RAIL NETWORK / CYBER NETWORK

Phase I

The first board expresses how cutting edge networking technology has changed from the early settlements of Boone County to the thriving cyber networking communities found on the internet. Before, if someone wanted visit a friend or relative who lived a considerable distance away, the railroad was used as a means to connect those two people. In modern times, if someone in Albion would like to visit with a soldier currently stationed in Iraq, the internet makes it possible to not only instantly speak with this individual, but also gives them a chance to see them through use of a webcam. In order to continue to be an innovative and thriving community, people must adopt new technologies just as the pioneers did in their time.

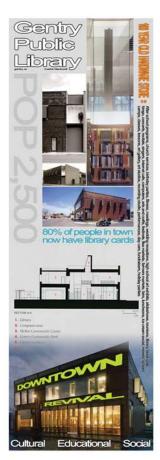## Nebraska ...the good life?

April 13, 1871

Phase II

The second board highlights the struggles and hardships that the pioneers had to endure in order to settle the land and make it habitable for future generations. They had to fight swarms of locusts due to the lack of pesticides and grow crops with rudimentary farm equipment, all while living in small homes built of the only building material that the prairie had in abundance, sod. This suggests that back in the 1800's Nebraska was not exactly characterized as "the good life", but instead something that was far more cruel and unforgiving. Yet somehow, these early pioneers managed to push through the hardships and developed Boone County into the community that it is today.

Prairie Giants

Aurora, AGP, York, Mida, Cenex, UFC, Cargill, Scoular, CST, Farmers Coop, Heartland

Phase III

The third board celebrates the monolithic giants that dot the plains. Most people do not take much notice to these huge industrial structures as the drive down the highway, but they are a vital part of the economy of a small community and even more important to agriculture. Poetically, they stand as guardians over small towns that dot the vast landscape. It would be very interesting to somehow incorporate these into the Albion plan that our studio is focusing on this semester.

Gentry Public Library

POP 2,500

80% of people in town now have library cards

DOWNTOWN REVIVAL

Cultural   Educational   Social

Phase IV

The Gentry Public Library is a great example of how to take an old building in a small town's business district and transform it into something that everyone is proud of and embraces as a cultural, educational, and social hub. Gentry, a town only a little larger than Albion, now has a library that is nestled into the urban fabric of a downtown area that was once thought to be run down. It is compelling how a simple building renovation can spur such interest that over 80% of the town's residents now hold library cards.