

In 2008 the City of Sturgis received a grant from the Michigan Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to help pay for acquisition and demolition of the buildings on the old Arkwright's property located at the northeast corner of North Monroe Street and East Chicago Road.

Demolition work was completed in early 2009 and as a condition of receiving the grant discussions were prohibited for six months. In September of 2009 the City of Sturgis and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) began discussions about the site's future use.

As indicated in the text box, these core elements may develop in several different ways, including different building configurations with multiple uses, different models for the ownership and placement of parking, and the possibility of some part-time public use on the site.

NEXT STEPS

Moving forward, the City and DDA would like to solicit community input on the vision for the Arkwright's site. Citizens can provide input via the City's website or at

Visioning for the Site

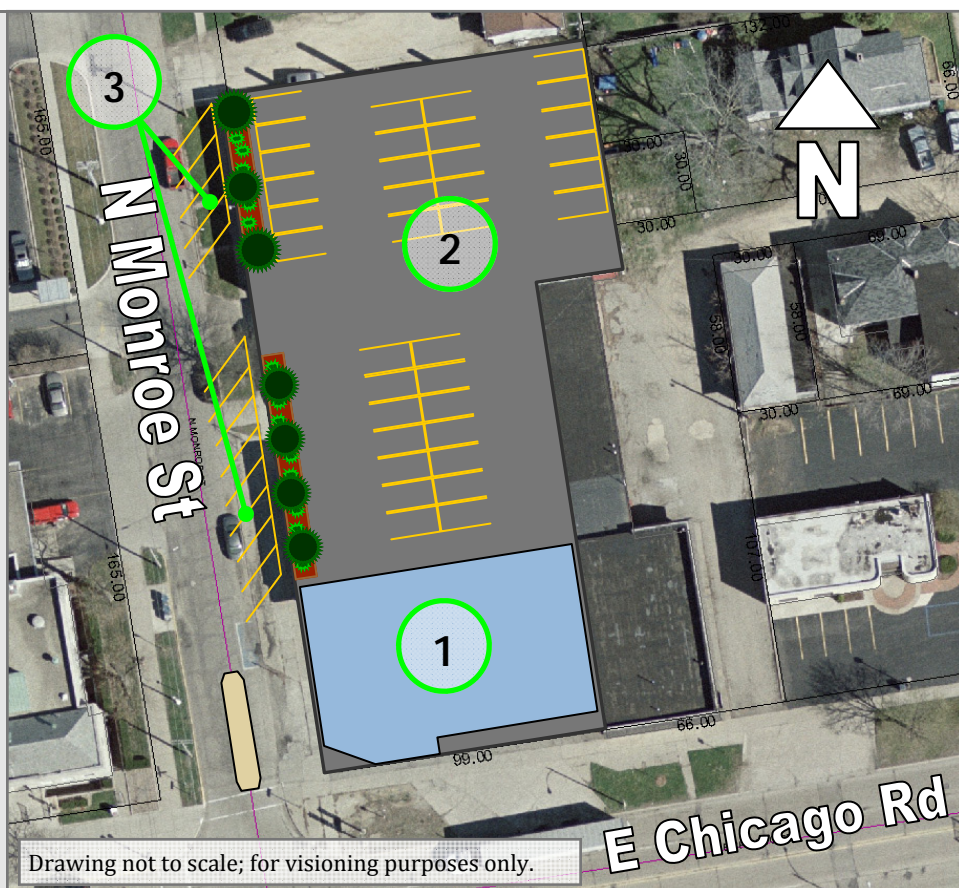
Members of the City Commission and Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board held a visioning process to help initiate a direction for development of Arkwright's.

Core ideas discussed:

1. Destination restaurant (ideally) or retail business anchoring the site
2. On-site parking; possibly public controlled, possibly business-owned
3. Additional parking for surrounding area, particularly the Post Office; may be on site, or on the street adjacent to the site

Other alternatives discussed:

- Two-story business structure with upstairs condos/apartments/overnight rooms
- Integration of a parking pavilion that could serve dual-purpose as site for farmers market and other downtown events
- Integration of small retail space in addition to main building for start-up business rental
- Inclusion of public restroom facilities



DEVELOPING A VISION

At a joint meeting of the City Commission and DDA Board, initial ideas for use of the site were created using a visioning process. The outcome of that process is described in the sidebar and picture above.

This vision is a starting point for future discussion and solicitation of development proposals. While not a "set in stone" plan for the site, the core elements of a restaurant/retail business and parking availability are currently the preferred plan for development.

City Hall. Displays at both locations will allow residents to see the site vision and provide feedback.

The City will also be using the vision presented here and citizen input to develop and solicit a request for proposals (RFP) for the site from interested individuals or development groups. The City expects to begin an RFP process on the site during the Fall / Winter of 2009.