This informal project proposal was created by and for the nonprofit purposes of:

ANTE MERIDIEM INCORPORATED

Ante Meridiem Incorporated has been organized to develop an institution for the research, authorship, and dissemination of design-based cultural intellectual property to the public through publications, lectures, or otherwise.

antemeridieminc@gmail.com
www.meridiem.org/ante
979-571-4369

an urban renewal master plan by

AnteMeridiem

Confluence

Cameron, TX - the prototypical *watershed* city

Courthouse - Milam County, TX

Abstract

The “small town” city type is omnipresent throughout the United States. In Texas, many of these “small towns” were founded by rail companies as necessary nodes along an expanding rail network. Eventually deprived of commercial and human influx with the abandonment of the rail lines, these towns have experienced economic isolation and social decline. With the resulting lack of use, reinvestment, and maintenance, urban centers within the towns steadily decay with abandonment, dereliction, and eventual demolition.

The “small town” city-type is currently undervalued in our society and may be the future of urban evolution. With possible climate changes, energy and water shortages, and negative social consequences, current urban and sub-urban developments in the U.S. will need to be modified or abandoned. Isolated “small town” city-types are excellent opportunities to break with current urban design pressures in order to explore *perpetuity potential* in community, planning, policy, and architecture as a crystallization of the former three.

Cameron, TX is one such isolated “small town.” Its coincidental geographic location, urban infrastructure, and cultural history, create an unprecedented opportunity to establish a model community on which future urban and suburban renewal efforts will be based. Cameron is geographically positioned in the heart of the Little *Watershed*. It contains the county seat infrastructure for Milam County. And, Cameron has a tenacious population with a rich history of community.

Impetus

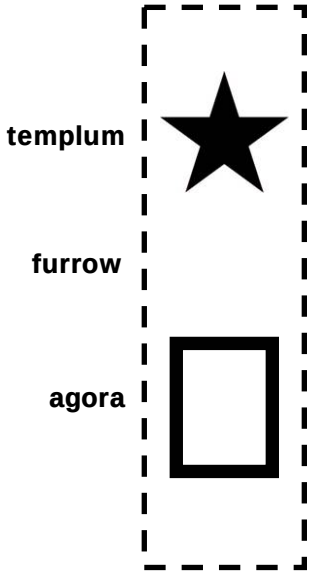
1. Define *perpetuity potential* and its components as a term to replace “sustainability” which has been corrupted in its adoption into main-stream activities. Facets include

   Climatic Response
   System Efficiency
   Longevity
   Social Acceptance – public awareness, concern, involvement, use, policy, enforcement

2. possible American population migrations to alternate geographic locations based on

   Future industry, technology, employment in these “alternative communities”
   Evolving city-types (a possible resurgence in “small town” living)
   Social crises (energy over-consumption, water shortages)
   Climate change (coastal flooding)

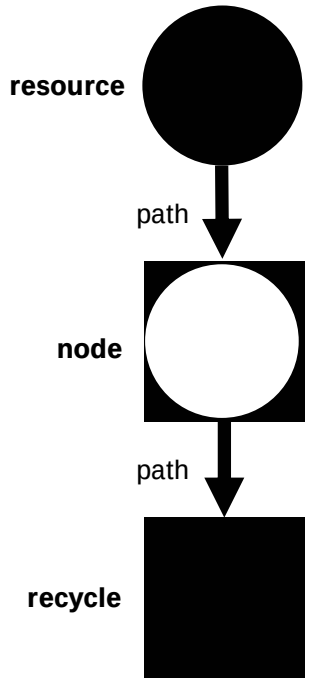
3. “small towns” are unprepared for sudden influxes of new population or outside investment often resulting in unguided urban development and sprawl



GRPM Identification

As a means of defining the boundaries and components of "place" on a variety of scales, we have adapted a portion of the method proposed in Grassroots Postmodernism (*GRPM*). This *AnteMeridiem* treatise, advocates the redemption of a city planning model first used by the Greeks and later adopted by the Romans. The *GRPM* method calls for the identification of a specific boundary or *furrow* of a community within which a population and their certain activities coincide. A *templum* is the capitol or cathedral which acts as a physical expression of the primary ideology of a given population. The *agora* is a clearly defined place for public gathering in economic, social, and representative democratic functions.

In modern city planning, zoned subdivisions create rifts in the scalar connectivity of an individual citizen to his or her unified national government. These rifts occur both in political representation and in environmental responsibility in residential neighborhoods and business areas. A system for organization and clear lines of demarcation on many different scales of "place" allow for more accurate evaluations of environmental impacts and interaction by human developments. A clear understanding of environmental requirements as well as an effective representative political system are imperative for the next century of evolution in our urban forms which will need to adapt to rapidly changing social and climatic conditions.



Networks & Systems

Within clearly defined boundaries of "place," natural and human systems can be more easily mapped and monitored. A thorough understanding of systems within a *watershed*, city, district, or even building can promote efficient operation, adequate understanding of inputs, and responsibility for possible outputs from the system. The goal, of course, is to create closed loops of self-sufficient operation on ever diminishing scales. Self-sufficiency and output responsibility will reduce social and political conflict over limited resources like petroleum and water.

Systems within a defined *furrow* can be identified as a series of points along pathways. *Resources* occur at the origins of biological materials, goods, and services. *Nodes* are points along the pathways where materials, goods, or services are stored, transformed, or used. *Recycle* points occur at the termini of particular pathways which sometimes coincide with the point of *resource*. The term *recycle* has been specifically used to introduce users and communities to the notion of continuous, closed-loop networks rather than current "throw-away" thinking.

In many cases, materials and goods at the *recycle* point of one system are, concurrently, a *resource* point to a converse and symbiotic system. The *recycle* point of this second system is also the *resource* point of the first system. A simple example of one such paired system is a grazing animal. The food *resource* for the animal is a plant. The plant is digested by the animal. The animal waste (at the *recycle* point) then becomes the fertilizer (or food *resource*) for another plant. And so on.

Loops

air

water

food

Flows

energy

materials

Inferences

information

money

Hazards

Life-cycle Processes

According to Pliny Fisk, III (founder of The Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems in Austin, TX), there are (7) systems or networks, called *life-cycles* that have specific applicability to human development. These systems include biological processes that sustain the human organism as well as more abstract needs for human social and economic functions. In addition to the (7) lifecycle processes we must also take into consideration hazards that may negatively impact the efficient or safe operation of each process.

Life-cycle processes can be subdivided into life-cycle *loops*, *flows*, and *inference*s for the purposes of explanation and organization.

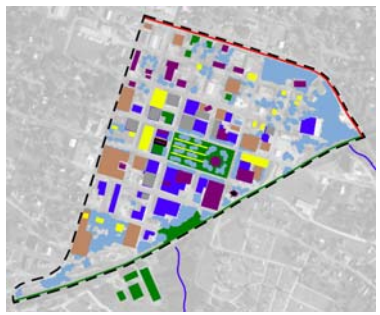
A life-cycle *loop* is a life-sustaining process in which a given *resource* is *recycled* within a perceptible period of time. For example, in the air life-cycle *loop*, a human being inhales oxygen and exhales carbon dioxide. Nearby plants or trees take in the carbon-dioxide and, through photosynthesis, release oxygen which the human breathes in... repeating the cycle. An person can easily comprehend this cycle as it occurs on a very short scale of time.

A life-cycle *flow* is a life-sustaining or socially facilitating process which is perceived as linear in nature since the "closure of the loop" occurs on such a large time scale.

A life-cycle *inference* is an abstract process applicable solely to human social activities and developments.

Color Codes

Color-coding the (7) life-cycle processes and possible hazards allows for clear mapping of resources, nodes, and recycle points in a given lifecycle. Each color code was determined through informal surveys of the color evoked by the title for each life-cycle process.

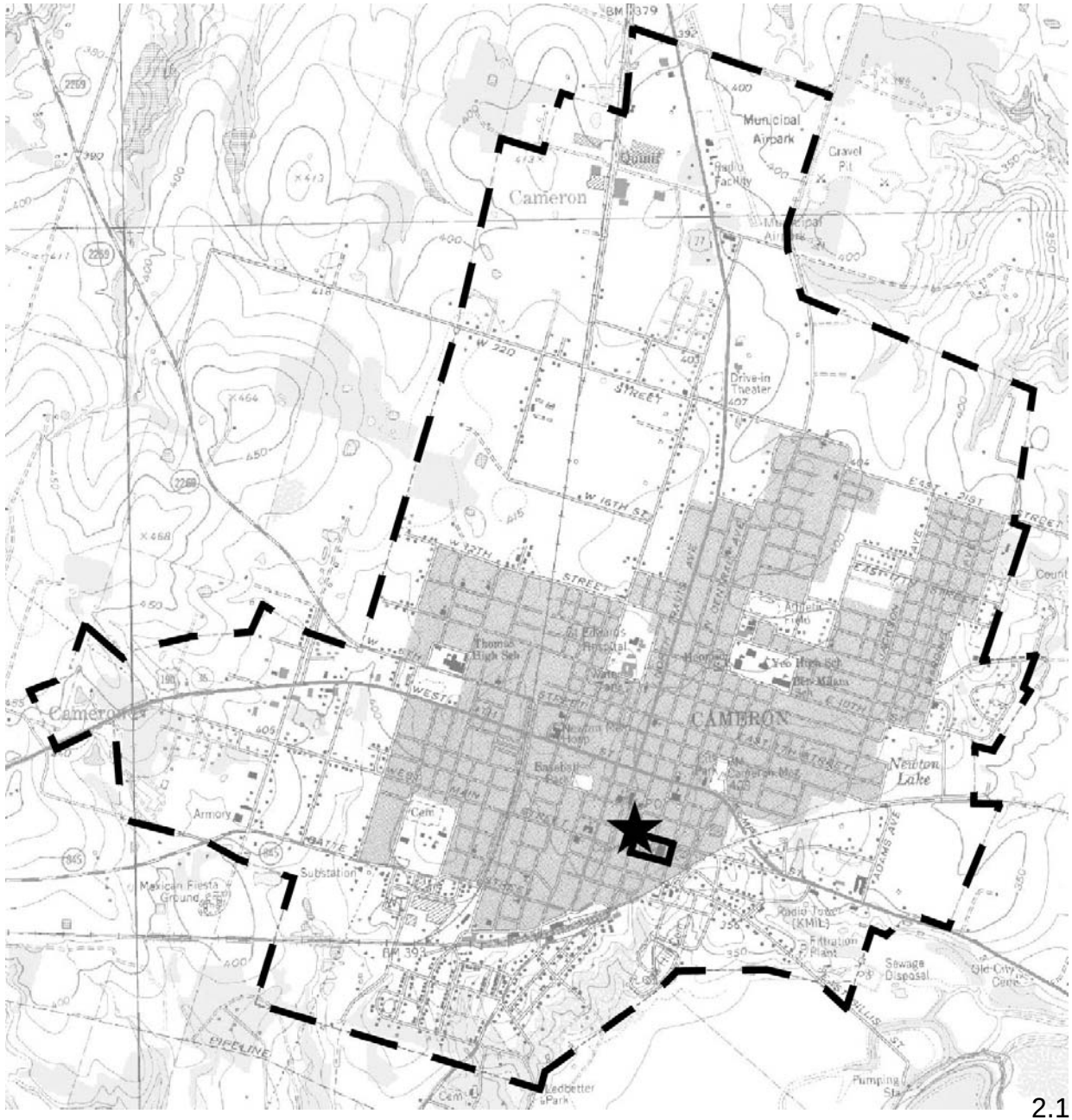


Perpetuity Potential

In an attempt to mitigate the uncertainties attached to the modern definitions of "sustainability," *perpetuity potential* here is introduced to define the degree to which a given process, system, or design has the potential to support the needs of future generations. *Perpetuity potential* is composed of (4) facets:

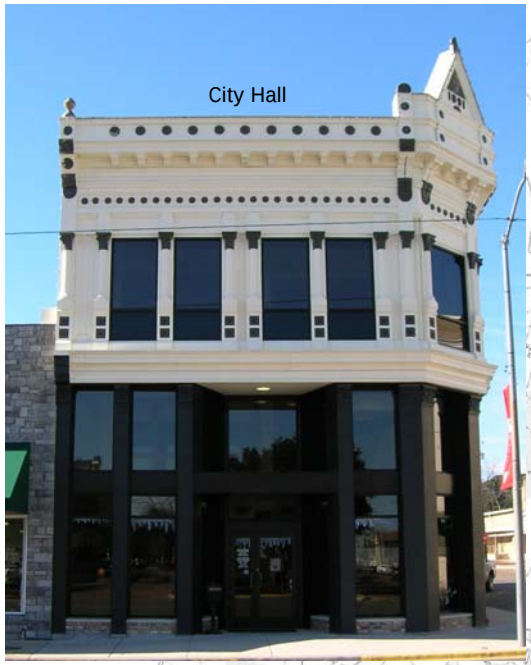
Climatic Response	responsiveness (in orientation, materials, and systems) to the environmental setting
Efficiency	operation with a minimal amount of energy input, supervision, and/or maintenance
Longevity	the structural integrity or disassemble-ability and spatial flexibility to accommodate unforeseen future uses
Social Acceptance	the ability to inspire public awareness, involvement, use, and preservation without stringent policy or enforcement

2 City / Town


Municipal Airpark
Gravel Pit
Radio Facility
Cameron
Drive-in Theater
W 16TH ST
W 17TH STREET
EAST 1ST STREET
Thomas High Sch
St Edwards Hospital
Yeo Hyde Sch
Mem Manor
CAMERON
Baseball Park
Cem
Armory
Substation
Mexican Fiesta Ground
Newton Lake
Radio Tower (KMIL)
Filtration Plant
Sewage Disposal
Old City Cem
PIPELINE
Ledbetter Park
Pumping Sta

Cameron, TX

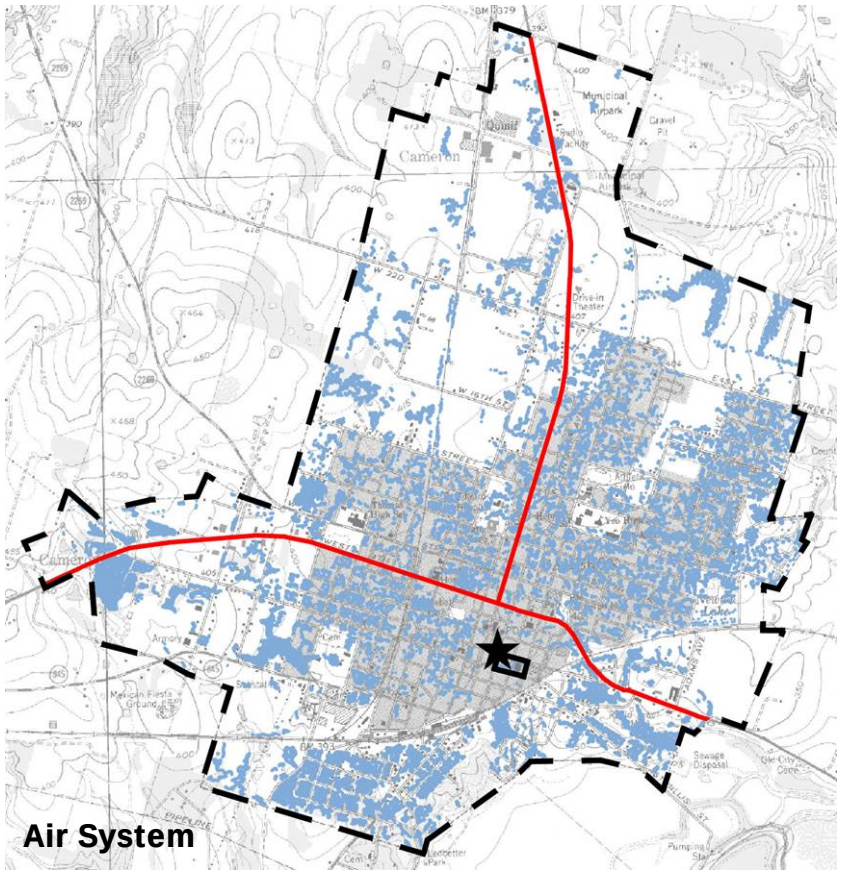
GRPM Identification



Unlike most cities, Cameron, TX contains *all* of the elements identifiable by the *GRPM* model. The *furrow* corresponds to the Cameron city limits. The *templum* of this city is the newly-refurbished Cameron City Hall. Courthouse Square, though it is not functioning properly, has the potential to become the *agora* for the city.

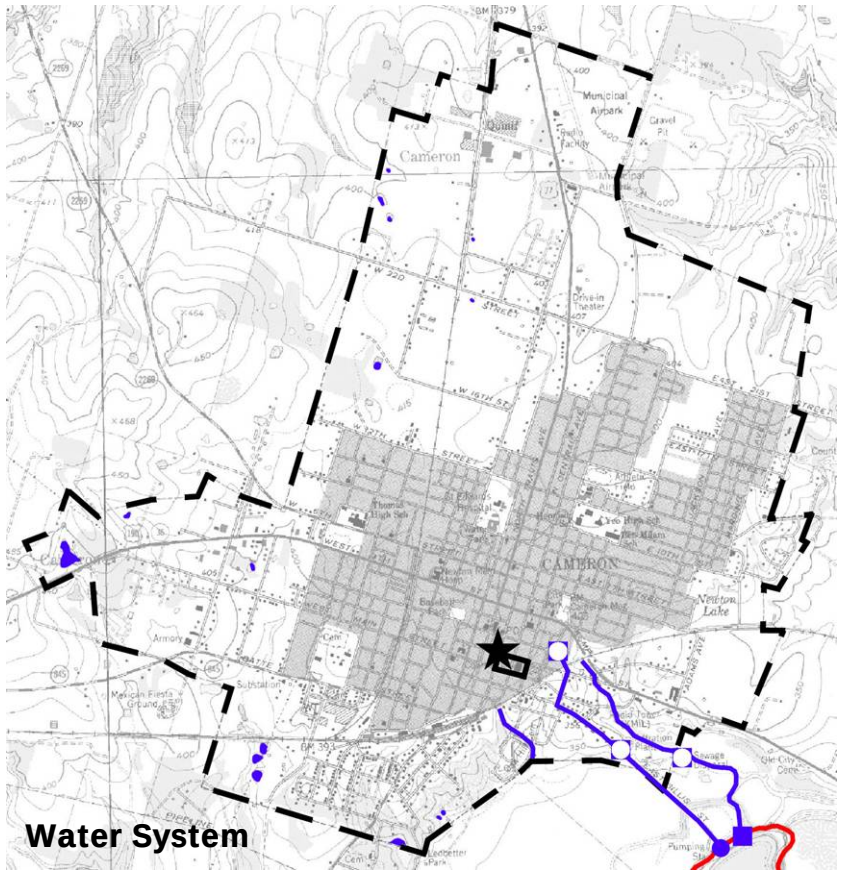
Cameron, TX

Perpetuity Potential



Air System

The number and size of trees within the city limits is not adequate to produce enough oxygen to offset the consumption by the population. Compounding the issue, significant air pollution is brought into the city by vehicles on US 190 and Highway 77 worsening the carbon dioxide imbalance. AN extensive program of tree planting is needed throughout the city.

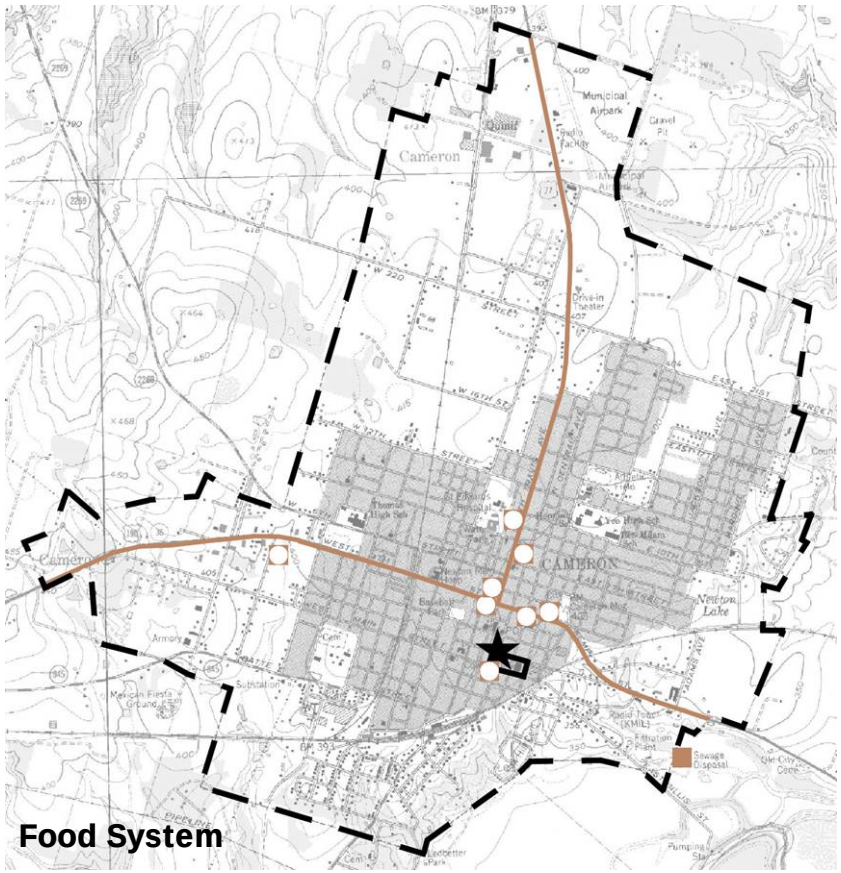


Water System

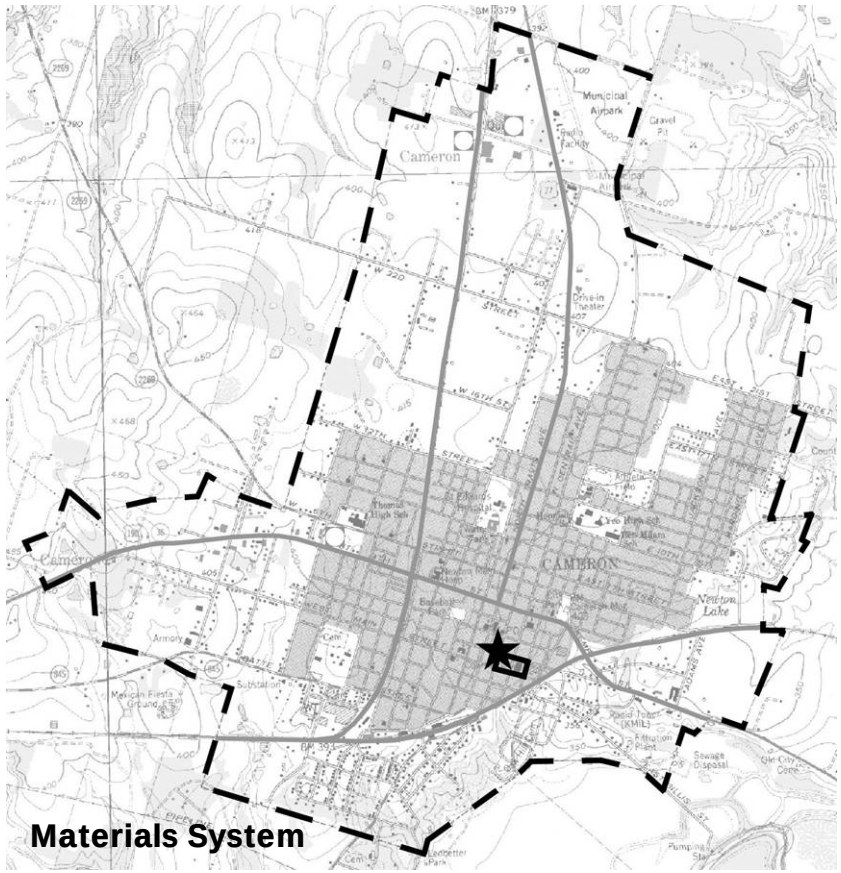
The *resource* for city drinking water in Cameron is the Little River which has been rated as a “hazardous water stream” by the EPA due to agricultural run-off. Cleaner and safer water *resources* are needed in the city. Cameron should adopt an extensive rainwater collection initiative to minimize the consumption of polluted water. Electrical demands for conventional waste-water treatment are also unsustainable. The city needs to utilize natural wetland areas for *passive* wastewater treatment.

Cameron, TX

Perpetuity Potential



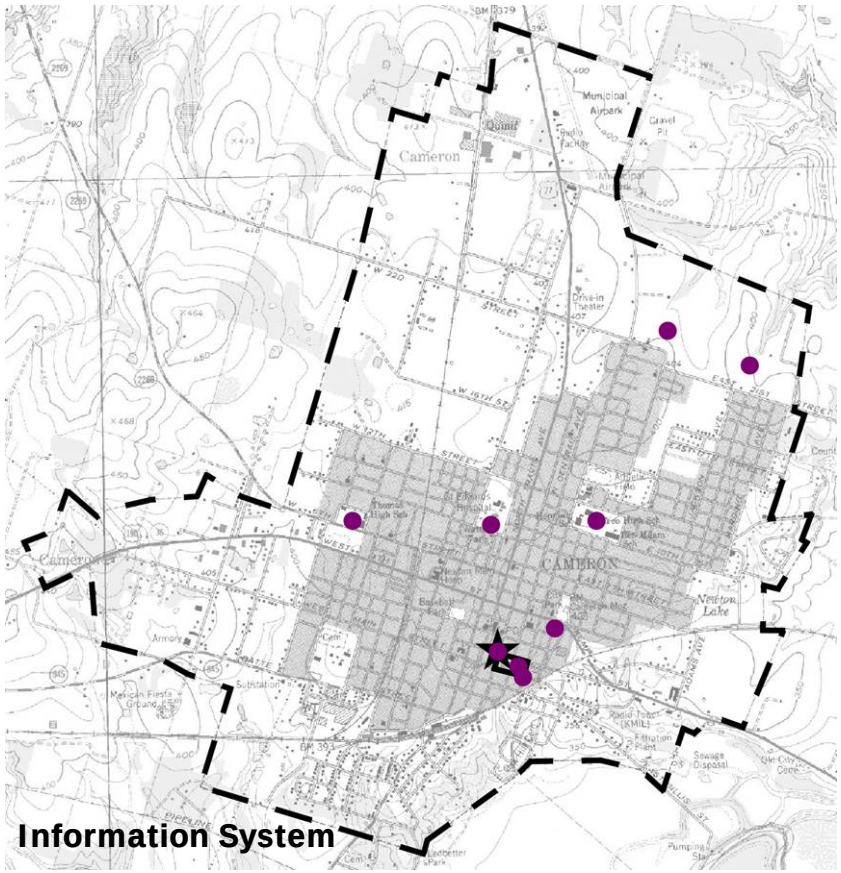
Almost no food is produced within the city. All food is trucked in via the major highways. Most food sources, such as grocery stores, restaurants, and fast-food chains, are built on the major roads though town. More local food producers are needed to minimize unsustainable large-scale trucking operations as well as poor diets promoted by fast-food sources. Conventional waste processing occurs just outside city limits and is detached from the food *life-cycle loop*.



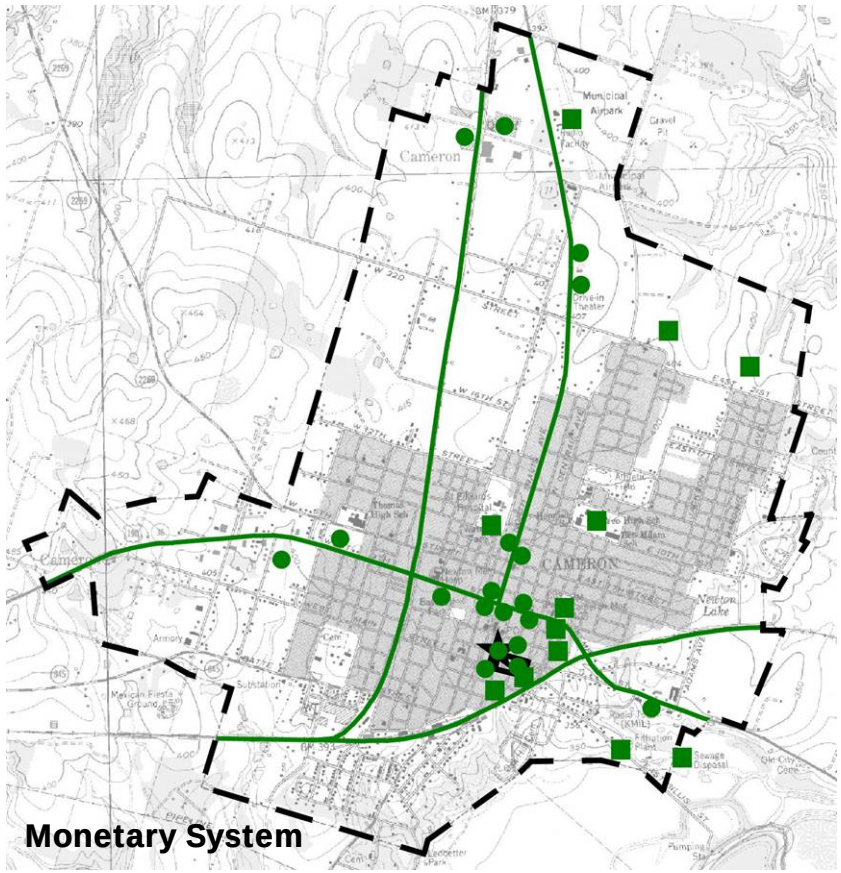
The main materials suppliers are small-scale operations in the city. Major materials transportation paths pass through the city on highway trucking routes and the rail line.

Cameron, TX

Perpetuity Potential

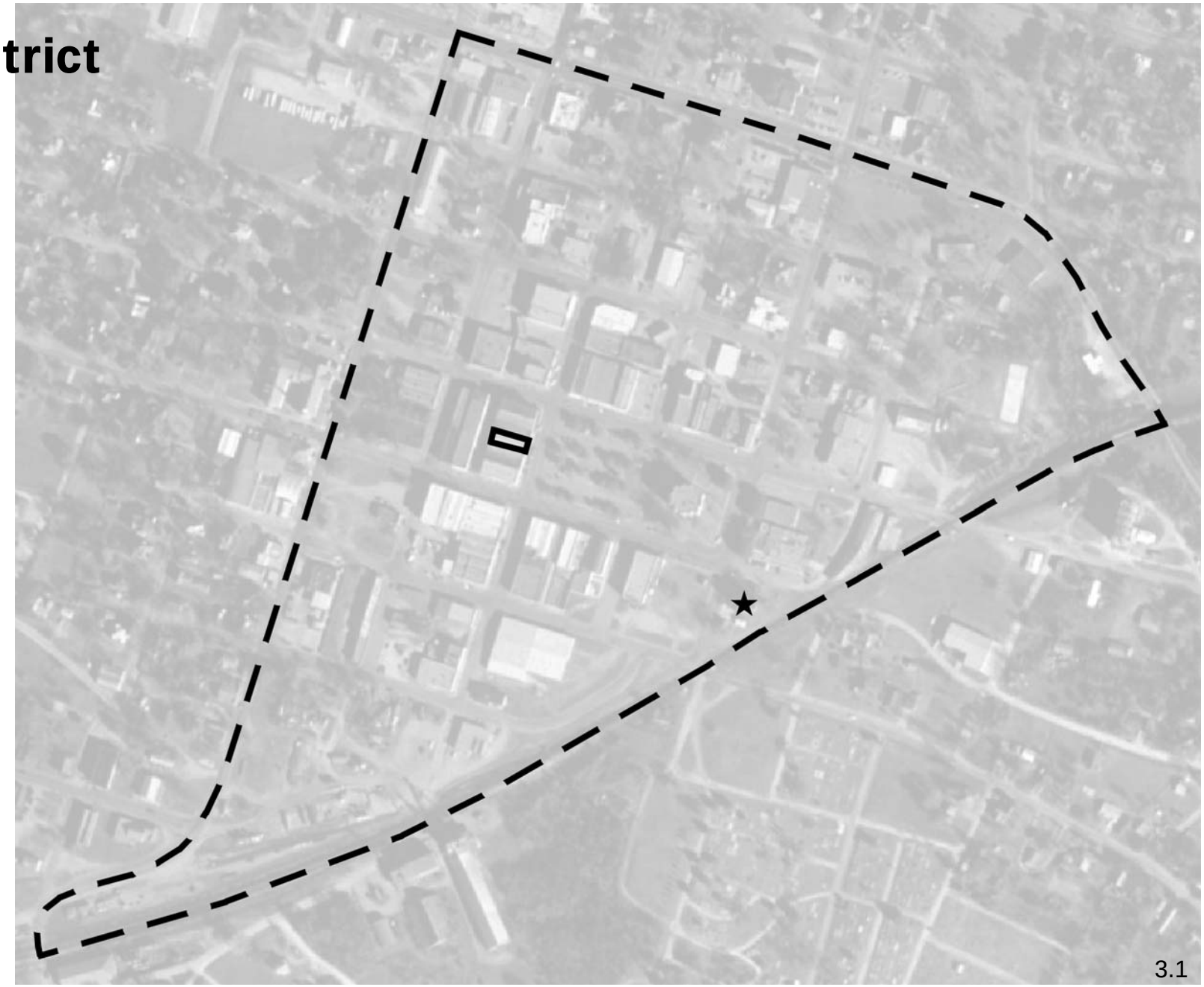


Many city information systems, including city, and county information offices, coincide to the city's *agora* but the newest schools have been constructed on the outskirts of suburban development. In a similar pattern, the city library is separated from the urban core and distant from the new education centers. Dispersing information centers in such a small city can be detrimental to information utilization and dissemination. When possible, Cameron needs to focus new centers of information in the urban core.



Cameron's monetary system is centered around two major *resources*: government funds and motorists. Since Cameron is not a destination, most economic development occurs along the major highways and is limited to support services such as fuel, fast-food, automotive repair, etc. As a result the economic viability of Cameron is heavily reliant on city and county subsistence and the whims of motorists. Such a system has no *perpetuity potential*. Programs are needed to foster local jobs in goods, services, and entertainment catering specifically to Cameron's citizens.

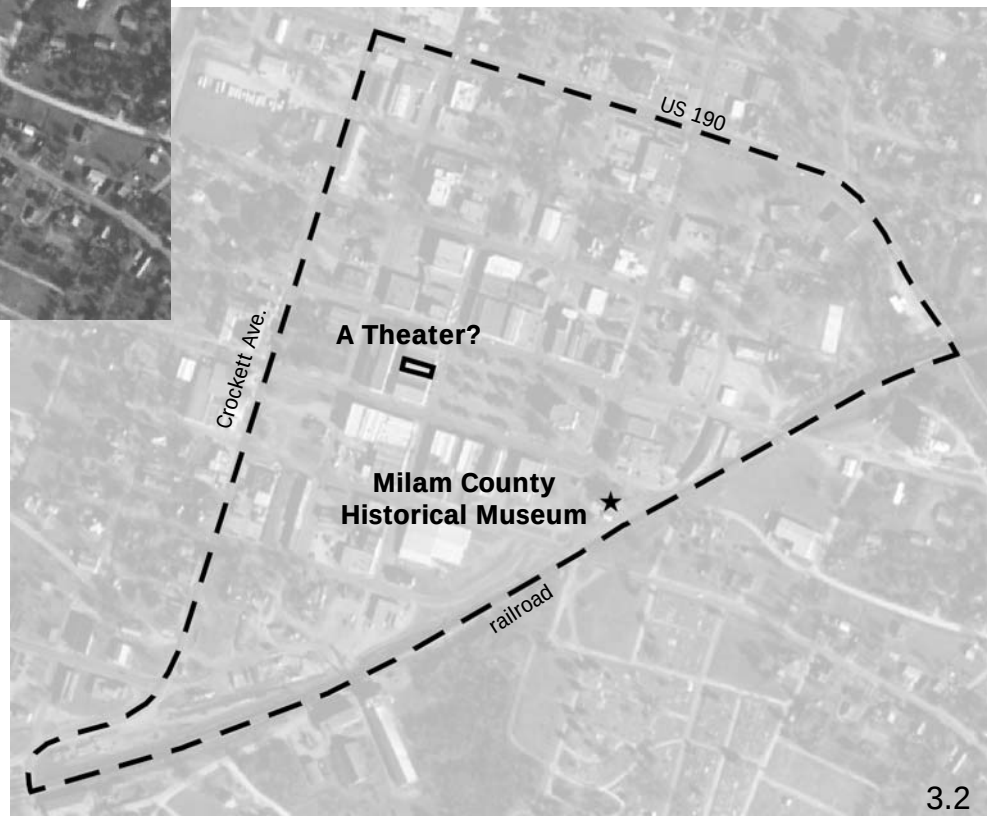
3 District



Cultural Heritage District

GRPM Identification

Though downtown Cameron may not have official boundaries or even a population, a viable pedestrian "civilization" could be founded within a *furrow* established by US 190, Crockett Ave., and the railroad tracks. This district already embodies significant cultural heritage for city of Cameron as well as the county of Milam. An appropriate *templum* for a cultural heritage district would be the former Milam County Jail which is now the county's historical museum. The one *GRPM* component that this district is lacking, however, is an appropriate *agora*. One solution might be a small theater.

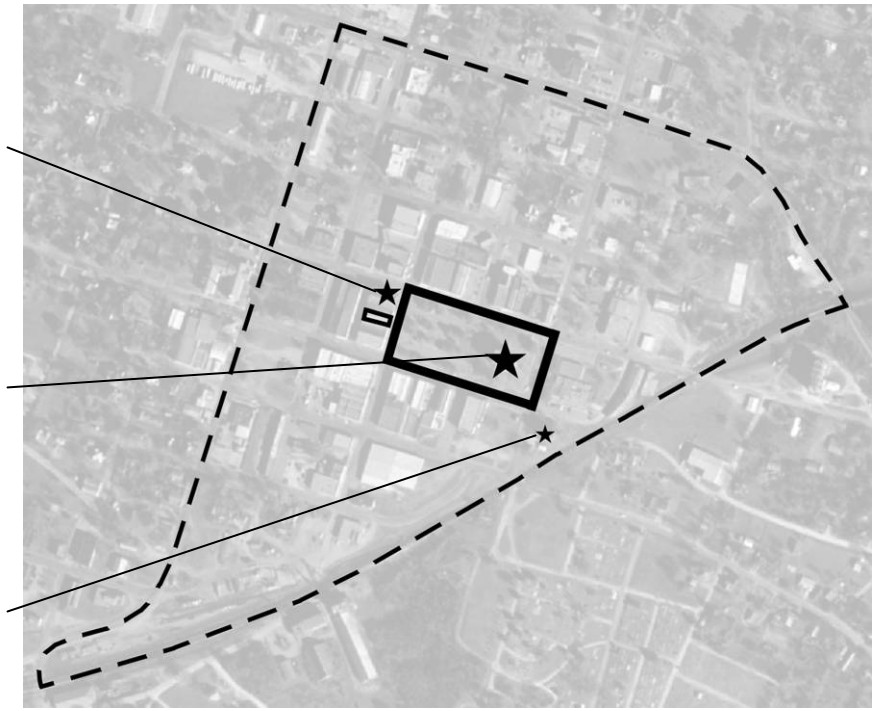


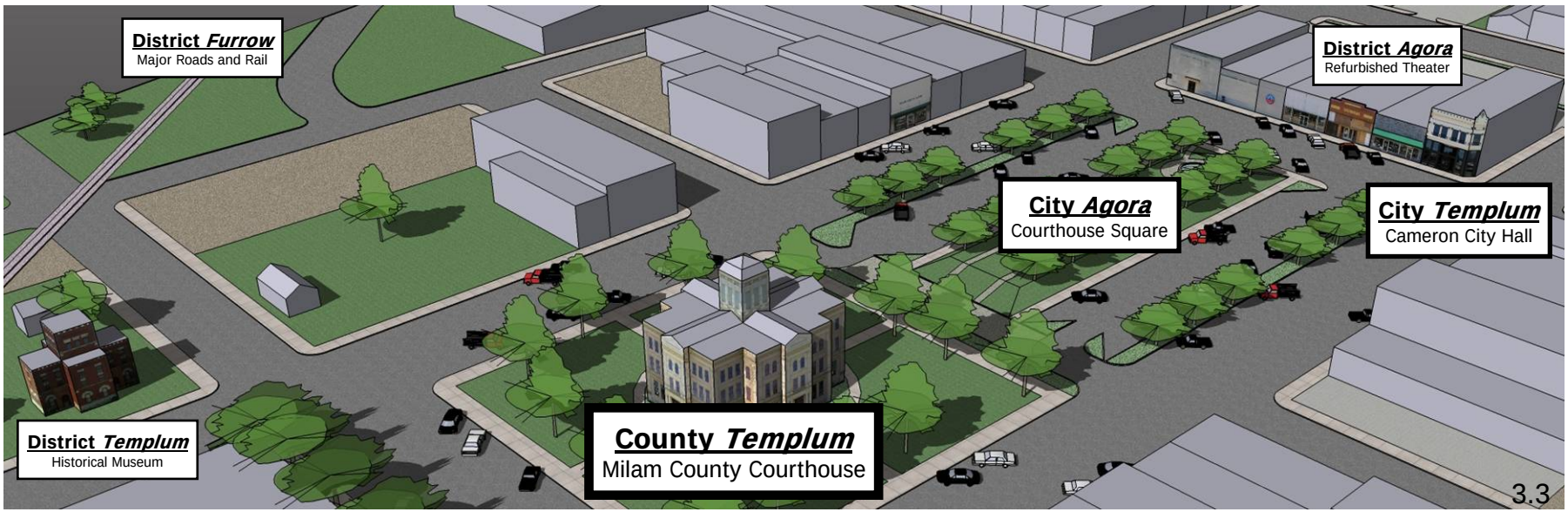
Cultural Heritage District

Confluence of *GRPM* Scales

This potential (and necessary) district has extremely unique characteristics as the confluence of several *GRPM* scales within the district's *furrow*. This makes the district an extremely unique and important place. One that has been underappreciated and underutilized for decades.

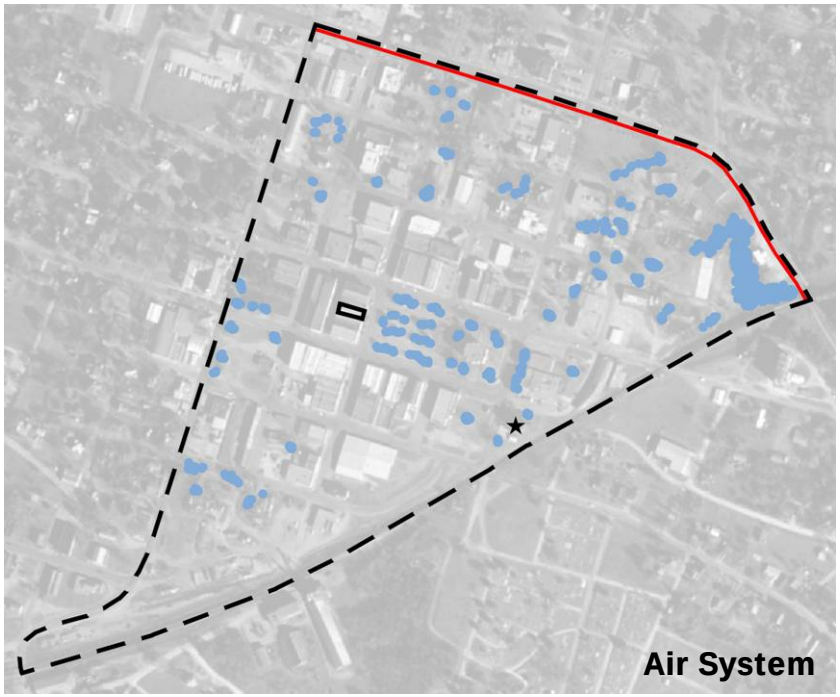
Defining and working to create a viable *Cultural Heritage District* might be the keystone to economic and social revitalization in the city. And could lead to cultural prosperity throughout Milam County.



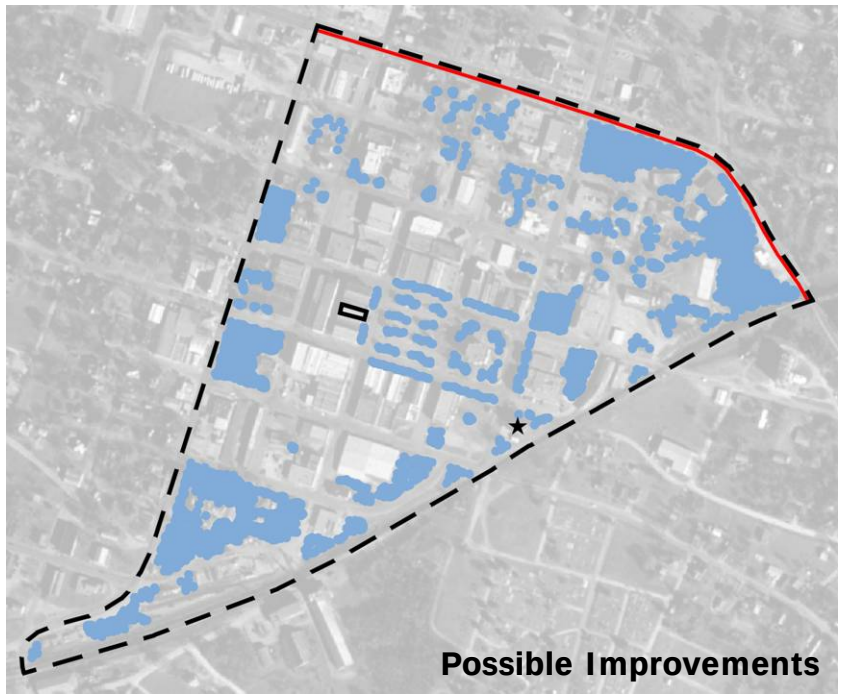


Cultural Heritage District

Perpetuity Potential



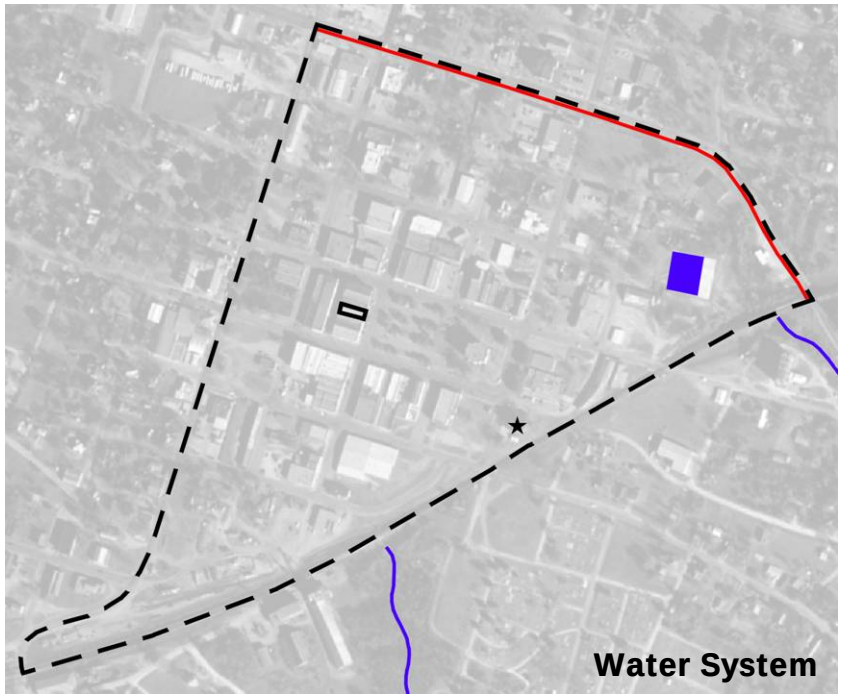
This district is extremely under-populated with oxygen-producing trees and it borders on one of the largest air-pollution sources in the city: US 190.



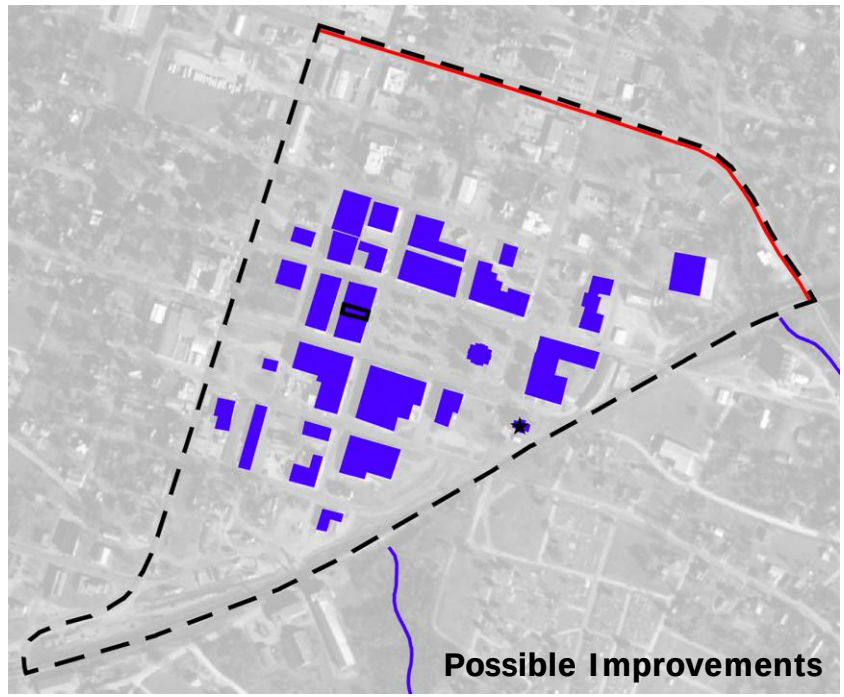
To mitigate the pollution impacts along its borders, the district should instate a program to plant trees in any unused and barren plots of land along its boundaries. Ideal locations for planting are at major intersections.

Cultural Heritage District

Perpetuity Potential



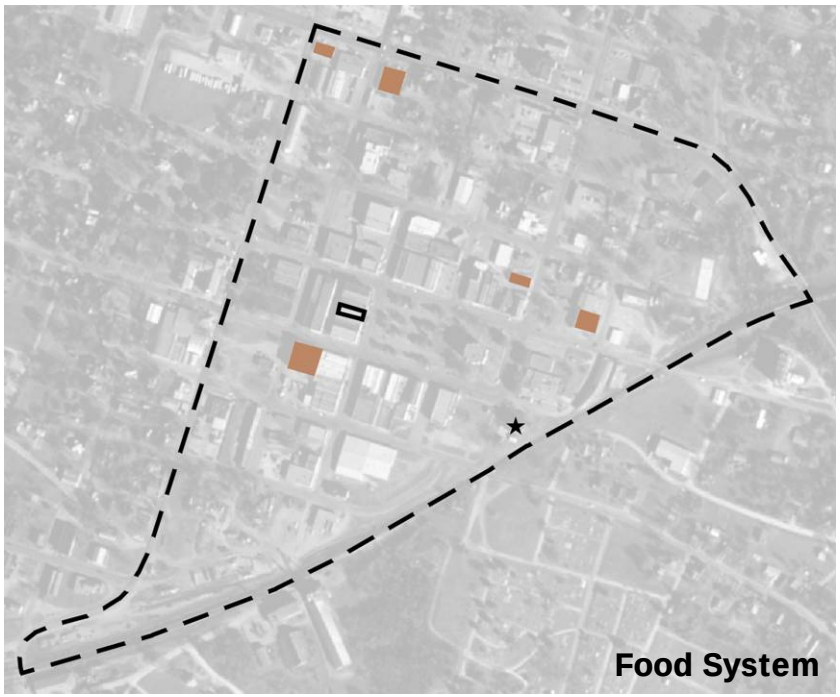
The drinking-water storage for the city falls within the *furrow* of the *Cultural Heritage District*. It is the only source of water for drinking, washing, and irrigation in the district. Several run-off streams originate on the border of the district.



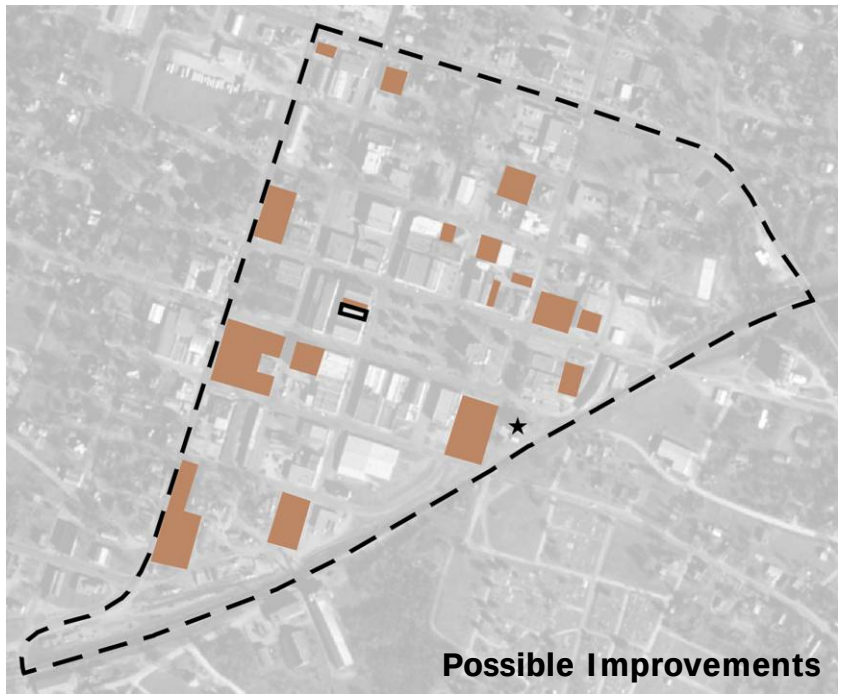
The large expanses of flat roofs are perfect opportunities for rainwater-harvesting in the district. The rainwater can be used for washing and irrigation thus minimizing the demand on city-supplied water. The run-off streams might be used for natural wastewater processing, thus relieving demand on city facilities.

Cultural Heritage District

Perpetuity Potential



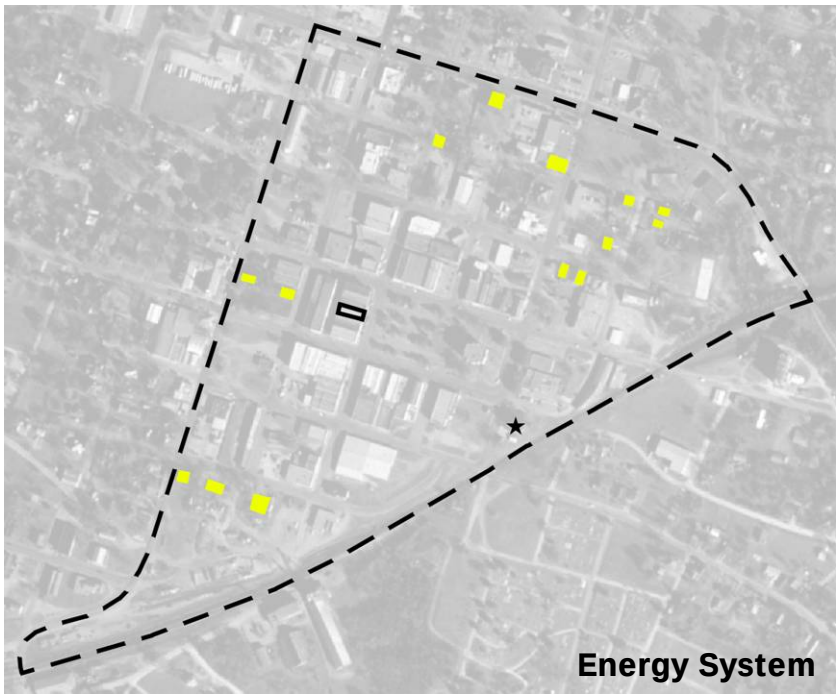
The major food *resources* currently within the district are fast-food or other restaurants near the highway. Alternate food *resources* are a pecan distribution center and a chicken hatchery distribution center.



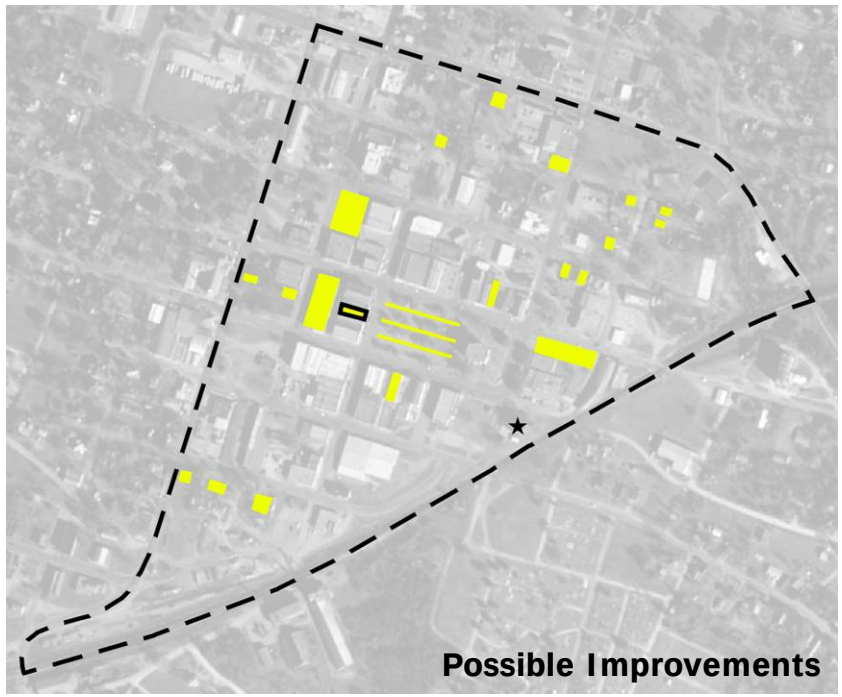
A plethora of open, un-built lots within the district are perfect opportunities for community-scale gardens to provide supplemental, fresh food *resources*. These gardens have a historical precedent in Cameron as stated on an historical marker outside the Milam County Historical Museum. (see c.3-4)

Cultural Heritage District

Perpetuity Potential



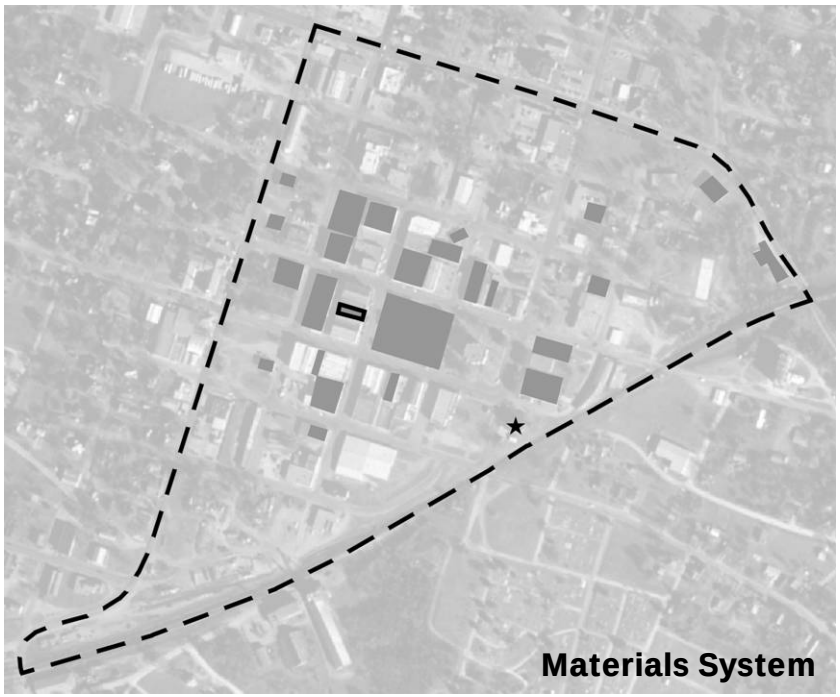
The only sources of energy within the district are vehicular fuel, and "manpower" as there are several single-family houses near the boundaries of the district.



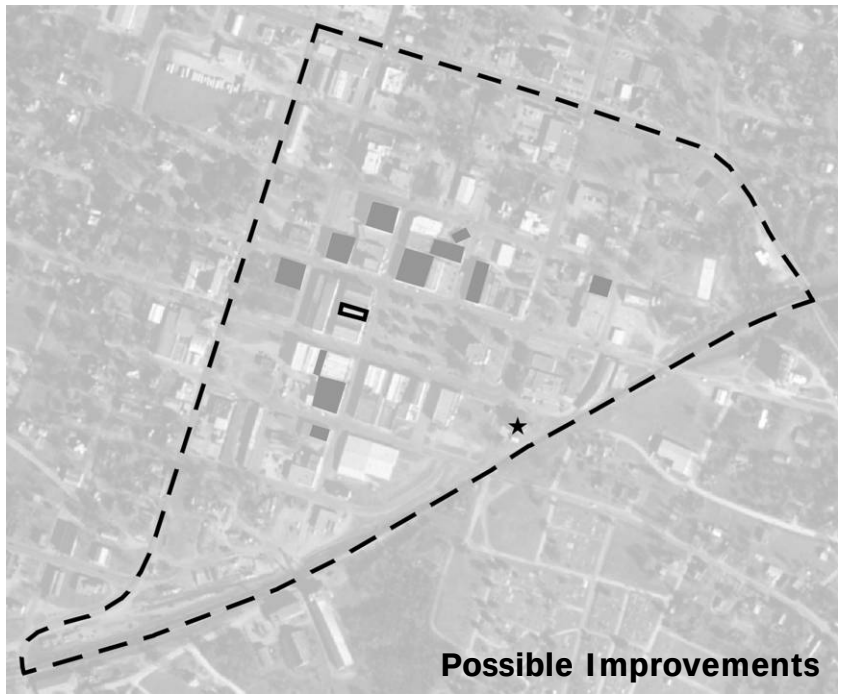
Future sources of energy should be explored within the district including photovoltaic arrays, wind harvesting, etc. Creating denser, urban housing can also bring more "man power" into the district and reduce the need for fuel energy expenditures in commuting.

Cultural Heritage District

Perpetuity Potential



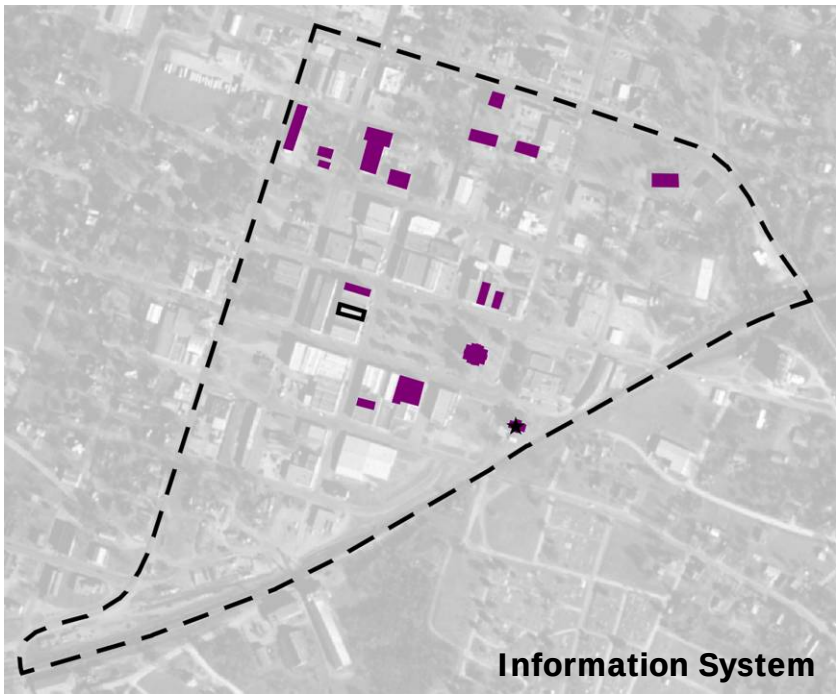
Throughout the district, there are many building foundations, derelict buildings, and even a huge mound of earth in the center of the Courthouse Square. These are perfect *resources* for demolished materials which can be reused in forms such as gabion walls.



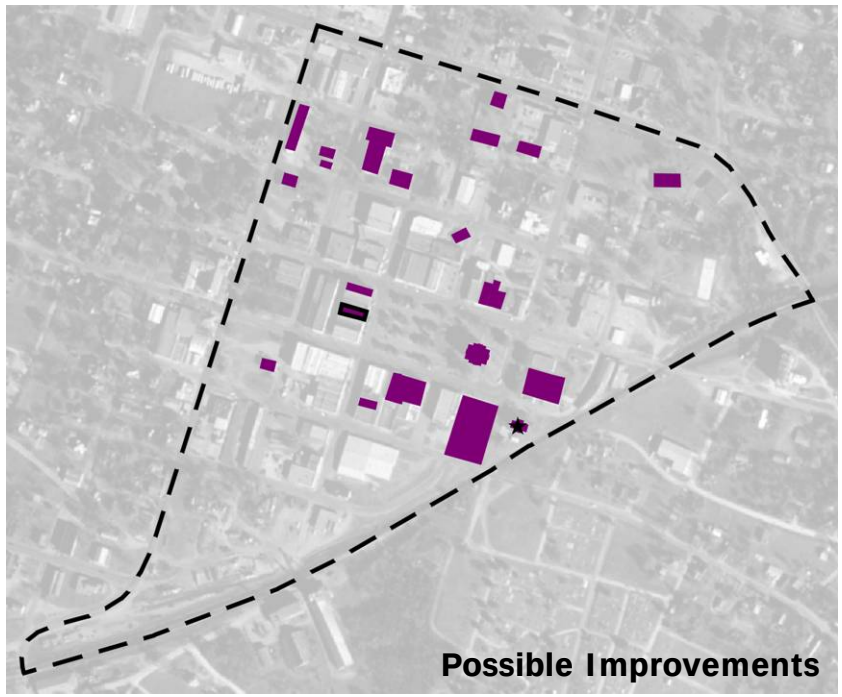
Removing the unused foundations will create more space for gardening and tree-planting.

Cultural Heritage District

Perpetuity Potential



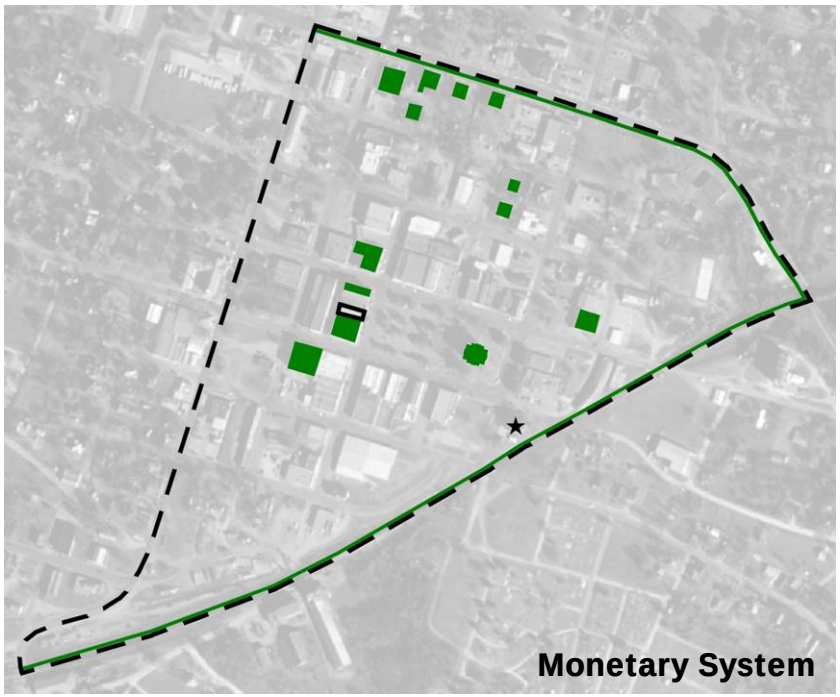
Information centers such as the Milam county offices, city offices, the post office, and the public library are scattered around the district.



Drawing more sources of information into closer proximity around the Courthouse Square can be economically beneficial for businesses in the area. Moving the public library to the Square should be the first priority. One of the community gardens in close proximity to the square, should be designated as the “teaching garden” and can become an information center as well.

Cultural Heritage District

Perpetuity Potential

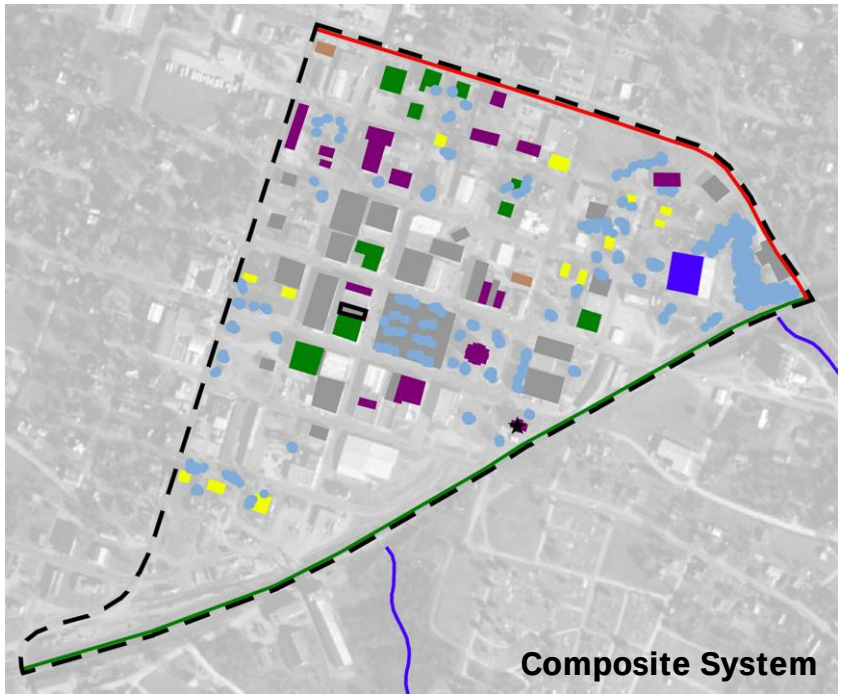


The current monetary system of the district relies heavily on the boundary highway. Other sources are though the government or banks. A major source of untapped monetary gain is the rail line that passes through Cameron without stopping.

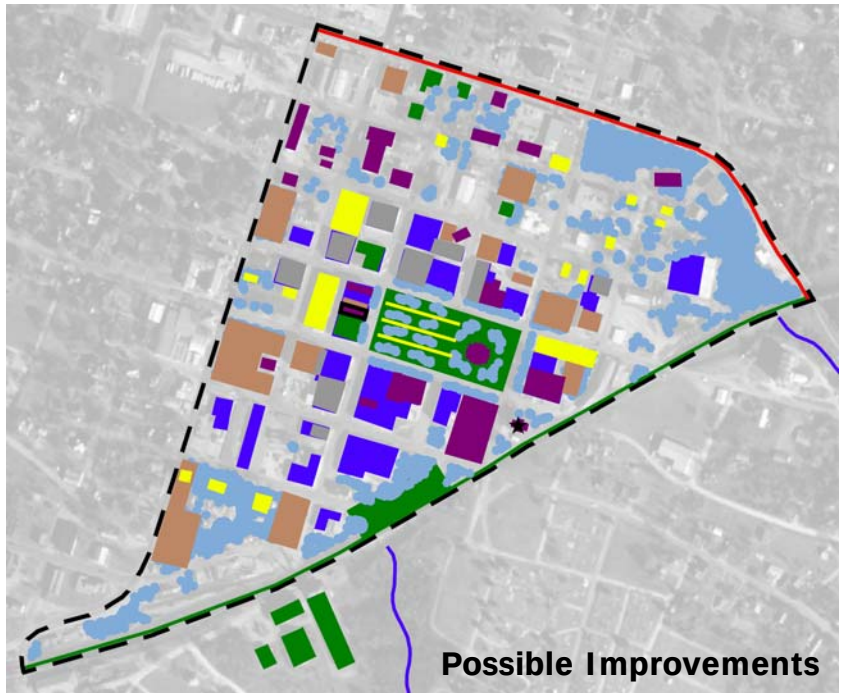
Focusing information and activity density within the district can create unprecedented monetary *resources* including a public plaza that draws visitors for events and even a possible future commuter train or light rail connection.

Cultural Heritage District

Perpetuity Potential



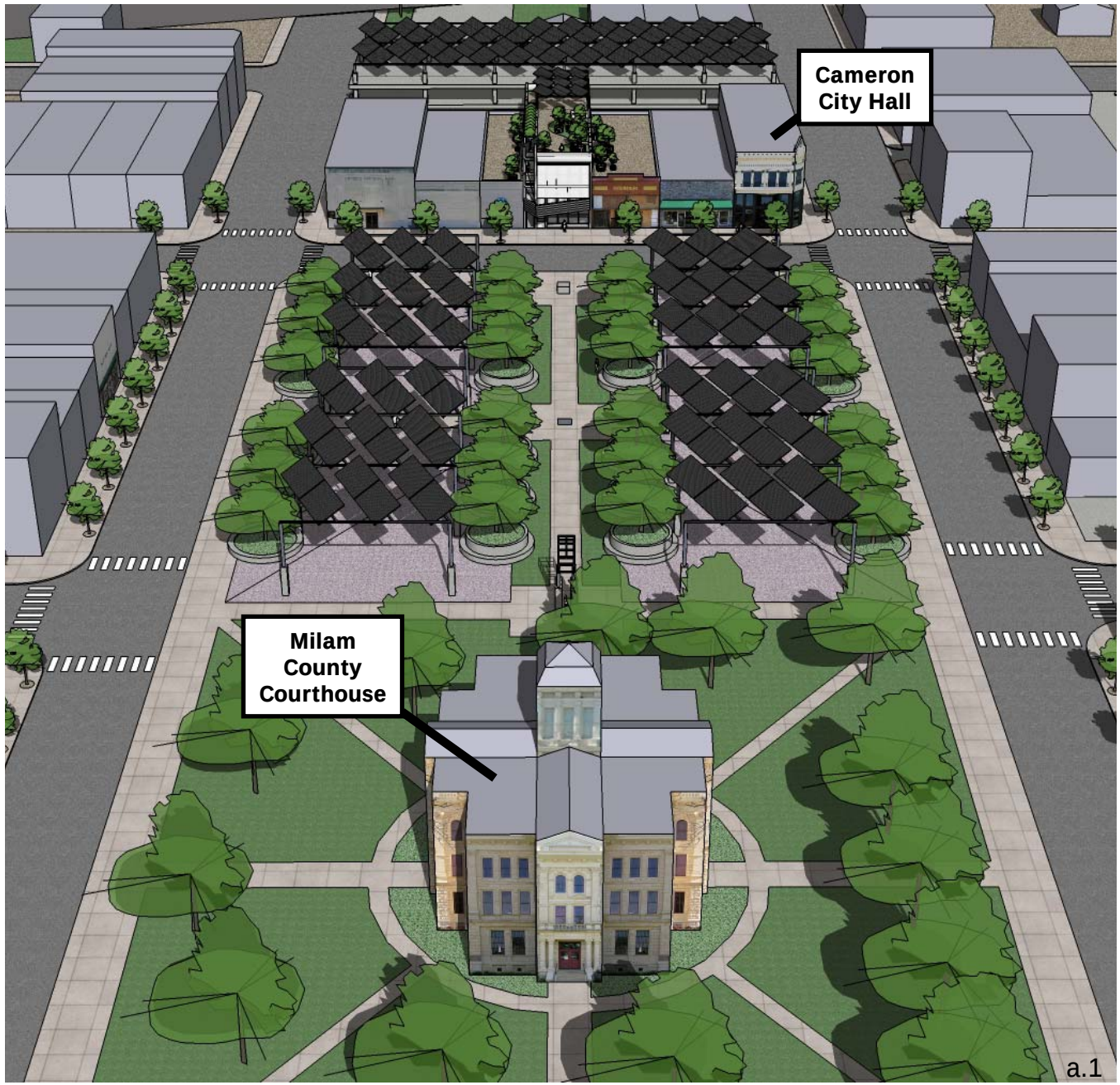
The current composite life-cycle system shows the *Cultural Heritage District* to have very weak life-signs.



Defining and focusing renewal and improvement efforts in the *Cultural Heritage District* can create a diversity and density in activities necessary to make the district a destination for the rest of the city, county, and even the state.

Appendix A

completing the city *agora*

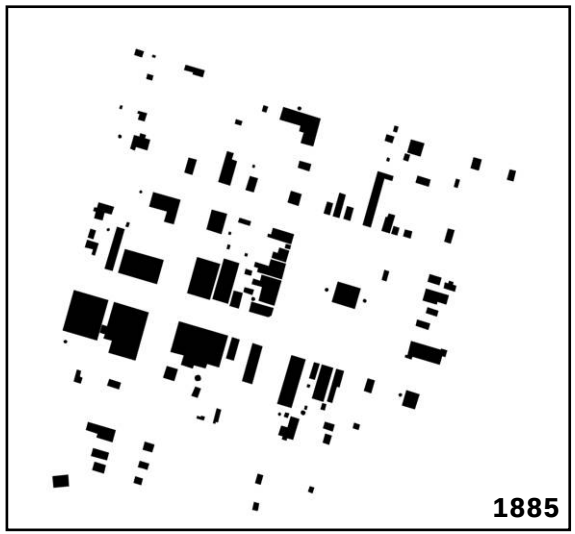


a.1

Cameron's Urban Fabric

a history of urban renewal

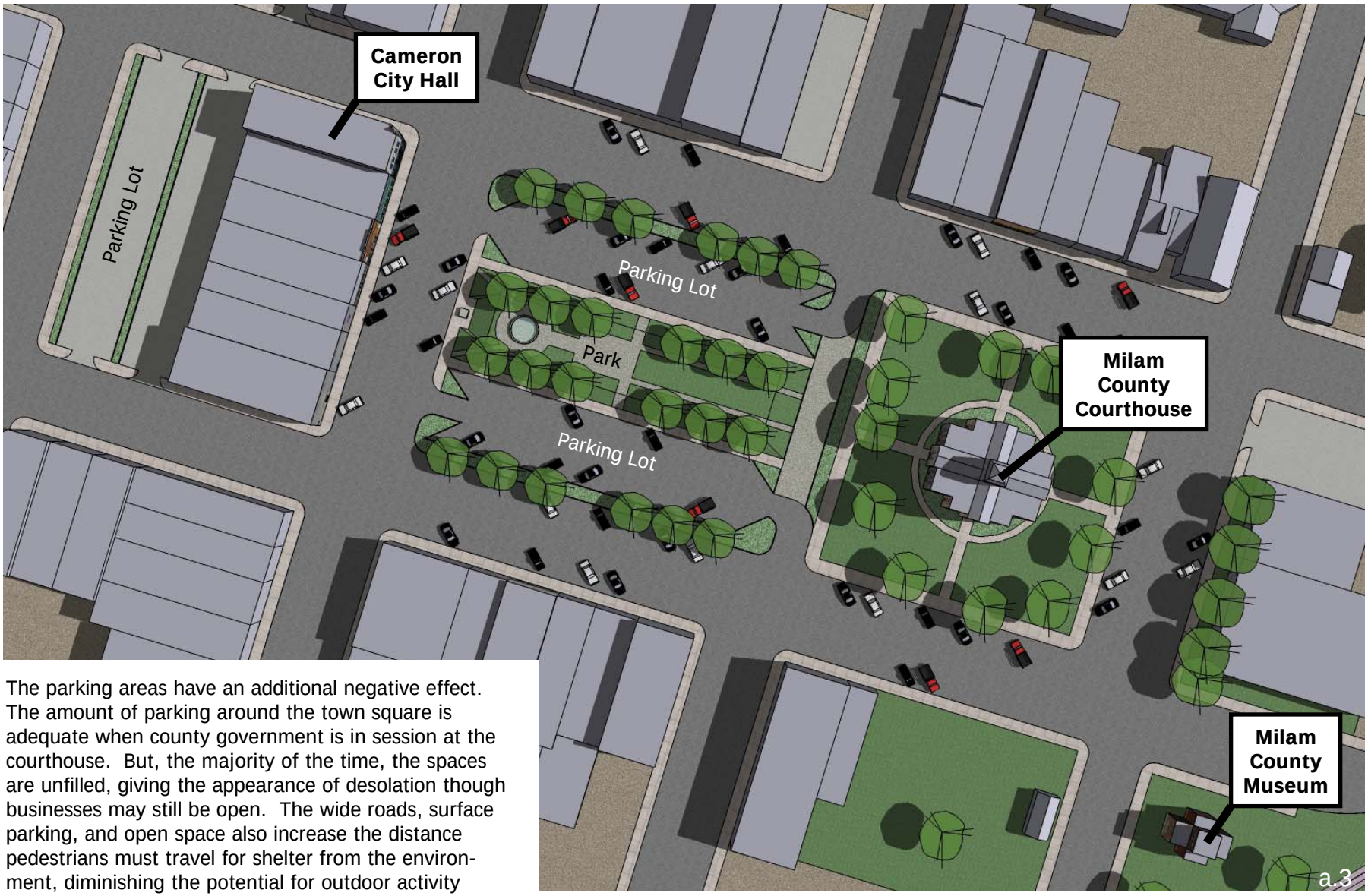
Cameron's chronic deprivation of tourism and economic stimulus has taken its toll on the urban fabric of the city. The blocks to the west of the Milam County Courthouse were once densely-populated by urban buildings. But, during the 1968 Urban Renewal efforts by the city, these buildings were later demolished to create a park and parking lots. Other buildings, left derelict over the years, have been demolished for public safety.



Courthouse Square

present configuration

Parking lots, coupled with the diagonal parking spaces on the streets, create expansive paved areas within the heart of the city. The counter-pedestrian effects of the hot Central-Texas climate are compounded by excessive solar exposure from urban de-densification and heat island contributions



The parking areas have an additional negative effect. The amount of parking around the town square is adequate when county government is in session at the courthouse. But, the majority of the time, the spaces are unfilled, giving the appearance of desolation though businesses may still be open. The wide roads, surface parking, and open space also increase the distance pedestrians must travel for shelter from the environment, diminishing the potential for outdoor activity

Courthouse Square

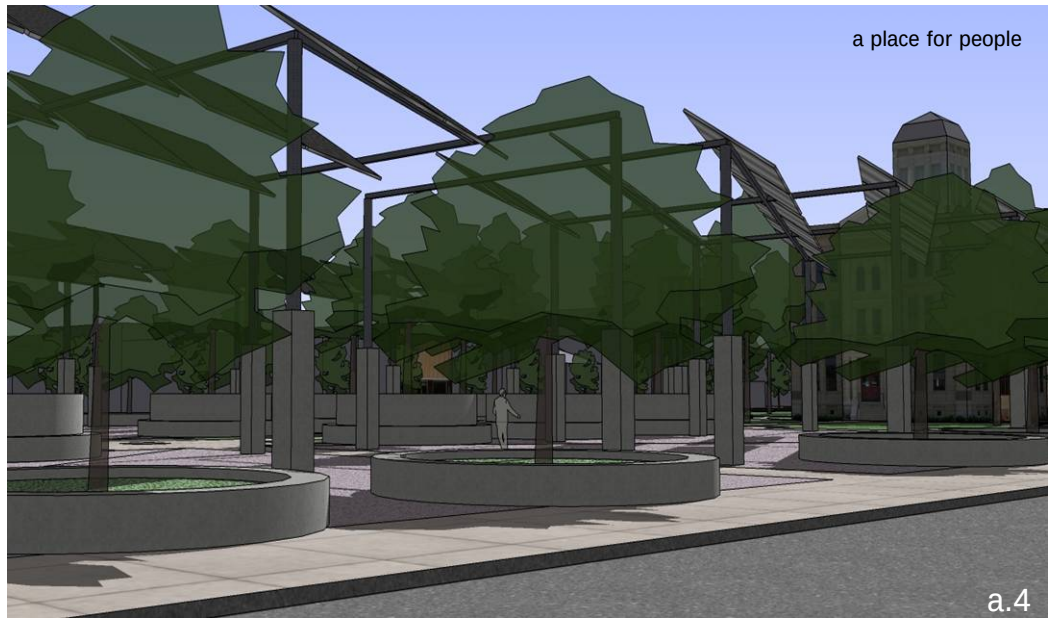
reclaiming the public spaces

The current configuration of the Courthouse Square is dominated by vehicles. The vehicle parking spaces create excessively wide streets and consume the interior of an entire block.

Consolidating vehicle density in off-site parking structures or lots and removing diagonal parking on the Courthouse Square will create the opportunity for wider sidewalks near storefronts allowing for outdoor dining and improving the shopping experience for future patrons of local businesses.

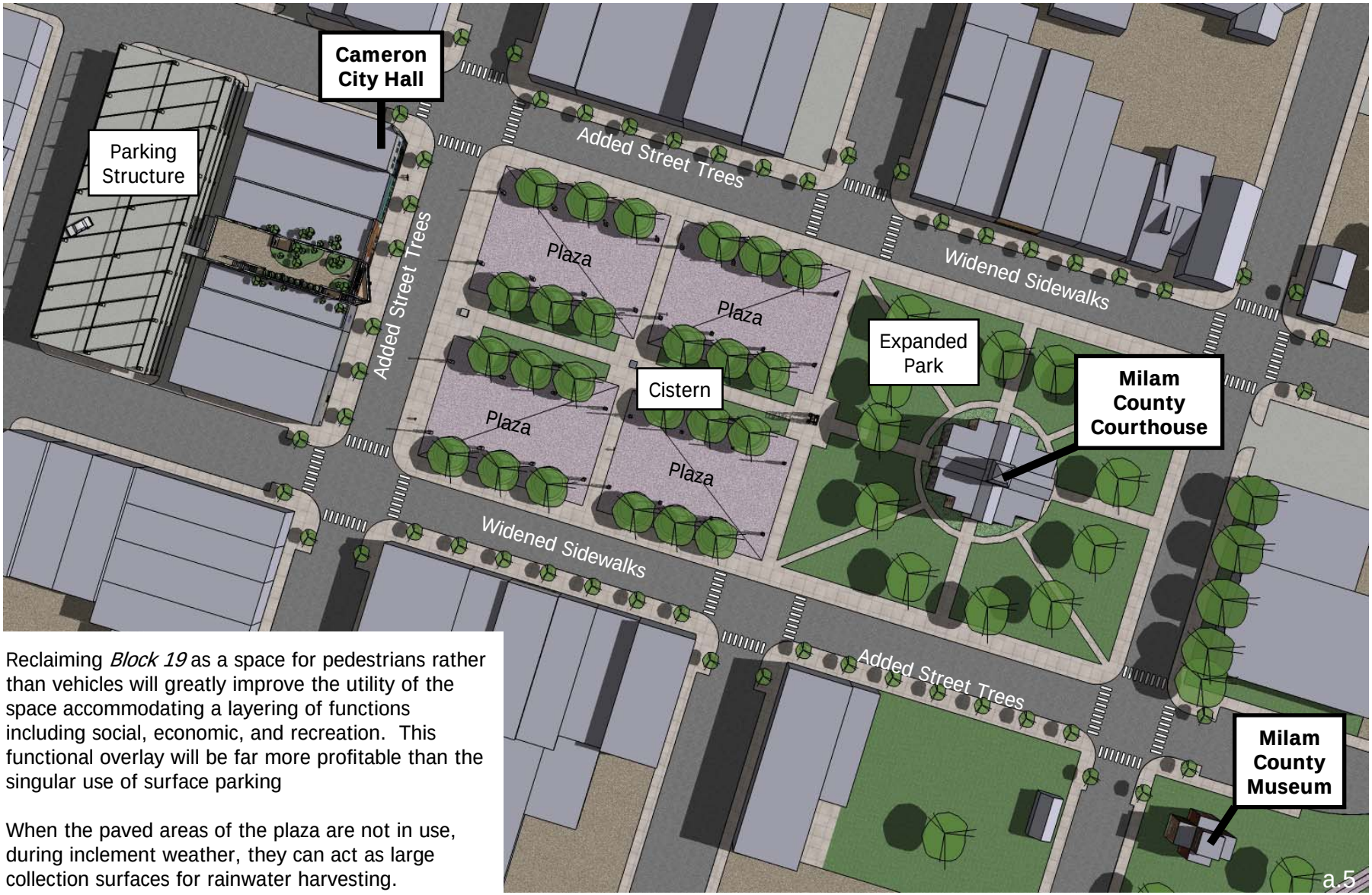
Wider sidewalks will create the opportunity for the city to beautify the urban setting by burying unsightly utilities. Street trees can also be added in these new pedestrian easements for visual appeal and shading of adjacent buildings – reducing air-conditioning bills.

Removing the parking from the center of the square will create an unprecedented opportunity to create a public plaza that can accommodate many city-wide events such as the *Cameron Dewberry Festival*, the *Cameron Annual Arts & Crafts Fair*, and possibly other, unforeseen activities like weekly farmers' markets, concerts, outdoor dining, entertainment, etc.



Courthouse Square

pedestrian improvements

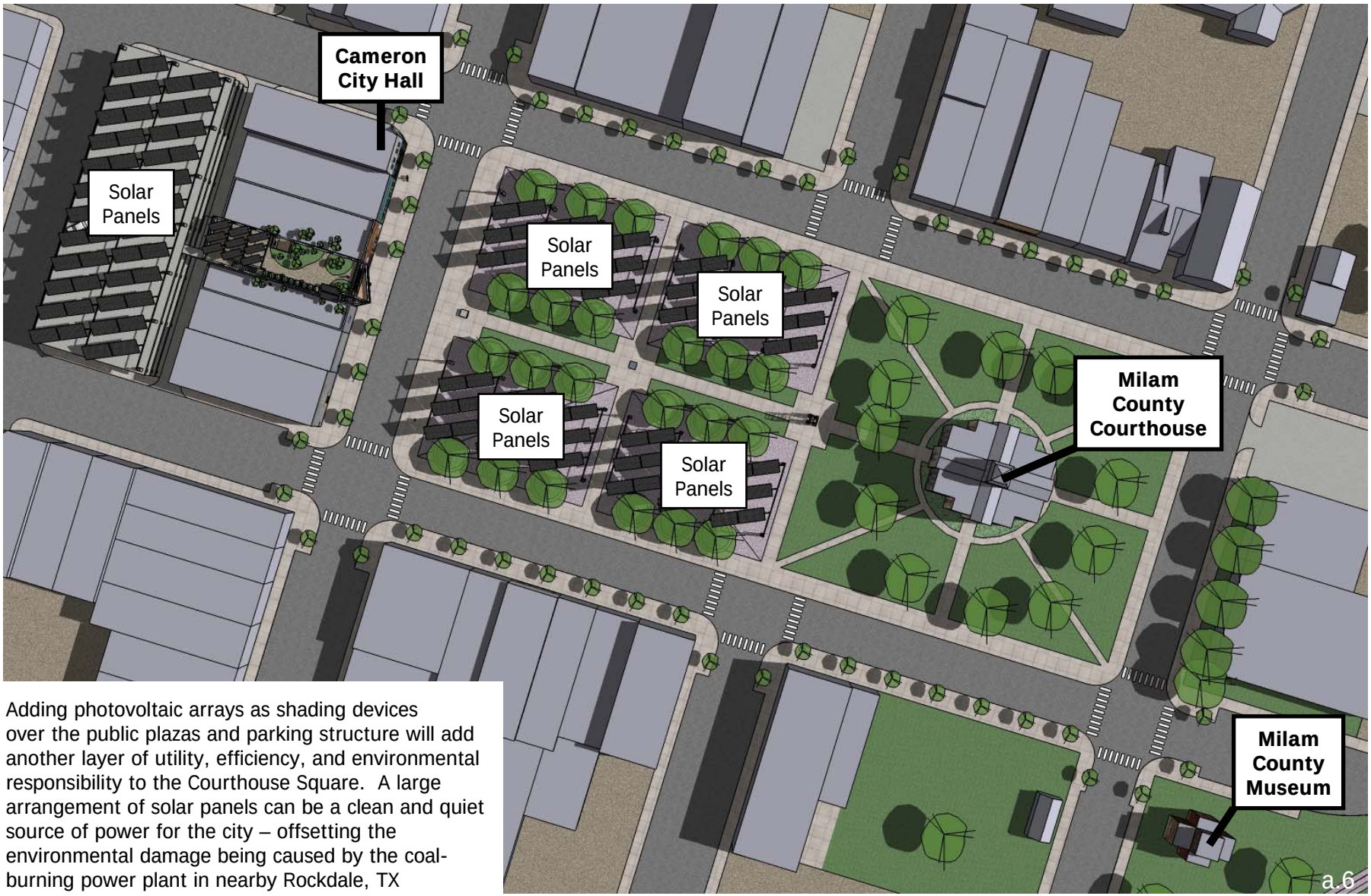


Reclaiming *Block 19* as a space for pedestrians rather than vehicles will greatly improve the utility of the space accommodating a layering of functions including social, economic, and recreation. This functional overlay will be far more profitable than the singular use of surface parking

When the paved areas of the plaza are not in use, during inclement weather, they can act as large collection surfaces for rainwater harvesting.

Courthouse Square

a multi-use public space

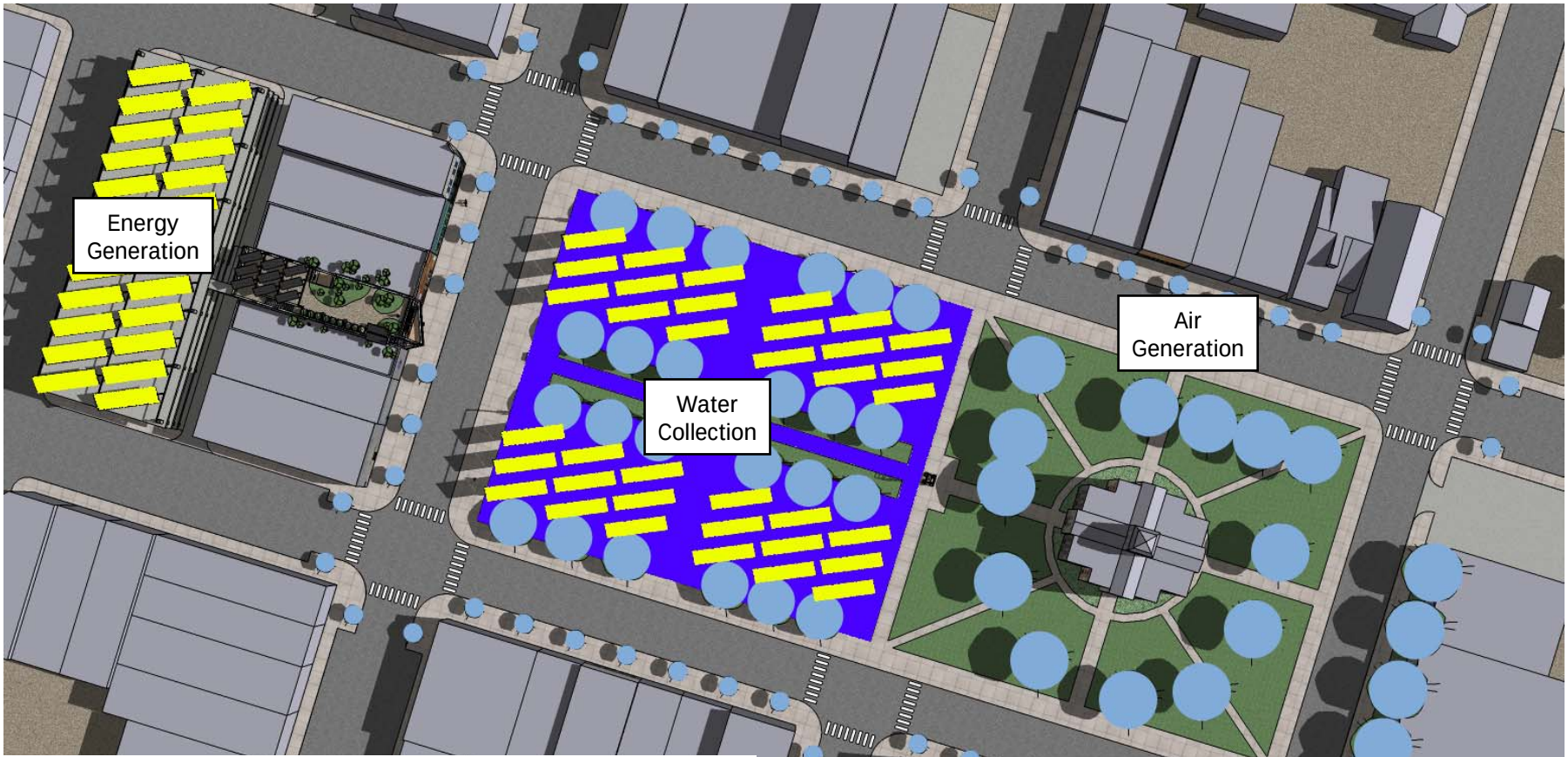


Adding photovoltaic arrays as shading devices over the public plazas and parking structure will add another layer of utility, efficiency, and environmental responsibility to the Courthouse Square. A large arrangement of solar panels can be a clean and quiet source of power for the city – offsetting the environmental damage being caused by the coal-burning power plant in nearby Rockdale, TX

Courthouse Square

a multi-use public space

Modifying the Courthouse Square will greatly increase the sustainability of the public space, nearby businesses, and the city of Cameron itself. Such modification can help create an awareness of the life-cycle processes including *Air*, *Water*, *Food*, and *Energy*



Climatic Response	increased shading by trees and solar panels
Efficiency	rainwater collection for community gardens energy production near businesses
Longevity	businesses will be more successful with more pedestrian activity and lower utility bills
Social Activity	Renewed public interest/use will halt urban decay

Courthouse Square

new features & new activities

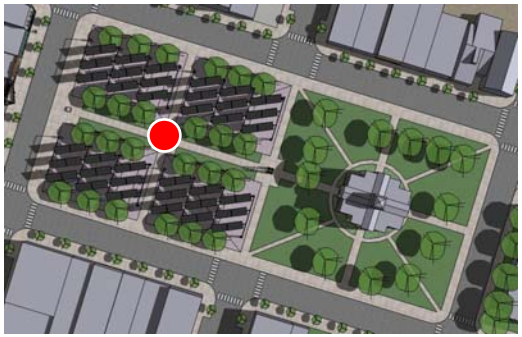
Removing parking in the center of the Courthouse Square creates opportunities to enhance public space. Such a space would be a perfect site for a farmers' market, art fair, and other festivals. These events are currently staged elsewhere in Cameron. Concentrating outdoor activities in the heart of the business district would have positive effects for the local businesses through increased shopping. With increased revenues, the businesses would then be able to sponsor other events in support of the city.

Adding elements at particular pedestrian intersections can create visual appeal as well as serve a purpose.

A framework tower can be used for displaying signage down major visual corridors to promote whatever event is planned or in process. As well, the framework can serve as a platform for lighting, sound, or projection equipment.

Courthouse Square

new features & new activities



At another major pedestrian intersection, a cistern collects water during rain storms from the plaza areas. The stored water or water-collection system can be utilized as a possible water-feature.

A cross-corridor will promote visual connection between businesses once separated by a two parking lots. The activities in the interior plazas will engage the storefronts of the existing buildings visually draw them into the outdoor activities of farmers markets, fairs, and festivals.

Appendix B

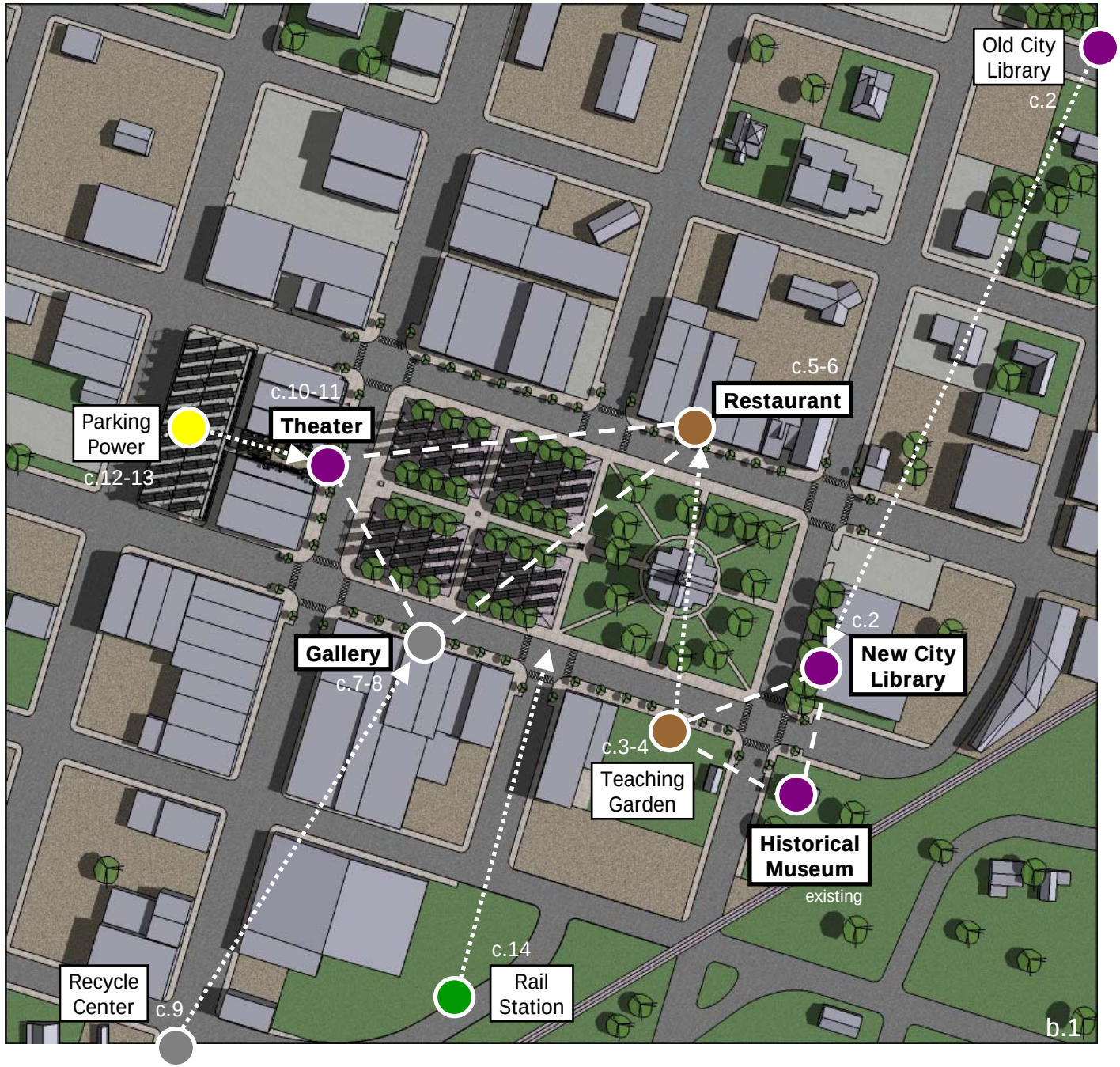
economic development

The future vitality of the urban center in Cameron, TX depends strongly on 4 key concepts:

1. Focus on community
2. Pedestrian dominance over vehicular traffic
3. Networks of mutually supportive enterprises with activities focused on the Courthouse Square
4. Diversity in activities:

   Information
   Education
   Entertainment
   Culture
   Food
   Consumer/Shopping

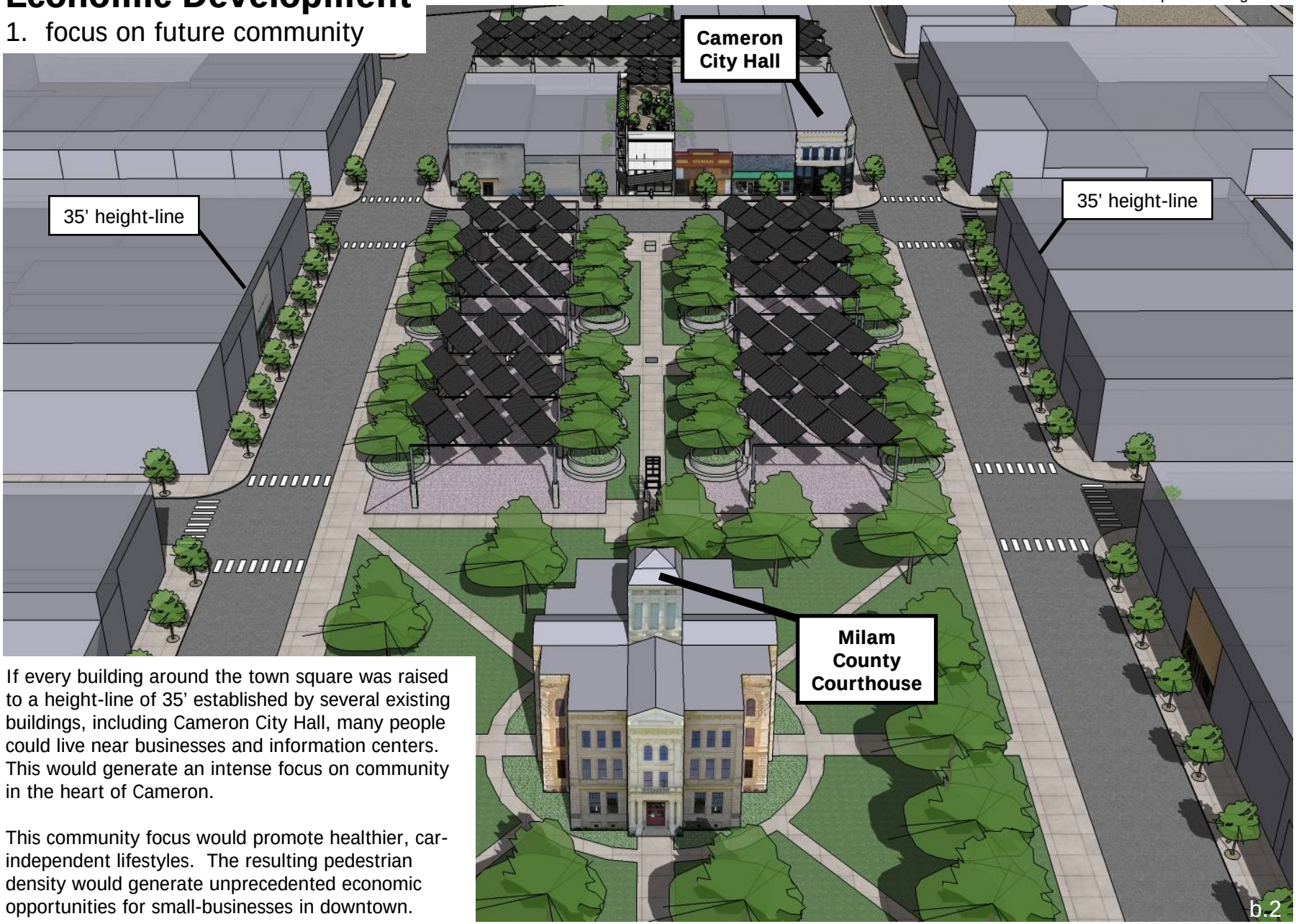
Urban developments in cities are much like natural ecosystems. Such systems require ecological diversity in close proximity for efficient and successful operation and survival.



Economic Development

1. focus on future community

Courthouse Square looking West



If every building around the town square was raised to a height-line of 35’ established by several existing buildings, including Cameron City Hall, many people could live near businesses and information centers. This would generate an intense focus on community in the heart of Cameron.

This community focus would promote healthier, car-independent lifestyles. The resulting pedestrian density would generate unprecedented economic opportunities for small-businesses in downtown.

Economic Development

2. reclaiming streets for people

Wide streets and narrow sidewalks promote “one-stop shopping.” Pedestrians are deterred from lingering and contributing to other business activities in the downtown area because of the unpleasant and unsafe appearance of their pedestrian paths.

Removing diagonal parking on the Courthouse Square will create pedestrian opportunities for wider sidewalks near storefronts improving the shopping experience around future businesses. 15-minute parallel parking can still be used for quick errands around the Square.

Wider sidewalks will give the city the opportunity to beautify its urban setting by burying unsightly utilities. Street trees can also be added in these new pedestrian easements for visual appeal and shade.

Economic Development

2. reclaiming streets for people

Removing diagonal parking, widening sidewalks, and designating pedestrian paths such as cross-walks will promote pedestrian connections around the square enhancing pedestrian movement, promoting lingering, and creating incidental business opportunities.

Removing other pedestrian barriers (such as the raised, grassy mound in the park) will also facilitate pedestrian activity. The oak trees planted on the mound can be saved by encasing them in concrete planters as the earth is removed around them. This will create a level walking plane while retaining the shade provided by existing trees.

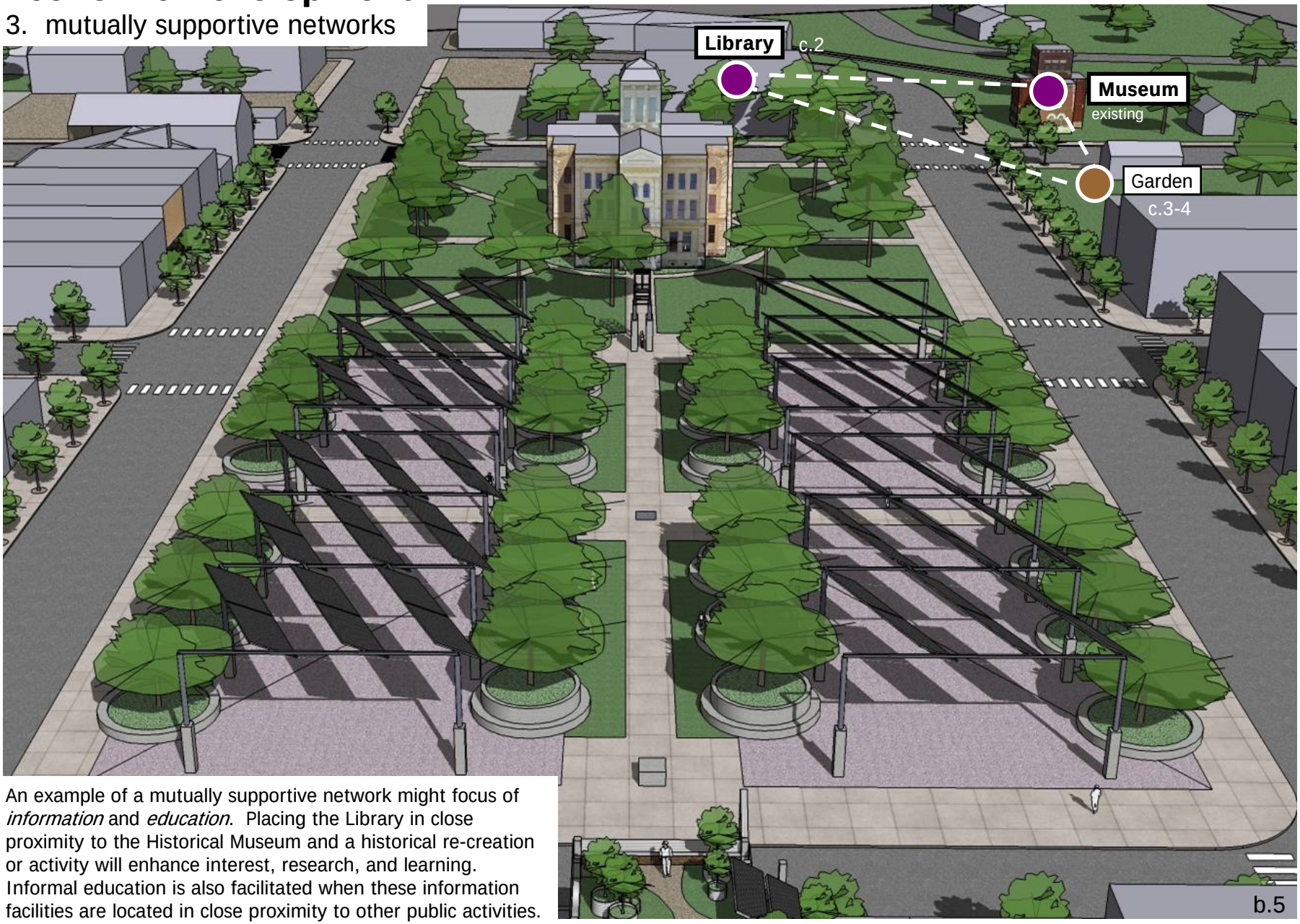
diagonal parking, wide streets, and the hot Texas sun

small streets, wide sidewalks , trees, and shade

Economic Development

3. mutually supportive networks

Courthouse Square looking East

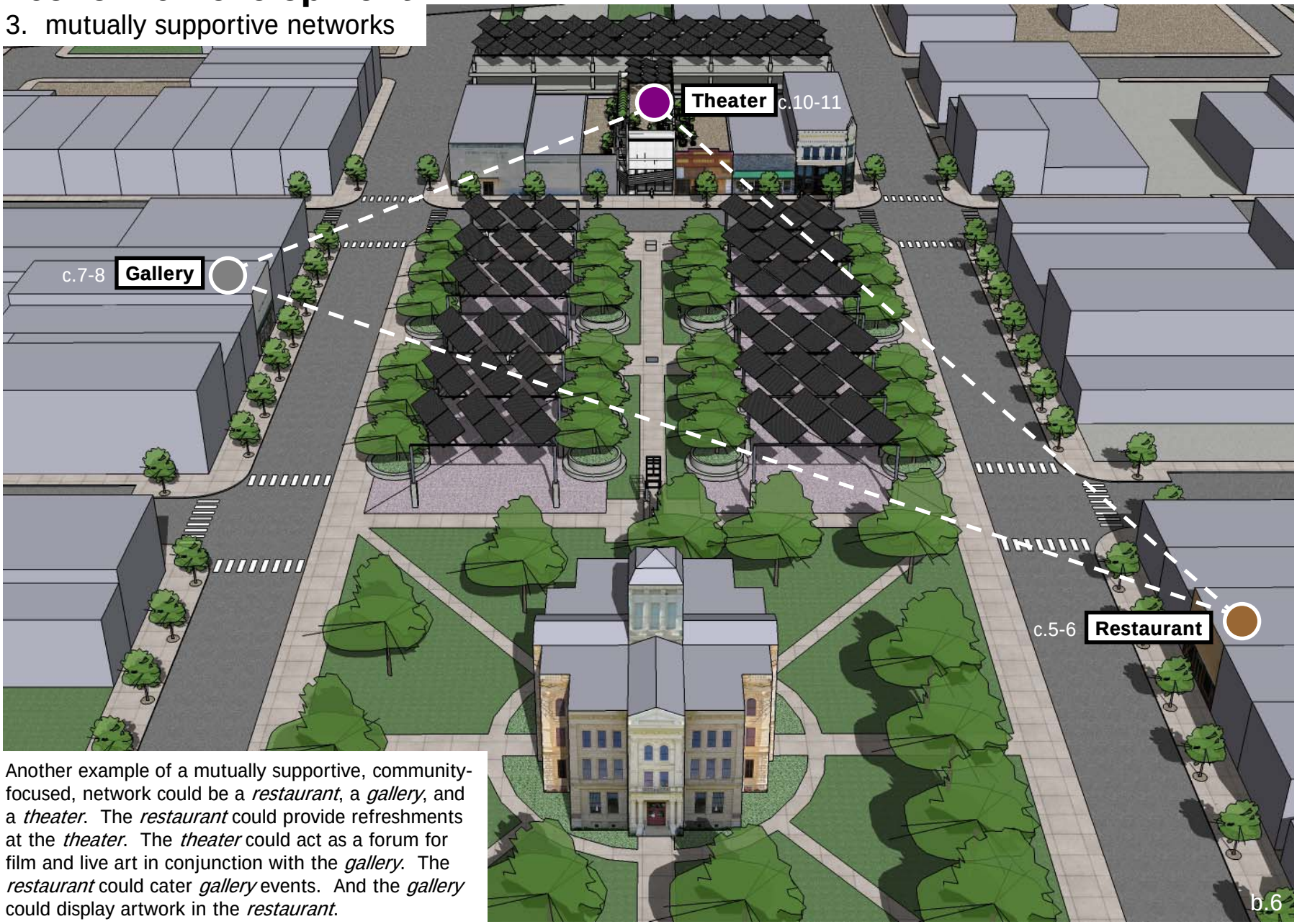


An example of a mutually supportive network might focus of *information* and *education*. Placing the Library in close proximity to the Historical Museum and a historical re-creation or activity will enhance interest, research, and learning. Informal education is also facilitated when these information facilities are located in close proximity to other public activities.

Economic Development

3. mutually supportive networks

Courthouse Square looking West



Another example of a mutually supportive, community-focused, network could be a *restaurant*, a *gallery*, and a *theater*. The *restaurant* could provide refreshments at the *theater*. The *theater* could act as a forum for film and live art in conjunction with the *gallery*. The *restaurant* could cater *gallery* events. And the *gallery* could display artwork in the *restaurant*.

Appendix C

economic activities

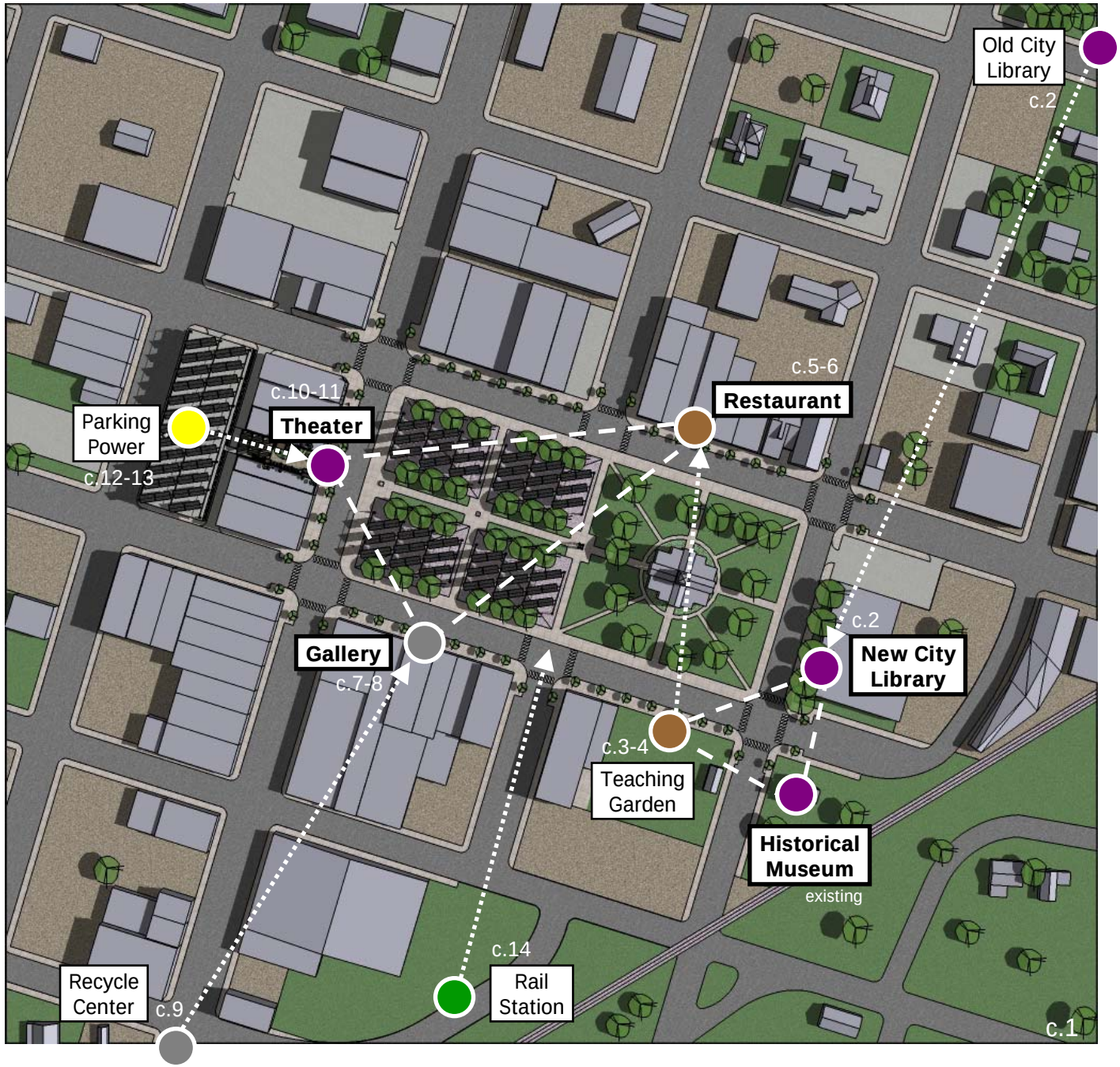
The future vitality of the urban center in Cameron, TX depends strongly on 4 key concepts:

1. Focus on community
2. Pedestrian dominance over vehicular traffic
3. Networks of mutually supportive enterprises with activities focused on the Courthouse Square
4. Diversity in activities:

   Information
   Education
   Entertainment
   Culture
   Food
   Consumer/Shopping

Urban developments in cities are much like natural ecosystems. Such systems require ecological diversity in close proximity for efficient and successful operation and survival.

This appendix is a compilation of design ideas and research for diversity in economic activities as the 4th key to successful economic development in Cameron, TX.



Cameron City Library

bringing the books to the people

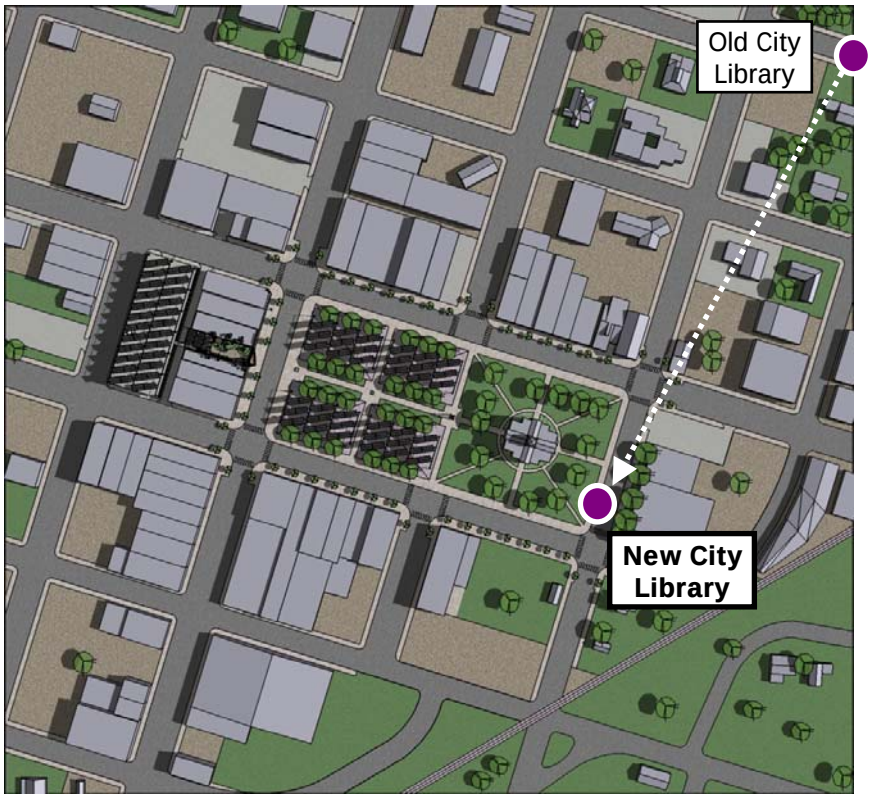
The Cameron city library is currently under-sized and under-utilized by Cameron citizens. Two parts of the problem include a limited building size, and an inconvenient/inaccessible location on the very edge of "downtown" buffered by an unpleasant park along a busy highway.

Localizing information centers can create a synergistic effect within the city. Moving the Library to the Courthouse Square will be mutually beneficial. Not only will the presence of the Library increase activity in the square, the visibility provided by the square will increase visits to the Library.

The modern Milam County Jail is located to its predecessor on the east end of the Courthouse Square. A new Milam County Justice Center is being constructed outside the district and soon another building on the square (with significant infrastructure) will be vacant.

The west-facing façade of the current Milam County Jail has been expertly adapted (with a colonnade and large oak trees to protect the large windows (facing the Milam County Courthouse) from the setting sun.

This is the perfect opportunity to adaptively reuse the facility as an expanded city library. Another advantage of this move is that, in its new location, the Library will be across the street from the Historical Museum which archives all the historical photos and other documents of Cameron and Milam County history over the decades.



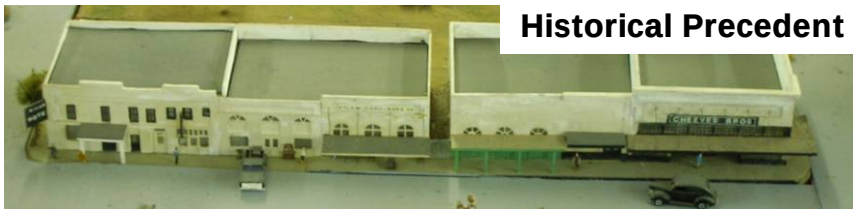
Present Location

Future Location

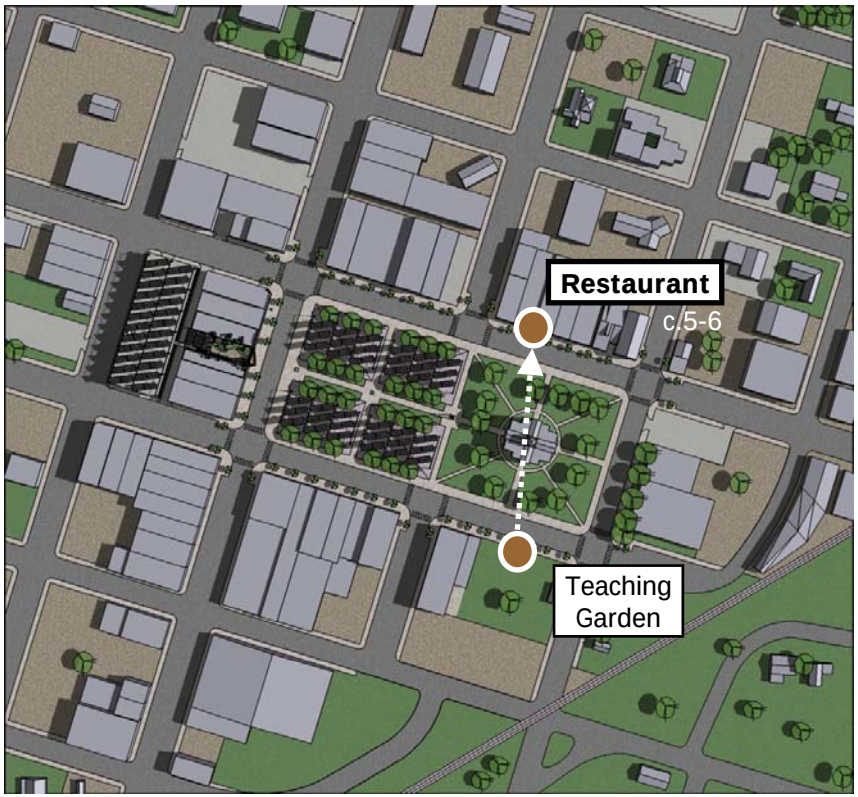
Westbrook Community Garden

a teaching garden from the pages of history

An empty lot offers a unique opportunity to tap into modern food trends through an historical reincarnation. This empty lot can also offer a meaningful location for an “homeless” official Texas historical marker.



Historical Precedent



FIRST GIRL'S TOMATO CLUB IN TEXAS

THE FIRST GIRL'S TOMATO CLUBS IN TEXAS WERE ORGANIZED IN 1912 IN MILAM COUNTY TO ACQUAINT YOUNG WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS WITH TOMATO PRODUCTION AND CANNING TECHNIQUES. AT THE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MRS. EDNA WESTBROOK TRIGG, A LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT. SHE ORGANIZED ELEVEN CLUBS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY, WITH MEMBERS RANGING IN AGE FROM TEN TO EIGHTEEN. A SIMILAR PROGRAM FOR BOYS, THE CORN CLUBS, HAD BEEN INSTITUTED IN JACK COUNTY FOUR YEARS EARLIER.

EACH MEMBER OF THE GIRL'S TOMATO CLUBS WAS TO PRODUCE A TOMATO CROP ON ONE-TENTH OF AN ACRE OF LAND AND THEN WAS TAUGHT PROPER CANNING PROCEDURES. THE GIRLS EXHIBITED THEIR PRODUCTS AT MILANO, ROCKDALE, THE 1913 STATE FAIR IN DALLAS, AND THE WACO COTTON PALACE. SO SUCCESSFUL WERE THESE EXHIBITS THAT SEVERAL OF THE GIRLS STARTED COLLEGE EDUCATION FUNDS WITH THE MONEY THEY RAISED SELLING THEIR GOODS.

AS THE STATE'S FIRST RURAL GIRL'S ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND, THE TOMATO CLUBS WERE FORERUNNERS OF LATER PROGRAMS, INCLUDING 4-H, THAT WERE INITIATED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE. OVER TIME, 4-H HAS EXPANDED ITS SCOPE BUT HAS MAINTAINED THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTIVES OF ITS PREDECESSORS.

(1983)

Future Site

c.3

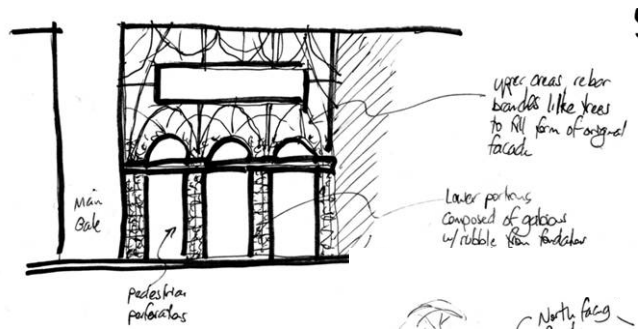
Westbrook Community Garden

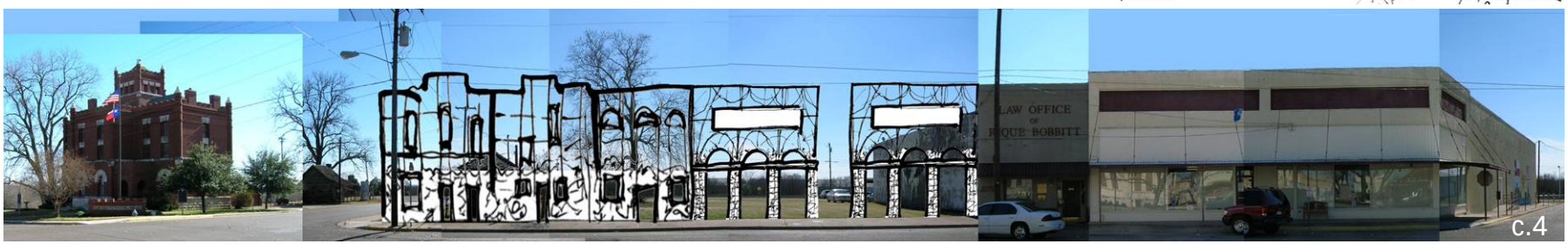
a teaching garden from the pages of history

Using this empty lot as the “flagship” garden for other community gardens established in the district will have several advantages. The organic farming and teaching activities can be in direct support of the Restaurant.

Erecting a “garden wall” will 1) help contain the urban space of the Courthouse Square, 2) protect the garden from winds, 3) facilitate the removal of foundations in other empty lots for more community gardens, and 4) provide an architectural expression of historical use.

The “garden wall” can be an abstract architectural interpretation of the historical building facades. Using gabion construction, the lower-half of the wire cages can be filled with broken concrete from removed foundations and other re-used building materials from around the district. The upper halves of the facades will not be filled with rubble. Instead, the cages explode into decorative uses of rebar.

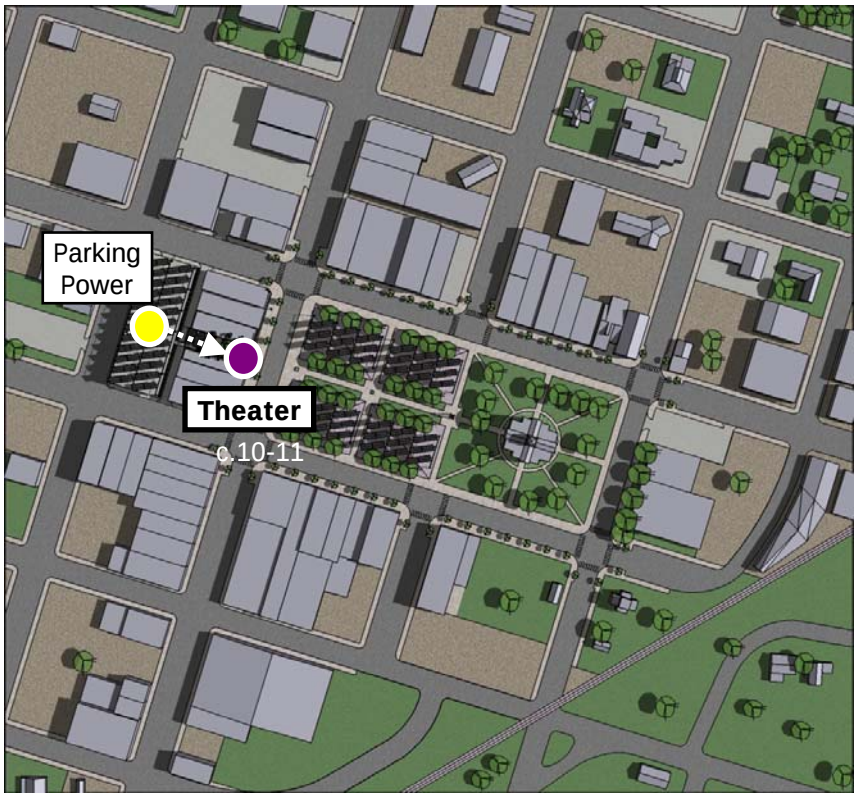




Parking Power Plant

parking & power production

Present Condition / Use



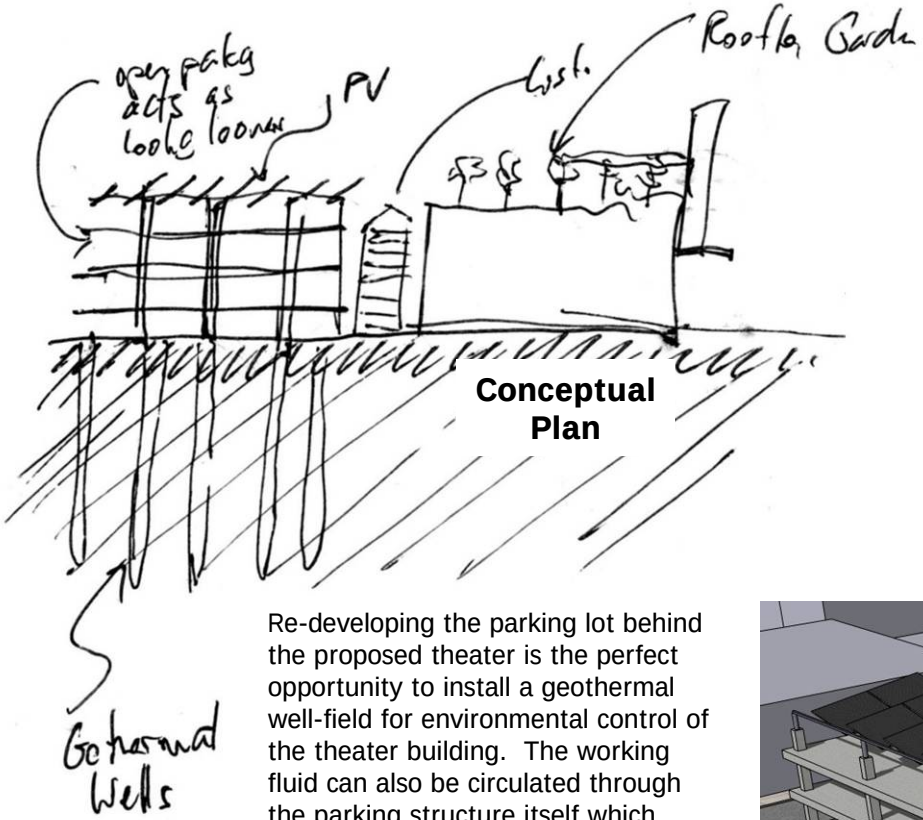
Historical Precedent

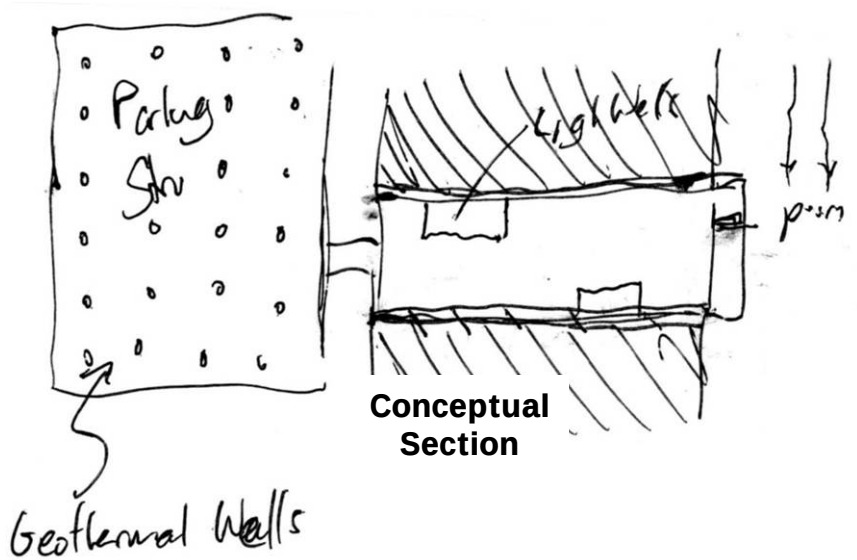
The parking lot directly behind the proposed Theater was once an automotive sales and repair facility. Due to its historical use for vehicular functions, this lot is the perfect location for a light-weight, small-scale parking structure to relieve parking congestion on the Courthouse Square.

This facility can be used to augment the function of the proposed Theater by incorporating a geothermal well field below the structure to help passively cool the large air-volume in the auditorium. As well, a photovoltaic array placed over the structure will not only provide electricity for cinematic and lighting functions in the Theater; this array will shade parked cars on the roof of the structure.

Parking Power Plant

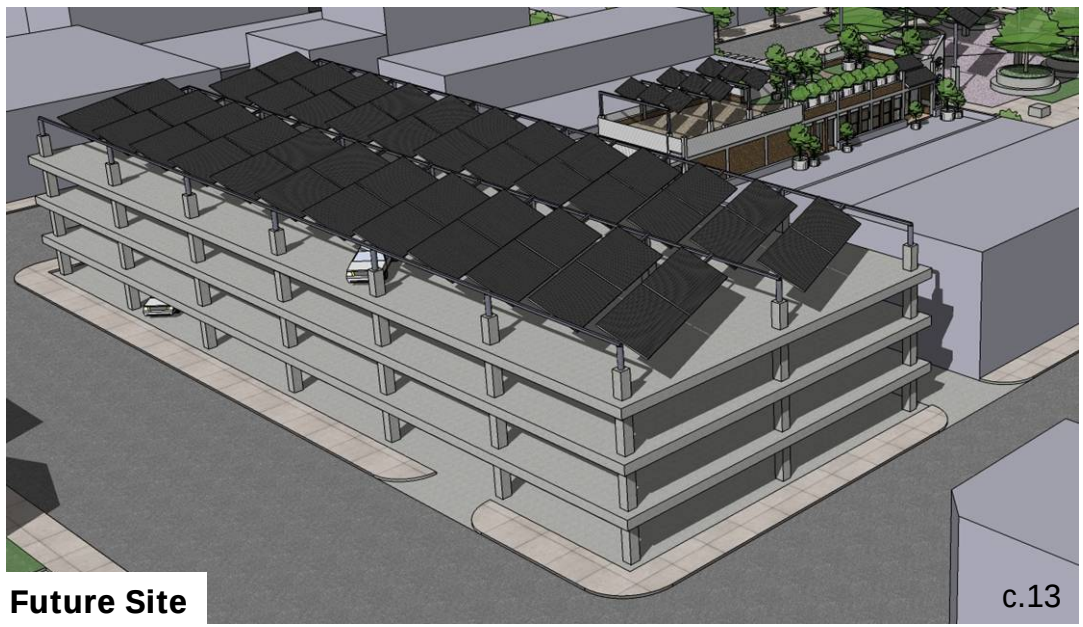
environmental control systems





Re-developing the parking lot behind the proposed theater is the perfect opportunity to install a geothermal well-field for environmental control of the theater building. The working fluid can also be circulated through the parking structure itself which could act as a radiator.

Geothermal cooling operates by transferring heat between a conditioned air space to the ground which often has stabilized temperatures in all seasons. Due to the long heating seasons in the Texas climate, adding a “radiator” might be necessary to prevent overheating the ground thus mitigating its cooling capacity.



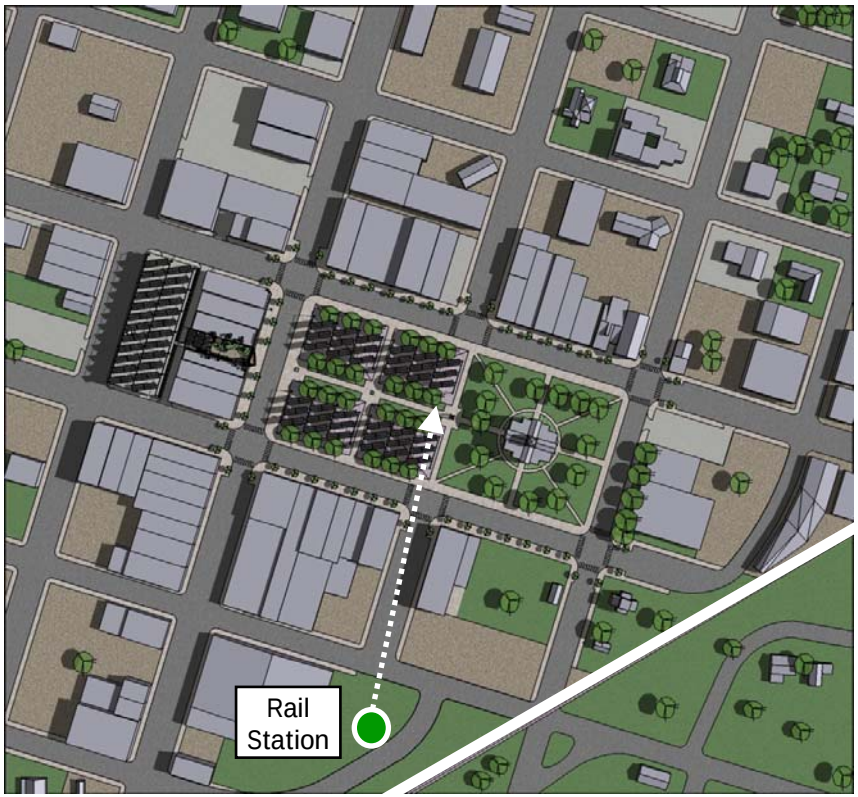
Future Site

Regional Reconnection

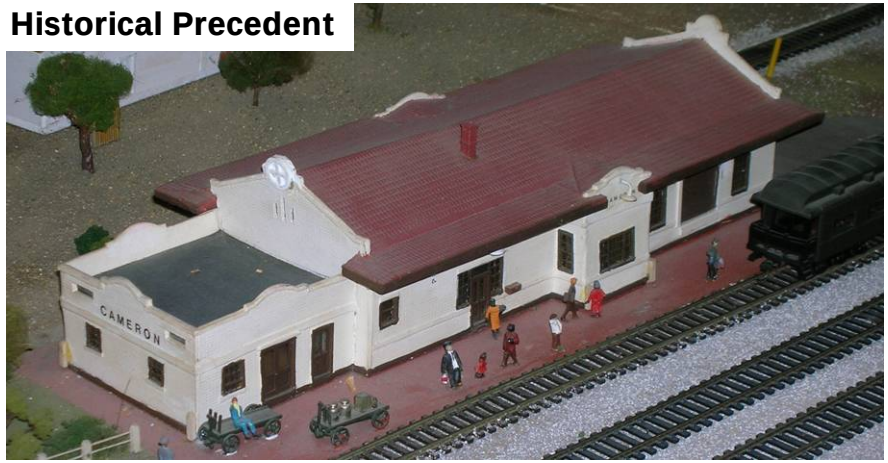
a light-rail/commuter train station

Cameron, TX was built by the railroad. Daily life and business once centered around the tracks that run almost through the heart of the city. In previous decades, Cameron had two railroad stations. Those two stations have since been demolished. Though trains still run on the tracks through Cameron, they have no need and no place to stop.

If, in the future, a rail line should again carry passengers, or should the tracks be converted to light-rail uses, the perfect plot of land for a new station lies one block to the south of the Courthouse Square. It has close proximity and a perfect promenade to connect and lead pedestrians to the center of all activities.



Historical Precedent



Current Corridor

Future Corridor

Glossary

Agora	The public gathering place of a human development. It accommodates many functions including economic exchange, self expression, and political advocacy
Climatic Response	Degree to which a site or building protects human activity spaces (interior and exterior) from negative environmental conditions Degree to which a site or building utilizes positive environmental conditions to facilitate human activities
Efficiency	Maximal utility of a given input and minimal waste utility or products
Furrow	The connected boundaries (physical, geographical, or political) of a particular human development,. These boundaries are important in determining the external impacts of a particular human development and create a finite area within which a human development can calculate its self-sufficiency or *perpetuity potential*
GRPM	A system for identification and organization of human development on many scales from a civilization to a building Composed of three key elements: *templum*, *agora*, and *furrow*
Life-cycle Flow	A life-sustaining or socially facilitating process in which is perceived as linear in nature since the “closure of the loop” occurs on such a large time scale
Life-cycle Inference	An abstract process (modeled in the form of a life-sustaining process) that is applicable solely to human social activities and developments
Life-cycle Loop	A life-sustaining process in which a given *resource* is *recycled* within a perceptible period of time
Longevity	Long-term durability or disassemble-ability, applicability or flexibility, and re-usability or actual use
Node	A point along a *life-cycle* pathway where materials, energy, goods, or services are stored or transformed
Path	A physical or implied mode of connection between resources, nodes, and recycle points in a system. Examples: a road connects a city to a farm; an electrical wire connects a generator to a light bulb; a newspaper connects a writer to a reader.
Passive System	A system which operates with a minimum of fuel energy expenditure, human management, and routine maintenance
Perpetuity Potential	The degree to which a process, system, or design has the potential to support the ecological, social, and economic needs of future generations It is composed of (4) facets including *climatic response*, *efficiency*, *longevity*, and *social acceptance*
Resource	A point along a *life-cycle* pathway where materials, energy, goods, or services originate
Recycle	A point along a *life-cycle* pathway where materials, energy, goods, or services terminate or are rendered
Social Acceptance	Degree to which a life-style requirement is practiced by the majority of a community Degree to which government policy is enforced via social custom rather than legal action
Templum	The capitol building of a human development, examples include a state capitol, county courthouse, local museum, or rural church
Watershed	A geographical region in which topography results in all run-off water being conducted to a single or limited output points (i.e. a river) An idea or event that spawns an entire social movement

References

Angell, Bradley. Grassroots Postmodernism. 23 October 2005.

Angell, Bradley. Grassroots Postmodernism: Abridged. 23 October 2005.

Breton, Gaelle. Theaters. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, Inc. 1991.

Fisk, Pliny, III. Co-director, Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems (CMPBS). Internship. 31 May – 5 August 2005.

Google Earth ®, Cameron TX. 14 April 2007.

http://sanborn.umi.com.ezproxy.tamu.edu:2048/cgi-bin/auth.cgi?command=AccessOK. 25 January 2006.

http://www.terraserver.microsoft.com. 1 January 2006.

http://www.texascriminalrecords.com/map.html. 13 January 2006.

http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/CSP05/little/images/Little_map.jpg. 4 February 2005.

Johnson, John M. Creator, Old Town Cameron Model, a City in Miniature. Personal Interview. 8 February 2006.

King, Charles D. Director, Milam County Historical Museum. Personal Interview. 8 February 2006.

Leacroft, Richard and Helen. Theatre and Playhouse. New York: Methuen, Inc. 1984.

A Pictorial History of Cameron, Texas. Pediment Publishing. 2003.

Smyrl, Vivian Elzabeth, (6 July 2005). Cameron, TX. The Handbook of Texas (Online).
http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/CC/hfc1.html.

Texas A&M University. Cartographics Laboratory. The Roads of Texas®. Fredricksburg, TX: Shearer Publishing, 1988, rev. 1999.

Werner, Vance R. History of the Buildings and People of “Old Town” Cameron. Rockdale, TX: The Rockdale Reporter. 1974.

www.ctic.purdue.edu/KYW/NWN/Watershed_12.html. 13 January 2006.

www.thewilliamsfoundation.org. 3 April 2007.

AnteMeridiem

is a non-profit corporation organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, scientific, and literary purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

Board of Directors

Bradley E. Angell	(Sacramento, CA – a native of Cameron, TX)
Charlotte R. Barrows	(Boston, MA)
Trenton H. Jacobs	(Portland, OR – another Texas native)
Justin R. Lynch	(Sacramento, CA)
Jack A. Wojtowicz	(Colorado Springs, CO)

Contact Information

website	www.meridiem.org
headquarters	AnteMeridiem, Inc. 5204 78th Street Sacramento, CA 95820 (979) 571-4369
project office	AnteMeridiem, Inc. 106 S. Houston Ave. Cameron, TX 76520 (979) 574-4877