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 at 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 “Harrisonsburg” type first appeared in western Virginia, and the “Shelbyville” type, in Bedford County, Tennessee. The importance of Tennesseeans in Texas settlement is reflected in the widespread appearance of “Shelbyville” squares. The “Marshall” and Two-Block types seemingly derived from the “Harrisonsburg” 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.