

redefining productivity:



redefining productivity:

How can a productive landscape be redefined for social change?

abstract:

The landscape has always been expected to produce something, whether it be a crop, a mineral, a view, a resting place, or even an opportunity. In the small town of Loachapoka, Alabama, (pop. 162) the residents have become separated from the landscapes that once supported it in many physical, social, and spiritual ways. What was once a major setting for social interaction is now used by machinery to maintain or cultivate for the production of a physical object. For this project, therefore, productive landscapes are re-introduced as a means of bringing the community together again; production is now redefined with a tie to social capital.

The design research explained here focuses production on the physical output of planted species as an opportunity for social interaction. By using three native plant species which produce fruit under limited supervision/maintenance, provide exceptional gathering places through planted form, have the potential for economic development, and conform in many ways to Loachapoka's historic productive landscape, the designs focus on providing an opportunity for people to once more interact with one another within the landscape. The project proposes a 3.5 acre blueberry patch planted by students on school grounds, a 12 acre muscadine vineyard surrounding a gathering/performance stage, and a pecan grove strategically placed along the highway's shoulder and throughout residents' properties, forming a continuous network of trails.



cattle

SINCE THE EARLY days of Loachapoka's settlement by the Creek Nation, its land



has been valued for its ability to produce and care for its people. For some,



cotton

production was essential just for placing food on the table; for others, it was



an opportunity to make a fortune. Historically, production in Loachapoka involved



h a y

the majority. Today, technology has eliminated the need for individual involvement



so that more products may be cultivated by fewer people. How then do we redefine



pine

production so that the people of Loachapoka may once more engage one another



in the landscape?

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rationale:

For Loachapoka, a town of 162 people, change can be difficult. However, as the old adage goes, change is inevitable; therefore, in an environment such as this one, how do you guide it in a direction that is for the betterment of everyone? How do you sculpt the landscape so that each person has the opportunity to both give and receive?

As technology has advanced, many small communities have experienced a population decrease and an overall shift in communal participation (Putnam 2000). Because of these downturns, the younger generation is losing one of the most valuable dimensions of its existence: community. For a generation that views communication as an activity to be conducted via text message, Skype, or email, community has shifted into something much different. The variable they lack is the relationship to older and wiser generations. These individuals are the people who felt the dirt in their hands, whose tan came from the blistering sun under which they labored, and who watched over their neighbors' children because they had a responsibility to do so. And from these people we were given relationships which were more than surface level. These relationships shared skills which would provide for our families, instilled within us discipline to get the job done, and educated us to better our world, and countless other beneficial qualities (Perkins 1996).

The goal of this research is to physically shape the land on which these relationships may be built. Therefore, it proposes a number of insertions within the rural landscape that provide opportunities to share life and to equip the younger generations with skills which they may take and use. This specific project dissects the earth and extracts the precious nutrients of the blueberry, muscadine, and pecan. By linking the old with the new it enables local men and women to teach, to guide, and to equip with information the youth of this town.

theoretical background:

"The notion that communities can be orchestrated into existence displays a casual disregard for the very thing that makes them special: communality- a voluntary association of interested parties" (Clements 2008).

For the following research, design investigation began with the understanding of this quote. Social interaction, or perhaps true community, cannot be forced on anyone; it must be voluntary. That being said, the role of the designer lies in a bottom-up approach. Because the landscape evolves and cultures shift with the passage of time, our responsibility does not lie in controlling and forcing change to occur, but rather in providing opportunities for both to thrive, providing the initial conditions that allow a culture, a species to flourish (van Gerwen 2004).

1819. Alabama declared a state

1832. census taken. 564 Indians. 164 families

1832. treaty of cusetta- cedes creeks' land to the united states

1836. first white man settles home

1860. stephen douglas (presidential candidate) speaks

1862. three confederate regiments formed

1865. civil war ends

1870's. fire guts town

1896. town suffers due to reconstruction / boll weevil exhausts land

1903. first mail route established

1910. town becomes incorporated

1917. first plane

1926. town is reincorporated

1969. gin company burns

1978. town put on national register

1974. town reincorporated

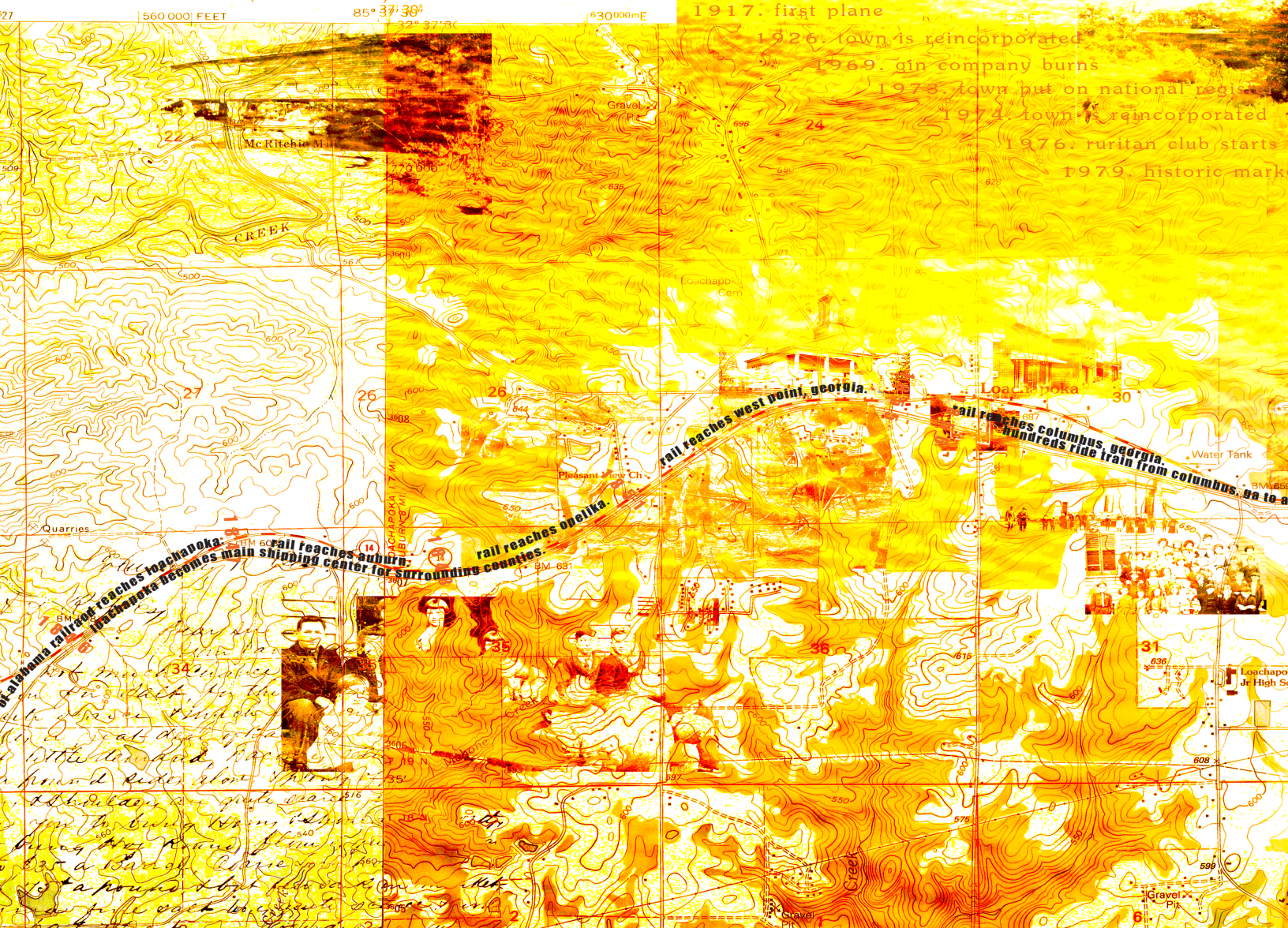
1976. rural club starts

1979. historic market

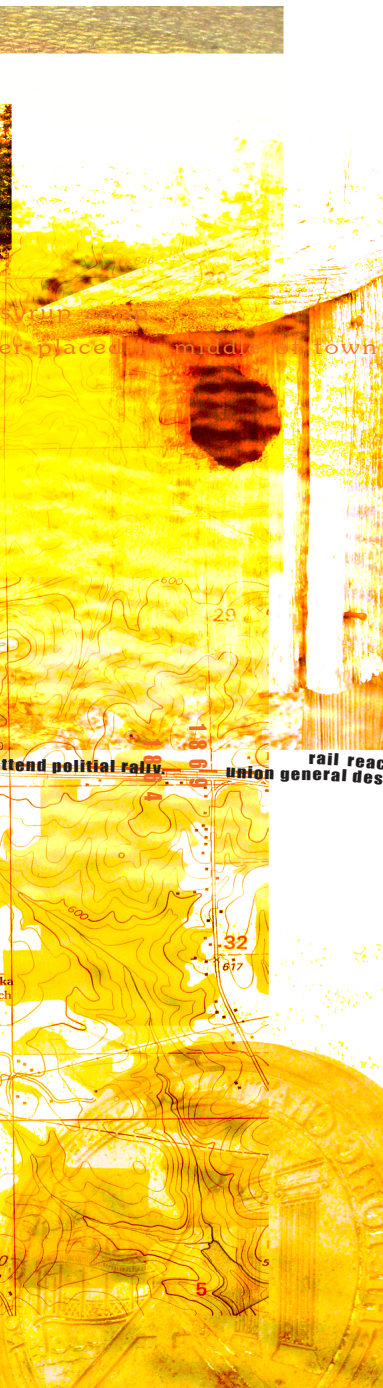
NOTASULGA QUADRANGLE

ALABAMA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Very Respectfully
Ant. G. Kendall



investigation:

uncovering the roots of Loachapoka

While uncovering the historic photos and letters of this small rural town and developing the geographical and spatial maps of the region, the livelihood of Loachapoka began to develop in this research. An understanding of the social and physical components of this quiet town helped lay a subtle foundation for future progress. A number of personal interviews with town residents and property owners soon followed which revealed diverse views of this community.

- A** 1862. Letter written by John J. McKendree of Columbus, GA to Camp Hill, AL resident, D.A.G. Ross, discussing prices of bacon, flour, & salt
- B** 1903. First Rural Free Delivery mail service carrier in Loachapoka
- C** 1923. Loachapoka public school pupils
- D** 1918. Loachapoka bridge on the Loachapoka-Waverly road. Washed away before 1920
- E** 1950. Upper Vaughan's Mill bridge over the Saugahatchee. Collapsed in 1952. Original bridge washed away in 1917

Columbus, 10 Oct. 62.

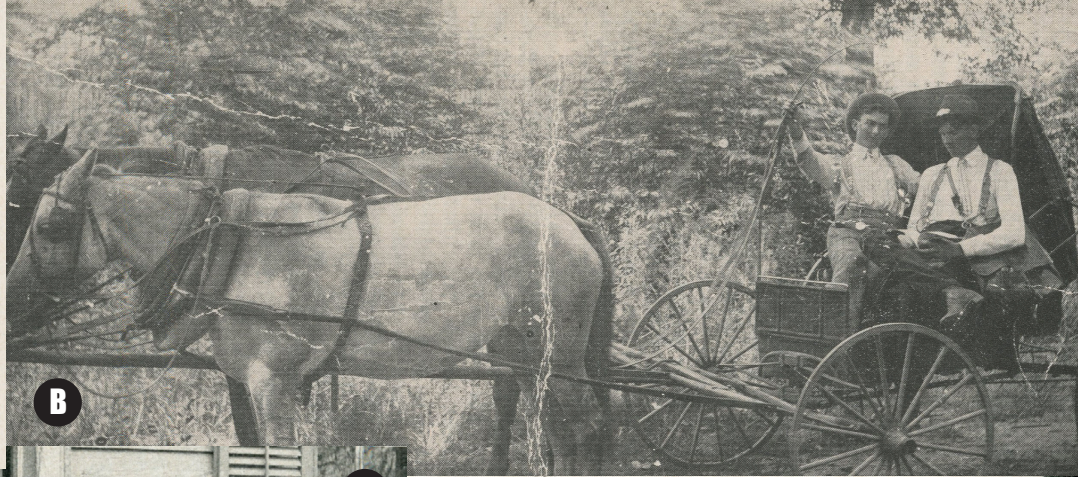
A

D. A. G. Rop Ey

Dear Sir

Your favour duly to hand,
 there is not much chance to Exchange flour
 for Bacon for salt, for the reason that salt
 is quite scarce & much in demand, while
 there is a great deal of Bacon & flour offering
 but little demand, Bacon is selling for
 50¢ a pound side, also, plenty offering, but
 Ham, & shoulder, are quite scarce, would ad-
 -vise you to bring Ham, & shoulder mostly,
 but bring Hog Round, flour, quite dull at
 \$30 to \$35 a barrel, Coarse Liverpool salt is
 worth 75¢ a pound, but few sales in market,
 Virginia fine salt too, quite scarce, worth
 from 60 to 75¢ a pound, according to quality.

Very Respectfully
 J. M. McKendree



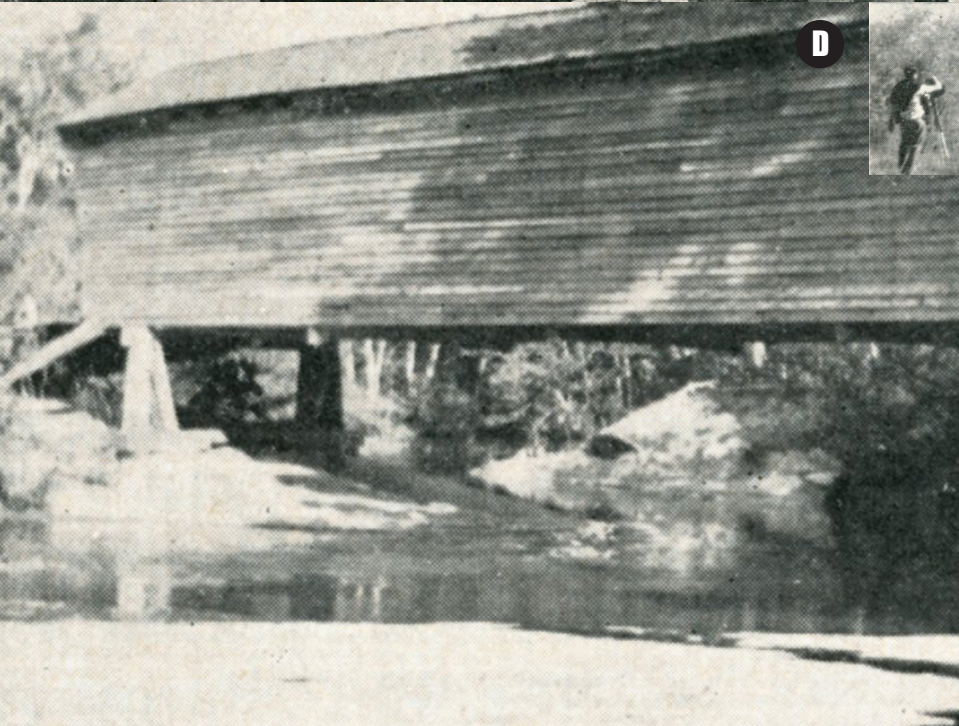
B



C

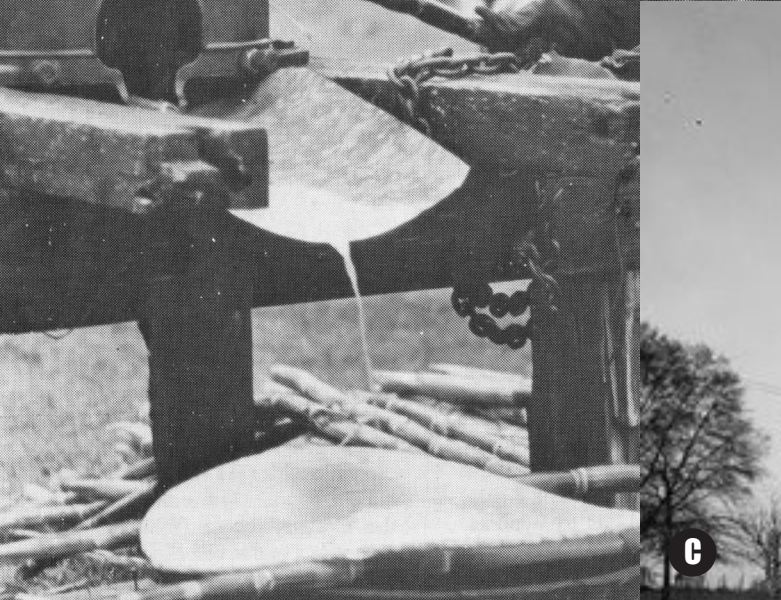
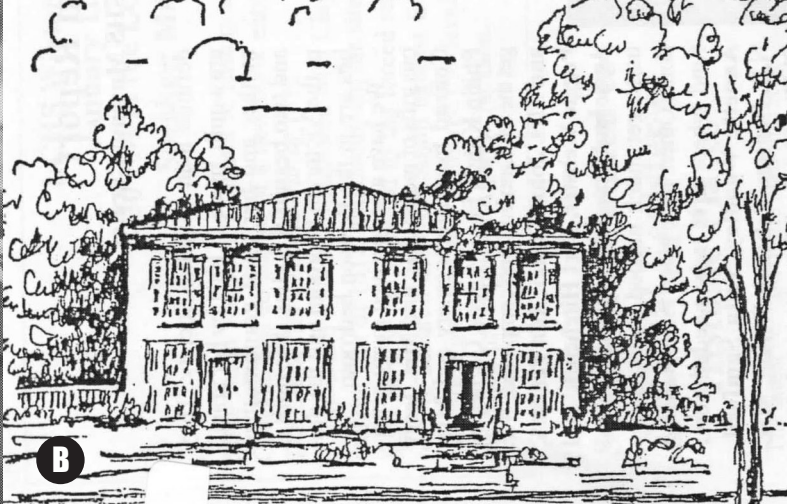


E

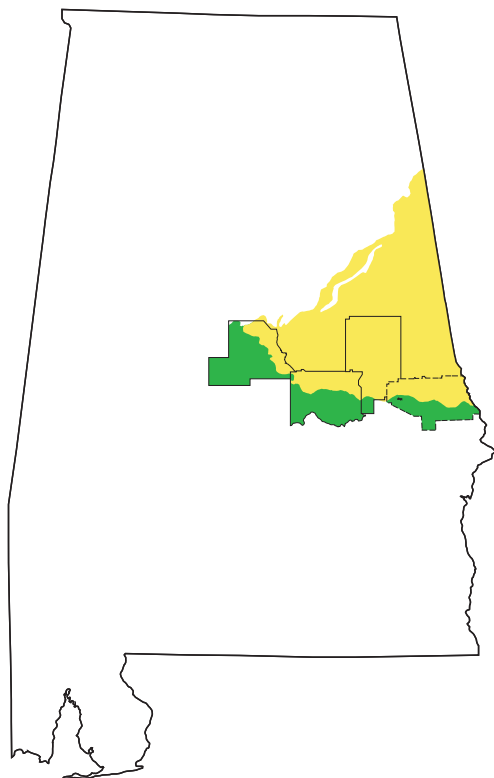


D

- A** The Syrup Man - Mr. Pompey Dowdell - feeds sugar cane into the syrup mill at the annual Syrup Sop Festival
- B** Lee County Historical Society in the middle of town
- C** Loachapoka Baptist Church on Stage Road
- D** 1914. February train depot covered in snow
- E** 1914. April train depot. Residents loading wagons with sacks of fertilizer for spring planting

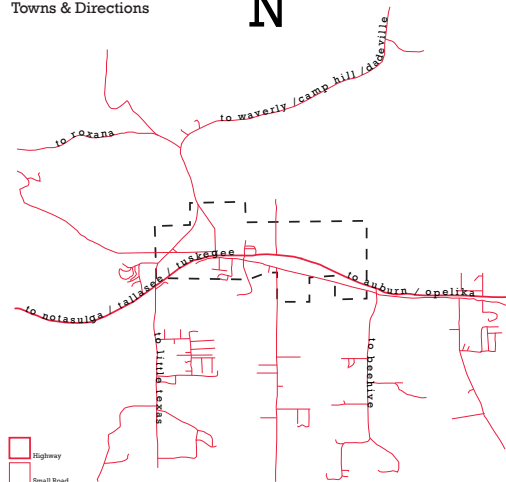


Counties on the Piedmont & Coastal Plain

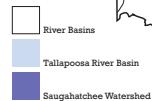
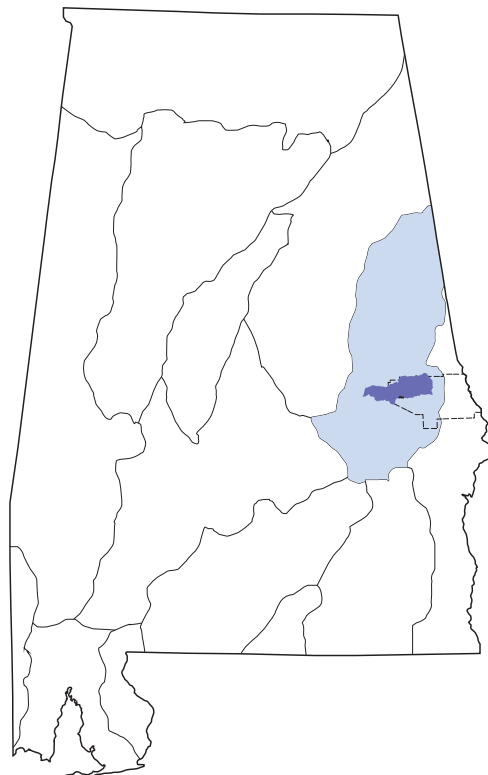


Towns & Directions

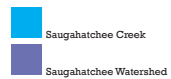
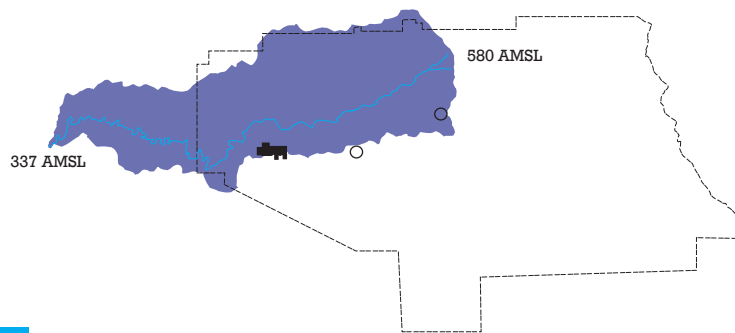
N



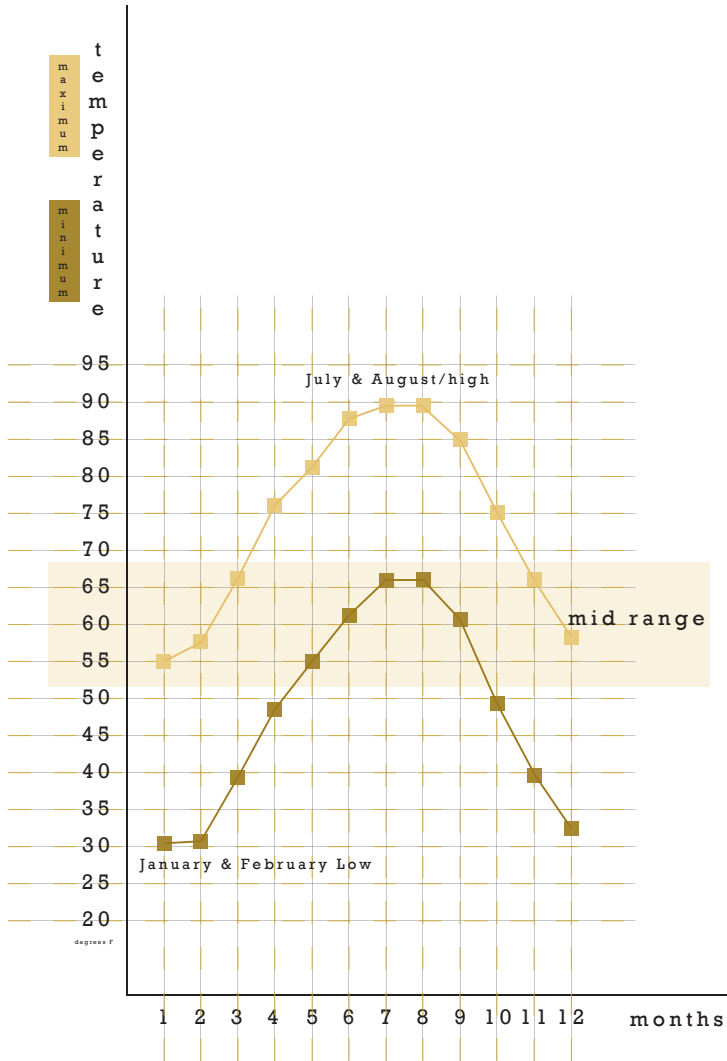
Alabama Watersheds



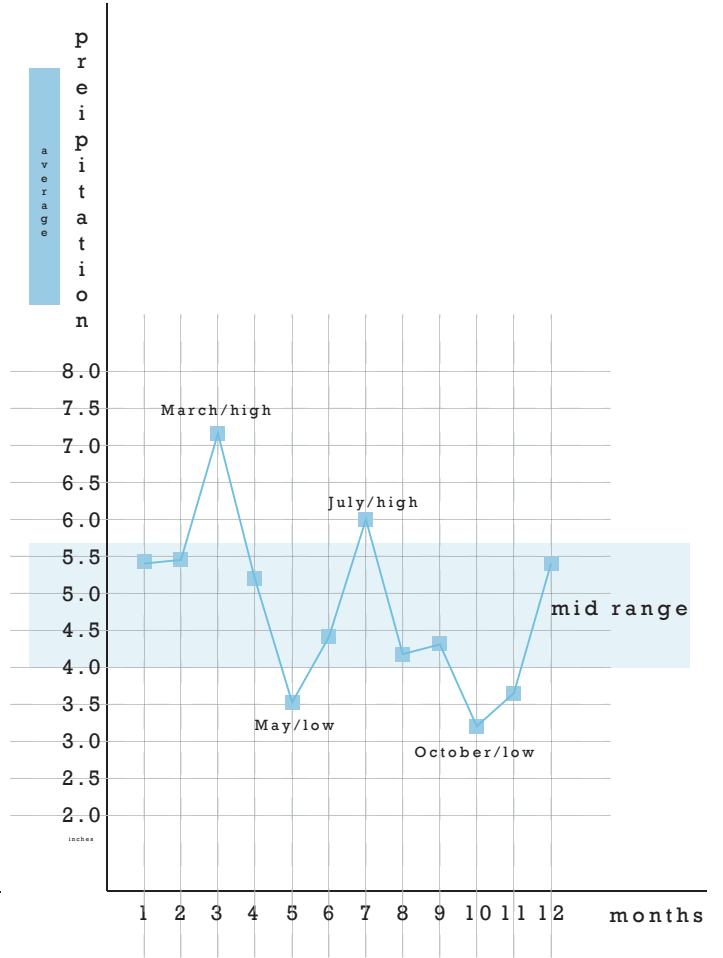
Saugahatchee Creek Elevation Change



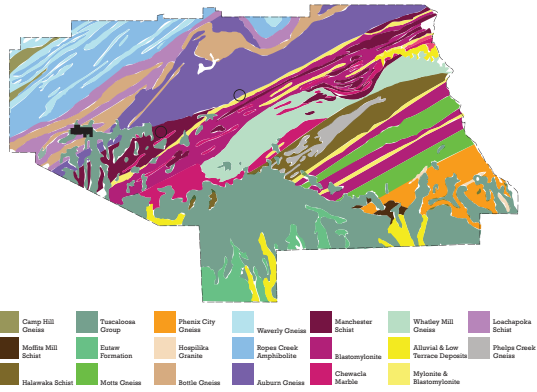
Lee County Average Monthly Temperature



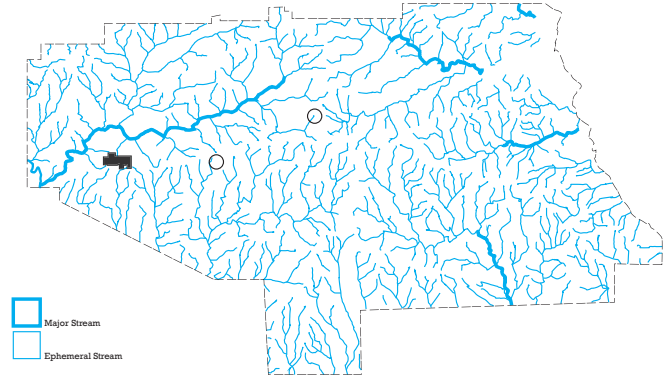
Lee County Average Monthly Precipitation



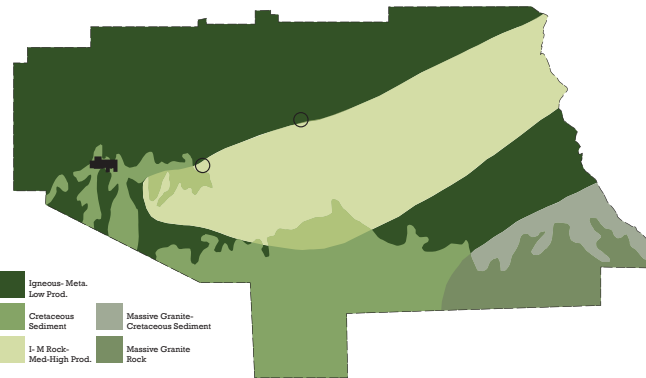
Lee County Geological Map



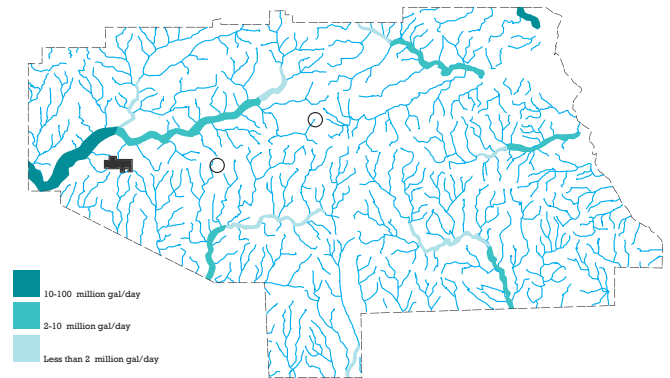
Lee County Stream Map



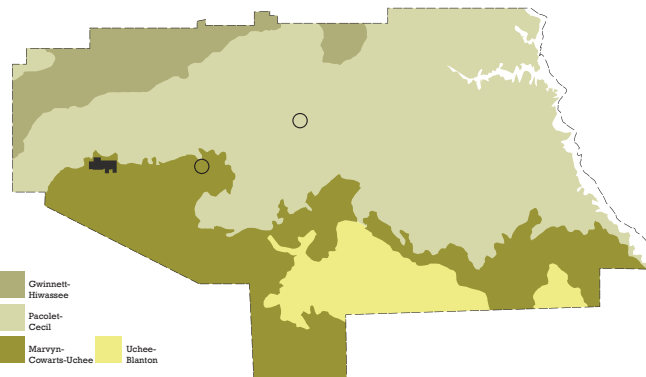
Lee County Historic Rock Map



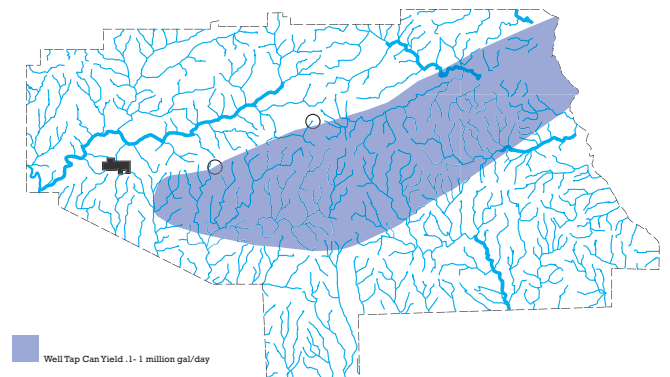
Lee County Stream Flow Map



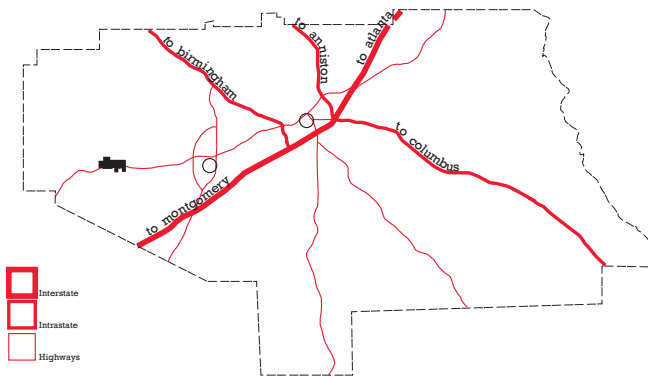
Lee County Soil Map



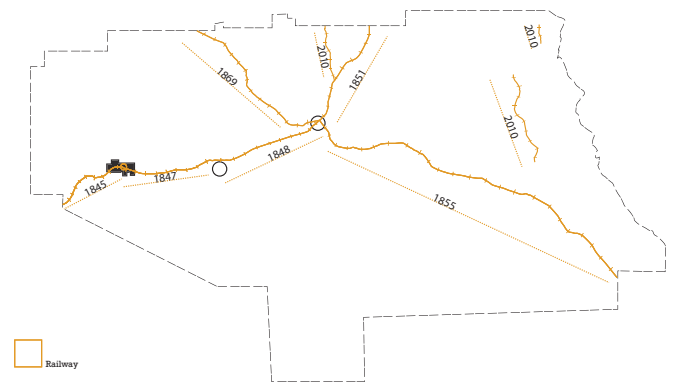
Lee County Well Tap Capabilities



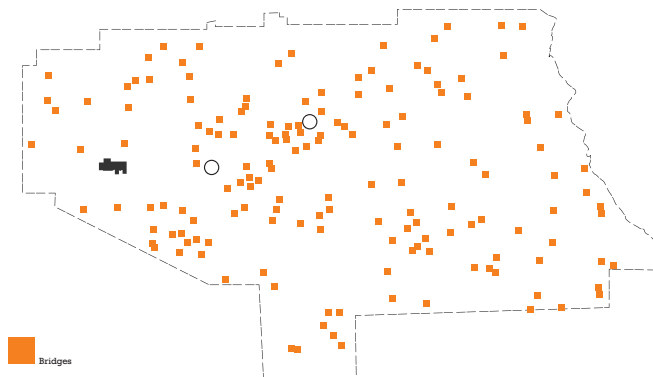
Lee County Road Map



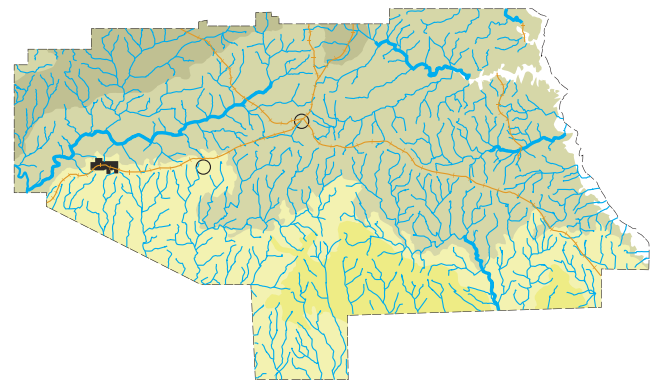
Lee County Railway Map



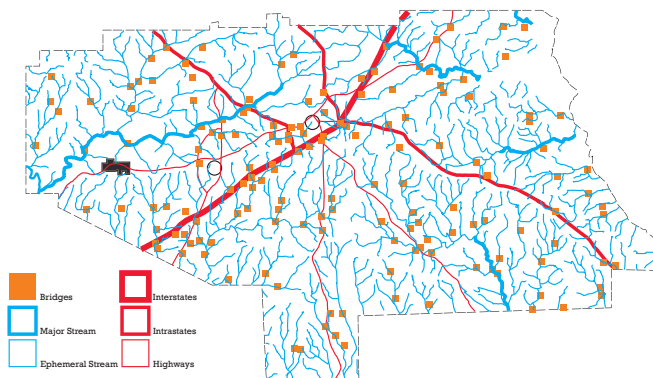
Lee County Bridge Map



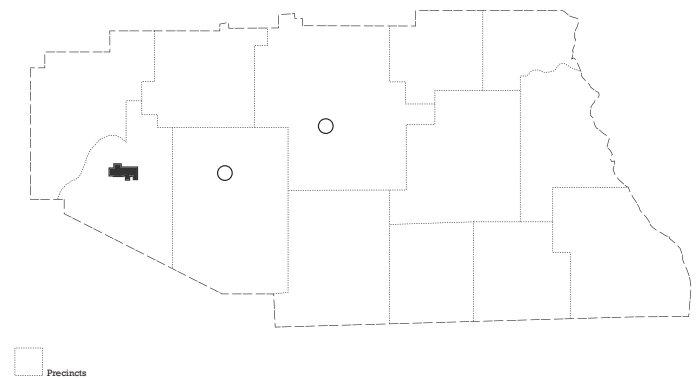
Lee County Overlay Map



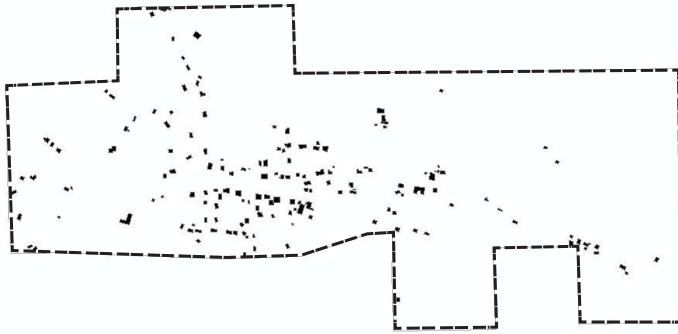
Lee County Overlay Map



Lee County 1930 Civil Map

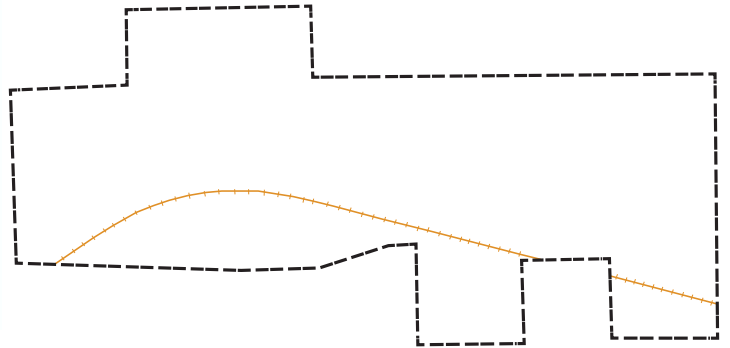


Loachapoka Buildings



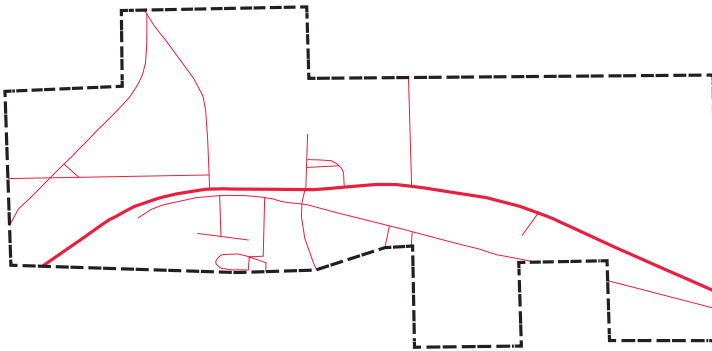
■ Buildings

Loachapoka Rail



■ Rail

Loachapoka Roads



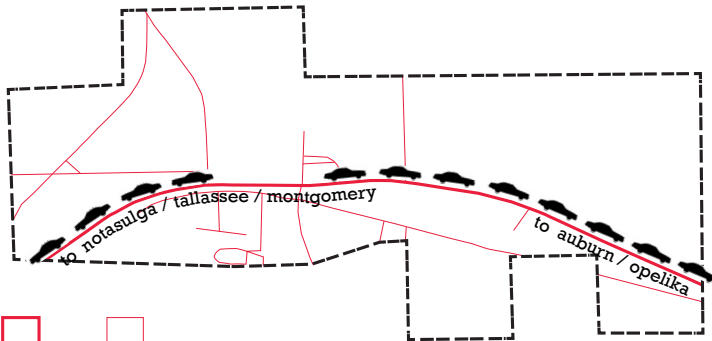
■ Roads

Loachapoka Potential Production



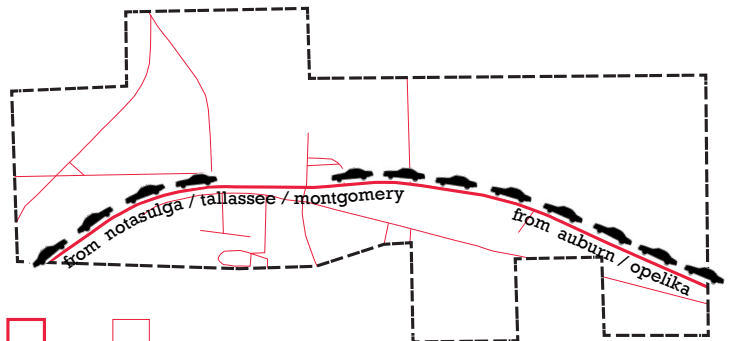
□ Roads

Loachapoka Roads A.M.



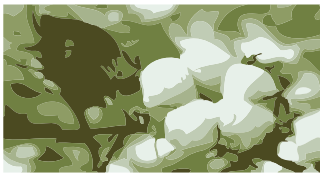
□ Highway □ Small Road

Loachapoka Roads P.M.

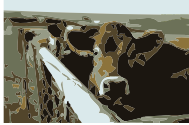
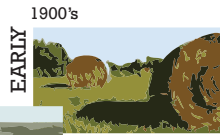


□ Highway □ Small Road

EARLY settlers



MID 1800's



TODAY

Ward Bros

Seed Ho
Ginney

136.5

Seed Ho

128.5

Lochapoka, AL

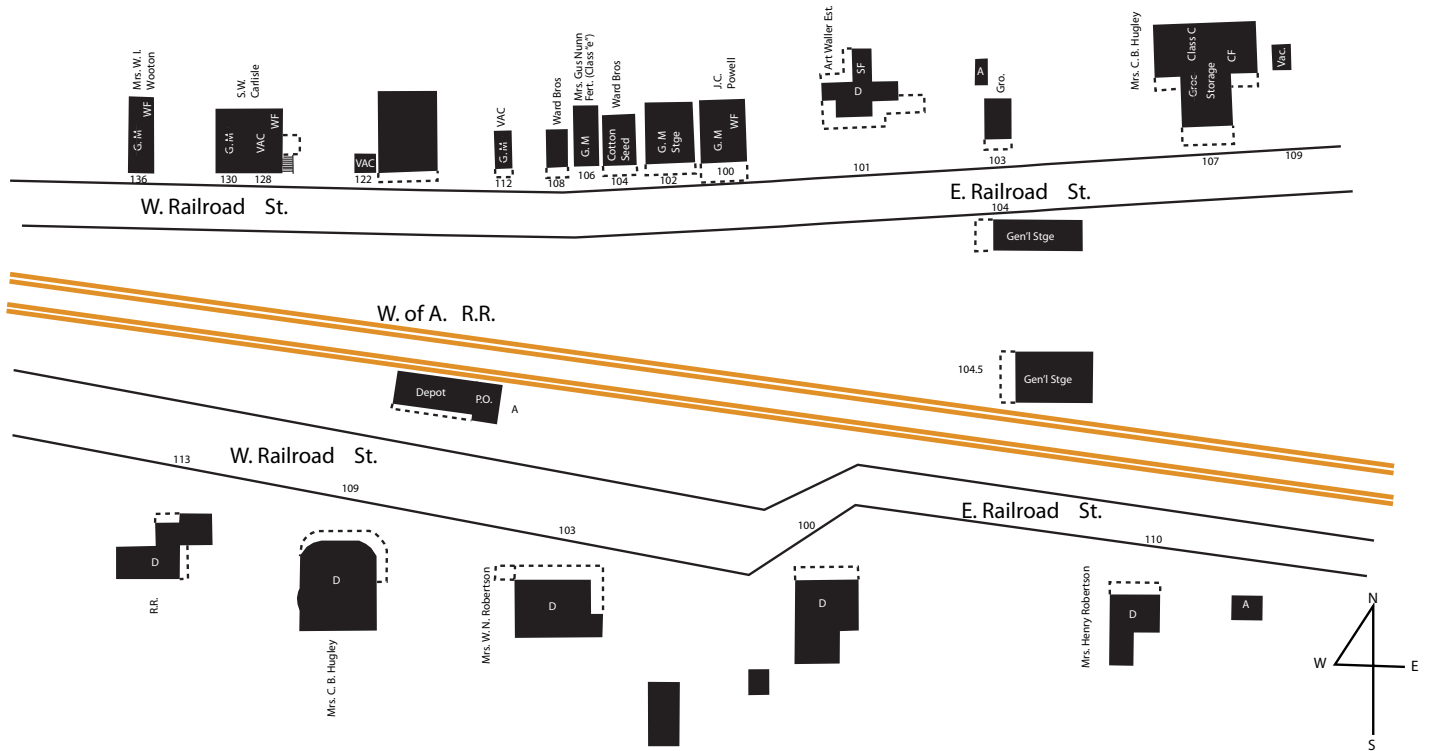
June 26 1928

Scale 1" = 50'

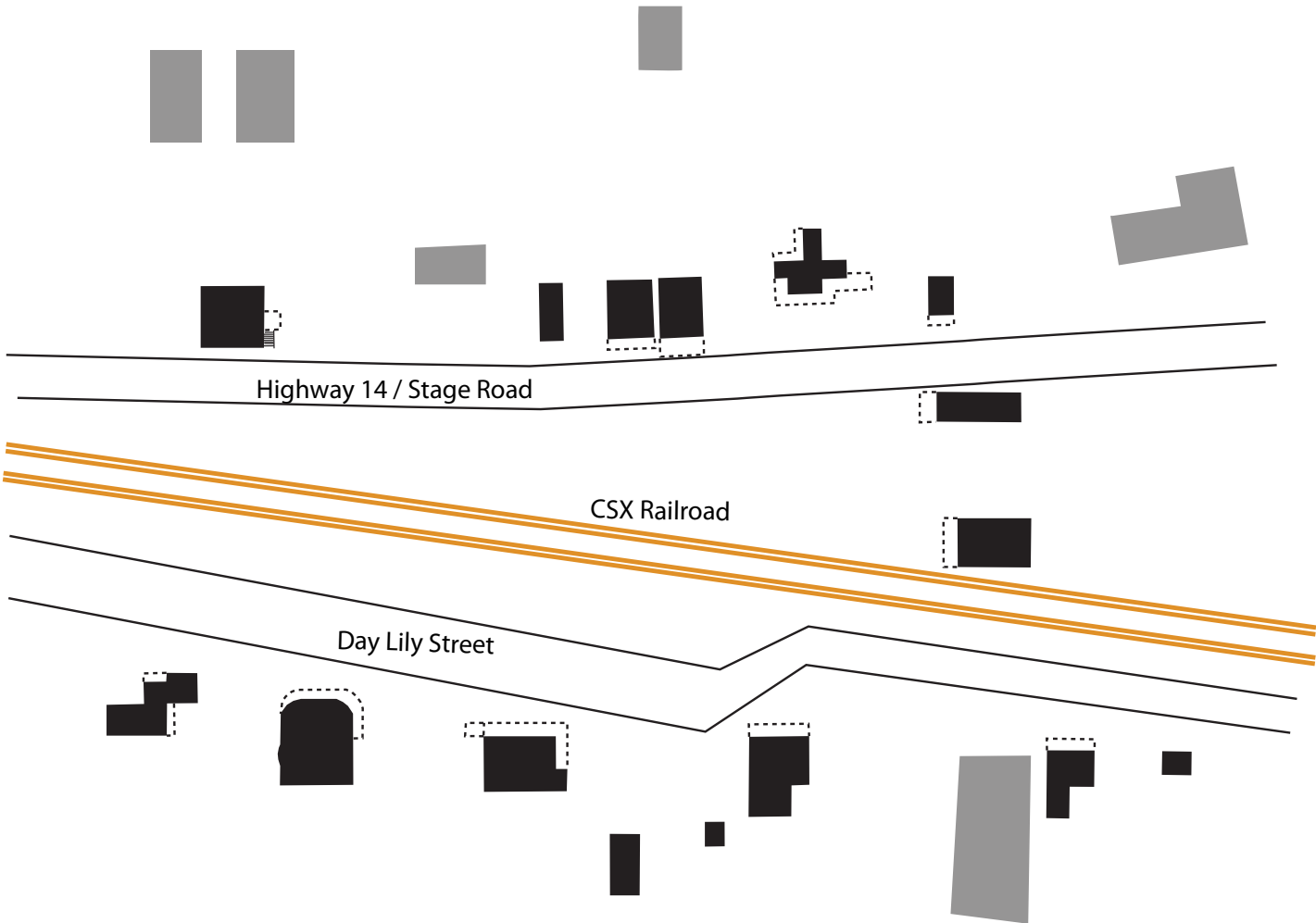
Revised 7/12/54

W.E. Adams

D.E. Chambers S.H.



Loachapoka, AL
2010



Sunday Morning



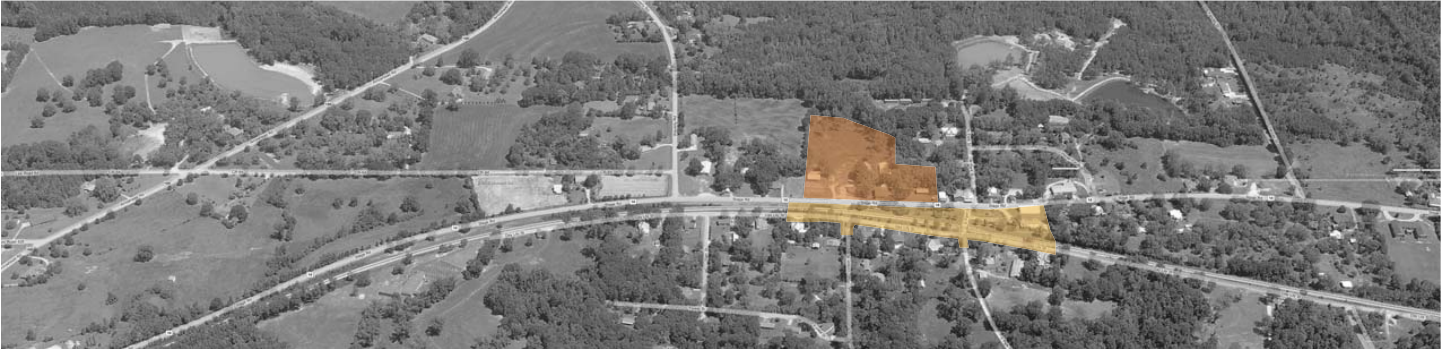
Ball's Fork



Historic Black & White Schools



Syrup Sopping

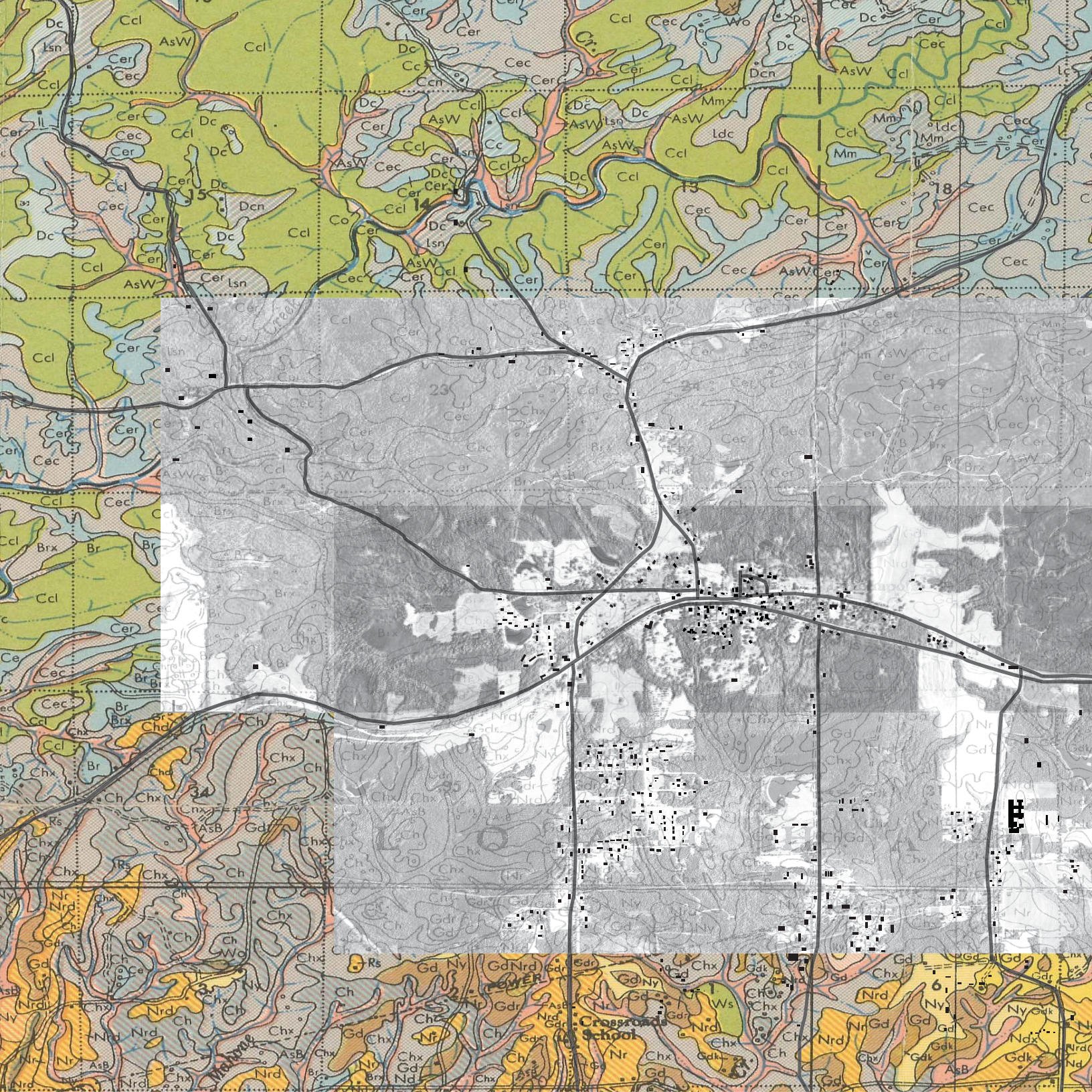


Historic Places of Commerce



Current Places of Commerce







extraction:

reviewing the investigative work for exploration

Once the initial investigation of historic conditions was complete, a series of collages followed to extract the vital information about the town and embed it within future design. These attempts explored the existing conditions and provided a visualization for potential communal space. After working through the first half of explorations, practical aspects of the project began to emerge and steer the latter half. These attempts began to reveal a direction for future design work.

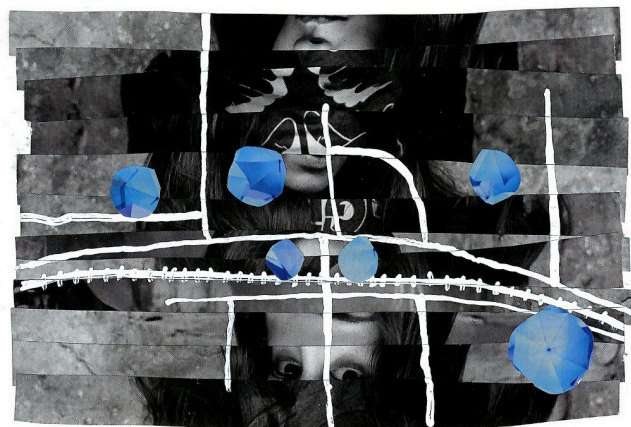
- A** opportunities which lie in the hands of the next generation, the possibilities of tapping into the land and its crops (blueberries)
- B** as the town continues to evolve, the land waits quietly caring for itself, waiting to see who might come along and cultivate it
- C** a town with pieces, a proposal to bridge the gaps

The Next GENERATION

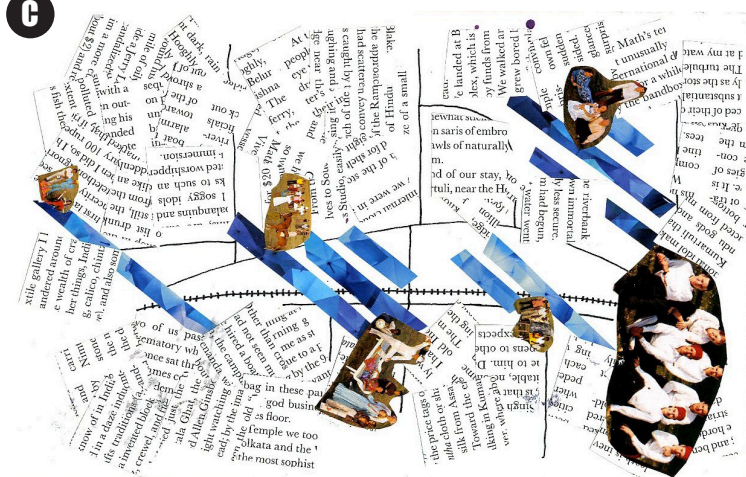


A

B



C



A

history with a warm and genuine engagement, the present with an isolated and individualistic portrayal, and a future which actively seeks opportunities to build relationships for the betterment of the town



A

A

as the town continues to decline in population, its infrastructure remains; fading perhaps, but still marking a piece of history. change slowly makes its way into the picture

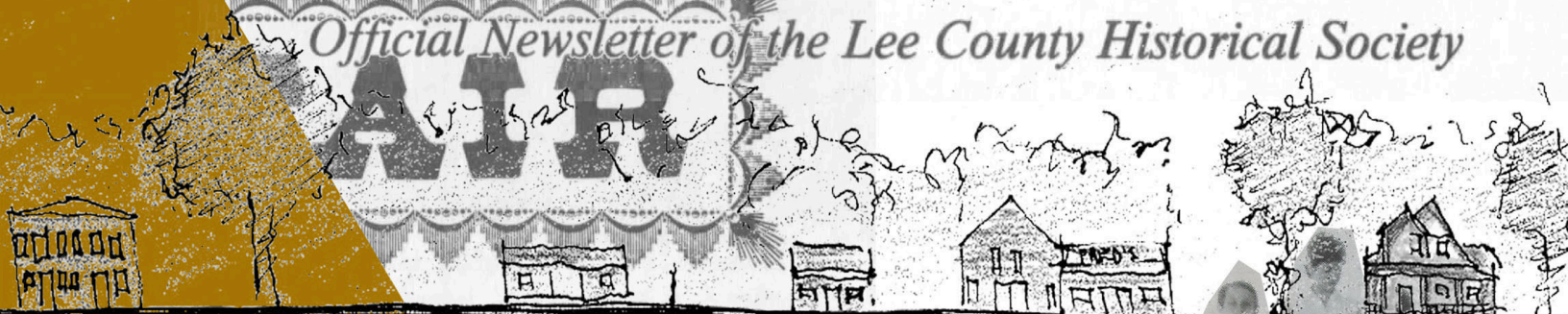
15TH ANNUAL FAIR

TRAILS IN HISTORY

COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Official Newsletter of the Lee County Historical Society

TRAILS



STAGE ROAD

September 21, 1988



Historical Society



Historical Society
Cubbin
og, Quinsig, Soap, etc. & old



HWY 14



COUNTRY MUSIC!

Saugahatchee Syrup Soppers

COUNTRY COOKING!

Biscuits & Fritters & Beans & Barbecue Etc. Etc. *AND* Etc.

New Place In Town

Alabam Country Flea Market

5665 AL Hwy 14 West/Old Stage

Auburn Alabama/Loachpoka

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL

\$2.00 Admits You to Museum & Grounds

FISH FRY FRI & SAT

A

A a blueberry field in summer with communal involvement

B changing of seasons, still with communal involvement



A



B

A

those who helped build such a crucial part of history watch with disappointment as we carelessly allow physical and social change to destroy the town's community



A

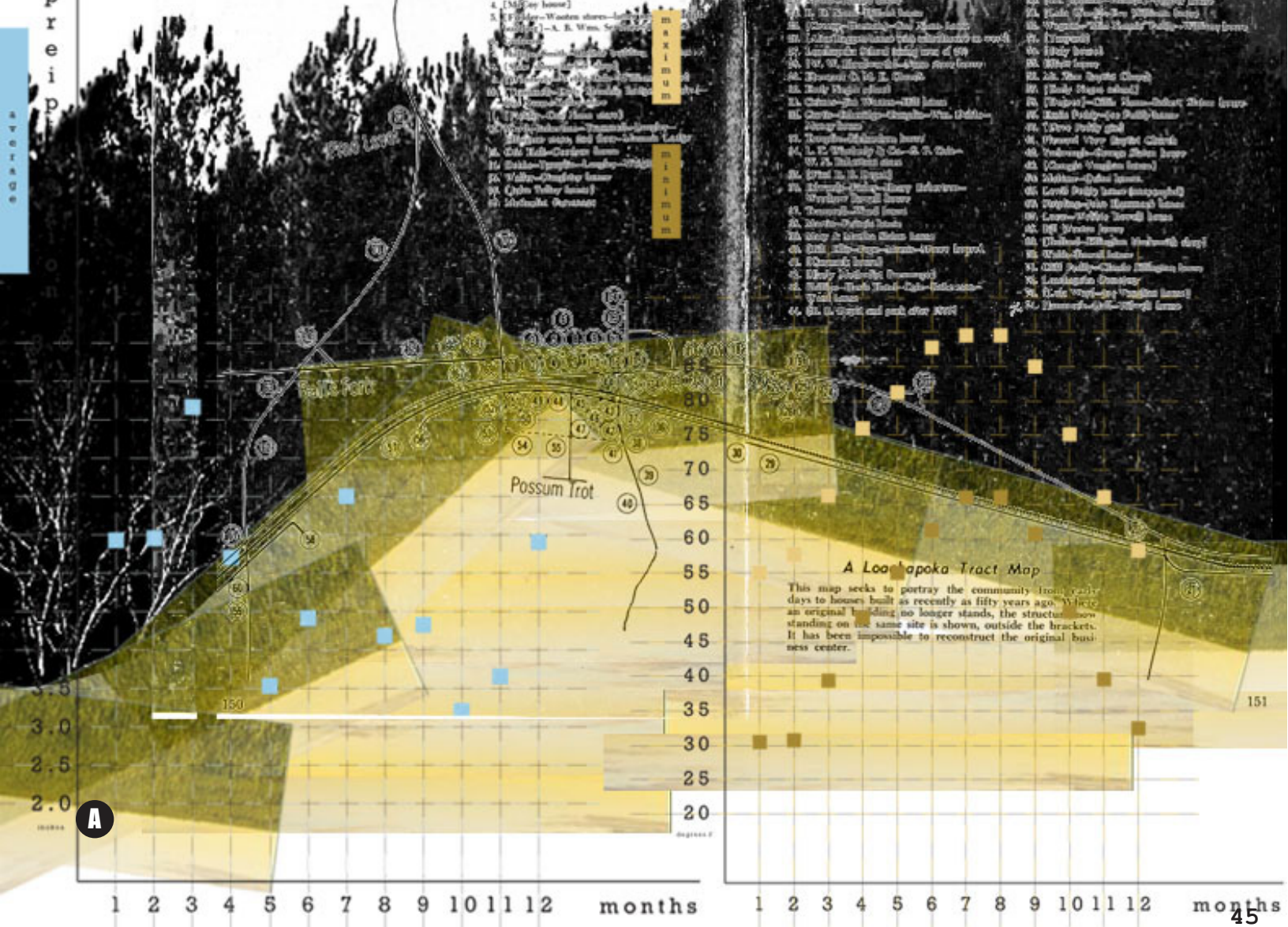
A

an ecological region map portraying precipitation, temperature, soils, water flow, geographic regions, and flora

337 AMSL

precip

AVRAGE



A

compiling assets, opportunities, and resources to find overlaps amongst the three

E.

SEE PAGE 28

opportunities

072 084

Robert P. Ward, et al. 240	James Kowell 106	James Kowell 106	Gregg, Martha 50	Richard Luch 155	Barry 39	Hines H. Hall, III 283	Marilyn J. Cooper 180	H.D. Alexander 153	072 H.D. Alexander 153	084 M. G. ... 96
Newsome Beard, et al. 285.6	Herrn... 40	Clyde Webb, et al. 159	Phillip E. Garnett 150	Ellen K. Strength 220	Edna R. Davis (L.E.) 160	James W. Moore, et al. 58	Kimberly M. Jones 157	Henry D. Alexander 98	Henry G. ... 98	Peggy Black 217
Don C. & Marjorie H. Gentry 114	Newsome Beard, et al. 311	Esther E. Smith Trust 12	Ellen K. Strength 140	William J. Sanford, Jr. 220	Youngs Plant Farm, Inc. 220	Youngs Plant Farm, Inc. 220	John R. Dudley, et al. 160	Burt Bedell Corp. 317	Burt Bedell Corp. 317	Burt Bedell Corp. 317
John L. Huban 151	Carlton's 130.4	John G. Adams, et al. 230	Robert 230	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	Ralph's 174.2	Thomas M. Carroll, et al. 216	Burt Bedell Corp. 160	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160

resources

George G. Trisdale 320	Dwight S. Bond 145	Dwight S. Bond 145	Robert 230	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	J.R. & Berry Dudley 414	Florence R. Spencer 243	J.R. Dudley, et al. 210.6	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160
George G. Trisdale 320	Dwight S. Bond 145	Dwight S. Bond 145	Robert 230	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	J.R. & Berry Dudley 414	Florence R. Spencer 243	J.R. Dudley, et al. 210.6	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160
Lee Wain 140	Thomas H. Bond 123.5	Dwight S. Bond 145	Robert 230	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	J.R. & Berry Dudley 414	Florence R. Spencer 243	J.R. Dudley, et al. 210.6	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160
Lee Wain 140	Thomas H. Bond 123.5	Dwight S. Bond 145	Robert 230	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	Thomas G. Juice, et al. 233.5	J.R. & Berry Dudley 414	Florence R. Spencer 243	J.R. Dudley, et al. 210.6	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160	Meade Coated Board, Inc. 160

- Ⓐ reviewing the changes of rail development throughout the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries while representing the “point” at which everything changed
- Ⓑ beginning to discover the landowners who might work alongside the community in the design project for the betterment of the community

BOOM AND CHANGE

COMING OF THE RAILROAD FROM MOBILE TO
 IN 1845 STARTED A NEW ERA, WITH LOACHAPOKA
 NAME REVIVED. IT BECAME THE TRADE CENTER FOR
 WAVERLY, ROXANA, ROME, CAMP HILL, AND
 AND DADDEVILLE.
 ROUSSEAU'S RAIDERS HIT LOACHAPOKA
 DOWN. SUNDAY, JULY 17, 1864, AND STAYED
 CENSUS OF 1870 INDICATED A POPULATION OF
 1,254. BUT WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE
 PANIC AND RAILROAD EXTENSION FROM OMAHA
 TO DADDEVILLE IN THE EARLY 1870S DESTROYED
 THE TOWN'S PRE EMINENCE.
 ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 MAY 11, 1973

Loachapoka Ala.
 2010

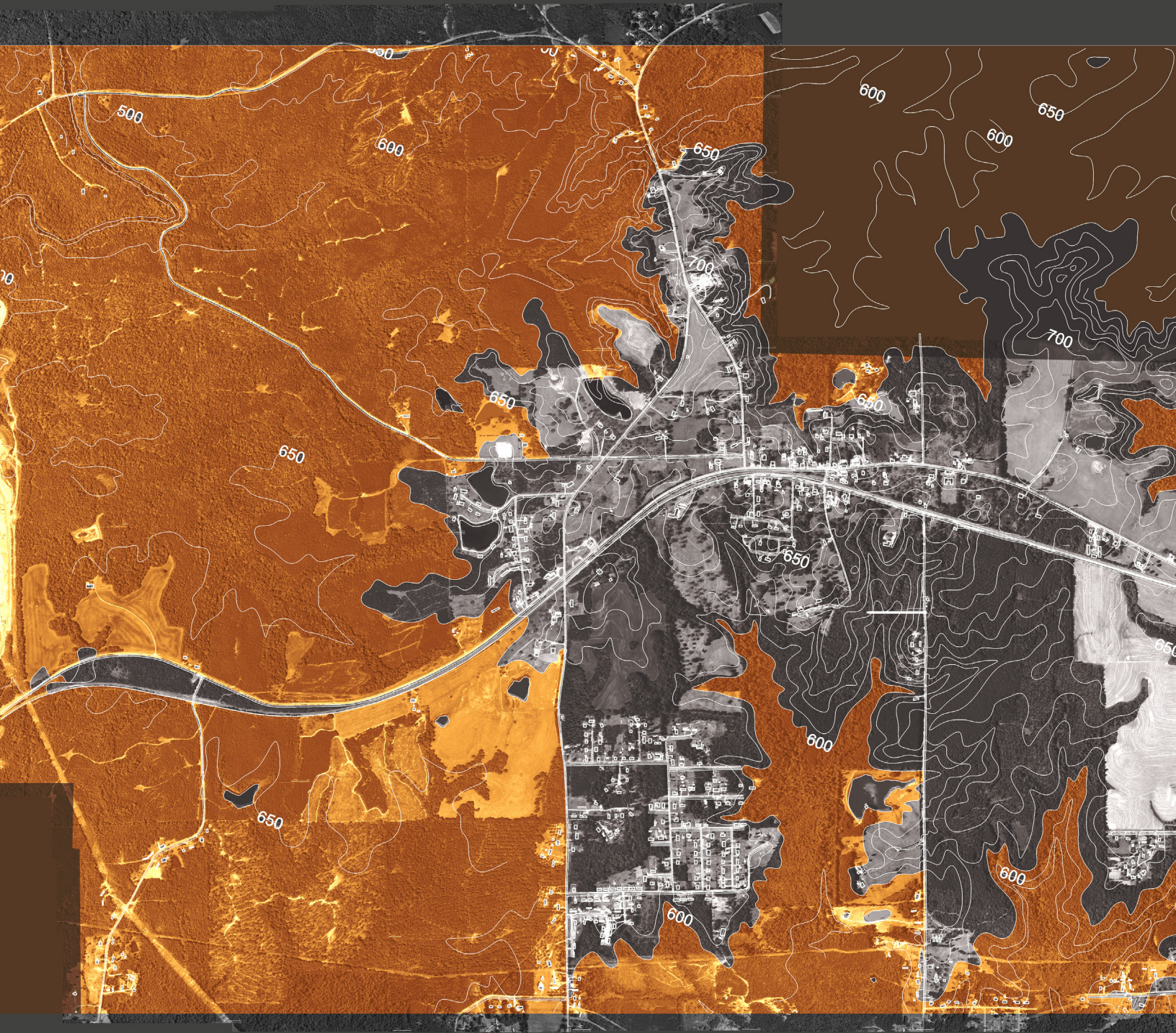


A

T. 19 N. - R. 24 E. T. 19 N. - R. 25 E.



B





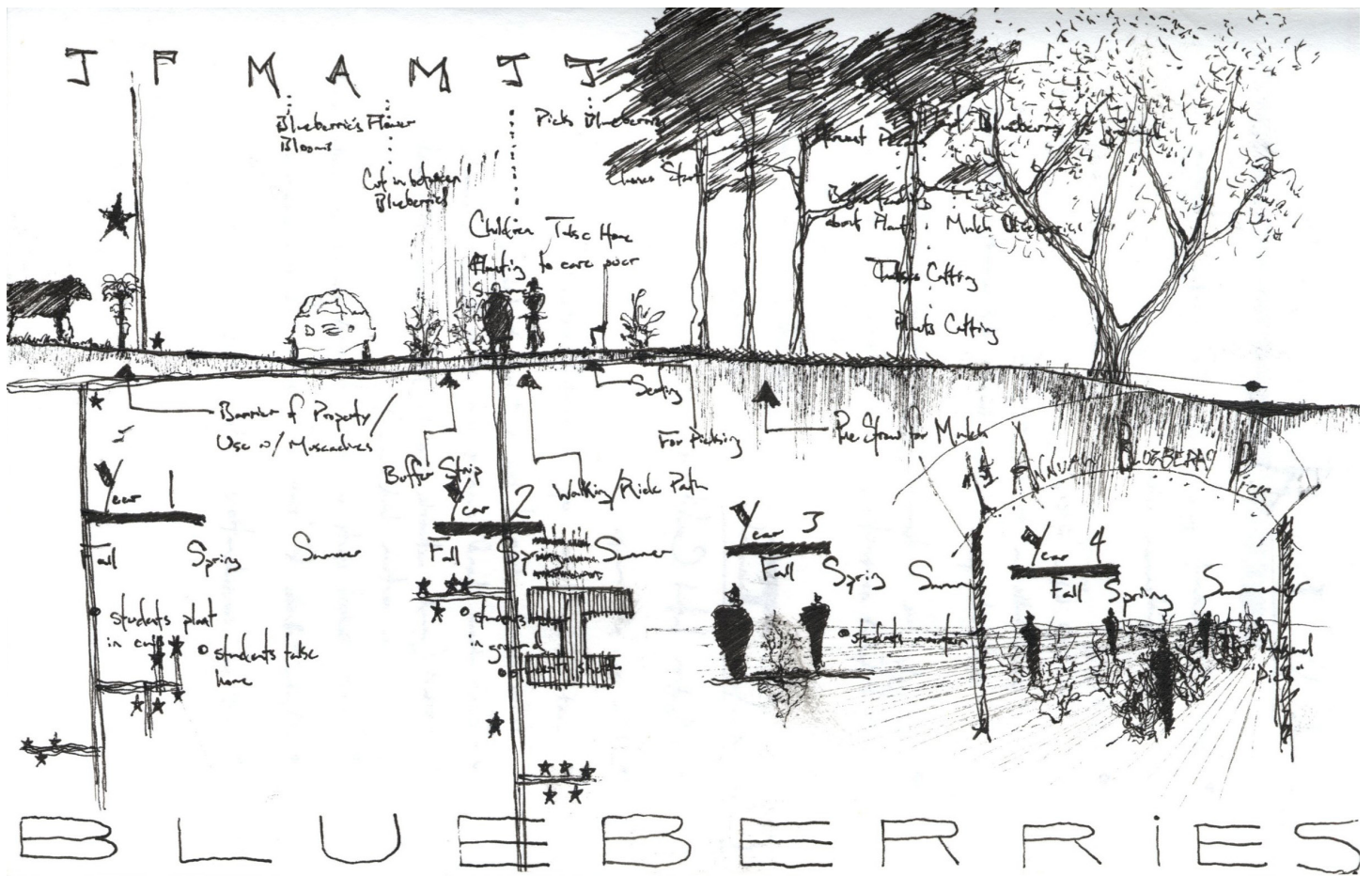
integration:

taking outside resources to inform future design

The research in this section evolved from an understanding of the land capability combined with the plant species which were determined to be most appropriate for this design project. Various determinants rendered pecans, blueberries, and muscadines as suitable species for design interventions. A series of interviews were then scheduled to meet with local residents who grew at least one of these species in comparable scale to the requirements of this project. After discussing in depth each species' characteristics, growth patterns, cultivation requirements, potential for social engagement, reality of communal based production and interaction, notes were transcribed for future design.

A

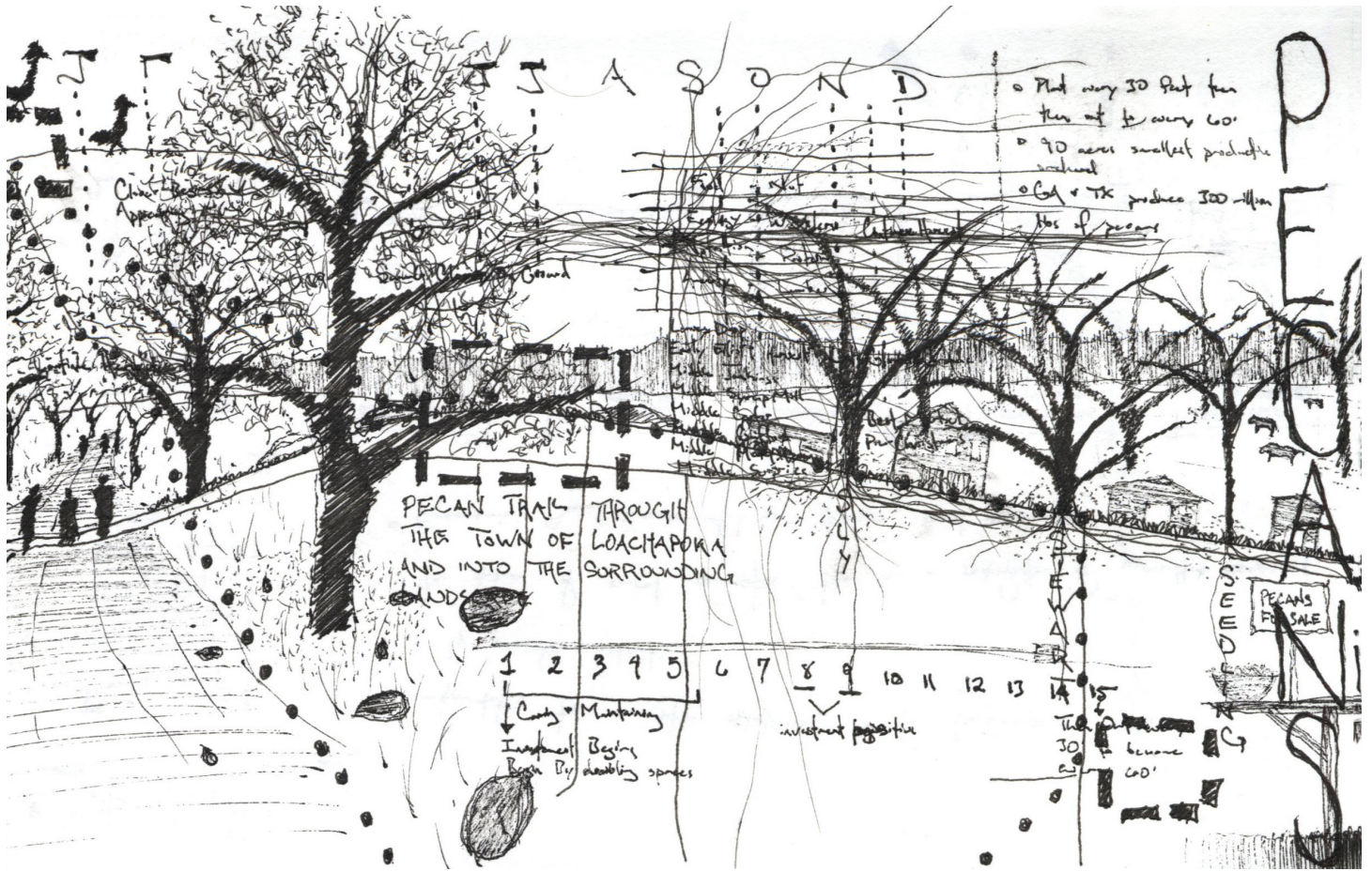
notes transcribed from an interview with a local citizen who owns and operates BLUEBERRY HAVENS, a blueberry farm in Camp Hill, AL (Havens)



A

A

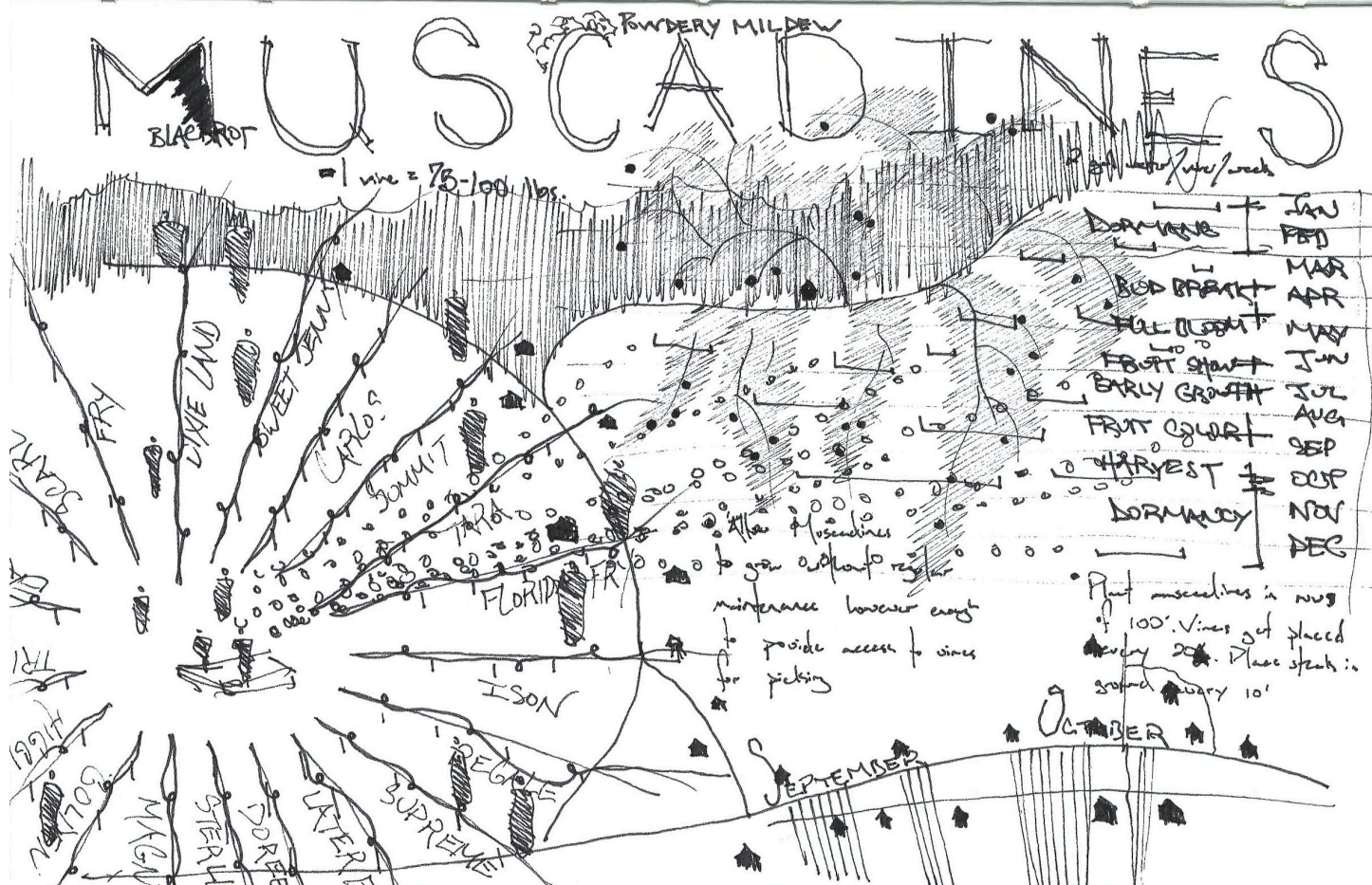
notes transcribed from an interview with two local citizens who own and operate PECAN POINTE, a pecan farm in Hurtsboro, AL (Roger)



A

A

notes transcribed from an interview with two local citizens who own and operate DORMAN VINEYARDS, a muscadine vineyard outside of Auburn, AL (Dorman)







expression:

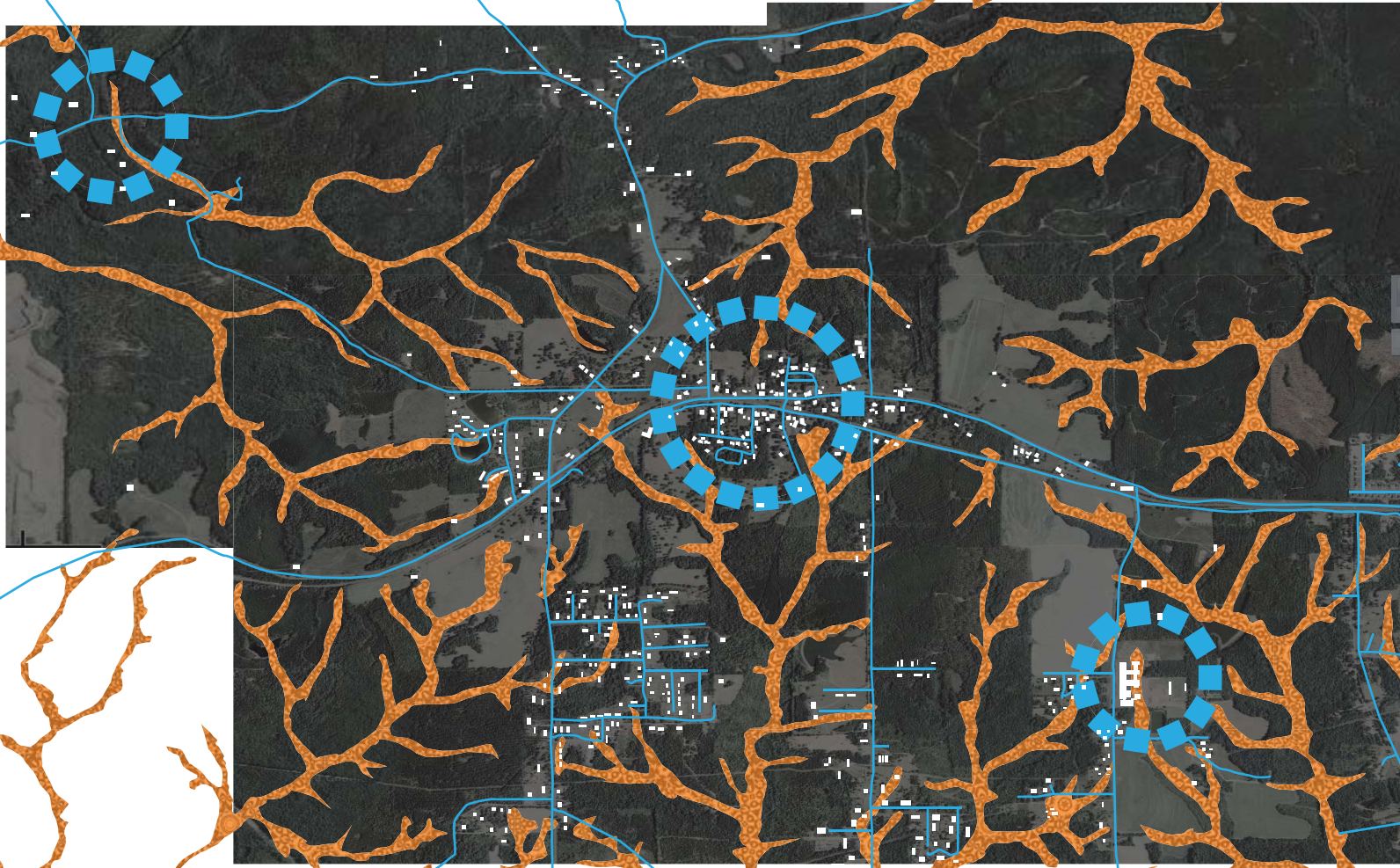
formulating the pieces for further understanding

After processing verbal, visual, and textual information on pecans, blueberries, and muscadines, an expressional period of design began to form. Maps were shaped which designated the most appropriate zones for planting based on several goals and physical requirements of each species. Perspectives which show potential development zones were created to visually communicate future interaction among the selected species as well as interaction with town residents. Through these maps and perspectives, the physical designs of the blueberry patch, muscadine vineyard, and pecan grove were expressed.



pecan groves placed along proposed trail network for pedestrian visibility. paths follow alluvial soils in bottomland regions

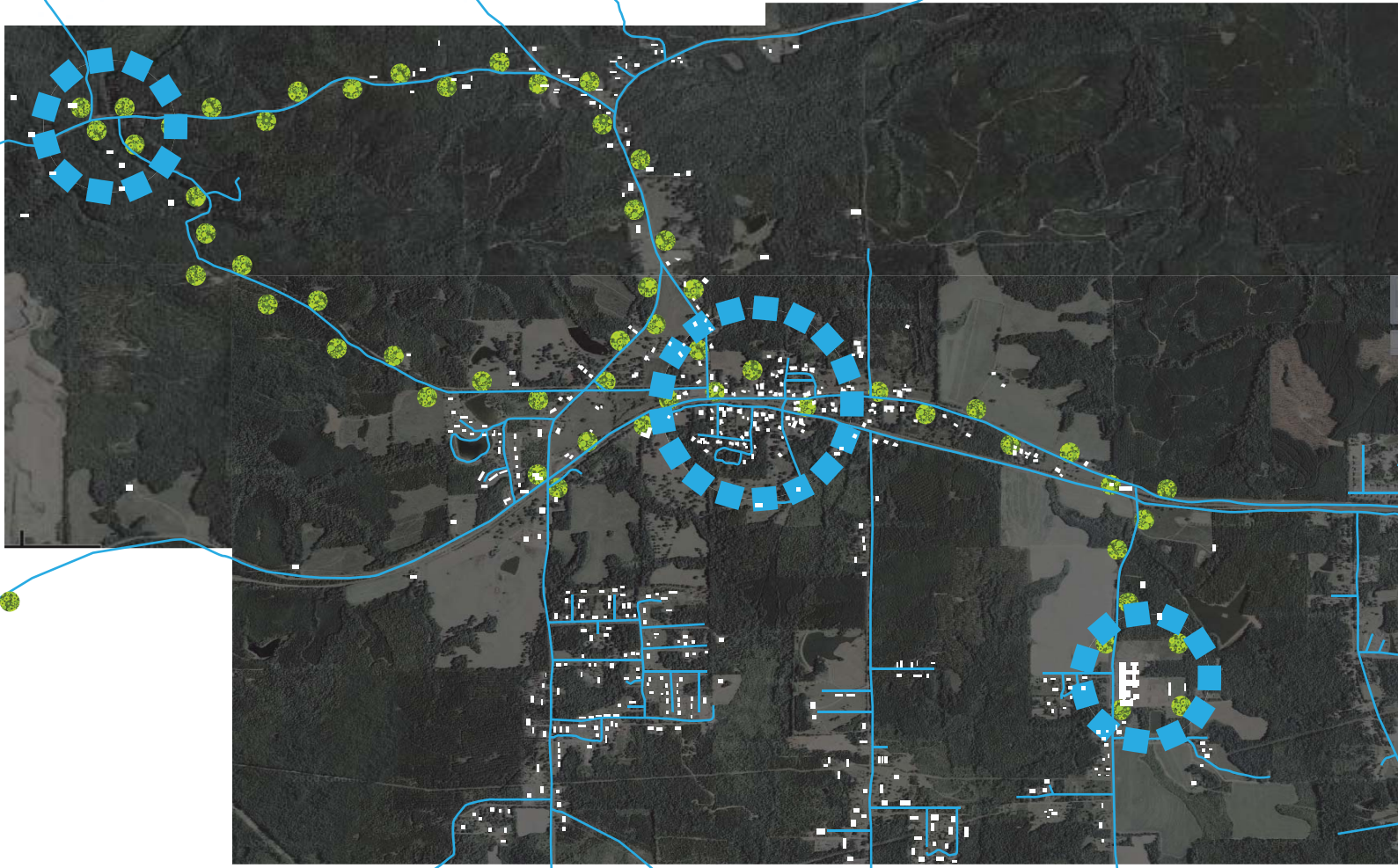
pecan groves



A

muscadine vines planted along roadside and proposed trail network for vehicular and pedestrian visibility/interaction, steady air flow, and ability to extend along roadside

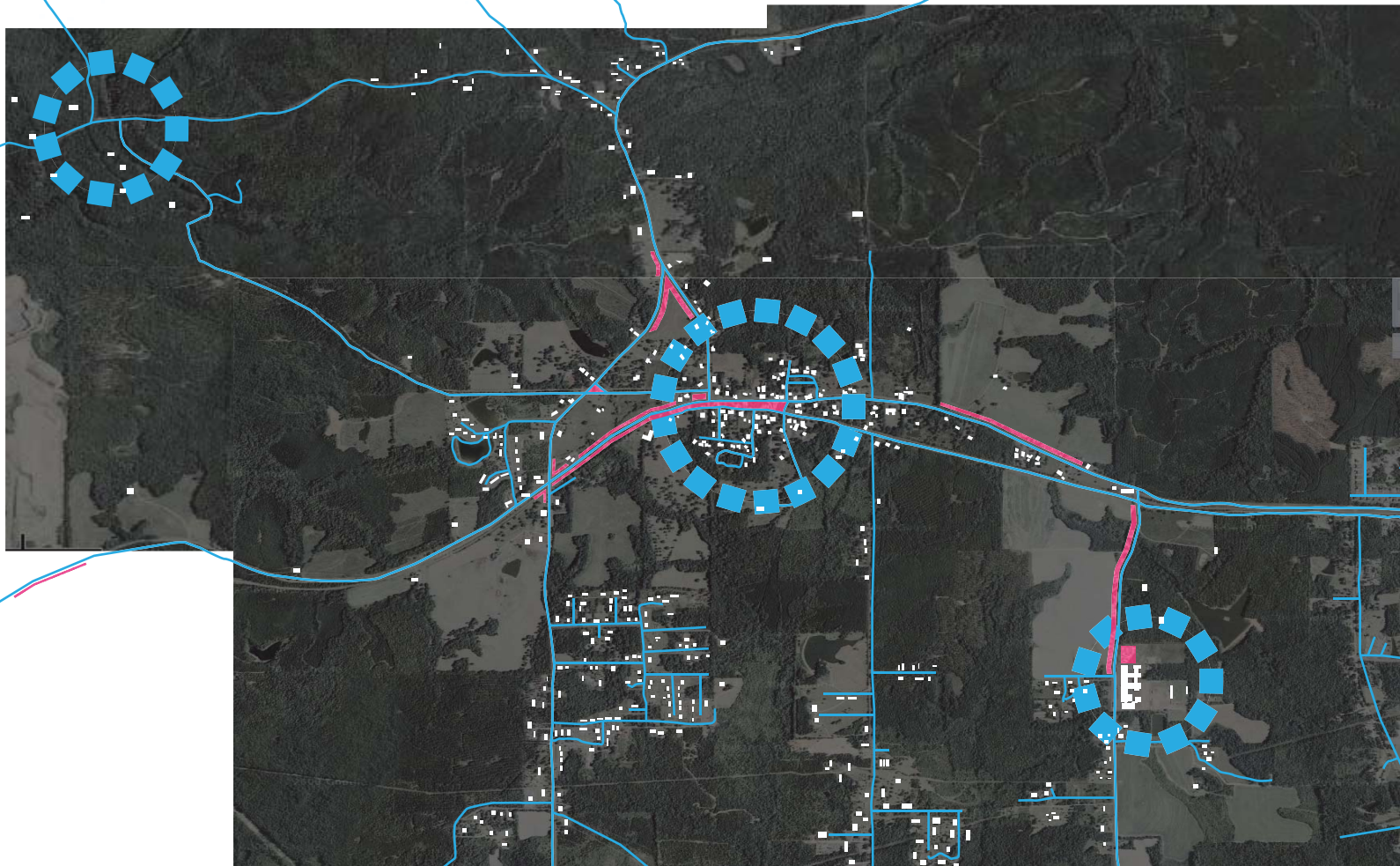
muscadine trails



A

blueberry patches stretched across the vehicular corridors for clear visibility, forced visual interaction, easy access, steady air flow, and constant sunlight

blueberry patches



- A** a blueberry patch along the roadway during harvest season illustrating potential usergroups
- B** extracting the possibilities which might arise in the summer season



A

a possibility of possibilities

For a town of residents who lack wildlife
 an opportunity to use these planted species to draw in the most precious and valued creatures which keep our ecosystem diverse. to use this opportunity to educate residents about the importance of these animals and their role in our lives.

education
 an opportunity to learn about our landscapes and what their native production capability is and its role in our lives. an opportunity to use this time to reach out and inform our world.

school funding
 an opportunity to pour these profits back into the educational system in order to improve the quality and resources within the school system.

family time
 an opportunity to use the activities which could occur so family can gather around and engage one another, to use this time to invest in children and teach them about history and family values.

health benefits
 an opportunity to use this space and these plants to absorb the vitamins and minerals which the earth has to offer through the sun, its fruit, its people.

to gather around one another, here is your chance to all enjoy.

B

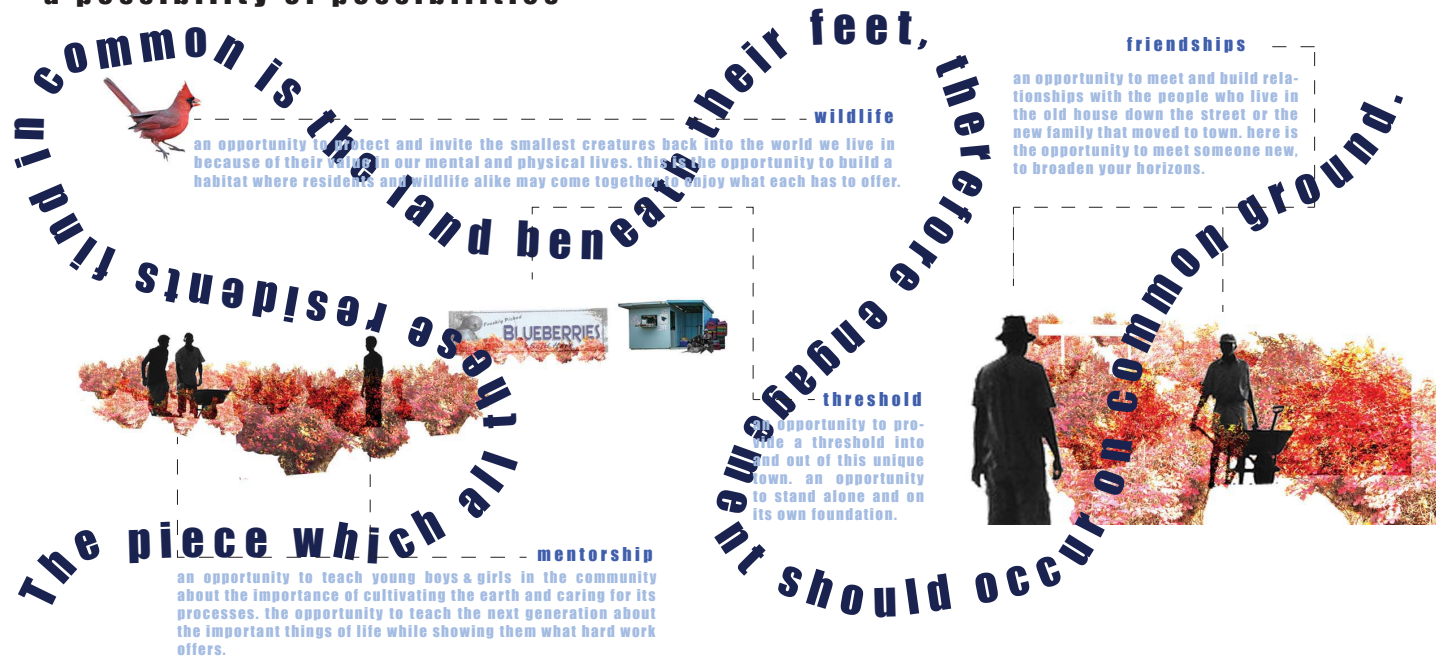
A a blueberry patch in autumn with communal maintenance

B extracting the possibilities which have the opportunity to arise in autumn



A

a possibility of possibilities



B

- Ⓐ a blueberry patch years after initial planting portraying growth in the town and a lack of interest in blueberries among town residents
- Ⓑ extracting the possibilities of reminding, inspiring, and questioning the initial planting



A

a possibility of possibilities

When you design in such a way that allows multiple outcomes to occur, the community they has something to hold on to forever.

to remember

an opportunity to provide special events throughout the landscape which gives recognition to the residents who placed these species within and throughout the town, to keep the vision on the reason rather than those focus on development and destruction.

to question

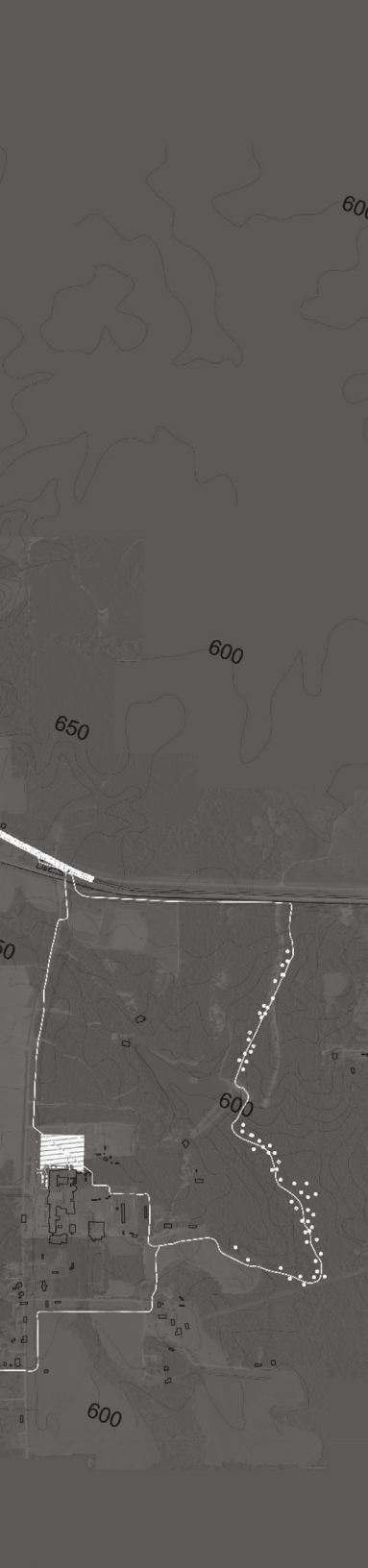
an opportunity to question why such a design was carefully and strategically placed within this town and why it died, to inform residents about ideas and possibilities through observing and carefully considering the future outcomes.

to inspire

an opportunity to inspire the residents of this town by thinking about the purpose and the vision of this design, to stimulate minds in such a way that provides hope and change for today as well as tomorrow.

B





redefinition:

conveying the potential within the communal landscape

This design project has taken the current sense of “productive,” provided the opportunity to build social capital, and coupled the two. By engaging the residents of Loachapoka with opportunities to invest in the school system through a blueberry field, partake in social gatherings within the muscadine vineyard, or by simply planting a free pecan tree and using the extensive trail network, the town might once more form a sense of community, a sense of belonging, a sense of ownership which was once instilled in so many residents.

Social programs were constructed to provide residents with potential ways of engaging other residents as a whole. The initial conditions for a pecan grove were set in order to achieve certain goals, avoid a constrained evolution of nature, and present residents with the ability to improve their town. A trail network which links three selected points of interest was established. Lastly, two sites were specifically designed for immediate communal intervention: first the muscadine vineyard near the center of town which provides a central gathering place, and second, a blueberry patch planted by school children which hosts an annual “Blueberry Pick” where proceeds benefit the local school system.

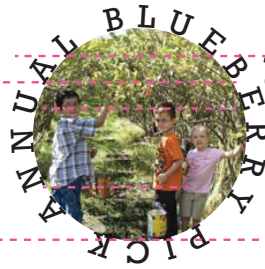
A

developing the social programs which play a part in giving residents the opportunity to engage the landscape, to build relationships with neighbors, to invest in their town

jan feb mar apr may jun jul aug sep oct nov dec

blueberries

harvest
mow
irrigate
prune
weed
fertilize
sight see
birding



prune the patch- clip the unproductive branches and allow for fresh growth

annual blueberry pick- residents & non residents are welcome to pick fresh organic blueberries. proceeds support town school

jam making- community center hosts town people to teach and share jam recipes for future sale

children plant blueberry cuttings- 4th graders get to plant blueberry cuttings which they have cared for over the past year

muscadines

harvest
mow
irrigate
prune
weed
fertilize
birding



valentine's concert- invite local musicians to perform within vineyard for annual holiday

vine propagation with children- older residents teach youth in town how to propagate muscadines

summer jams- local musicians perform for summer entertainment

pick your vineyards- residents & non residents are invited to pick fresh organic muscadines. proceeds benefit county historical society

christmas play- local churches perform annual christmas play

pecans

harvest
mow
irrigate
prune
sight see
birding
compost



compost day- town residents gather local clippings, mulch, & leaves to compost for dispersal among blueberries & muscadines

color the path day- parents & children invited to chalk the trail network throughout the community

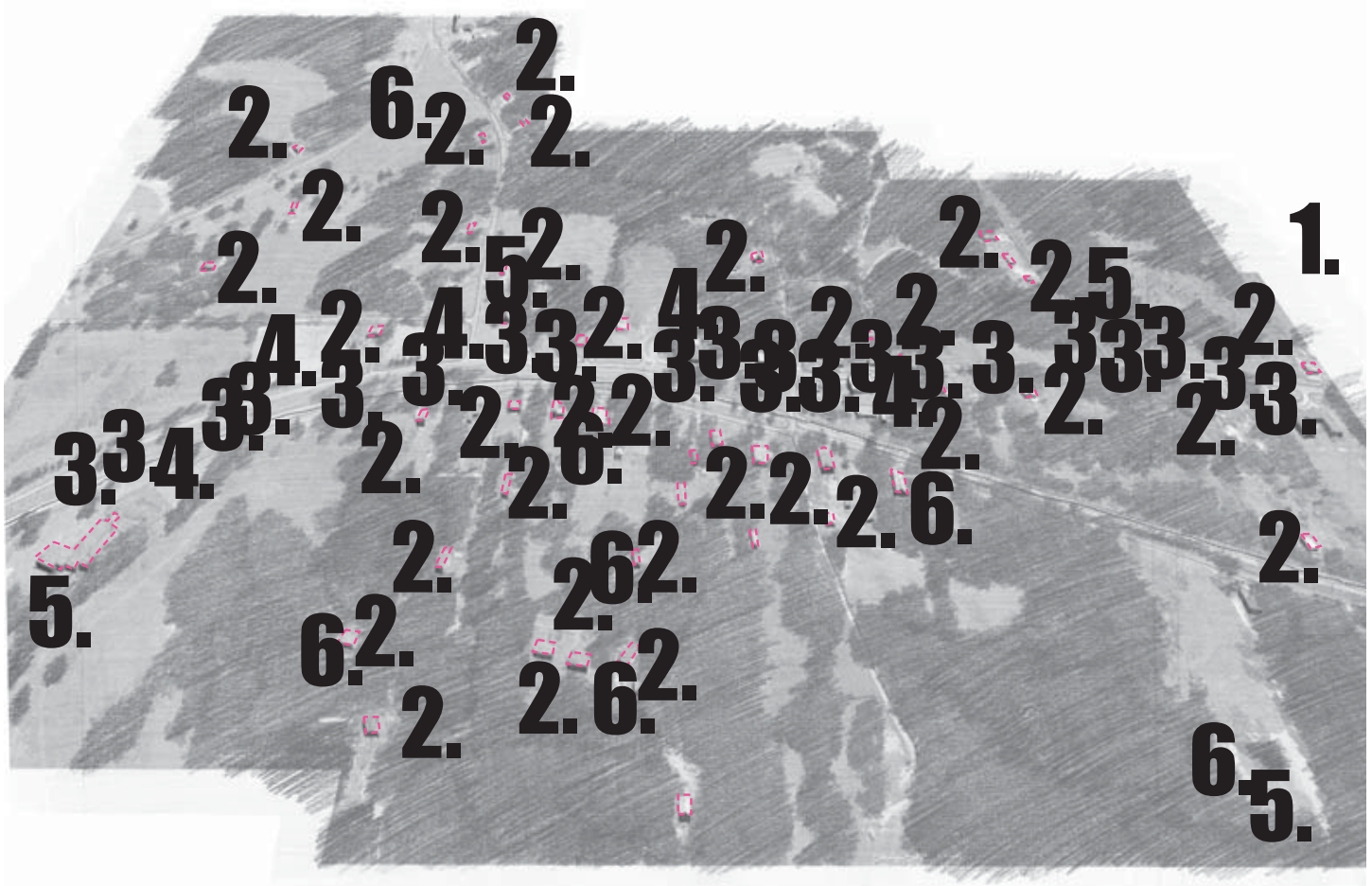
painting the branches- school art teacher hosts painting lessons under the pecan trees

pecan drop in town- residents & nonresidents are invited to pick organic pecans. proceeds benefit town residents in need of essentials

community pie sale- local church members bake pecan pies to sale within congregation as well as on roadside



developing the initial conditions for pecan distribution, harvest, economic development, and social interactions



1. university donates 200+ potted pecan cuttings to landscape architect

2. landscape architect delivers potted cuttings to each resident within community for planting within town limits no more than 15' and no less than 5' off roadside

3. some residents plant cuttings, others do not

4. landscape architect and communal volunteers participate in watering trees

5. local church men and women host annual "pecan drop" for all who choose to come pick up or purchase shelled pecans

6. local church takes "pecan drop" profit and gives aid to local residents with needs



developing the initial conditions for blueberry growth, cultivation, harvest, economic development, and social interactions



1. teacher takes cuttings from her own blueberry bush

2. teacher gives each student a blueberry cutting / student places cutting in potted soil and sets the pot in the window seal

3. student takes cutting home from school / parents help children take care of cutting until next year

4. children bring grown blueberry cutting to school the following year and plant in school field for further growth

5. school hosts annual 'blueberry pick'

6. students receiving scholastic awards get to plant their cutting along roadside for recognition

7. roadside stand sells blueberries to passersby for a higher price than annual 'blueberry pick'

A

final proposed pecan grove map following alluvial soils along trail as well as placement along border of Highway 14 through the middle of town. placement of pecans by residents along highway are strategically placed 5 - 15 feet off highway in order to create a sense of enclosure for vehicles entering the town (slowing vehicles due to constrained space). this giving a sense of entry and exit for automobile users

A







pecan groves



A

diagram showing uses of pecans: who, what, when, where,
and how

uses

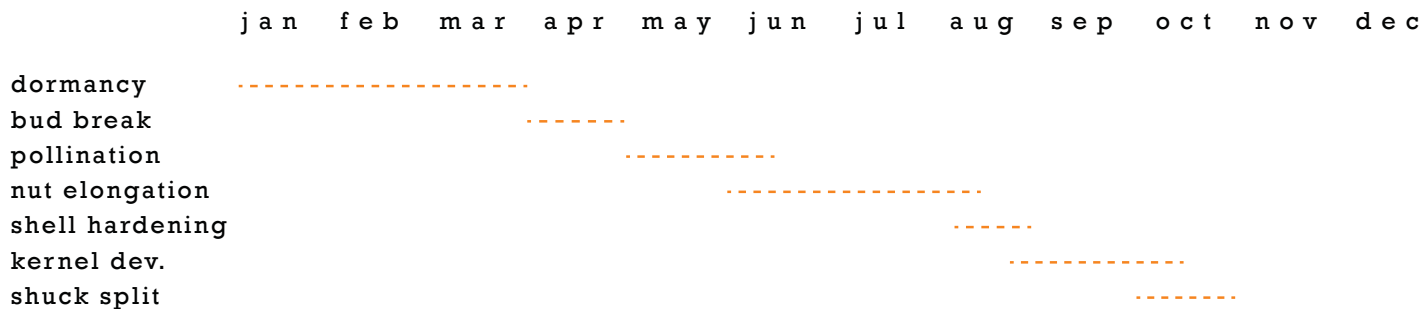
		w h a t	w h e n	w h o	w h e r e	h o w
f o o d		nuts	autumn	anyone	under	taste
		wildlife	year round	anyone	all around	sight / hear
a m e n i t y		shade	spring / summer	anyone	under	touch
		color	autumn	anyone	all around / from distance	sight
		fire-wood	sporadic	anyone	under	touch
		leaf matter- compost	fall	anyone	under	touch
		lumber	sporadic	anyone	under	touch
h e a l t h		nutrition	year round	anyone	within	touch



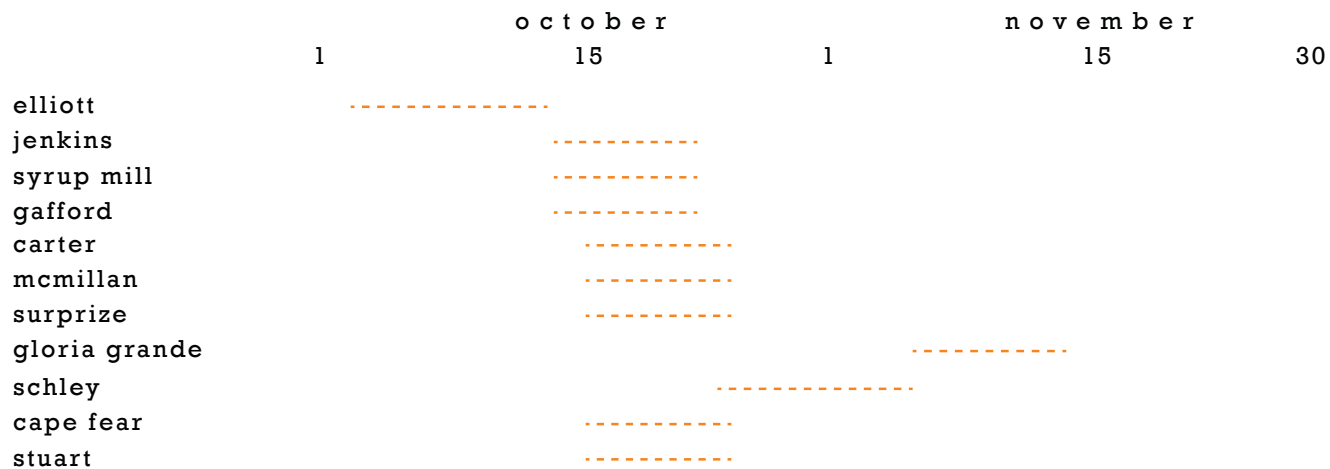
A

timelines showing important periods throughout the year
for pecan growth and production

crop stages



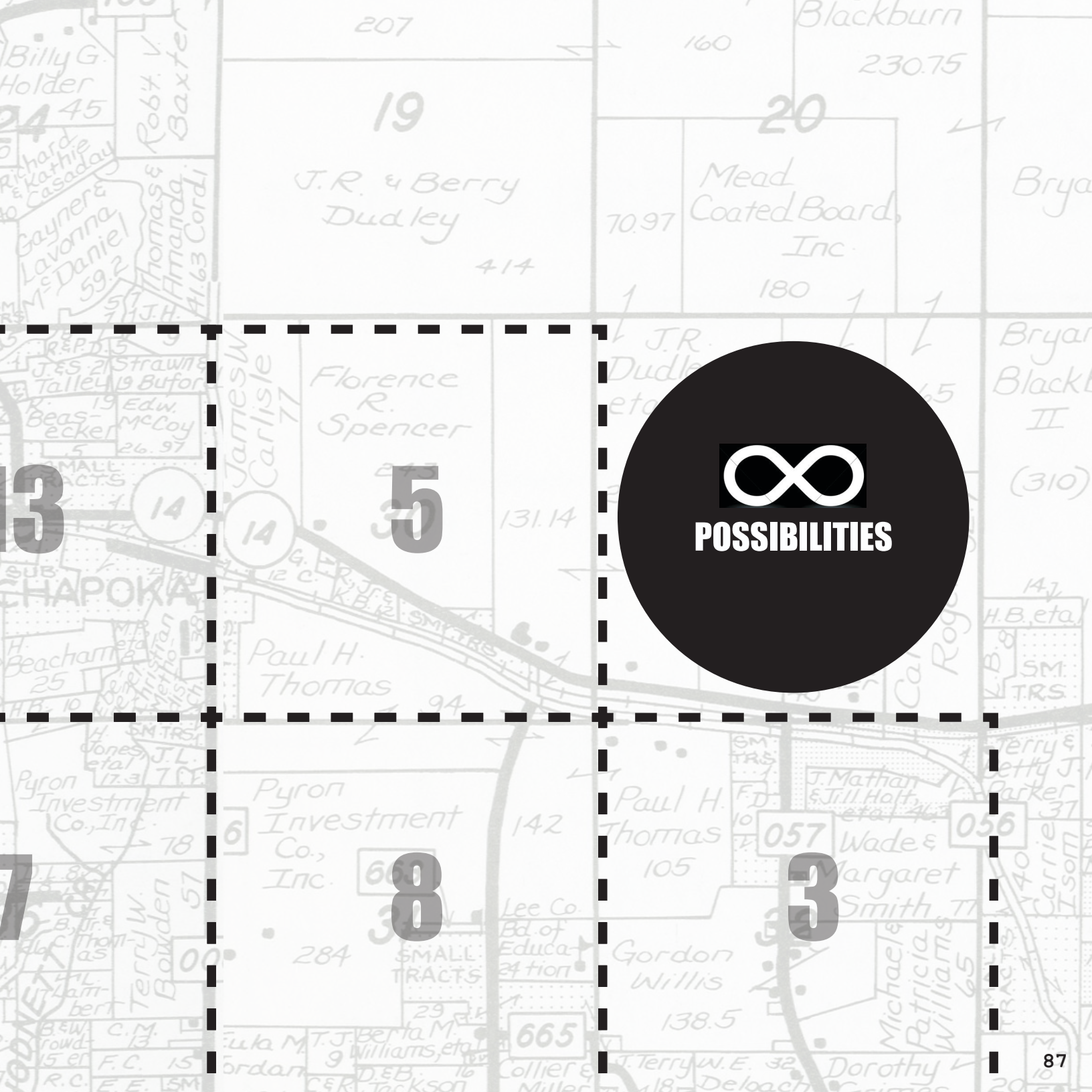
fruit production



The image shows a detailed street map of a neighborhood. A trail, highlighted in a darker shade, winds through the area. A dashed black line outlines a specific section of the map. Three large black circles with white text are overlaid on the map, providing statistics. The background map includes various street names, lot numbers, and property owner names.

1
CONNECTED
TRAIL

43
TOTAL LAND-
OWNERS



POSSIBILITIES

3

14

14

5

8

3

A

listing potential physical and social constraints and opportunities which might arise while developing a trail network throughout the town (Flink 2001)



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

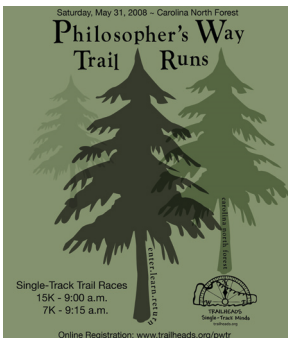
DEVELOP ADVISORY COMMITTEES
 HOST PUBLIC WORKSHOPS
 HOST IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS
 HOST DESIGN WORKSHOPS
 PROVIDE SURVEYS
 HOST PUBLIC HEARINGS

CONCERNS FROM LAND-OWNERS

CRIME
 PROPERTY VALUE
 LIABILITY
 PROPERTY VALUE
 MAINTENANCE
 TRESPASSING
 LOSS OF PRIVACY

EVENTS

“FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL”



NAME THE TRAIL CONTEST
 TRAIL WORK DAYS
 TRAIL PHOTO COMPETITIONS
 POSTER COMPETITIONS
 APPRECIATION LUNCH FOR DONORS
 TRAIL RACE

SURVEILLANCE
 FUND RAISING
 DEVELOP MAPS
 PHYSICAL LABOR
 DEVELOP NEWSLETTERS

LAND-OWNER INVOLVEMENT

INDIVIDUAL MEETINGS
 TRAIL TOURS
 ISOLATE OPPONENTS TO AVOID NEGATIVE GATHERINGS
 SET UP FIELD TRIP TO ANOTHER TRAIL

MEDIA

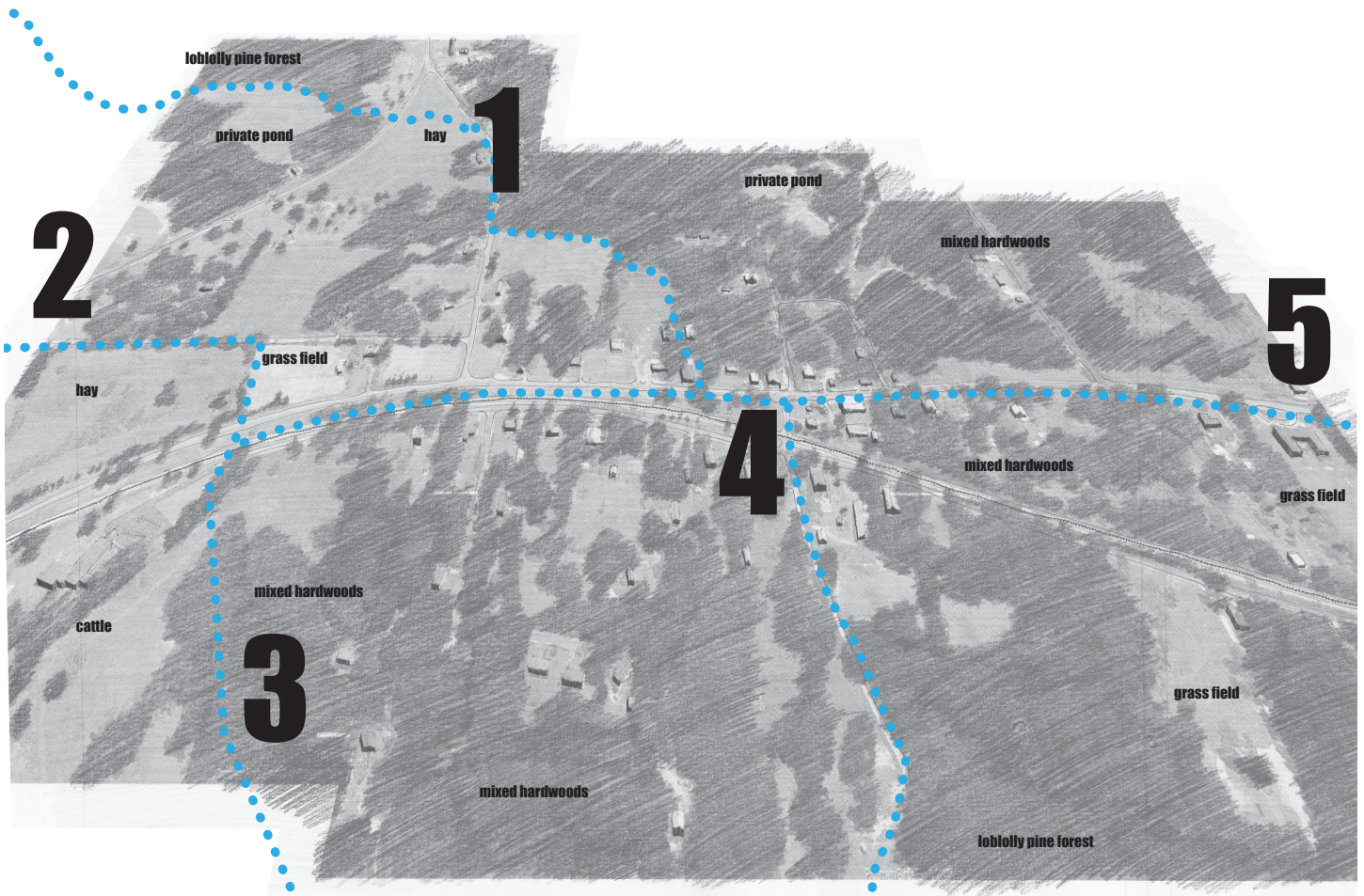
GUIDED TRAIL TOURS
 HOLIDAY TRAIL WALKS

SCHOOL CHILDREN DESIGN POSTERS TO PUT IN MAIL BOXES
 CREATE BANNER TO HANG ON PUBLIC WALL
 CONTACT ALL ORGANIZATION LEADERS VIA PHONE
 DEVELOP ARTICLE FOR TOWN PUBLICATION
 SELL WINDOW DECALS





proposed town trail network overlaid on existing surface cover analysis map with selected points of interest highlighted



1. muscadine vineyard

2. ball's fork

3. pecan path

4. stage road

5. community center

A



1. muscadine vineyard - central point for communal gathering and performance space



2. Ball's Fork - point of first store and whiskey house in Loachapoka. also located here was the first hotel for travelers and facility to care for stage coach teams



3. pecan path - trail throughout pecan grove which follows alluvial soils



4. community center - trail connecting communal gathering space for easy pedestrian access to rest of town

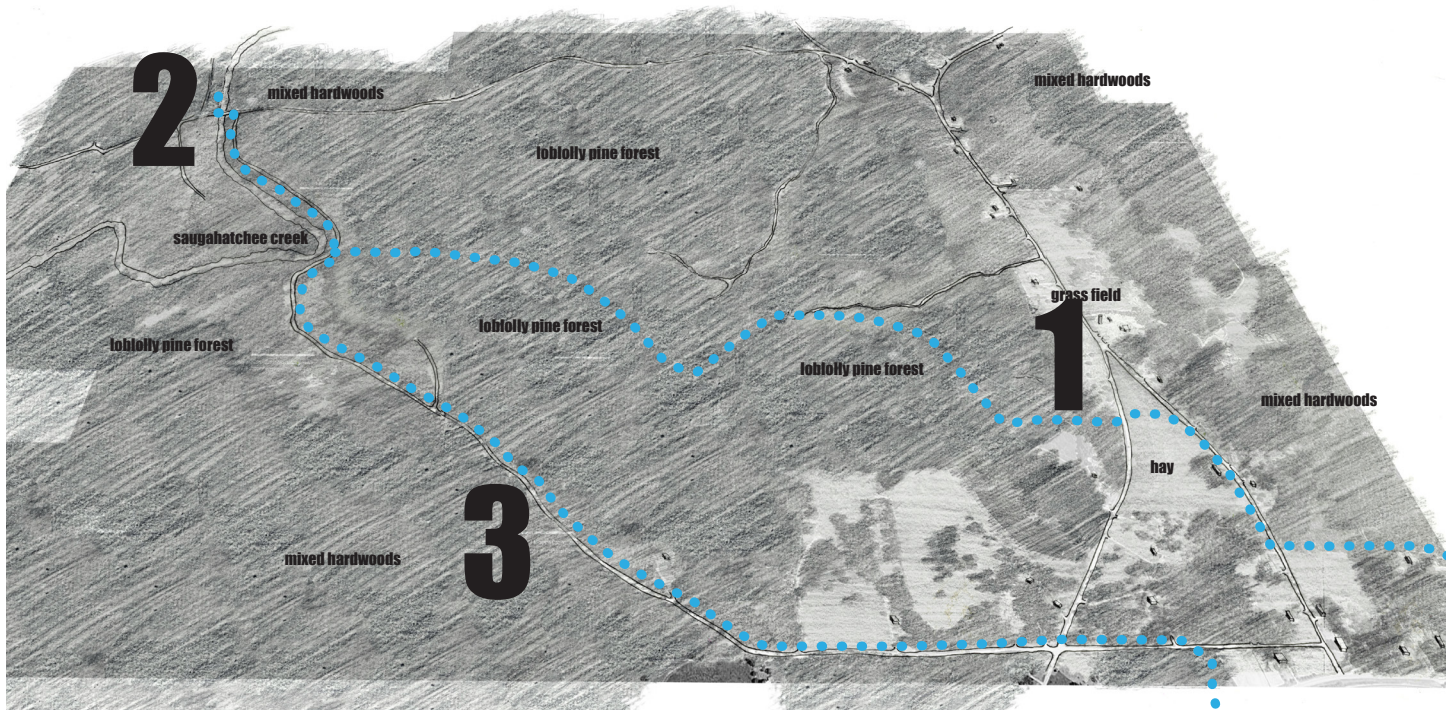


- 5.** stage road - trail passing current Historical Society as well as center of town. path guarded from vehicular movement by pecan trees planted by residents



A

proposed creek trail network overlaid on existing surface cover with highlighted points of interest



1. cemetery

2. saugahatchee creek

3. mixed hardwoods

A



1. pine level cemetery - winding throughout historic cemetery for educational and observance opportunities



2. Saugahatchee Creek - following the creek providing access to water for fishing, canoeing, lounging, or other recreation / relaxation

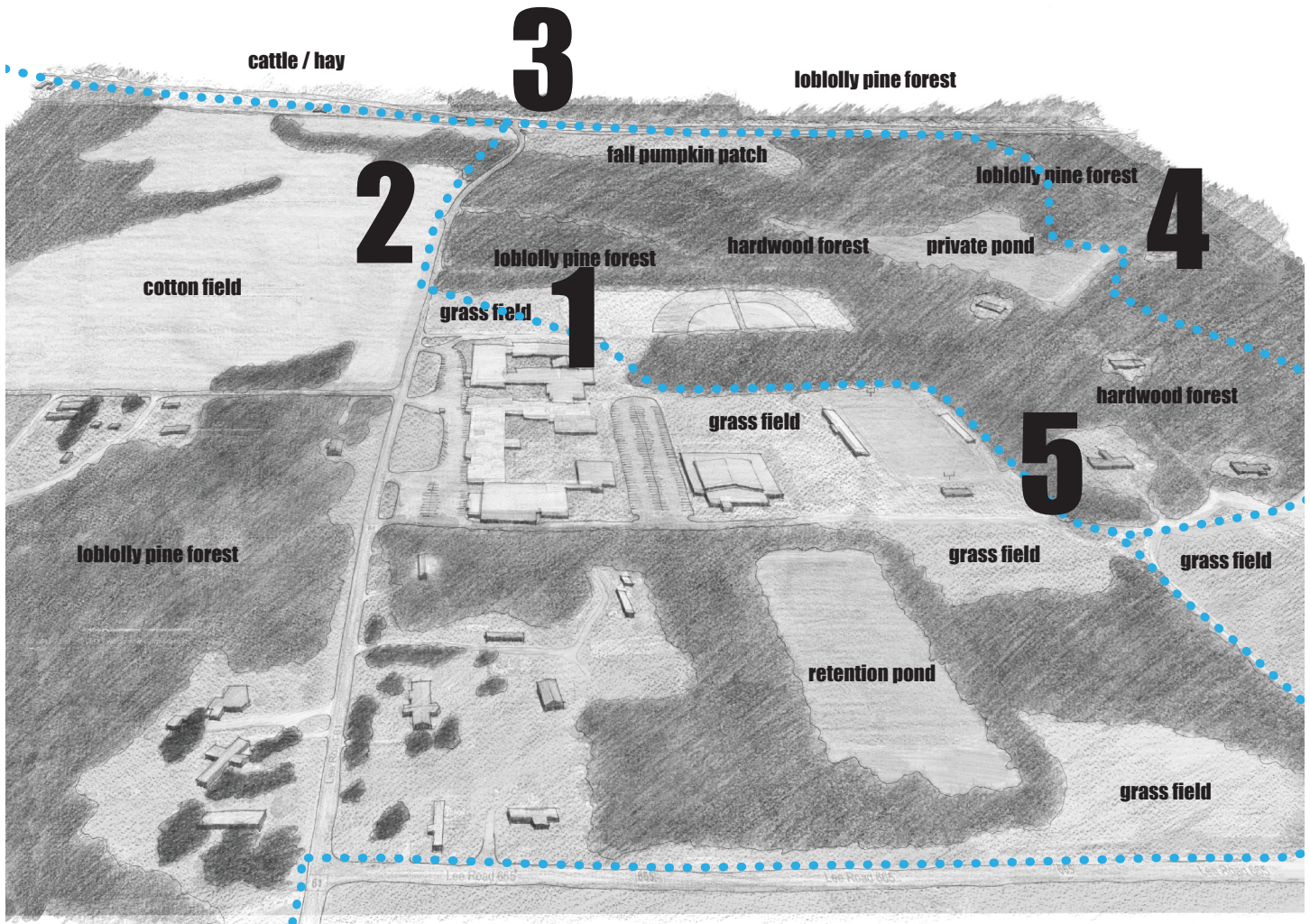


3. mixed hardwoods - forest trail for outdoors people seeking opportunities to get into the woods



A

proposed school trail network overlayed on current
surface cover analysis



1. blueberry patch

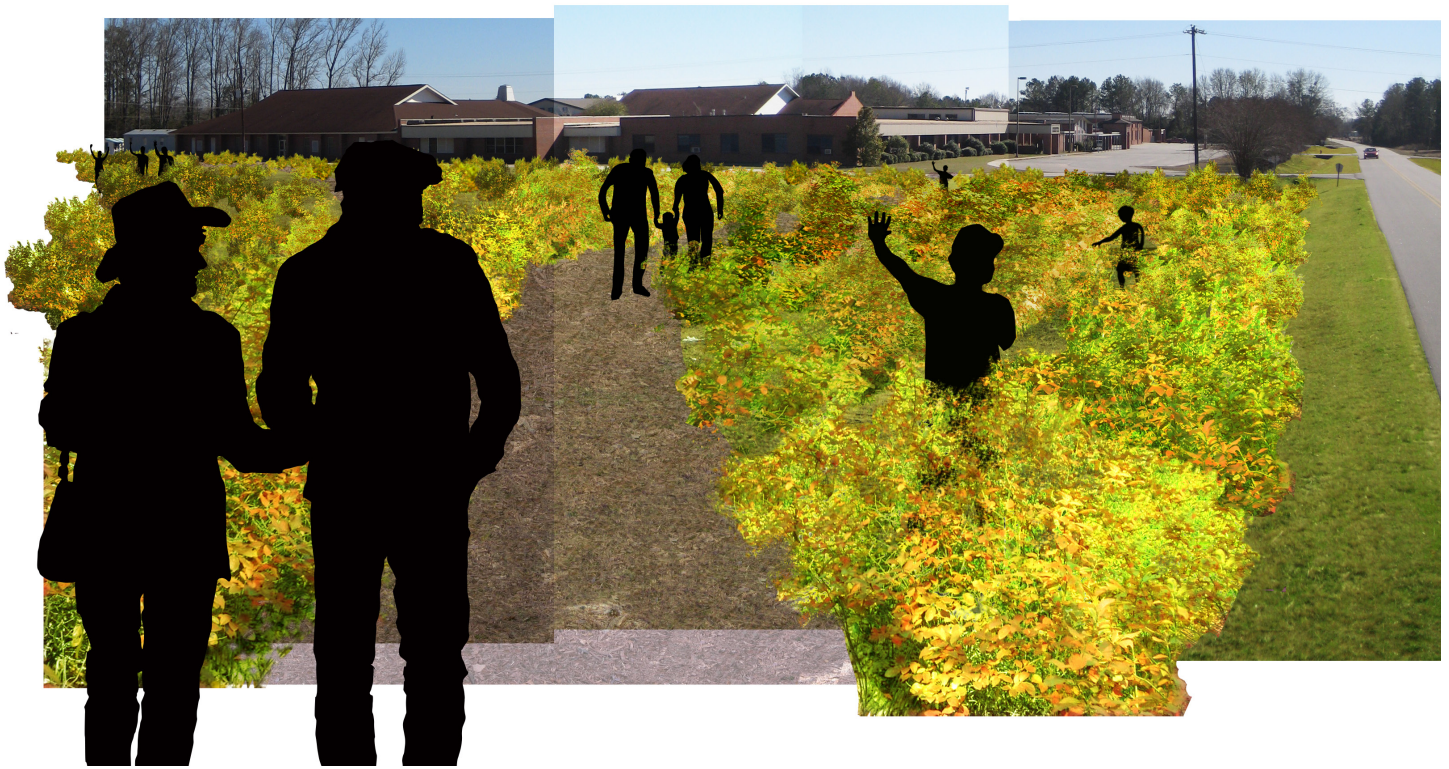
3. roadside market

5. border ecosystem

2. cotton fields

4. loblolly forest

A



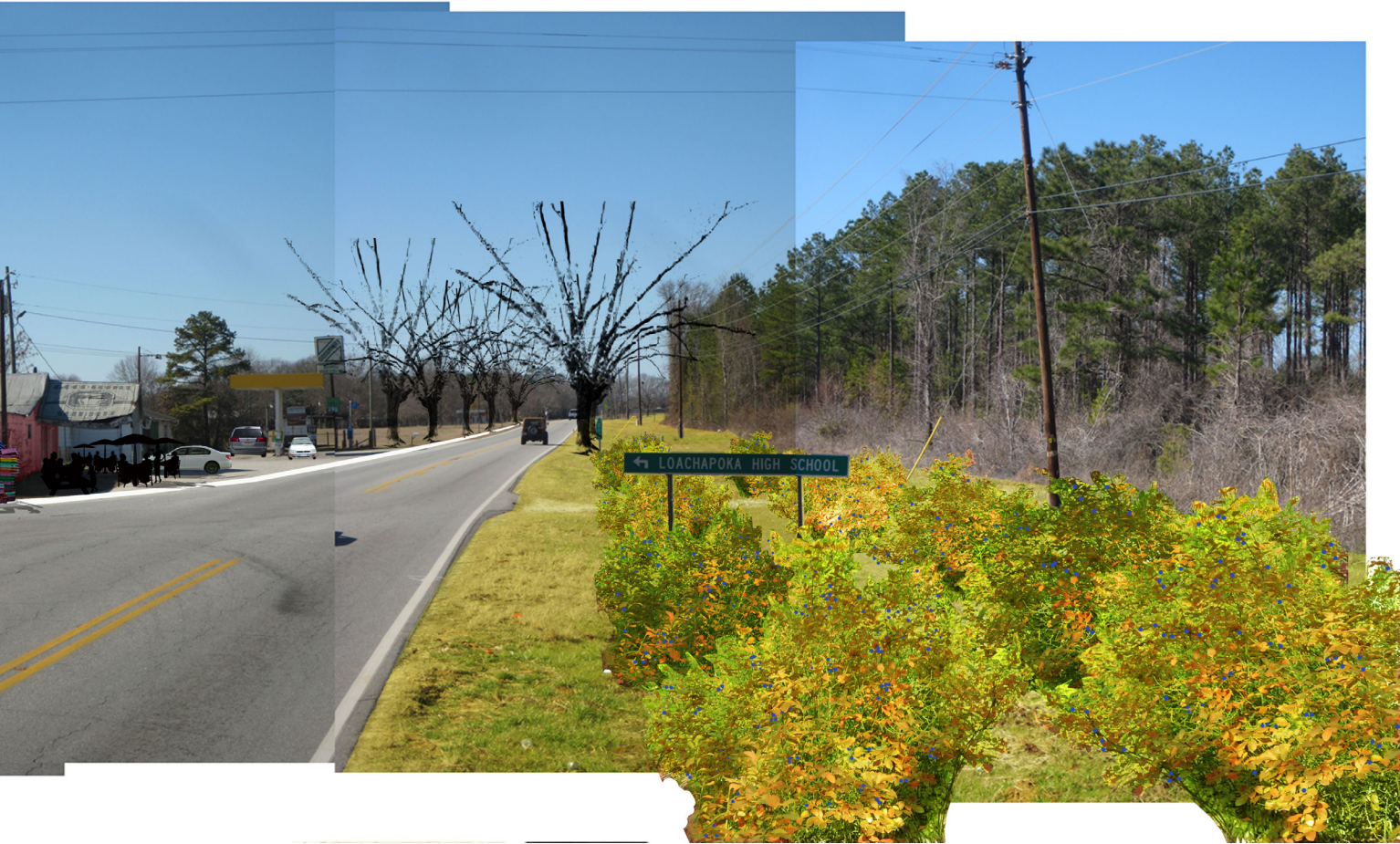
1. blueberry patch - blueberry field with communal seating throughout for classes, gatherings, etc. proceeds from annual blueberry pick benefit the school system



2. cotton fields - section of trail passing the edge of cotton fields providing teachers an opportunity to teach history, agriculture, etc.



- 3.** roadside market - section which passes by Highway 14 for interaction with vehicles, pedestrians, or merchants at local ice cream shop selling blueberry flavors from local blueberries





4. loblolly forest - section which provides dappled light to enter, yet shade for pleasant escape from surroundings



- 5.** border ecosystem - part of trail which provides both students and teachers opportunities to exercise and engage the outdoors

A

final proposed design illustrating placement of muscadine vineyard in relation to rest of town

muscadine vines



A

diagram showing uses of muscadines: who, what, when, where, and how

uses

h e a l t h
e c o l o g y
f o o d



w h a t

berry

wildlife

nutrition

w h e n

autumn

year round

year round

w h o

anyone

anyone

anyone

w h e r e

on vine

all around

within

h o w

taste

sight / hear

touch

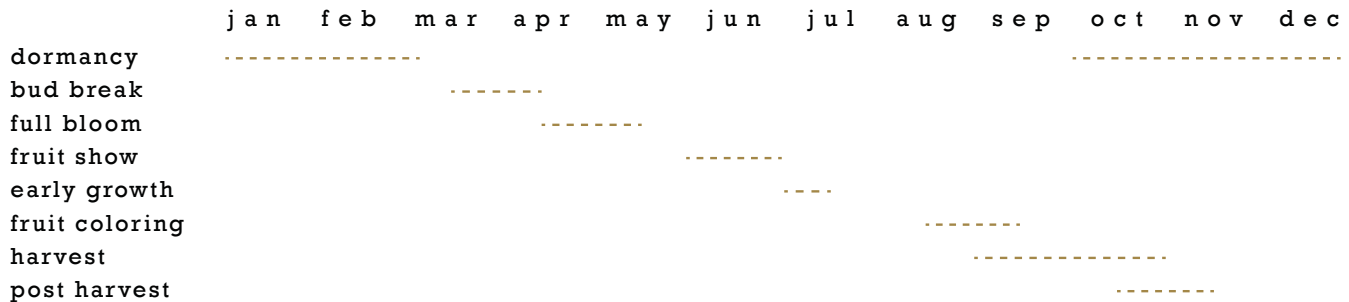
A



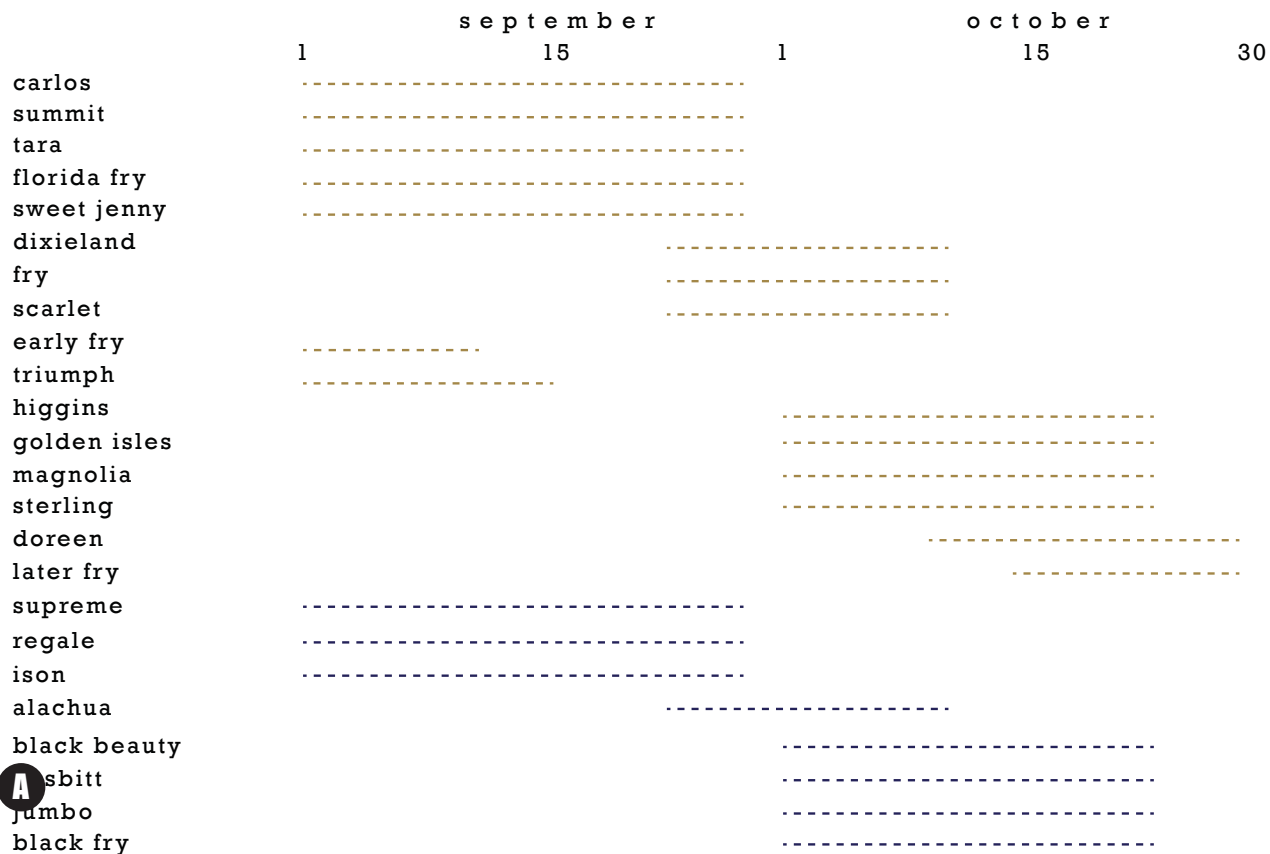


timelines showing important periods throughout the year for muscadine growth and production

crop stages

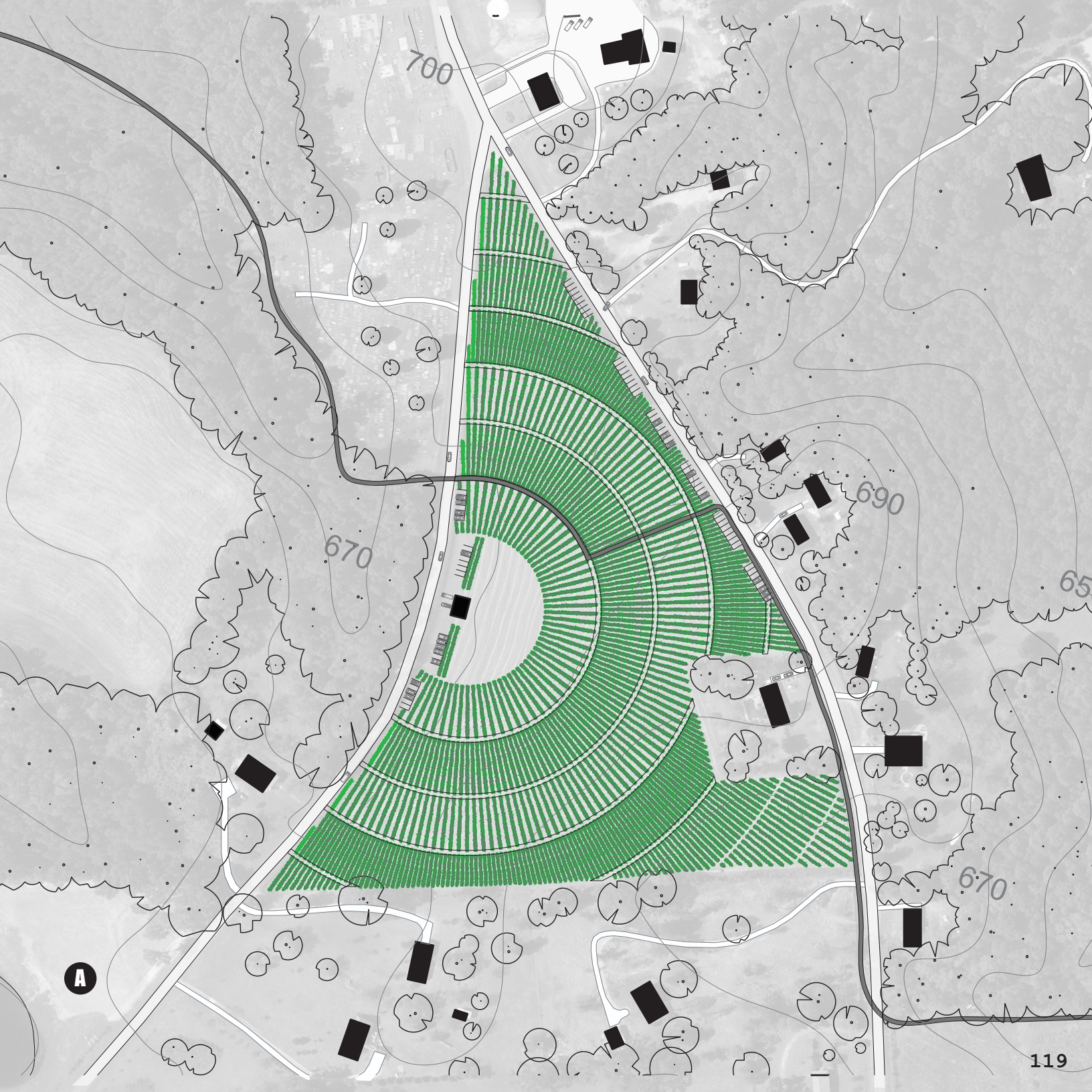


fruit production



final proposed site plan for muscadine vineyard on 12 acres. site selected for proximity to town, site of long time resident possibly willing to donate/sell property for betterment of town, currently existing hay field, and bordered by entry/exit roads to town. radial pattern selected for focus toward middle of site (gathering place/performance stage) from parking along roadside. linear rows keep visual agricultural aesthetic within town. row width accesible for easy maintenance/harvest. trail network strategically placed through first circular path in order to avoid disturbance within vineyard center, however guiding interaction with planted species

A



A

final proposed design illustrating placement of blueberry patch in relation to rest of town

blueberry patch



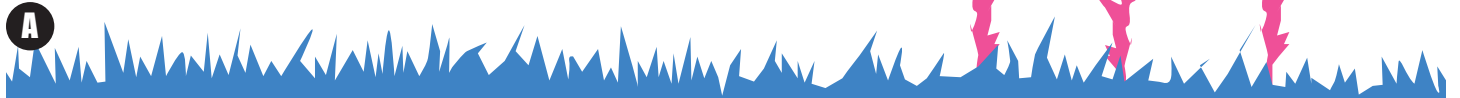
A

diagram showing uses of blueberries: who, what, when,
where, and how

USES

	w h a t	w h e n	w h o	w h e r e	h o w
food	 berries	summer	anyone	on	taste
ecology	 wildlife	year round	anyone	all around	sight / hear
amenity	 color	autumn	anyone	all around / from distance	sight
health	 nutrition	year round	anyone	within	touch

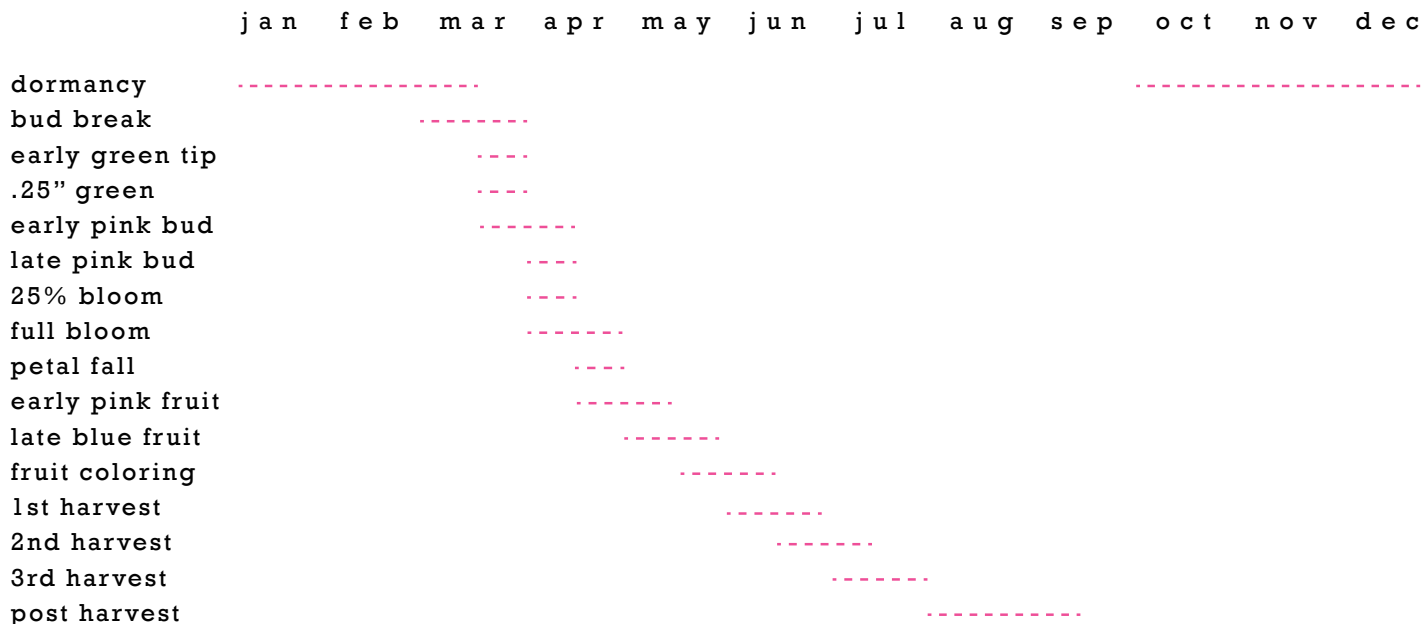
A



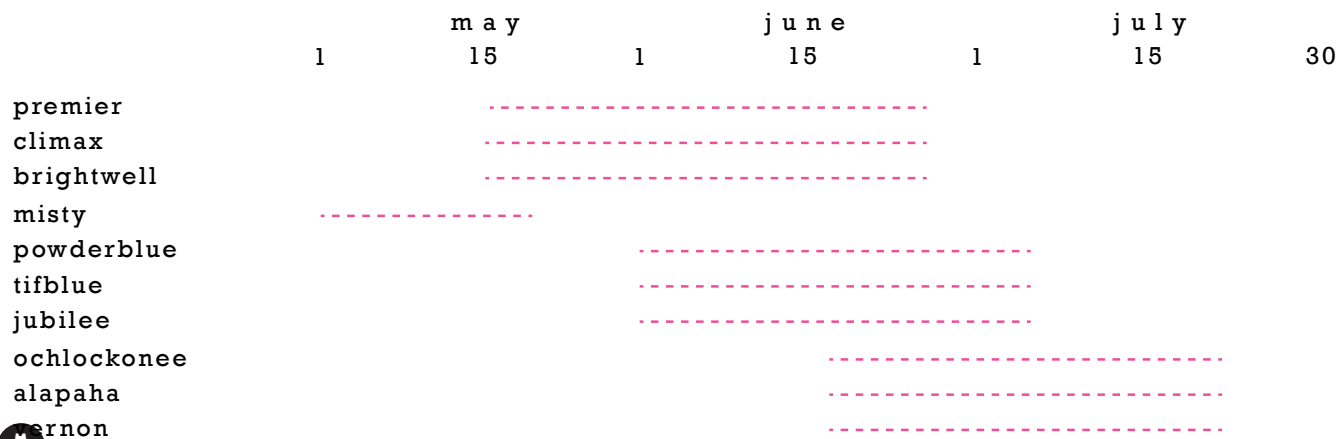
A

timelines showing important periods throughout the year
for blueberry growth and production

crop stages



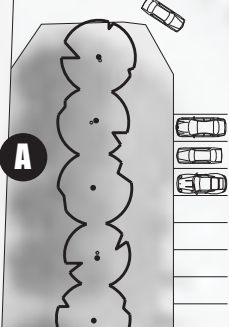
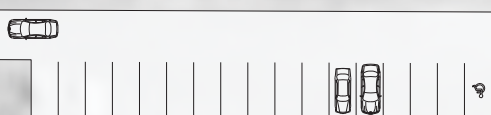
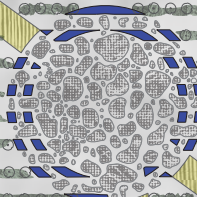
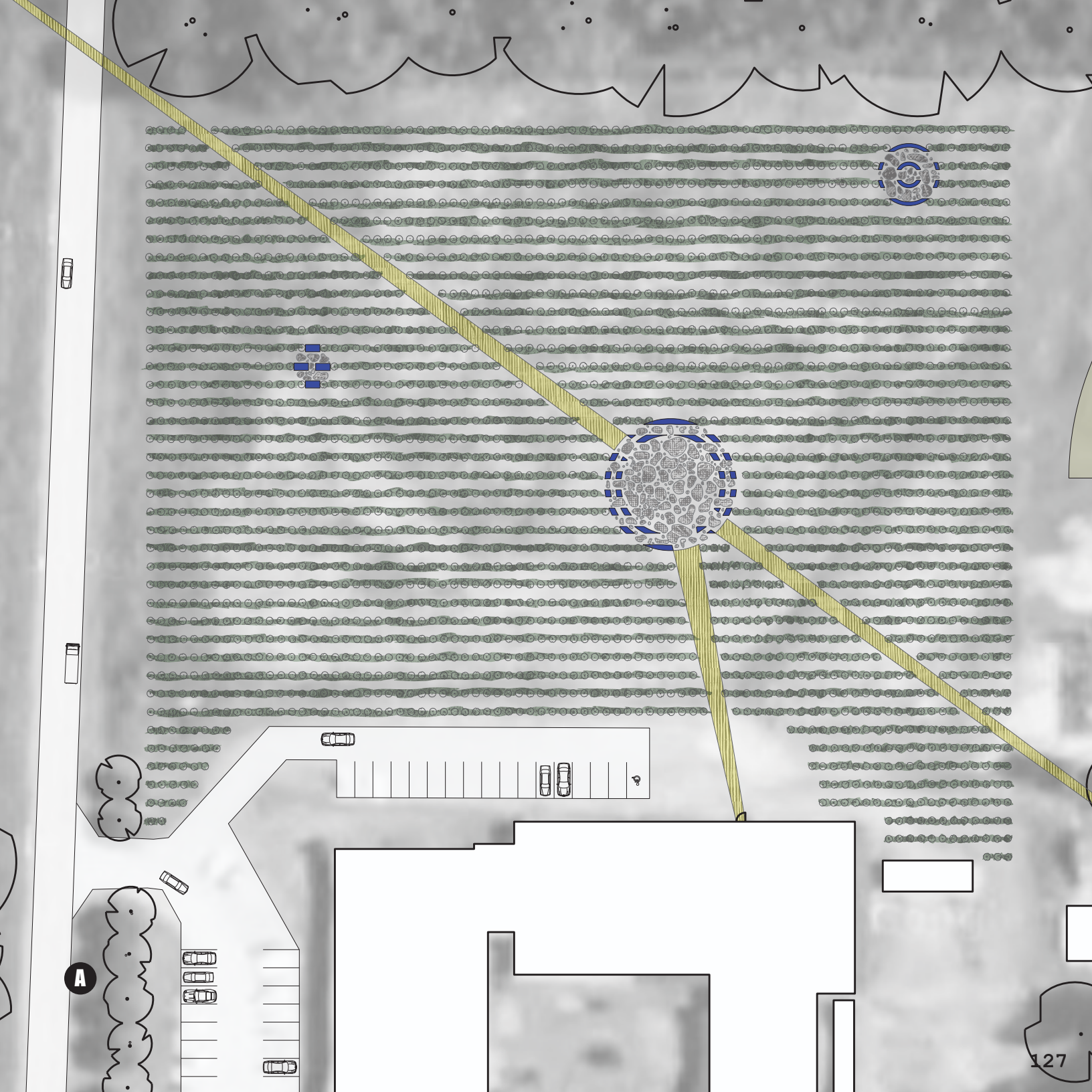
fruit production



A

final proposed site plan for blueberry patch on 3.5 acres of school property. site selection based on potential to engage students and build a relationship with their school and town, potential for parents to work with children on blueberry projects, opportunity to form fundraiser, and availability of open land. maintain linear rows for efficiency (maintenance/harvest). rows run east/west for visual agricultural aesthetic from road. trail runs diagonally through site for spatial tension and gradual release once entered into gathering circle in middle of site. three various sized gathering circles throughout site for outdoor classrooms or event space

A



main gathering room. 70' diameter. seating formed by local boy scouts and shop class at the highschool. all seating painted blue for continued blueberry theme, concentric rings designed for inward focus of people, also for the ability to sit two people comfortably and spatially up to 100 people. seating follows rows for accessible maintenance on tractor. "Barney Rubble" (3'-4' stone from nearby Vulcan Quarry with existing grass growing between) used within circle for durability and difference in ground cover to define space. pathway constructed from collected pecan hulls throughout town

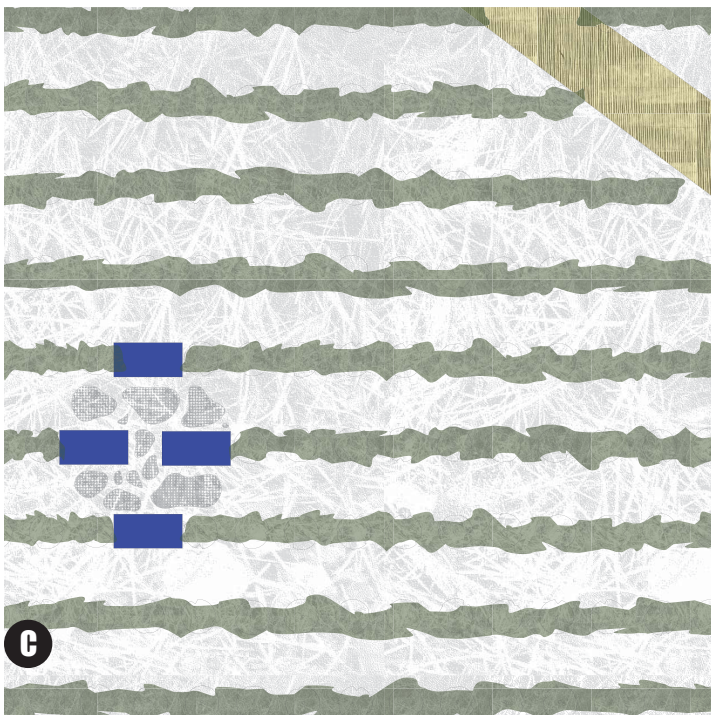
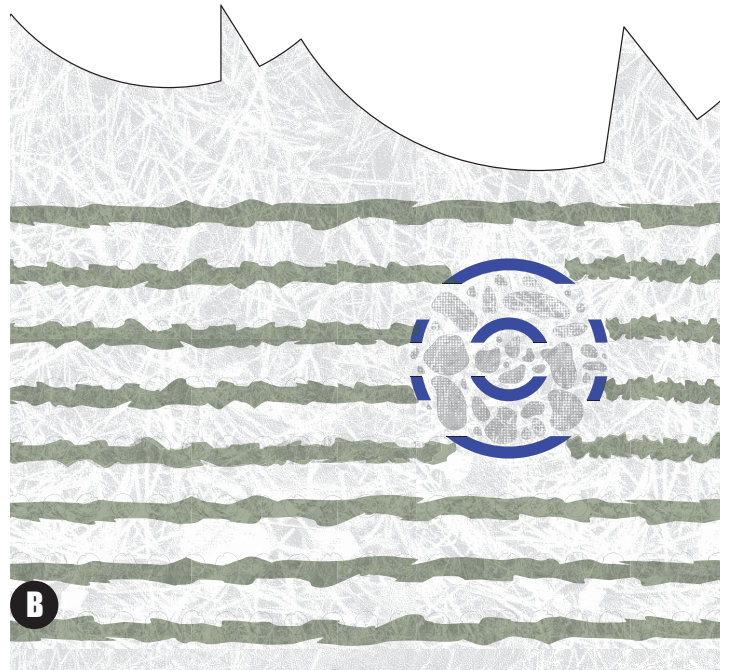
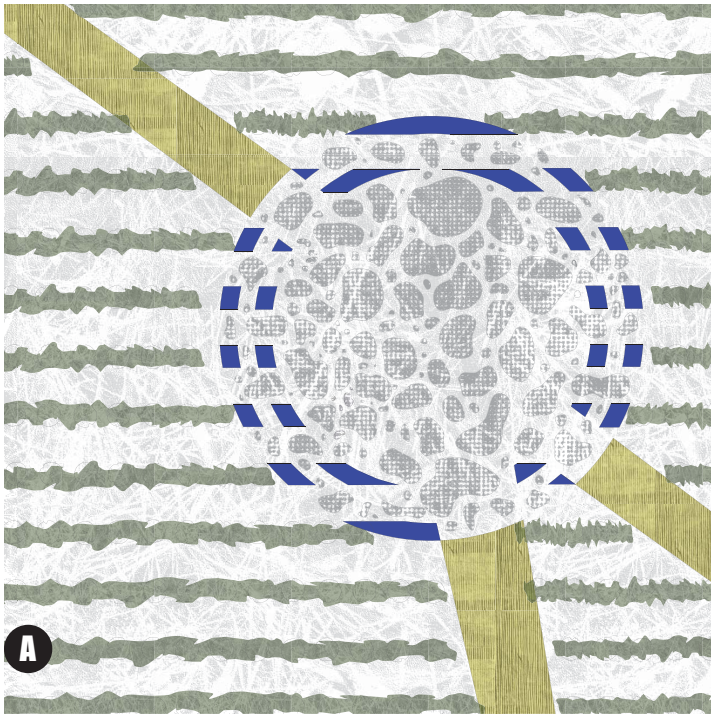
A

medium sized gathering room. 35' diameter. seating maintains linear form as well as a radial layout for classroom space. "Barney Rubble" used for ground cover

B

C

small gathering room. 20' diameter. seating maintains linear form with defined space occurring through "Barney Rubble" ground cover



reflection:

Throughout the course of this research, several questions and comments surfaced that either brought to light weaknesses in the project or confirmed and solidified decisions that were made. Because this research will continue to advance on some level, it is valuable for those questions and comments to be given room for resolution or being added to.

An issue which arose in the middle of this research was the idealistic portrayal of communal engagement within the landscape. Although this was graphically communicated, the practical and real aspect of labor intensive work, civic engagement, communal commitment, and potential failure within social groups was thoroughly explored. Still, with these concerns, the project rests on the basis that with engaged commitment among residents, these carefully designed landscapes will provide the opportunity for social capital to increase.

Due to the social components of this project, it became very difficult to think through the evolution of this design and the possibilities of things to occur. The reality that this design is entirely dependent upon the commitment and willingness of Loachapoka residents informed my conclusion that it can only be tested under physical construction and implementation. Through the research of other successful designs, several similar pieces were used within this project; however, due to cultural differences each proposed design conforms to this landscape and its cultural boundaries (Engwicht 2009). It is possible for pieces of this project to succeed with few participants (the blueberry patch) however large scale sites (muscadine vineyard) probably do not have as high a percentage for implementation without full communal involvement. Through grants and other research efforts, pecan tree donations are plausible; however, planting close to the highway will probably meet more resistance among government agencies due to safety as well as future expan-

reflection:

sion; the first resistance potentially being resolved through lowering the speed limit.

In all designed space, species have the ability to grow without human aid, but they also present the option for aid among those who want to invest in the project. This was specifically chosen so that growth may continue for planted species, while also providing opportunities to engage others by various means of cultivation and harvest, should the resident choose to do so.

By developing social programs associated with the local school, this design offers a much greater chance of implementation due to the typical general support that most residents, young and old alike, have for education. The incorporation of key communal groups within the town, such as churches, allows for a diversified array of people to engage the project and maintain a common direction.

Due to the lack of time within the research period, design work was unable to be fully communicated, causing questions to arise related to the specific detail of spatial and textural areas. Nonetheless, due to the time spent with residents of the town, an understanding of the expectations, the memories, the fears, and the passions were fully conveyed. This insight allowed a deeper rationale to develop and a confident design to emerge.

Illustrations:

pg. 19 - A, B, C, D, E - (Nunn, 1968)

pg. 21 - A - (Trails, Vol. 20, Number 3, October 1988)

- B - (Trails, Vol. 18, Number 4, December 1986)

- C - (Palmer, 2009)

- D - (Trails, Vol. 18, Number 2, May 1986)

- E - (Trails, Vol. 18, Number 2, May 1986)

All other images were illustrated by the author

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"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you, that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." - The Apostle Paul -

