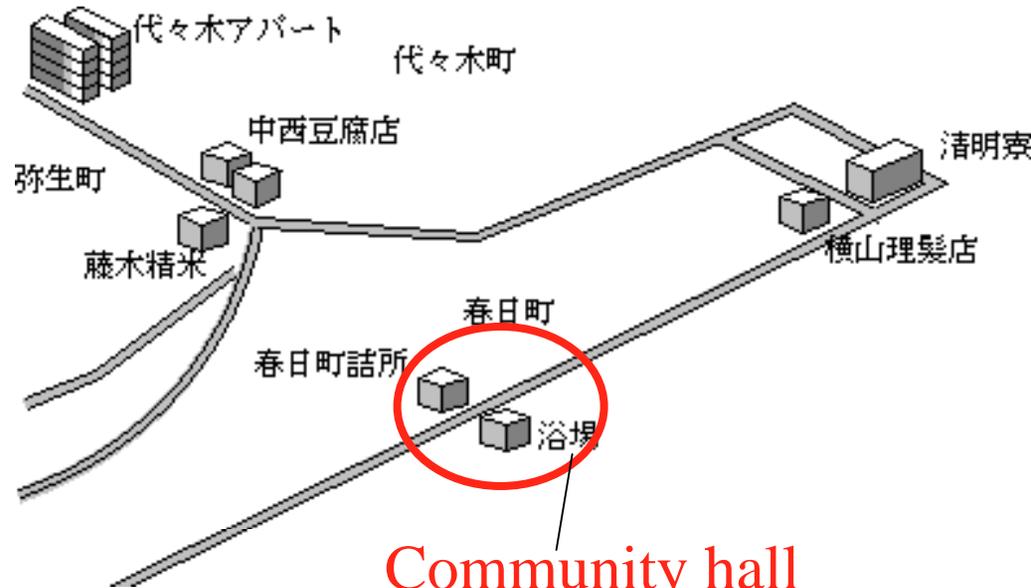
Mitubishi Oo-Yubari Coal mine(1929~1978)

District is comprised of district center and community neighborhoods



Community Neighborhood

Center of community neighborhood was Community hall & Public Bath.



Community hall & Public Bath



Community hall



Coal mine was closed ,.....
Community neighborhood was disappeared from
ground.



Neighborhood`s festival

Housing was demolished.

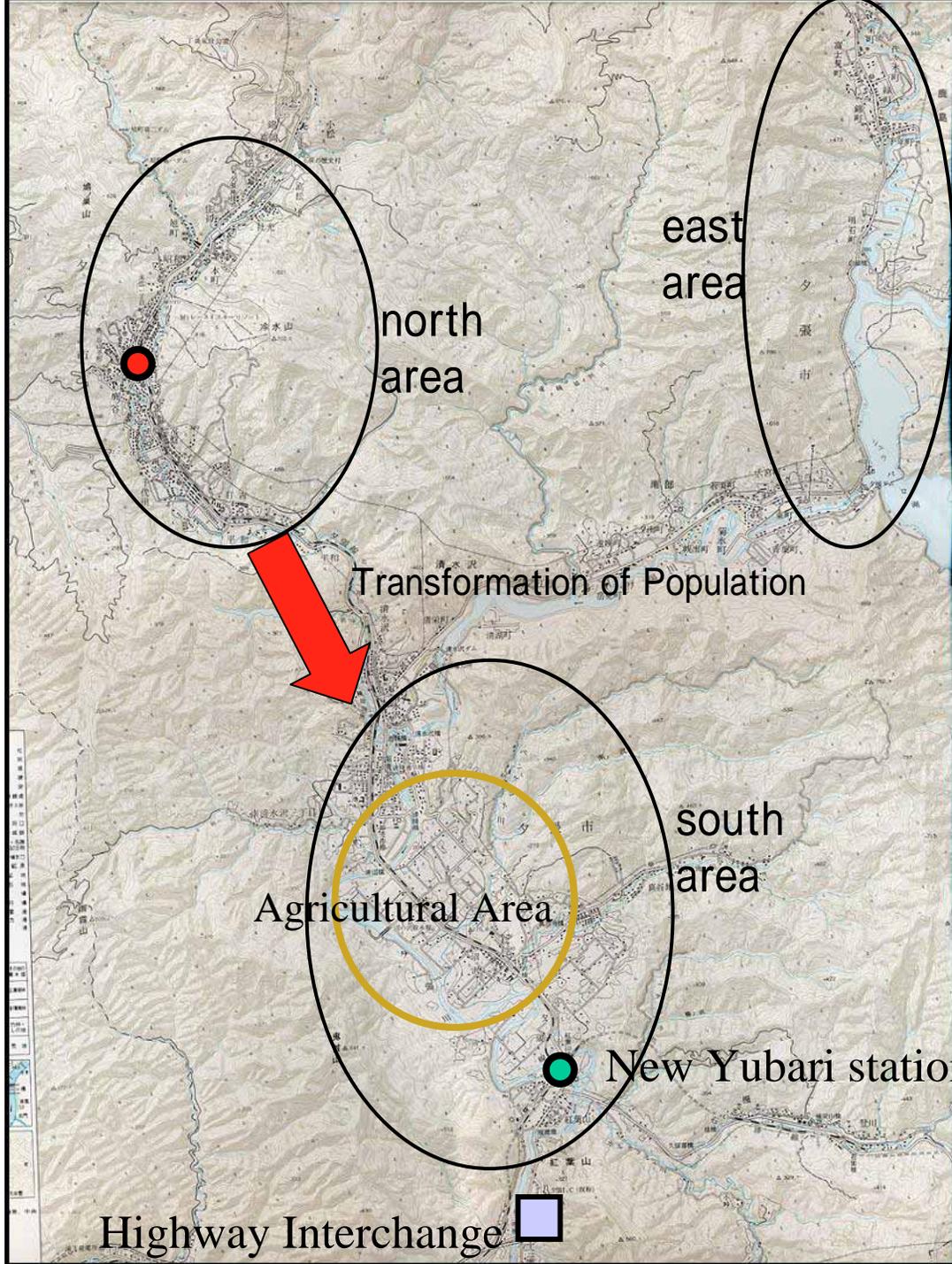
Neighborhood was disappeared.

But,, Community`s memory has been kept in Internet communication.

Shrinking of urban structure

Population has been declined from 116,908(1960) to 14,719(2002).
Ubari`s urban structure has been shrinking.

- 1. The center of gravity of Population has been transferred from north area to south area.
- 2. North area(old town) was redeveloped from coal mine to tourism areas.
- 3. South area was developed to agricultural area and gateway of Yubari.
- 4. East area(Oo-Yubari district) has been demolished by the lake made from waterpower dam.



● City Hall

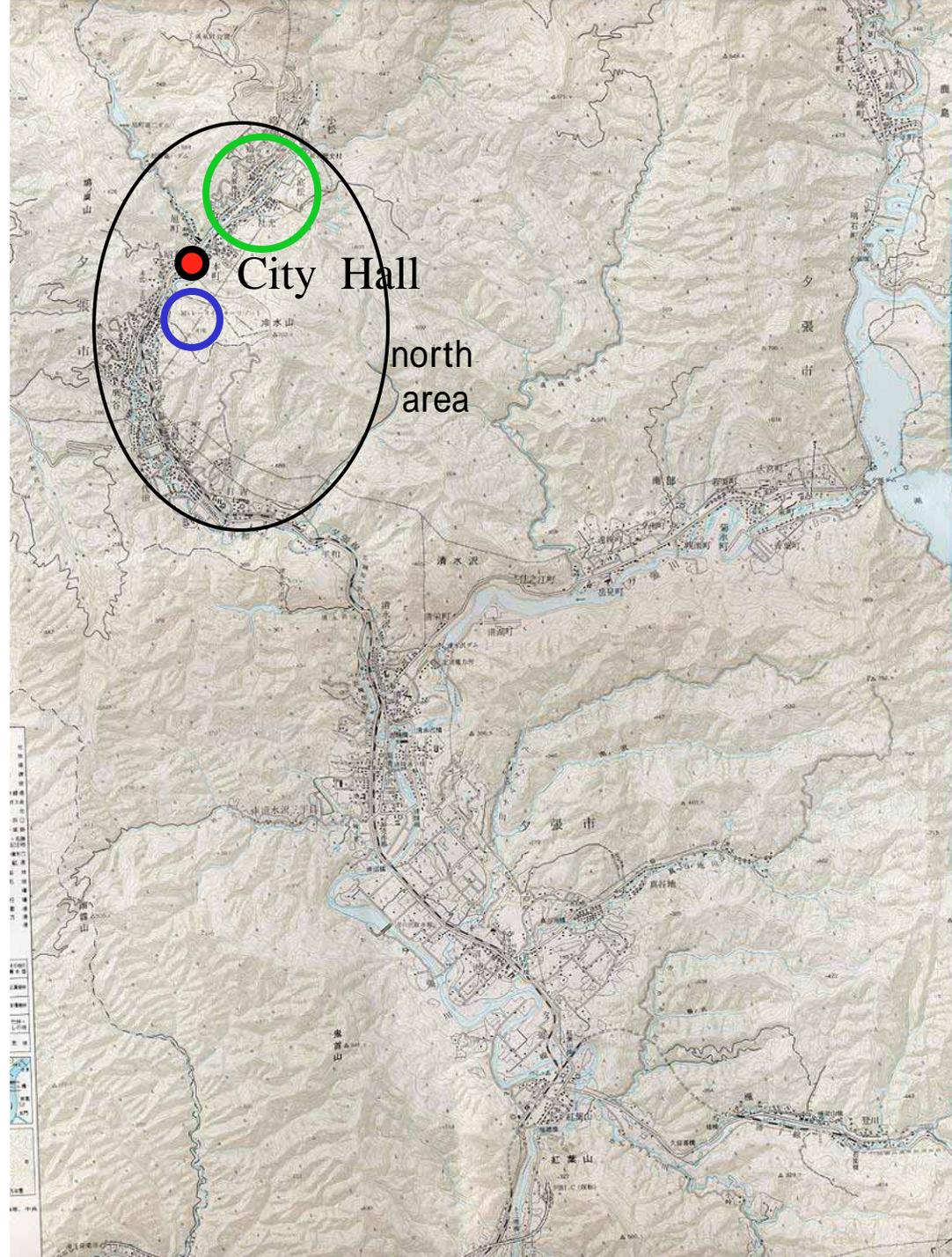
Highway Interchange □

Tourism Policy

In 1980's Yubari has changed from coal-mining town to a city promoting agricultural products ,especially melon ,and tourism . With its tourism policy ,Historical Coal Mining Museum and Amusement Park has opened 1983 and famous Yubari International Fantastic Adventure Film Festival has started in 1989.

Tourism Area

-  Coal mining Museum and Amusement park
-  Skiing resort
-  Lake







Coal mine yard was redeveloped

Housing was removed

Historical Coal Mining Museum and Amusement Park



Club house for white colors of coal mine company





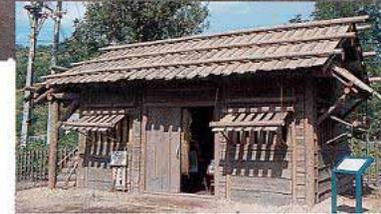
Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival

Famous Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival has started in 1989.



Cinema city: Yubari

The several famous cinema location site has been preserved
In Yubari

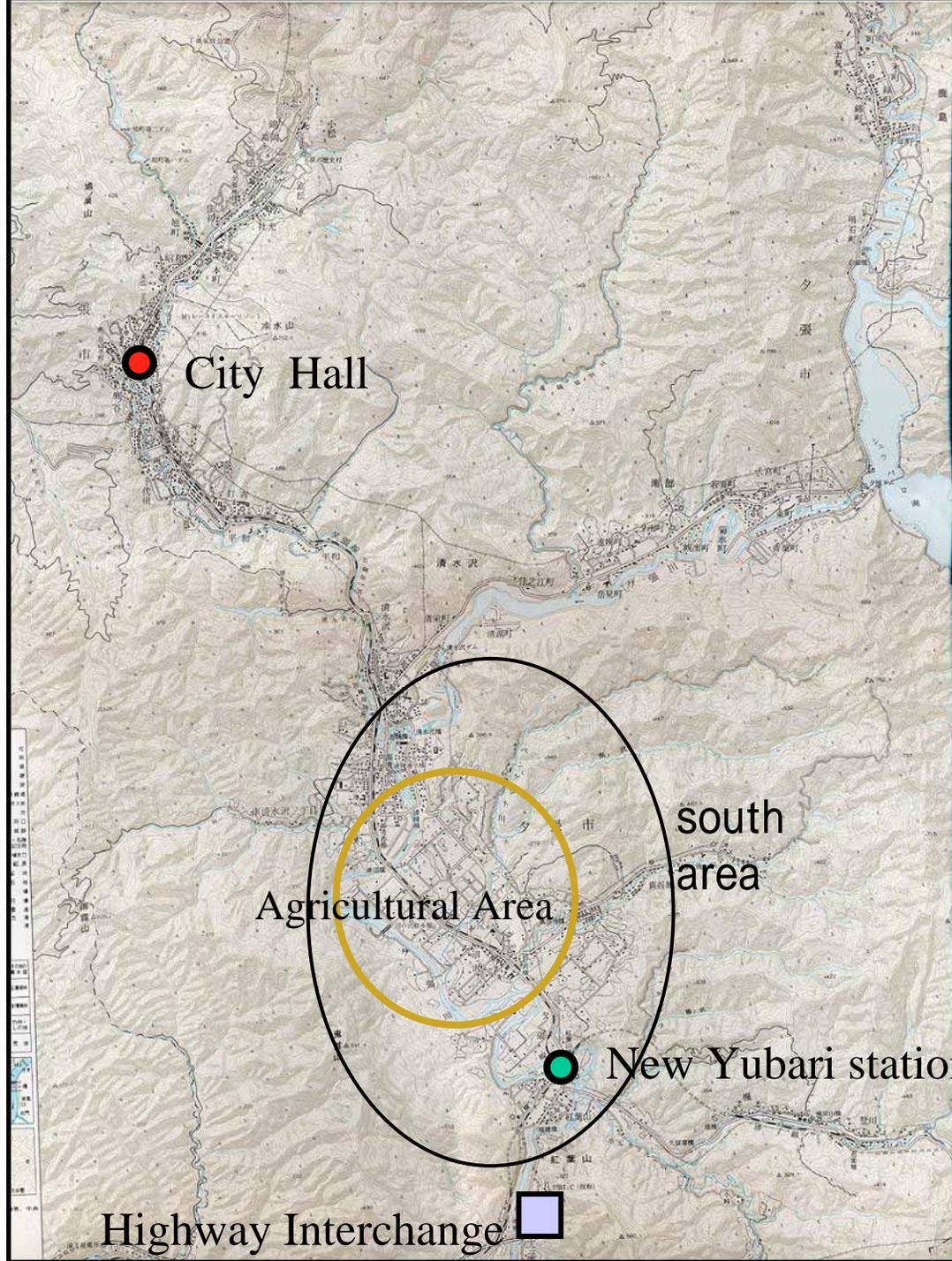


South area

South area was developed to agricultural area and gateway of Yubari. Agricultural products ,especially melon ,they has made famous national brand , Yubari melon.

In 1930`s melon has been favorite fruits for white color people of coal mine company,so few farms has planted melon.

In 1990`s melon has become Yubari`s major agricultural products .





But they have left local government heavily indebtedness.
The local government went to bankrupt in 2006.