

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION:
A LOOK AT THE PROCESS IN CAMBRIDGE, ILLINOIS, 1996-1997

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ABSTRACT

This thesis describes and evaluates the downtown revitalization steps that the community of Cambridge, Illinois, has taken in the past few years.

It first describes how the process of downtown revitalization was initiated, through participation in the Mapping The Future Of Your Community program at the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA), and who was involved in that process. The study then describes the work that was carried out during the eleven-month period of participation in the Peace Corps Fellows program, focussing on and evaluating the development of a tourism project in the Village of Cambridge.

Finally, the report evaluates the success of the Peace Corps Fellows program in Cambridge.

Through this evaluation it has been determined that the process of downtown revitalization has been started in the Village of Cambridge, and that participation in the Peace Corps Fellows program has been of benefit to the Village. Participation in the program demonstrated to Cambridge the importance of having a central office to manage downtown development projects and the value of relying on a formal structure to carry-out the necessary steps to meet their downtown revitalization goals.