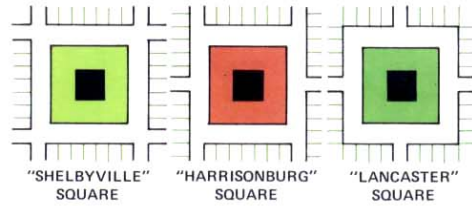


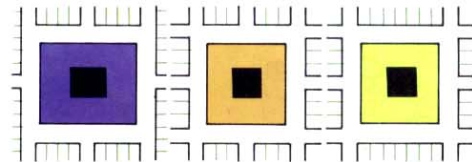
## TYPES OF COURTHOUSE SQUARES



"SHELBYVILLE"  
SQUARE

"HARRISONBURG"  
SQUARE

"LANCASTER"  
SQUARE

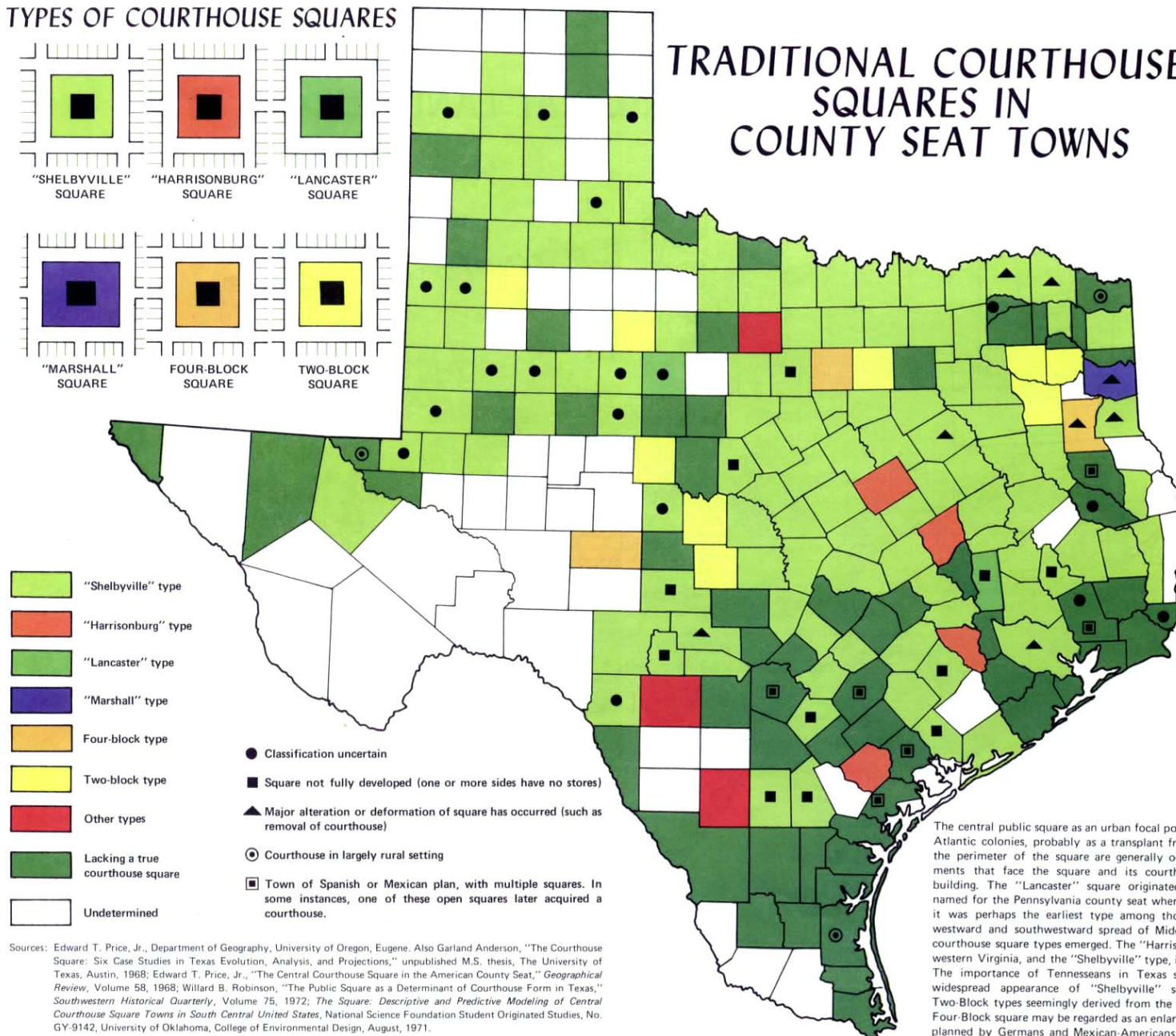


"MARSHALL"  
SQUARE

FOUR-BLOCK  
SQUARE

TWO-BLOCK  
SQUARE

## TRADITIONAL COURTHOUSE SQUARES IN COUNTY SEAT TOWNS



- "Shelbyville" type
- "Harrisonburg" type
- "Lancaster" type
- "Marshall" type
- Four-block type
- Two-block type
- Other types
- Lacking a true courthouse square
- Undetermined

- Classification uncertain
- Square not fully developed (one or more sides have no stores)
- ▲ Major alteration or deformation of square has occurred (such as removal of courthouse)
- ⊙ Courthouse in largely rural setting
- ▣ Town of Spanish or Mexican plan, with multiple squares. In some instances, one of these open squares later acquired a courthouse.

Sources: Edward T. Price, Jr., Department of Geography, University of Oregon, Eugene. Also Garland Anderson, "The Courthouse Square: Six Case Studies in Texas Evolution, Analysis, and Projections," unpublished M.S. thesis, The University of Texas, Austin, 1968; Edward T. Price, Jr., "The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat," *Geographical Review*, Volume 58, 1968; Willard B. Robinson, "The Public Square as a Determinant of Courthouse Form in Texas," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Volume 75, 1972; *The Square: Descriptive and Predictive Modeling of Central Courthouse Square Towns in South Central United States*, National Science Foundation Student Originated Studies, No. GY-9142, University of Oklahoma, College of Environmental Design, August, 1971.

The central public square as an urban focal point was first seen in the Middle Atlantic colonies, probably as a transplant from Northern Ireland. Lots on the perimeter of the square are generally occupied by business establishments that face the square and its courthouse or other governmental building. The "Lancaster" square originated in Northern Ireland and is named for the Pennsylvania county seat where it first appeared in America; it was perhaps the earliest type among those illustrated here. With the westward and southwestward spread of Middle Atlantic subculture, other courthouse square types emerged. The "Harrisonburg" type first appeared in western Virginia, and the "Shelbyville" type, in Bedford County, Tennessee. The importance of Tennesseans in Texas settlement is reflected in the widespread appearance of "Shelbyville" squares. The "Marshall" and Two-Block types seemingly derived from the "Harrisonburg" form, and the Four-Block square may be regarded as an enlarged "Shelbyville" plan. Towns planned by Germans and Mexican-Americans lack true courthouse squares.