

Place and Prosperity

How Cities Help Us to Connect and Innovate

William Fulton

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My hometown

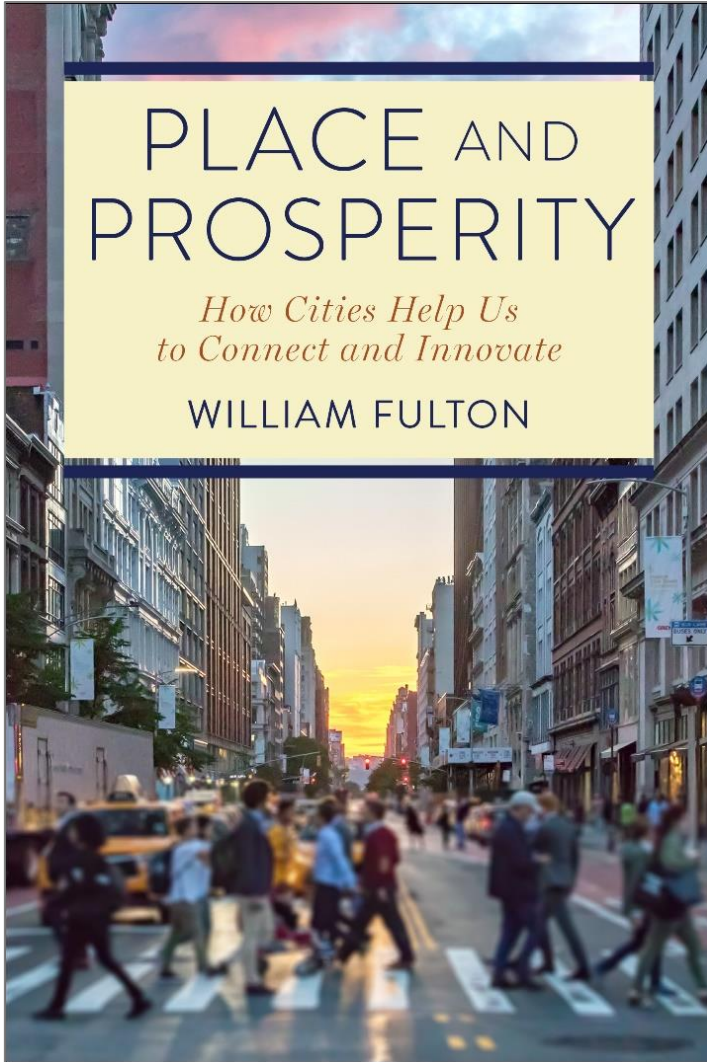


Everything happened downtown



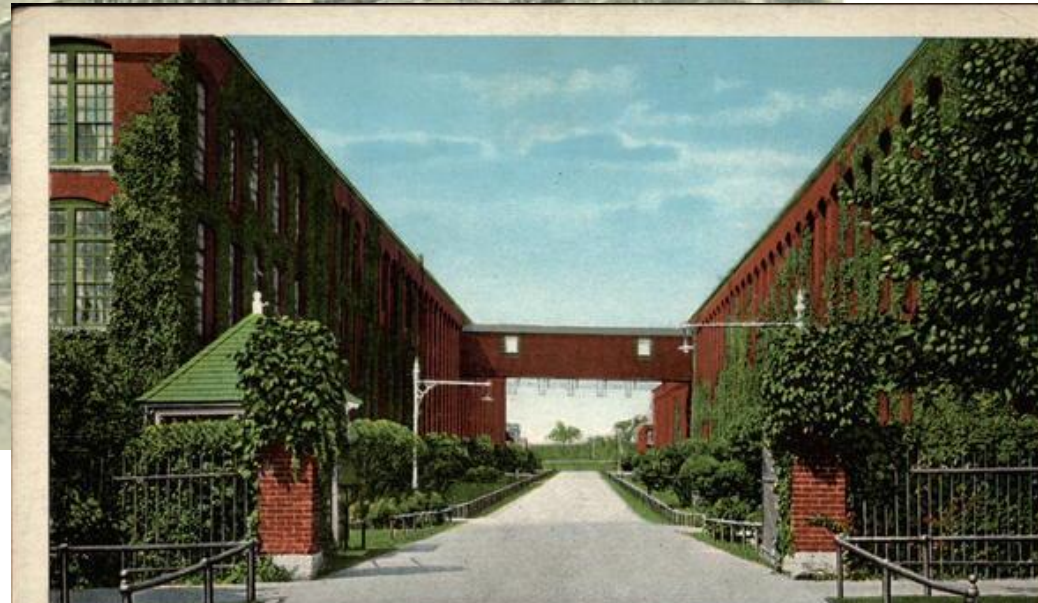
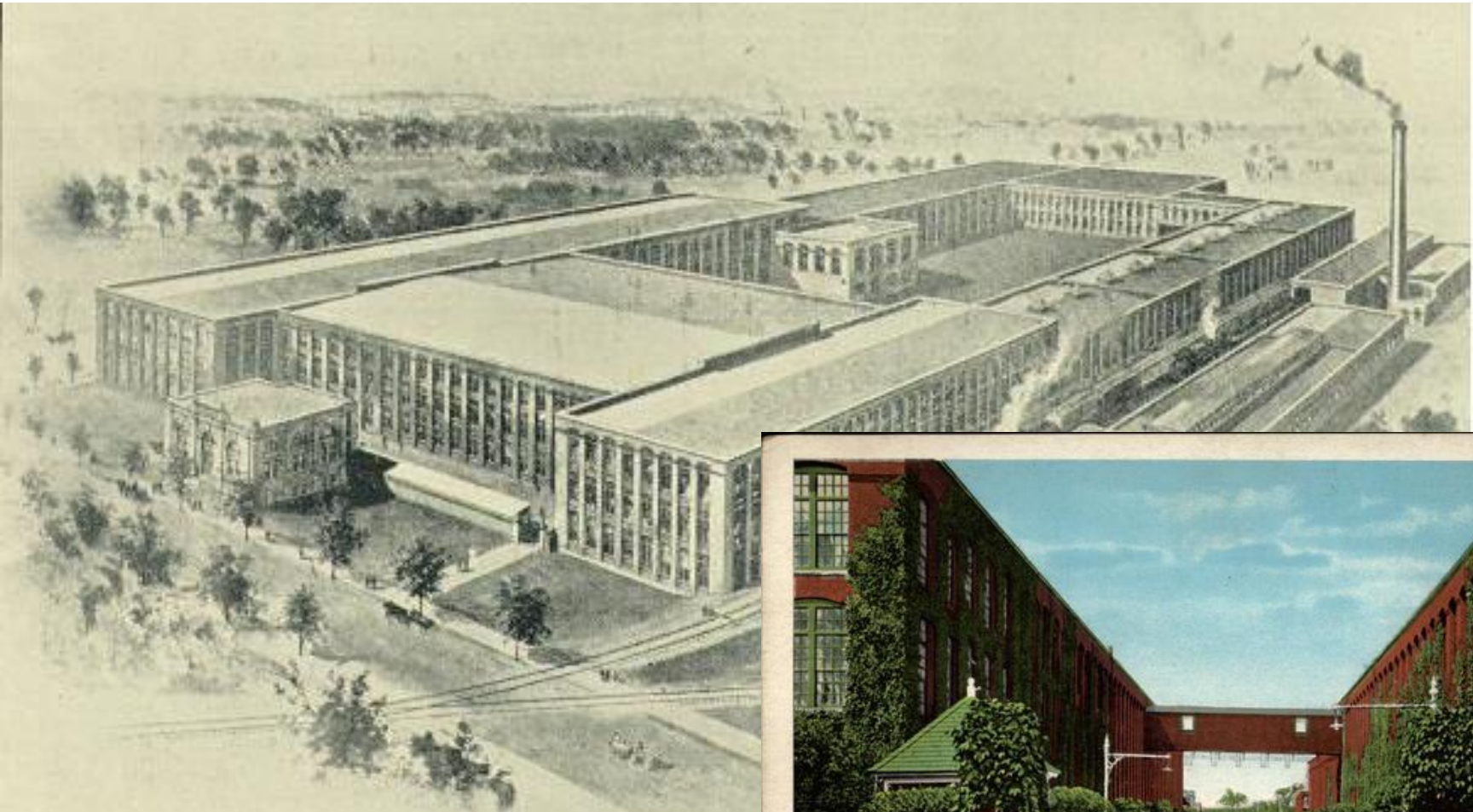
It was a tight-knit little town



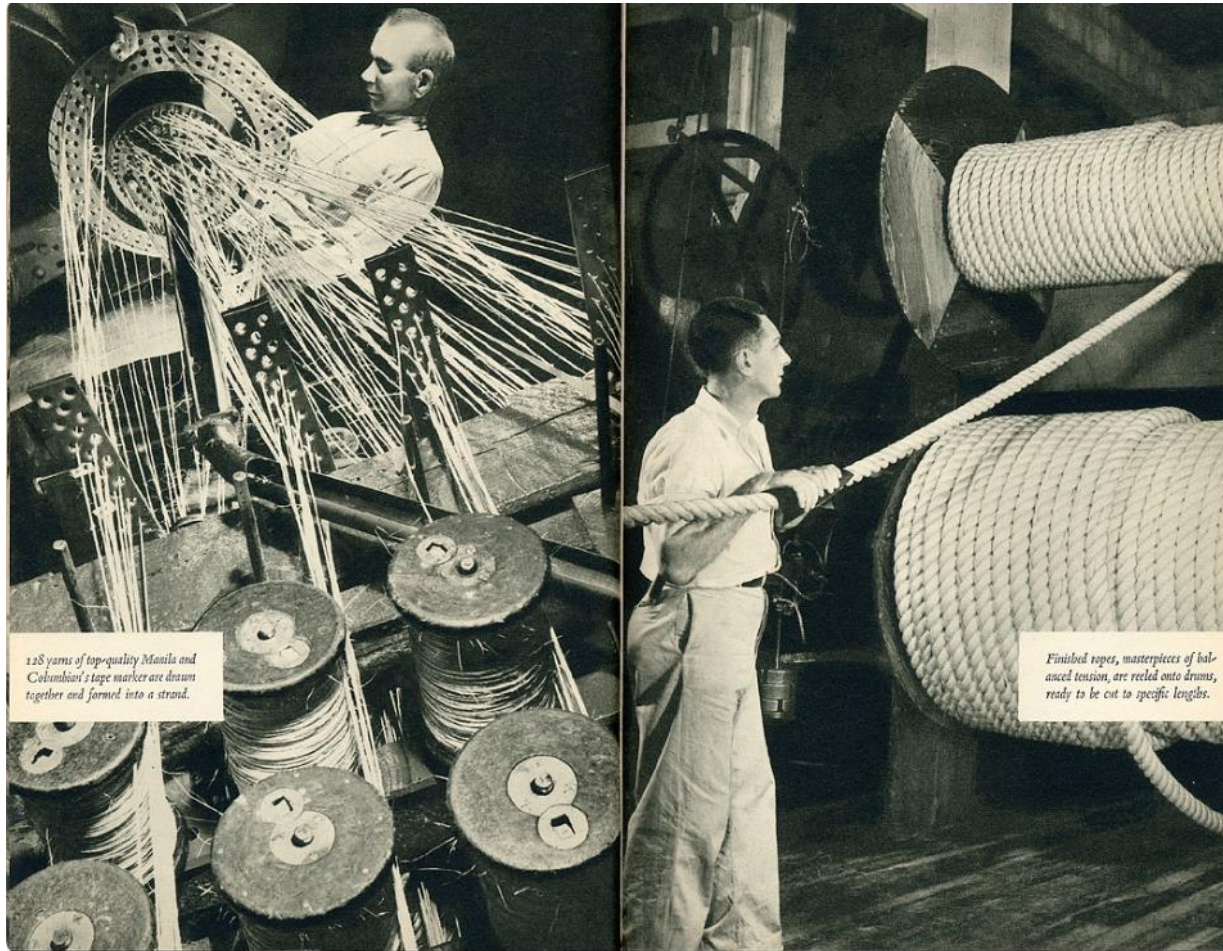


But it was a long time before I understood that this **vibrant place** was the result of – and deeply interconnected to – **local prosperity.**

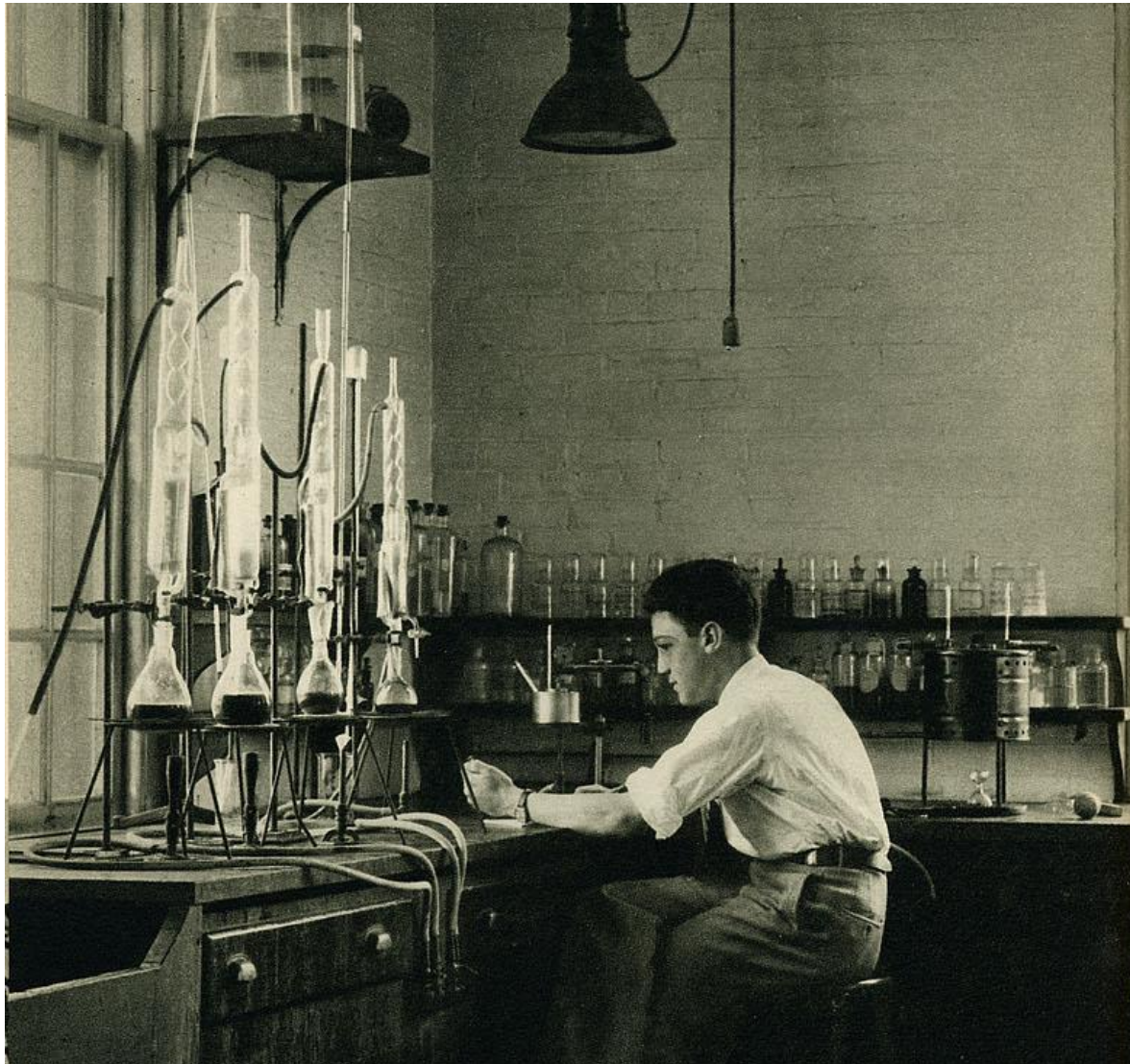
The biggest factory in my hometown



It had its own kind of beauty



And its own R&D lab



proving its products and
chemical laboratory was
expanding the initial op
than formulated when th

Columbian cordage v
hundreds of war-time ne
needed by the Army and
clothed and equipped, an
processes. All this was in
industry and for agricult
produce it did.

But while World Wa
companies, a boom in pr
of supply. The eastern se
marine menace in the Atl
via Japanese freighters w
Portland and San Francis
eastern companies were n
the west coast.

E. E. Bockstedt, who
partment in 1916 and l
freighter at one of the v
whatever box cars he cou
up trains known as "hen
in getting the trains acro
time.

The transportation c
shortage of labor, which
lumbian maintained a n

Run by my grandfather

JULY 1954

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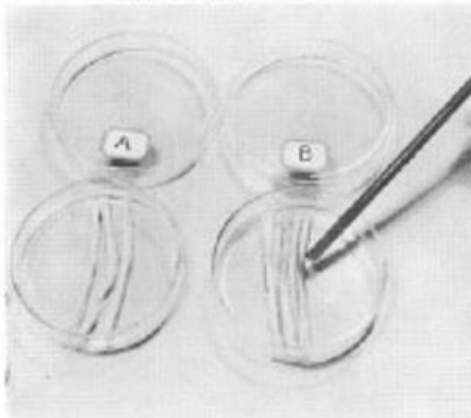
Longer, Stronger Life for Columbian Manila Rope

For one hundred years the unique strength and resiliency of manila fibre has made manila rope a favorite for long life and



*Dr. E. B. Johnson, Director of
Columbian Laboratories.*

*Disk "A" contains treated sample fibres.
Disk "B" contains untreated sample
fibres. Both are sprayed with active
spores of green mold.*



*Below: Two weeks later treated fibres "A"
are still clean while untreated fibres "B"
are covered with mold and bacteria.*

dependability. However, in the Columbian Rope Company research laboratories, Dr. E. B. Johnson, director for twenty-five years, is constantly striving to find new and more effective methods for producing better rope. He is

(Continued on page 9)



I never really made the connection till later in life, when I noticed, in Upstate New York

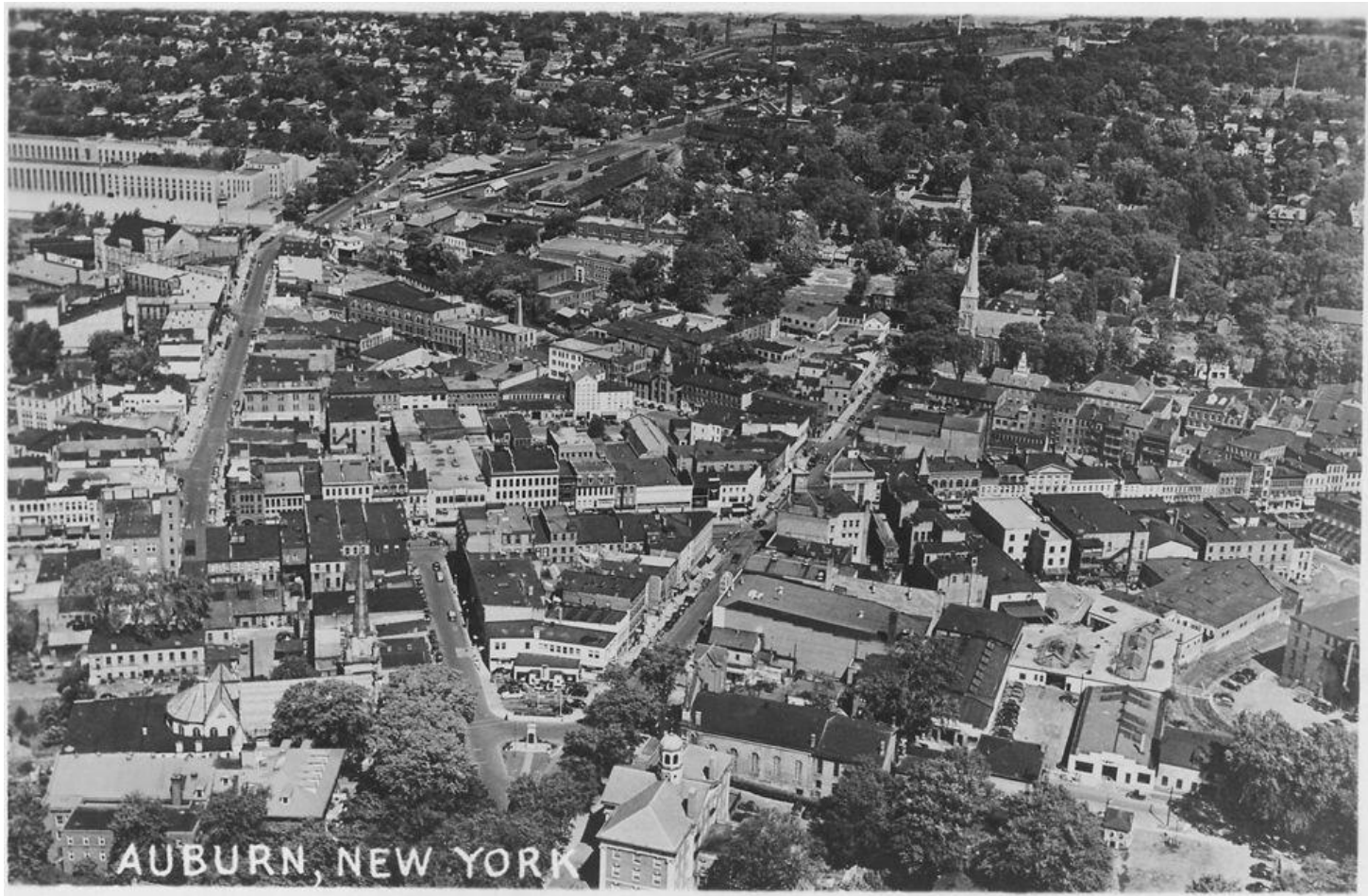
Wherever there was a lovely downtown



There was a thriving factory not far
away

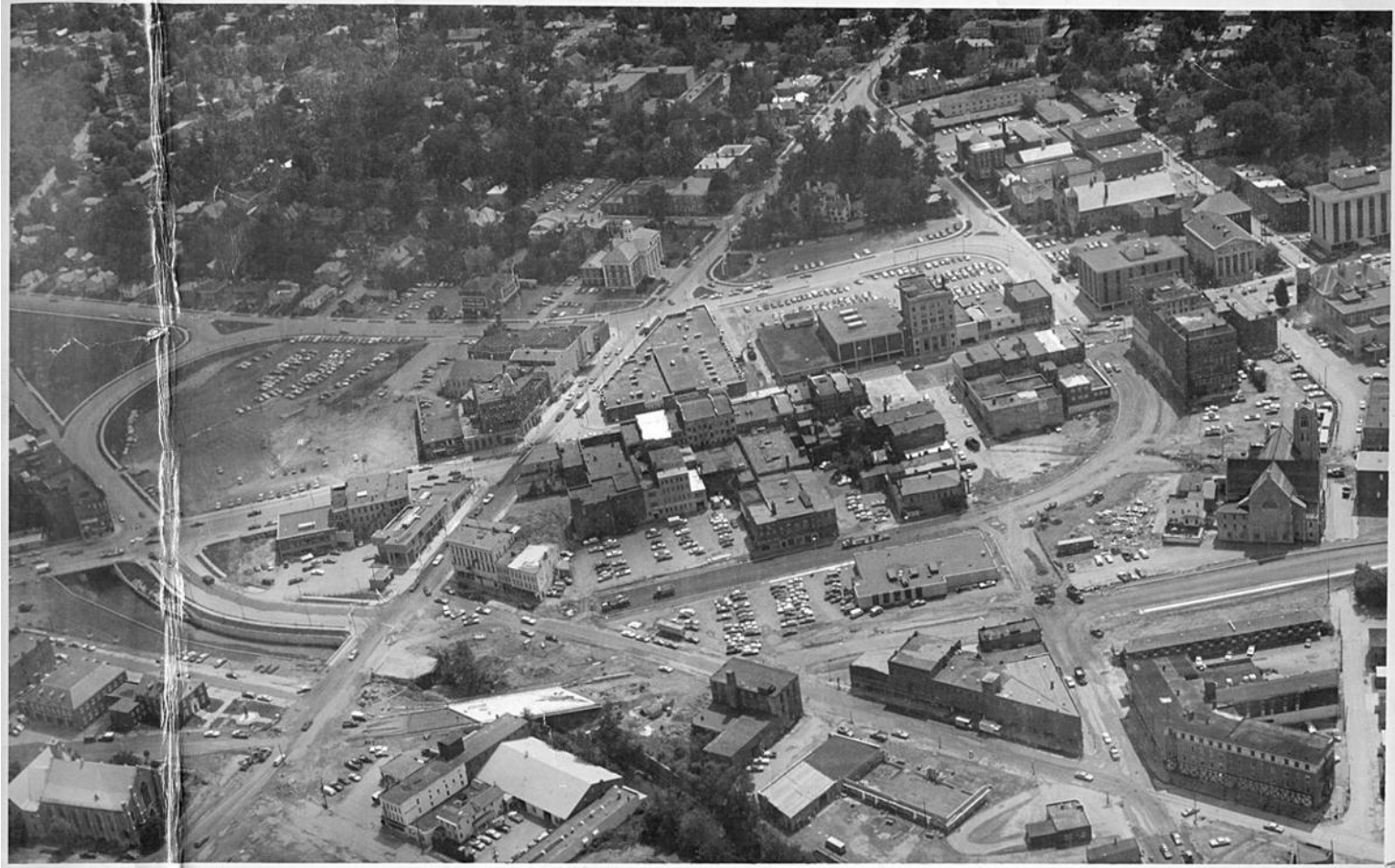


So what happened to the tight-knit
little town?



Urban renewal AND an state DOT- designed arterial road





It was only years later that I realized I had experienced “urban renewal PTSD”



Flatiron Building Corner

Then I moved as far away as possible ...
to a place that didn't seem urban



But it had great urban bones





And I found another small city with a
good downtown



That was host to a prosperous
company



I came to realize that
the most basic reason cities exist
is to bring people together – not just for daily
living and culture,
but perhaps most important
to facilitate commerce.

And I saw how
other people's urban PTSD...



... Could be healed.



Of, course, then I went and moved to a city with no zoning ...



And not much respect for pedestrians!



Only to find that place matters even in a city where I didn't think it was valued



Now, obviously, not all good places are prosperous ...

and not all prosperous places are well designed.

But ...

State Street, Auburn, NY 1960s



Same location, 2022



And this is still my favorite street



Capable of welcoming back a hometown boy

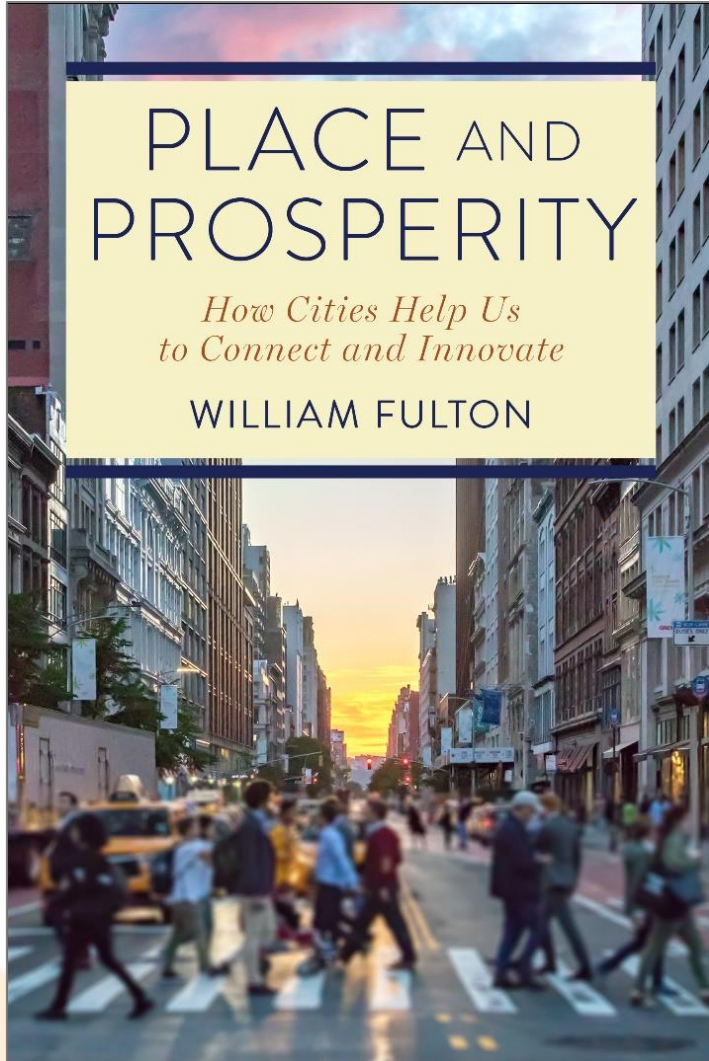


Celebrating an inflatable green pig on St. Patrick's Day



... And reinventing itself as a center of both place and prosperity





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