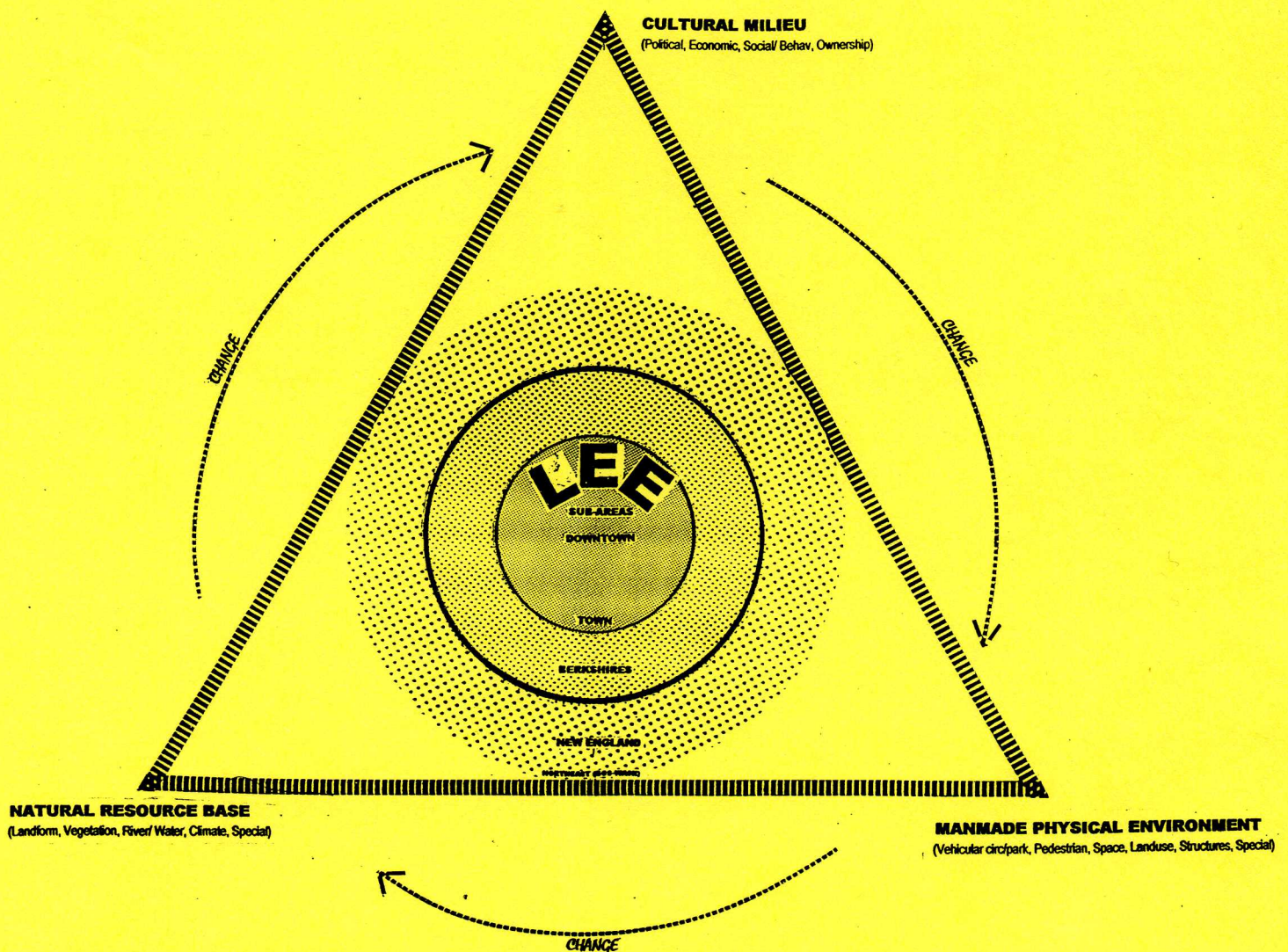


# SYNTHESIS

(Of Lees /contextual Natural Resources, Manmade Physical Environment, & Cultural Milieu).

- Includes the ***SYNTHESIS "SUMMARY STATEMENT"*** (which was previewed in chapter 1).
- See also the ***SYNTHESIS "AREA MAP"*** (foldout located: conclusion of the following analysis plans).
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NOTE: The Synthesis summary-statement and map in turn will generate the goals & objectives (previewed in ch 1), and serve to create the aligned general area responses in the ***preliminary proposal map***.



# SYNTHESIS STATEMENTS

(See also the foldout *Synthesis Area-Map* following the analysis plans).

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## SUMMARY

As will be further shown within this study, history leaves Lee today as a modified working milltown with many positive and negative attributes in natural, manmade physical and cultural domains, that translate into great opportunities for a variety of different proposals. To review some major points of assessment:

Negative aspects: The major problem of pedestrian/vehicular spatial organization continues. More than ever traffic and parking clutters and dominates downtown, making it noisy, unsafe, chaotic, unsightly, dangerous, prohibiting potential activities, displacing opportunities, eroding qualitative place(s), and dampening Lee's image. Reciprocally, more than ever is a lack of pedestrian space for walking, resting, playing, events, and providing a unifying pleasing setting-- ever needed for residents, workers, merchants, and different potential visitors. This compounds the second major problem of renewing an economic strategy. This pattern of change leaves Lee today physically chaotic, socially and functionally disrupted and economically vulnerable-- at a perfect time for this study.

Positive aspects: Lee has tremendous location geographically, transportationally, culturally as a beautiful and proximate setting, accessible to regional commercial and tourist markets and their traffic-- that can strengthen an already significant economic base to whatever degree desired. Most of the area is immensely rich in natural resources (excepting some easily correctable overrun areas of downtown that have unrepented the natural-related potentials) with plants, landform, climate, the hidden river. Much of Lee's physical manmade infrastructure is superb: the basic geometry, proportions, and scale of downtown, the generous reclaimable space in and about town; the valid circulation grid and coherent layout of buildings in reciprocation to the land and juxtaposition to the river; the architecture is rich and varied as utilitarian, much of which are fine 19th century buildings, with newer ones coexisting today in cohesive overall building layout (Memorial Hall, Lee Bank, the several churches, the commercial block, the residential victorian mansions and old worker homes).

Opportunity: remarkably, within Lee's downtown existing infrastructure there is already ample spatial dimension (between the buildings, and re-usable or unused land area) to reorganize and solve Lee's vehicular/ pedestrian problem-- for more efficient driving and increased parking, plus increased attractive meaningful green and hard pedestrian spaces for outdoor human activity, and even some additional downtown buildings (all the while revealing the existing positive resources). This would improve the quality of place and life in Lee, while taking advantage of the regional shopping or interstate tourist market to whatever degree is desired. Even as one stands in downtown today and squints one's eyes to focus only at the buildings and voids between, behind the layers of traffic, spatial and communal erosion an economic stress and modern pace-- one can sense the authentic beauty, utility, downtown social activity and sense of community so climatized in the golden afternoon of yesterday-- virtues ready to be revealed again and directed anew. The town revitalization committee continues work in the spirit of the old Ferncliff Club to carefully protect the past while exploiting said opportunity.

## CONCLUSION AND PROSPECTS

We have seen how Lee is wonderfully and deeply rooted in natural and human history: from geological & botanical genesis and evolution, to ethnic patterns of human settlement, agriculture, industry, "summit", fundamental physical/natural/ & human activity declines within modern progress, local economic development, and present interest in revitalization. This succession proclaims Lee as a genuine small New England working mill-town endowed with old and new factors and options at hand. Because Lee now has almost everything going for it in existing conditions and potentials in its own and contextual natural, manmade and cultural resources-- including the timely will of the town to seize the moment for forging design initiatives-- there is promise that future chapters of Lee history will tell that a special combination of conservative and progressive forces summoned a new kind of golden afternoon to best light Lee's passage through and beyond the next turn of the century.