

7" olive brown gravelly sandy loam. Substratum is olive brown-grey, friable, gravel to fine sandy loam to 60"; formed on glacial till derived from limestone base)). Site-specific verification is required for construction certainty and structural base/drainage technique.

2) WEST/NORTH RIVER PERIPHERY of downtown site: (the land on the outer side of the river) has restrictive soils: (PwE, Pvd) is limited by rocky slopes requiring cut/fill, lateral utility strategy and erosion control; and (Ha) is river flatland limited by flooding/frost. These would require engineering (in order of difficulty) for pedestrian spaces, trails, parking, roadway, sanitary and buildings. These soils are suggestive of trail and pedestrian use, and with caution or avoidance of the other uses. Regarding particular locations: west of river (Ud, Ha, Pvd) is also a BYPASS candidate area, and is considerable with caution for engineered parking and (except in Ha) minimal structures. North of river at Eagle Mill (PwE) is suggestable for trail recreation only, yet would negotiate difficult vulnerable slopes. Conservational value varies throughout. Individual soils' characteristics:

Ha— Hadley Soil: (Located west side of river, opposite Price Chopper area): is very level riverside flatland of 0-3% slope. Soil is generally well drained, neutral surface/slightly acid depths; formed in aluvial deposits, irregular shape on floodplain; seasonal high water table at 4-6'. ((Surface is 8" very dark grey-brown silt loam of moderate permeability. Substratum is 60" rapid-moderate permeability, olive brown friable silt to fine sandy)). Only slight erosion hazard. It is suitable for recreation space and walkways but wet in spring, requires drainage tolerance and elevated walks; severe restrictions to all buildings and pavement by flooding and frost. However, it is acceptable for parking and roadway (but rarely buildings) if engineered with compacted fill and side drainage to prevent heaving and flood damage; Well suited for crops in flood hazard, but wetness restricts machine management; (most areas of this soil outside of downtown are cultivated or succeeded to brush/wood mix-- this area is in succession). Good soil potential for grasses, pasture, sugar maple, red oak, especially white pine; moderate or good for most other vegetation but poor for wetland type.

Pvd— Pittsfield Loam: (Located west side of river, between Center Street and the Eaton Street axis): High steep wooded banks 15-25%, very stoney, with stones on 3-15% of surface; well drained on sides of drumlows or glacial till edges; moderate/slow permeability. Good conservation qualities. Stones and slope are moderate to severe limitation for various construction— requires difficult access, tree cutting, cut/fill and stone excavation, erosion hazard. (This type soil therefore often remains woodland). Though building & sanitary constructs are often severely limited by difficult and costly stoney/slope excavation, they are feasible with cost-effective engineering in some places. Buildings require basement and lateral sanitary and improved permeability. (Note that such a sloped site can be otherwise an asset architecturally, views etc). Parking areas of width are unsuitable. Roadway is difficult to excavate but more feasible, if follow contour, and/or with structural support (as portions of this site vary). Formal pedestrian space is restricted if wide, but narrower & pitched spaces are less restricted; walkways, trails and footbridges are more conveniently built. Timely slope stabilization is needed during any construction, and care not to disturb spongelike leaf surface mat. Good soil for hardwoods, conifer and herbaceous vegetation, and has especially good red oak production potential. Poor for pasture and wetland type vegetation. ((Limestone derived from till. See above for similar Pittsfield profile.))

PvE— Pittsfield/Nellis Loams: (Located north of river at Eagle Mill, between Laurel Street and High Street's axis): 25-35% very steep, extremely stoney are severely limiting. Wooded. This soil has more extreme characteristics, limitations/suitabilities as PvD. A candidate spot for trails— pending cautious cut/fill or bridge negotiation, and erosion risk. Other construction uses require prohibitive extensive engineering and cost. High conservation qualities. Suitable soil for conifers, hardwoods, herbacious plants— no grass, pasture, or wet plants.

Ud— Udotherents: (Located west of river, opposite Price Chopper): Level or smoothable sand/gravel or till, partial area is borrow pit, and much is devoid of vegetation; excessive or well drained, drought prone. This is the most generally suitable soil and easy grade in the west river area for roads, parking area, buildings, hard-recreation; no excavation difficulty for landscape space, but requires full loaming & special irrigation treatment for planting and grass; fill must be added for aesthetic berming or levels.

- 3) "EAST RIDGE" PERIPHERY of downtown: (the hill of land east of High Street, south of upper Center Street) is **LtE Lyman-Turnbridge** association. It is extremely steep, rocky wooded hill that relates to the Pinnacle in Lenox. It has the severest construction limitation of all soils mentioned, by having the most extreme slopes (15-45%) as well as bedrock being close to soil surface. (Requires blasting, most difficult and costly of downtown soils to excavate and engineer). For that reason, plus its remoteness to downtown, and its extremely important natural value as wooded landform enclosure/backdrop, with very high conservational qualities-- we propose it protected and NIC. Future landform study should determine feasibility of trails. Soils suit white and red spruce, balsam fir, sugar maple, but white pine is especially easy to plant.
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E) SUB-TOWN SCALE: SPECIFIC LANDFORM IN PARTS OF DOWNTOWN LEE: "SIX LANDFORM CHARACTERS DEFINE AND SUPPORT THE SIX MAN-MADE LANDUSE AREAS"

Each of the following six landuse areas that comprise the downtown have a distinct landform character appropriate to and enforcing of the general activities and physical layout of buildings, spaces, & circulation that exist. Conversely, each particular landform dissuades certain other uses. These landforms (e-w descending terraces, n-s length) are grossly characterized in terms of: terrace elevation (high to low); slope (level or hill); horizontal configuration (nodal/lineal/planal); relative size landform surface or enclosure.

((In plurality): 1-3) the combined landform surfaces of Oval Park, North End, & Main Street is itself a "double-node & corridor" spine configuration— as is the layout of buildings and the movement and uses. Also, as a gateway, the climatic plateau of the North End and the resolving flatness of Oval Park are both powerful landform/relations that contribute a wonderfully dramatic arrival and departure effect, in combination with the Main Street corridor landform (and greater context).

4-5) Flanking that Main Street landform spine is the Eaton/Railroad Street Area as a "flat plane" on the west half of town, and the Residential Hill as a "sloped plane" on the east half of town.

5-6) Surrounding the edges, enframing the downtown is a 'ribbon of rustic landform': the River "flats/banks/and upland" on the west and north boundaries; and the upland of the East Ridge and South periphery.

* These three moderate sized landform composites are immediately comprehensible in conceptual diagram as a simple interlocking unified picture, that is overlaid upon the single hill of terraces previously noted in the town-scale description). Individual descriptions of the six areas follow:

1) MAIN STREET LANDFORM-- The lineal, slightly undulating-sloped landform character, and the mid-hill location of Main Street, befits its use as a long movement corridor/place and central organizing spine. East to west (width-wise) it is a level terrace; but longitudinally it varies moderately (5-3%): running south to north, it ascends gradually to two subtle high points that make pedestrian and vehicular movement a dynamic, anticipational, interesting experience of elevational change and unfolding & re-emerging views. These high points also subtly subdivide Main Street into three segments, making Main Street a place of three spatial

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movement and place functions of Main Street, in complement to nodal/plane landform of Oval Park and North End termini that punctuate it.

In terms of vistas too, landform is positively experienced from Main Street: Looking southward, the dignified undulating slope of Main Street, leveling into Oval Park, effectively terminates off-site in a distant landform backdrop; looking northward, the highest point of Main Street meets Center Street where a 'cliff effect' falls westward off the North End node, while a pronounced portion of the East Ridge looms east of the North End node. And all along Main Street: on one side the residential Hill gently rises eastward, and on the other side descends to the river westward— so one is always accompanied by the nurturing feeling of Main Street's 'positing surface', that lets vehicles and pedestrians 'ride between' the lateral stimulus of e/w sloping landform-tension.

((Regarding e-w lateral cut/fill: The east side of Main Street is in 'cut', expressive of grade change that builds up visually for those traveling north upon the Main Street-- revealing rolling green banks of the library and climaxing in curbs and walls at the north end. (Some portions of wall are in disrepair, appearing that collapse in one spot is imminent, although basically are sound and even where are strained have an aesthetic appeal in their interrelation with sheer force. The wall and landform bankings in the north Main/North End area emit aesthetic expression coextensive with functional expression-- as does much of the genuine things in Lee). For people traveling southward on Main Street, the same cut resolves into the flatness of Oval Park. This gradient of land-cut occurring between the north and south ends of Main Street, accompanied by the rise and fall of Main Street itself, is an "aesthetic barometer" that marks the sublime to the beautiful. Note, on the other hand, that the n-s longitudinal cut/fill is slight due to the congenial n/s slope of the original hill)).

2) 2) OVAL PARK AREA LANDFORM: is a moderately expansive, low, level nodal area-- as is appropriate for a town center and suggestive as a place for larger town common and the "here" of a gateway. In turn it punctuates, contrasts and enhances visually the rising of Main Street, and reciprocates the North End's similar (but smaller) nodal floor of level land. Remarkably, although greatly diminished by traffic and very subtle upon usual consciousness, the peripheral off-site landform (i.e the west upper banks, East Ridge, and especially the distant southern hills) are sensed as space-defining landform walls that belong to and enclose Oval Park. In fact, when there is no traffic, one can get the impression that there are a series of "concentric landform rings seen and also unseen beyond"-- that radiate out from Oval Park to the outer edges of the Berkshires-- and that the nodal landform floor of oval park continues out to meet them. This can make Oval Park feel like the landform-heart and center of the entire Berkshires. (This landform connection, as photos of yesterday attest, is more a perceptual and conceptual fact than wish-fulfillment illusion, without the obscurity of traffic and parking to claim foreground dominance). By reducing parking and traffic that frustrates views and pedestrian activity in Oval area, and employing complementary landform cues within the site, designers could enhance the planer landform experience of entire oval area, as well as the regional landform connection for residents and visitors alike-- and reclaim the surrounding landform enclosure and outreaching valley floor that geologically really does belong to Oval Park. Also, in terms of gateway, the Oval Park area's relatively expansive landform configuration supplements positively the irregular terrain experienced on Route 2 (tight edges, rising and falling roadway)-- while echoing the flatness of the valley, and providing recalling views to the distant hills from a new vantage point.

3) NORTH END LANDFORM: is an elevated semi-planal or warped plateau, of approximate nodal configuration. The North End landform now attempts with some success to reciprocate the larger south (Oval Park) landform node, by its relatively similar yet diminished expansiveness and symmetrical capping of the Main Street lineal terrace. As a relatively expansive high landform point, it is functionally and symbolically appropriate for the neighborhood subcenter that it struggles to be, and as a climatic north terminus or entry for the long Main Street movement 'draw' or sloping Center Street. Strengthening and expanding this nodal landform character, especially its sense of surface continuity, seems most appropriate for proposals. To elaborate:

The North End already has dramatic and purposeful peripheral nodal landform boundaries (see photos), but expresses a frustrated need to expand a continuous, coherent, positive-form surface that completes a nodal character (consistent with its interpreted nodal spatial/activity status within the town landuse pattern). This should resolve the different grades that intersect there in a way that is as contextually successful as the present south end land surface. Landform now incompletely does, but can much better, bring together in the North End an important spatiality, inward/outward views (of structures, river and vegetated landform layers), and centered activity that in total translate qualitatively to "place".

((The North End landform has powerful significance in greeting arrivers or accentuating their departure— as one enters or drives away from downtown to/from Lower Center Street. If approaching by vehicle or foot from the north, one engages a "dramatic" climb of Center Street's slope, senses the alluring plateau effect of the North End, including the grass bankings, and structures revealed against distant rising East Ridge landform— iconoclastic New England milltown imagery born of functionality; the mill clings dramatically to the riverland below— a most telling juxtaposition. The landform in relationship to the manmade elements in the North End carries exceptionally strong emotive and cognitive import with both historical and contemporary meanings. The immediately evident aesthetic character of the North End is "the sublime"; it prevails due to landform in and about there, more so than anywhere else in town— or any Berkshire town— somehow asserting the stoic human effort behind the enduring Lee settlement. (See history). This sublimity is experientially positive, an authentic counterpoint to the "beautiful" landform elsewhere in town.

Unfortunately, the actual and practical size of the continuous flat surface of the North End landform is rather limited, and is sensed as being a confined, fragmented, ambiguous "non-plateau" from within the North End center itself. This is due to the horizontal and vertical variation of walks, asphalt, curbs, unresolved heaved areas, with Center Street sloping, Main Street and its west sidewalks rising, and buildings encroached. Note that the general North End is lower than mid/upper Main Street's high point, but this properly adds a touch of comforting enclosure from Joe's area, a sense of being a local/intimate plateau "pocket" more than a wide open public promontory. The limitations in landform continuity and clarity within the North End itself contributes to the visual, functional, circulation and spatial conflicts (see other analyses).

* It is most promising, however, that there are adjacent vacant lots of land now devoid of any function and definition, at the crucial Main/Center street corner. They are an invaluable untapped component of the North End, for individual new uses, as well as integrating with the North End topography in whole. ((These lots are significant size and potentially a generous landform plateau if terraced even stronger, with sharply formed bankings, and larger high level surface, perhaps with fill or multi-terracing. They are perched proudly in want of some greater revitalization idea that ties into the general North End groundplane, to participate in and powerfully express a fuller scale nodal-terrace. This does not necessarily mean that a pristine groundlevel should replace the intimate wrapness, and certainly must not violate the acclaimed subtle elevated pocket effect detected from Joes. But consideration in adapting a sense of stronger landform surface-grade unity seems behaviorally and experientially valid, of which there is great landform potential. Also, in the rear of Joes and mill/river, existing old terraces and embankments dramatically express the cut of the ancient and present river, with some need for embankment structural treatment and opportunities for terraced-graded pedestrian space. All these grades are landform challenge for designers as they attempt to resolve the world of pedestrians and vehicles to make the North End compatible with whatever "optimum activity" is decided for it, within the larger town scheme.

4) EASTSIDE "RESIDENTIAL HILL" LANDFORM —a gently sloping & slightly crowning, proportionately dominant size hill plane. The landform's pervasiveness, and its elevation above most of town, proclaims it as rightfully distinct, separate, protected from elsewhere... idyllic, with prospective views, and both a literal and transcendent feeling of "aboveness". The hill topography therefore befits and enforces its existing use a private residential neighborhood. Its landform seems eternal, and lends identity and a sense of permanence to the residences as originally intended; it says (to designers especially) that this area should remain forever a residential hill, and never encroached by other uses nor general traffic— ever allowed to quietly reach for Berkshire breezes. Moreover, that such a neighborhood exists privately on a distinct hill adds a humane quality to all of the town, by its secure homogeneous presence beside the busy and diverse Main Street/Eaton areas. (Note: the landform of the Mid-Main Street victorian house area and the library, visually associates with the landform of the residential hill— appropriately bringing a residential comfort and neighborhood-substantiality to both). The hill has a visual strength that is at once contrasting to flat parts of downtown yet contrastingly flat to the perhipeheral town hills-- a qualitative compositional setting to nurture a human habitat. Each residential street, viewed from Main Street and while walking or driving, presents the different viewpoints, varied shapes and contours, particularly of the East Ridge— that change as one moves-- giving orientation and animated imagery to the residential hill's places.

For all the hill's residents, the hill's westward "sloping to the river" is a ubiquitous connection of psychological value (which would be further enhanced if there is a revitalized riverpark setting along the Housatonic). And eastward, the residential hill seems topographically to "call back" to the rustic East Ridge from which it descends (and to distant peripheral hills which it has kinship) making other profound connections. So the residential hill-- as a mediating link between the upper East Ridge and the low west river w banks-- engages them in a "landform dialogue" within overall continuity among strong contrasting qualities. Impressionably described: "a pleasing dialectic landform tension ripples laterally across town, invigorating Main Street with a profound natural value". This is an example of many ways landform is environmentally enriching in Lee that proposals should encourage, while yet protecting the landform-given unity of the residential hill. (Note there are slight erosion drainage problems on some streets or shoulders)

5) EATON/RAILROAD/BACKSIDE LANDFORM-- constitutes the town's most expansive flat plane of landform, suitable by grade and soil for a large parking area, as well as pedestrian space and additional buildings. ((NOTE this area is all the land located between Main Street backside of buildings westward to the river easement area, and also divides into a north and south section. The north half has the same flat topography as the south half, except for steeper grades approaching Center, and up Elm street, with a denser structural pattern, away from the important public heart of the cbd. Our attention here will mostly be on the southern half, because it is so open, public, barren, unorganized and centrally oriented between many commercial and municipal buildings, but views and soil are basically the same)). The Eaton/backside area pitches imperceptibly max 1.5% toward the river area where only slight erosion occurs and a rough transient line of river bank is marked. The present surface is a mix of broken asphalt and gravel surface. (The grade and underlying pyc soil, as well as off site far landform views are the same as when neighborhood gardens plots occupied much of the eaton/river area at early century, as photos show). Some

puddling in rough areas occur, and sheet drainage is slow for slush piles and melting snow. This land's natural flatness-- conjoining the Housatonic terrace-- makes a favorably striking visual/spatial juxtaposition to the dense and complex materiality of the active backside of Main Street buildings. The expansive outreaching quality of this land also gives a profound sense of underlying geological continuity: As one stands in this area, particularly where not paved, one almost magically feels the whole ancient valley floor, and that they are essentially within (and 'on') the large eternal Berkshire Valley, and that the town was layed 'upon' it, and is now comfortably settled into the land as a gracious tenant. And as one looks outward, through or above and beyond the surrounding architectural enclosure, they indeed see the distant enclosing hills that one expects the Eaton/RR/Backside area 'floor' to rise to meet. Moreover, the multiplicity of architectural masses and spaces that define this built area's overall rectilinear enclosure, dynamically filter and frame very different views of the distant and nearby rolling landforms with a pleasing, enlightening, kaleidoscopic variety of disjuncted and conjoined views that subtly unfold as one moves about in car or on foot. The Eaton plane is thus a mutifarious viewing platform that provides creatively informative orientation to landform inward and outward in all directions: from the near river landform, to the mid-range northside & East Ridges, to the more distant southern hills, to what one imagines or recall beyond. (eg The distant southern hills are sometimes dramatically revealed as a full large mound, other times as a syncopated undulating top line behind the rigid architectural foreline; or a striking sharp angular object; or a looming shadow of mass in hazey sky, and so on unpredictably. One person described the encompassing changing landform experience: "As if from within a 'magic panoramic box', surveying the whole surrounding with an omniscient command and an austere sense of spatial distance". Note how this is different from the view from the "North End grass area" where one feels precariously perched and directly involved within plateau sites are marvelous but in very different ways). In the Eaton/backside area, whether one pays full or semi-conscious attention, one is affectively exposed to a wide panorama of micro and macro orders that comprise the robust Berkshire landform continuum; in this potentially busier area, such a special acquaintance with landform-- a cherished natural resource for all-- can be renewed again and again with daily living of residents, or regular or seasonal visitors.

It is fortunate that Lee has such an accessible flexible site so richly saturated in both loud and subtle landform presences. Due to landform inside, as well as seen from the Eaton/RR/Backside/ area, there is opportunity there like no other place in downtown-- that a diversity of cbd uses (including a large parking surface and modest buildings that elsewhere located might be incongruous) can be visually absorbed and generally unified. For residents, this Eaton-given landform can enforce Lee's identity and personally nurture and encourage as they use this part of the cbd. And for arriving visitors, it can also bring extra stimulus and orientation to engage inward, depart, and return again to Lee. In conclusion, the landform analysis in itself endorses in a unique way this area's opportunity for a public oriented receptive mix of activity and constructs-- commercial, municipal, pedestrian and parking.

* Please see old photo for of this land/and river area at the turn of century character-- for inherent landform virtues that still exist today for new purposes.

((AN ACADEMIC "AESTHETIC SIDENOTE" FOR STUDENTS: The studio teams for this project were increasingly intrigued by the many scales of landform for which Lee is immersed, and were invited to supplement their standard analysis with other innovative pursuits. For example, one way to appreciate such a wonderful thing as Berkshire Landform (besides using visual/spatial, constructional, behavioral, & technical classification approaches) is to study it from a "linguistic-phenomenological" perspective for existential revelation. This method takes the nouns and syntax of descriptive statements, to flush out and grant a more studied existence to two types of (phenomenological) conceptual objects that people meaningfully experience, and that designers can have a more direct handle on-- namely, "entities" (ie objects, events, etc)" and "relations" that link them. So for example, entailed in the above landform continuum statement we can see that 'words' grant existence to "landform entities" (corresponding to nouns) and the landform "connecting relations" (syntactical). Firstly, the landform entities occurring for Lee in different scales are: "Appalachian Highlands", "Berkshires", "valley/3 peaks", "terraced hill", "the six configurations", and "subterrace landform details". (Each is wonderful functional/experiential conceptual design object). Secondly, the qualitative conceptual relations connecting to the different landform entities at respective scales are: "belonging of-ness", "absorbing & immersing in-ness", "enclosing within-ness", "on-ness", "engagedness" and "therein-ness". (These are likewise 'phenomenologically real, qualitatively felt'-- though they are generally considered as more elusive, abstract entities). So then, both entities and relations, separately and as whole, are conceptual objects that count as intrinsically valuable in human experience. (Note: These relations are actually called "horizontal-logic relations" because each logically occur at a given scale. Designers can appreciate relations as mysterious metaphysical posits, real in experience, and focus on them positively instead of letting them be 'silent syntax', or merely the negative binding 'background' between positive landform entities, as usually is done. Note also that another type of relation, called "vertical-logic relations", connect the different scales together, are not detailed in this study, but can be tentatively described entailing either "gradient logic" or "net & broken net logic" (see Christopher Alexander's essay "A City is not A Tree" and Krier brothers). In sum, to closely consider these linguistic-phenomenological entities/syntax in textual interpretation of the real landscape, can give an inspirational foothold to designers, especially of post-modern persuasion. What is captured as 'existent' (among countless possible interpretations) becomes the infinitely 'normative' stuff of consciousness at such reading... in this case valuable for human residents and visitors of Lee. This method can be analogously used for other analysis categories of Lee besides landform, and for contributing to formation of synthesized whole of proposals as well))).
