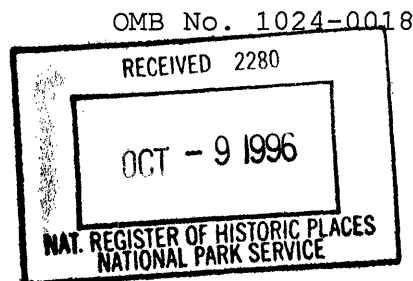


NPS Form 10-900-b
(March 1992)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form



This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

☒ New Submission ☐ Amended Submission

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A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

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Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois

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B. Associated Historic Contexts

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(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Early Settlement and Development, 1832-1865

The Coming of the Railroad and Prosperity, 1866-1900

Commercial Retail Center of Southwestern Fulton County, 1900-1946

=====

C. Form Prepared by

=====

name/title **David Newton, President, Vermont Betterment, Inc.**

street & number **Box 265**

telephone **309-784-2414**

city or town **Vermont**

state **IL** zip code **61484**

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D. Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Gher / SHPO
Signature and title of certifying official

10-1-96
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

11.7.96
Date

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Table of Contents for Written Narrative

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Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

E. Statement of Historic Contexts (If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

Page Numbers
E 1

Early Settlement and Development, 1832-1865
The Coming of the Railroad and Prosperity, 1866-1900
Commercial Retail Center of Southwestern Fulton
County, 1900-1946

E 4
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F. Associated Property Types (Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)

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G. Geographical Data

G 93

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods (Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

H 93

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Statement of Historic Contexts

Introduction

The Village of Vermont is located fifty-four miles southwest of Peoria and eighteen miles southeast of Macomb, Illinois, fifteen miles north of the Illinois River. It sits astride the dorsal spine of what is known today as the Buffalo Hart Glacier, 697 feet above sea level. The glacier retreated from the area approximately 175,000 years ago leaving behind gravel, sand, rocks, and soil known today as the Buffalo Hart Terminal Moraine.¹ The Buffalo Hart Ridge provided early Vermont settlers with a natural overland route, which sloped gently to the south through surrounding marshes to the Illinois River.

Vermont lies in southwest Fulton County in the southwest part of Vermont Township. The village's present boundaries extend approximately 1.8 miles north to south and 1.25 miles east to west at their respective widest points. The center of the village lies in Section 29 of Vermont Township with other developed parts lying in Sections 30 and 32. The boundary also extends into Sections 19, 20, and 31 of Vermont Townships. Those areas are largely farm ground and include two small lakes to the northwest.

The village is rectilinear in plan with its main thoroughfares running north-south and east-west. Main Street, which roughly runs north-south, connects the village to U.S. Route 136, four miles to the north, and to U.S. Route 24, six miles to the southeast. West Fourth Street connects the village to U.S. Route 67, approximately ten miles northwest. Main Street historically and today serves as the center for commercial, social, and residential uses throughout the community. The village's two block long commercial district lies immediately north of the village square along North Main Street.

Background

Illinois' first European settlers were the French who explored the Illinois River under command of Robert La Salle in 1679. In December 1679, La Salle and his men erected Fort Creve Coeur on the banks of Peoria Lake on the Illinois River near present-day Peoria, the first white settlement in Illinois. By 1750, over 2,000 French settlers, missionaries, and fur traders were based in southern Illinois. After the English defeated the French in 1763 in the French and Indian War, all territory east of the Mississippi River

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including Illinois was ceded to England. The French settlements in Illinois were governed by the English. The area around Vermont at this time was primarily a hunting ground for the Sauk and Fox Indians.²

In 1778 Colonel George Rogers Clark with his army of Kentucky frontiersmen captured Kaskaskia in southwestern Illinois from the British during the Revolutionary War for the colony of Virginia. Illinois remained a province of Virginia until 1787 when it was made part of the Northwest Territory. In 1809 what is now known as Illinois became the Illinois Territory.

Central Military Tract

During 1815 the United States Congress declared that the lands lying between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers in west central Illinois be surveyed. The survey was completed in 1816 and 5,360,000 acres of land from Mercer County to the north and Calhoun County to the south were included in what was then called the Central Military Tract. Congress appropriated 3,500,000 acres of this land for bounties to veterans of the War of 1812. Former officers from the war were to receive 320 acres and enlisted men were given 160 acres, unless they had reenlisted for which they received an additional 160 acres.

The Central Military Tract contained an area of 8,700 square miles. Belts of heavy timber originally skirted the numerous small streams that flowed from the interior uplands which were 200 to 300 feet above the main rivers in the region. The uplands were divided into two main parts with the southern half including the present-day counties of Calhoun, Pike, Brown, Adams, Brown, and Schuyler, containing for the great part heavy timber forests. The northern half of the tract was predominantly tall-grass prairie. Although a large part of the northern half was prairie land, these prairies were seldom more than a few square miles in extent, being divided by the numerous wooded streams that intersected the uplands. River counties such as Fulton, Peoria, Hancock, and Mercer were more evenly balanced between timber and prairie lands.³

The first areas to be settled in the military tract were the southern river counties as settlers were attracted to the forested areas near streams which provided wood for building, fencing, and fuel. Settlers became attracted to Fulton County in the 1820s as it had

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desirable land similar to that of Pike and Schuyler Counties to the south, with its mixture of both timber and prairie lands.

John Eveland from Kentucky is the first recorded white settler in Fulton County arriving in the spring of 1820, and settling about 1/4 mile north of Waterford in Section 10 of Waterford Township, approximately 20 miles east of Vermont. In 1821 Captain Ossian Ross, a veteran of the War of 1812 from Seneca, New York brought his family to Fulton County to claim his war bounty of 320 acres. Ross settled in the Lewistown area, approximately 17 miles northeast of Vermont. In 1822 he platted the first town in Fulton County, named for his son, Lewis. Lewistown was selected the county seat in 1823 when Fulton County was formed and Ross became the county's first sheriff and postmaster.⁴

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 provided an avenue to the settlement of northern and central Illinois by settlers from the Northeast as most of southern Illinois earlier settlers had come from the South by way of Kentucky and Tennessee.⁵

In 1830, the population of Fulton County was at 1800. By 1840, the population was 13,000 and second only to Adams County in the Central Military Tract. Its population from 1830 to 1840 was the fastest growing in all of the military tract. The Panic of 1837 began to slow down land sales and population growth, as Illinois was overwhelmed by its increasing debt for many costly improvement projects such as the I & M Canal. The state had to increase taxes which caused interest rates to go up. Agricultural products suffered in price brought on by the increased yields caused by the newly opened acreage. By 1850 general economic improvement encouraged a spirit of confidence that stimulated business and land sales after the long depression, throughout the state. By 1850, Canton and Lewistown in Fulton County had populations over 1,500 and seven other towns in the county including Vermont had populations that exceeded 1,000.⁶

Most of the War of 1812 veterans who laid claim to land in the vicinity of Vermont did not move from the East to settle the area. Instead, most of the land was sold to land speculators. Vermont is located in the Central Military Tract in the river county of Fulton County. The land surrounding Vermont was historically balanced between timber and prairie lands with large areas of timber to the south and east of Vermont and prairie to the west and north of Vermont.

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The associated historic contexts for this multiple property listing represent significant eras of development in Vermont, each encompassing major themes of the town's history-- transportation, commerce, agriculture, industry, architecture, education, social history, and entertainment/recreation.

Early Settlement and Development, 1832-1865

The development of Vermont was tied to the Illinois River and its direct trade route to markets in St. Louis and later, Chicago, even though the river was approximately twenty miles south of the village. Most of the area's economy was based on the shipping of raw and manufactured goods to the Illinois River to be shipped on boats to St. Louis and other ports beyond, and the shipping of merchandise to Vermont for consumption. Thus the village's development of its commercial, agriculture, industrial, transportation, and residential base was tied together, becoming virtually inseparable as growth hinged on the development of the area's transportation systems to provided easily accessible markets for the area's agricultural, timber, and manufactured products. The time period for this historic context represents the earliest settlement in Vermont to the end of the Civil War.

Moses Davis is recognized as the first white settler of Vermont Township. Davis settled on land approximately one-half mile southwest of the present village square in 1832. That same year, Isaac and Elizabeth Cadwallader moved from Ohio, via Lewistown to Vermont and built the second log home in the township. In the spring of 1833 James Chaddock and his wife Lydia (Mercer) from Ohio, settled on Section 24 of the township. By the early summer of 1833, four more families had moved into the township: William B. Higgins; Abraham Williams, from the state of Vermont; Jonathan and Jane (Berry) White, and Margaret (Carithers) Dilworth.

The village of Vermont's founding can be attributed to two brothers, twenty-one year old auctioneer James Crail and his younger brother, Joseph, both natives of Campbell County, Kentucky who arrived in Vermont from Indiana in March 1833. The Crails returned to Kentucky to get their families and permanently settled in Vermont in 1834. James Crail and his wife, Sarah erected a home near the northeast corner of North Main and East Second Streets and Joseph and Jane Crail built their cabin close by. The brothers' parents, William and Margaret (Mayall) Crail, built a cabin at the northwest corner of East Seventh and South Walnut Streets. The Crail brothers quickly realized that settlers coming into west

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central Illinois would need a central location to barter or buy salt and other staples. The earlier river towns of Havana and Beardstown were too far away--here the brothers determined was a place for a trading center which would serve settlers located between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.

The brothers purchased 80 acres to be surveyed into town lots to take advantage of possible economic gain. In 1835, Jonas Rawalt, the county surveyor, surveyed the Crails' 80 acres into town lots. The original town of Vermont included the eight blocks within North Alley to the north, Union Street to the east, Fourth Street to the south, and Liberty Street to the west. The Crails sold many of the lots at a land sale. Declining to name the town after the community's founders or "Meridian" due to the town's location near the fourth principal meridian, the Crails allowed Abraham Williams upon his offer of a gallon of whiskey the privilege of naming the town. Williams selected his home state for the honor.⁷

William and Eliza (Elliot) McCurdy arrived from Ohio and erected a cabin next to James Crail's. McCurdy, a native of Virginia and a harness maker entered into a partnership with James Crail and the two men opened a saddle and harness shop which became the commercial nucleus of the infant settlement.⁸

The first school, a rough log and wood building was erected on the west side of the present village square in 1836. Lumber for the floor was hauled from Wilcoxon's Mill located 28 miles northwest of Vermont in Liverpool Township. James Spicer taught the first term of school in December 1836. William McCurdy also taught school the first year of the school's operation.⁹

In 1837 more immigrants began arriving in the area. Greene Reeves built the first frame store building and it was managed by James Hayes. Two more small general stores also opened. A post office was located at the northeast corner of North Main and East Third Streets. William McCurdy, A. Frisbie, and James Crail took turns riding to Bernadotte with the mail.

By 1838 Vermont had grown to 12 log and frame buildings. In 1839 Job Bogue opened a sawmill two miles east of Vermont on the north branch of Otter Creek. The mill provided building materials for the incoming settlers and inhabitants of Vermont. Other settlers in

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Vermont by 1838 included Oscar Easley, Evan Baily, Jacob Bottenberg, and Jesse Cox, a carpenter. Joab Mershon, a shoemaker from Pennsylvania also settled in Vermont.¹⁰

In 1840 William Dilworth, "Uncle Billy" opened a general store just south of the village park. That same year Rhodes Dilworth, William Dilworth's brother, and William Fellon, a machinist, formed a partnership and erected a three story frame steam grist mill, two blocks west of the village square. Their steam mill was one of the first steam mills in the area and saved the area's farmers from hauling their grain to the Bernadotte Mill, approximately 17 miles northeast of Vermont. The Dilworth and Fellon Mill drew grain customers from a sixty mile radius.

Vermont continued to prosper during the 1840s. In 1841 Joab Mershon erected a two story brick building on the east side of the village square and opened a general store. In 1842 Reverend Enos Monohan purchased a small store on the south side of the square and entered into competition against Joab Mershon.

In 1843, David Kirkbride built a two story brick hotel known as the American House at the northwest corner of North Main and East Third Streets. J. W. Kelly and Edward Stapleford soon opened the National House on the northwest corner of North Main and West First Streets.

Also in 1843, James Boyle and Robert Anderson built a tannery using leather from cattle and deer hides. A record book from 1853 belonging to the C. C. "Eph" Mercer Collection at the Western Illinois University Museum, stated that the tannery received 13,574 dry hides and 17,900 green hides. A second tannery was built by Samuel Heizer and J. H. B. Stephens on the west part of town. The two tanneries produced more leather than the citizens of the area could buy. Joab Mershon, Ben Swartz, and John Evans entered into a partnership, bought the surplus leather, and began making shoes, gloves, and other assorted leather products.¹¹ The tannery business continued until about 1875.

In 1844 a horse and oxen powered sawmill went into operation in Vermont, the following year it was converted to a grist mill but could not survive the competition with the Dilworth steam mill. The mill was converted again, this time to a carding mill for wool and scant cotton raised by area farmers. The carding mill faltered after a time and the works was

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changed to a distillery. The distillery remained in operation from 1846 until 1850. It was then converted into a grist mill and became known as the East Grist Mill.¹²

Vermont's first major exporting business was begun by Rhodes Dilworth in the 1840s who came upon the idea of hunting, slaughtering, and salting down the numerous wild and domestic hogs for shipment to the markets at Peoria, St. Louis, and New York. Dr. Amos Johnson entered into a shipping business with the Crail brothers. Nearby stands of white oak provided wood for barrels for shipping. Before long, seven pork producing plants were in operation. In the pork packing season of 1854-1855, 870,331 pounds of pork were packed in town. In 1857-1858, there were 3907 head of hogs packed and in 1858-1859 there were 2268 head of hogs packed. The reasons for the decline according to the February 2, 1859 issue of the Vermont Central Watchtower was that some of the hogs were being driven to the river for shipment on steamboats. It was also noted in the same issue that Lewistown had many pork packing firms and that the city of Canton approximately forty miles northeast of Vermont had packed 14,000 head of hogs in 1858-1859.

Pork packing firms in Vermont in 1859 included Joab Mershon, Ely Kirkbride, Dilworth & Bros., James Mershon & Co., Stephens & Winans, Hamers and William F. Wiley, Edward Stapleford, and Heizer & Co. The February 15, 1860 issue of the Vermont Central Watchtower mentioned the amount of pork packed in the packing season of 1859-1860 and the town's firms at the time.

Firm	Number of Hogs	Pounds of Meat
James Dilworth	155	28,000
Stephens & Co.	190	37,000
Harvey Lee Ross	116	21,000
Mershon, Argo, & Co.	1644	305,600
Hamers	155	29,000

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Total hogs packed in town for the 1859-1860 season were 2,260 head. At one time it was known that Joab Mershon shipped out 3,000 head of hogs in one shipment. The Main Street of town was often choked for half a mile with teams hauling pork to Rhodes Dilworth's Landing near present-day Browning, twenty miles to the south, for shipment on Illinois River steamboats.¹³

In 1844 construction was started on a stone and wood warehouse by Rhodes Dilworth at the landing. Soon a hundred teams were delivering pork products and picking up coffee, tea, sugar and other staples from the steamboats at the landing. Due to the dangerous low water levels at Dilworth's Landing, Rhodes Dilworth relocated his shipping interests at a new landing on the Illinois River and built a new warehouse with living quarters for his family in 1848. He founded the town of Browning at the new landing, named in honor of Whig attorney, Orville H. Browning, from Quincy.¹⁴

Vermont Township's population had soared to 1,564 in 1850. In May 12, 1851, the citizens of Vermont voted to incorporate the town and city officials were elected.¹⁵

In the spring of 1851, Jeremiah Langston an attorney, came down with cholera after returning from St. Louis on a business trip. He died six days later on June 7. By the summer of 1851, the cholera epidemic was at its height with the disease striking forty plus families with over seventy cases reported and many deaths. The epidemic continued unabated through July and August. All business was suspended, except to furnish what was needed for the sick and dead. The hot weather broke in the early fall and the epidemic disappeared.¹⁶

A census taken by Vermont town officials in 1853 noted 850 residents in the village and 230 houses. In 1854, a local census noted 854 residents. Among Vermont's early contractors were Jesse Cox, who began business in 1837; W. P. Green, who began business in 1870; John Smith, David Beal, Morgan Young, Jack Wiley, and Jack Campbell. S. S. Chapman and Sons constructed some of the brick residences and businesses in town. Contractors working in Vermont during the late 1800s and early 1900s included David Beal & Billy Martin, Daniel S. Frazier, Chris & Harmon Shieler, Fred Rankin, and the Daughtery Brothers.¹⁷

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Brickmaking was an important industry in Vermont during the last half of the 1800s. According to Bateman and Selby's 1908 Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Fulton County, Vermont had more brick residences and buildings than any other town in the county except Canton. Brick manufacturers in town included Eleazor Kirkbride, Bob & Brad Horner, Horace Miner & Jim Moran, Amos Miller, Joseph Brothers, Glower Brickworks, Thomas & Vermillion, Thomas Hamer's Brickworks, and Robert Dilworth's Brickworks. James Thomas began making bricks under the employment of the Glower Brickworks in 1855. In 1869, Thomas formed a partnership with Horace Miner to make and ship bricks. After several ownership changes of the firm, Mr. Thomas entered into a partnership in 1876 with Reverend P. D. Vermillion. The firm of Thomas & Vermillion is known to have shipped more than 400,000 brick in 1878.¹⁸

In 1855, Vermont Township's population had soared to 2088 but in 1860 it had declined slightly to 1964 residents.

In 1857 noting Vermont's growing importance as a manufacturing, commercial, and agricultural center, the Fulton County Agricultural Fair Board announced in the Fultonian in August for a meeting of the committee to arrange for the Fulton County Agricultural Fair to be held in Vermont. The sixth annual Fulton County Agricultural Fair was held on September 10, 1857 in a "pleasant grove just outside town where ample arrangements were made for an ample crowd." The county's newspapers reported of the success of the fair.

Milling continued to be an important industry in Vermont during the 1850s and 1860s. In the 1850s a sawmill was erected and operated by Isaac Witchell, Jesse Burr, and William Provine. In the late 1850s William Provine in partnership with the firm of Stevens and Winans remodeled and operated the Excelsior Mills, a flour and grist mill, which later became known as the Monitor Mill. In 1864 Jesse Bogue entered competition with the Excelsior Mills by erecting and operating a flour mill known as City Mills. In 1869, Bogue entered into a partnership with Jacob S. Harper to run the mill. Also in the late 1860s, William Provine entered into partnership with Elwood Sidwell to operate the East Mill.¹⁹

Fulton County's first bank was opened in Vermont in 1859 by Harvey Lee Ross, son of Lewistown's founder, Ossian Ross. Harvey Lee Ross came to Vermont in 1844 and soon established a mercantile business and acquired a number of farms in the area. The bank

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advertised a circulation of \$50,000. It was known as the Fulton Bank and was a branch of the short-lived Morgan County Bank based out of Jacksonville, Illinois.

Religion

The Methodist Church was the first religious organization formed in the Village. Meetings began in June 1837 and a one-story frame building was erected in 1846-1847 at the northeast corner of East First and North Union Streets. The Presbyterian Church was organized in the 1840s and a building was erected at the northwest corner of South Liberty and West Fifth Streets in 1846. The Vermont Christian Church, organized in November 1847, erected a structure on North Union Street. A short-lived congregation, the Congregational or Union Church erected a building on the east side of North Union Street between East Second and East Third Streets. The church remained in existence until 1867.

An influx of settlers from Chester County, Pennsylvania, resulted in a Society of Friends (Quaker) Church being formed early in Vermont's history. James A. and Elizabeth M. Russell on January 16, 1850 deeded a lot northeast of the village of Vermont, to the trustees of the Society of Friends for a church. The Quaker Meeting House built on the prairie between Vermont and Ipava was a plain wood structure. Many Quakers became involved in Vermont's political and business activities and were ardent abolitionists. The coming of the Civil War divided the Quaker church as many members were pacifists. As sons of Quaker church members went off to join the Union Army, members left the church. The church soon folded and was demolished at an unknown date.

Commercial and Industrial Growth

In 1859, the Vermont Foundry, which specialized in cast iron was founded by Curtis Wann and his brother on the north edge of town where the current foundry is located. The Vermont Academy, a private school, was in operation by 1859 with Alfred Little and his sister-in-law, Jane Little as the teachers. Businesses in town at the time included R. M. Rhoades' Vermont Tannery; Hamers', Men's Clothes, Dry Goods, Hardware, and Shoes, at the northwest corner of Main & Second Streets; J. S. Martin Grocery, on the east side of Main; James and Joab Mershon's, Dry Goods and Groceries, on the northeast corner of the square; James Dilworth, Groceries and Dry Goods; Emmor and Ezra Dilworth, Stoves, Tin,

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and Hardware; Swartz & Wilkinson, Lumber; Vermont Furniture Emporium, owned by Kinsey Woods and W. W. Travis; Joab Mershon, agent for Aetna Insurance, Edward Stapleford, groceries and general store; Harvey Lee Ross, groceries and general store, southeast corner of Public Square; American Hotel, David Kirkbride, owner; National Hotel, G. M. Shaffer owner; besides the seven pork packing firms and the mill mentioned earlier.²⁰

Social and Entertainment

Among the social highlights in the town during the 1850s and 1860s were the organization of fraternal orders. Men and women throughout town and the surrounding countryside joined the Friendly Circle Lodge Number 37 of the International Order of Good Templars and the Temperance Social Circle Number 1 which both met in Temperance Hall in the Stephens and Winans Building on North Main Street at the present location of the Barbara Douglas Insurance Agency. Other early fraternal groups founded during the 1850s included the International Order of Odd Fellows and the Masons. Both organizations were for male members only with women's auxiliary units organized after the Civil War. Fraternal groups or secret societies were formed to promote fellowship and neighborliness among its members and to promote charitable causes. Some organizations provided mutual insurance benefits for families of deceased members. These organizations had secret rituals with elaborate initiation ceremonies, regalia, and costumes. The International Order of Odd Fellows Lodge Number 79 was organized on October 1, 1850 in a building on the south side of West Third Street at the present location of the Rebekah Lodge Building. At some later date this building burnt and the Odd Fellows met in various locations. The Masonic Lodge was organized on September 8, 1851 and the Vermont Lodge Number 116 was chartered on October 12, 1852. A chapter of the Royal Arch Masons known as Lusk Chapter Number 20 was chartered on September 28, 1854. Its membership came from Master Masons of lodges in Astoria, Ipava, Table Grove, and Vermont. These two bodies of Masons have worked as partners in building and maintaining their various shared halls in the downtown commercial district.²¹

A growing concern for the uplifting of the educational and cultural affairs of the town led to the organization of the Vermont Library Association in 1858. The Vermont Ladies' Sewing Society provided an endowment and a contribution of books by the citizens of the community led to the library's beginning.

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The Coming of the Civil War

Unlike the rest of Fulton County and the surrounding area, Vermont became largely a stronghold for the newly organized Republican political party. On October 27, 1858, urged by the invitation of several Vermont citizens, Abraham Lincoln addressed Vermont citizens in the Public Square during his candidacy for the United States Senate.

The arising questions about slavery and states' rights led to the founding of the Vermont Central Watch Tower, a local newspaper, in January 1859. The paper supported the Republican Party while the Fulton County Ledger, based in Canton, Illinois supported Stephen Douglas and the Democratic Party. Various issues of both papers claimed falsehoods and trumped up charges against each other during the 1860 presidential election.

Before the Civil War, Vermont's citizens were divided into factions with local Democrats forming a society known as the "Hickories" and the local Republicans founding a society known as the "Wideawakes." Both factions had torchlight parades throughout the village up to the election of 1860.²² Many members of the Wideawakes became military officers in Union Army in the Civil War.

The Civil War began with the Confederates firing on Fort Sumpter in April 1861. Vermont quickly responded to Abraham Lincoln's call for troops. On June 1, 1862, Lincoln called for 50,000 more men to serve in the Union armies. Illinois' quota was to be four regiments. By July 1862, the fortunes of the Civil War was going strongly against the Union. Lincoln called for 300,000 men and Illinois quota jumped from four regiments to forty. Thomas Hamer, a friend of Lincoln's, responded by recruiting men from Fulton, McDonough, and Schuyler Counties. Ten companies of west central Illinois men were quickly formed. Enough men from Vermont to form two companies in August 1862. By the end of the Civil War, Vermont had sent 144 men to join both the Union and Confederate Armies. Of the 144 men who left Vermont to serve in the Civil War, half were killed in action. While the men were at war, women of the village organized sanitary fairs at the Methodist Episcopal Church to collect bandages and money for Vermont soldiers. The impact on Vermont from the loss of these men was that nearly 10 percent of its male population had died in the war, with the village losing many of its young, valuable citizens who could have been important

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in the town's growth. Vermont's merchants, farmers, and citizens had benefited from providing supplies, food stuffs, and meat to the Union soldiers during the war.²³

The Coming of the Railroad and Prosperity, 1866-1900

Vermont's growth and boom continued after the Civil War. The town's greatest development was during the late 1860s and early 1870s when many brick commercial buildings were built on Main Street and Fifth Street became known as "The Lane," a street about a mile in length that became the showplace of Vermont with its seven large brick Italianate and Second Empire homes of the town's business leaders. The period for this context largely coincides with the construction of the Vermont Bank in 1869 by Joab Mershon and his nephew, Major Caleb B. Cox, through the failure of the Mershon banking firm in 1892, which was in the control of Joab's heirs, and on to the start of the twentieth century. During this period the Mershon firm became the area's leading bank providing deposit and loans to many businesses, farmers, consumers, and to the area's fraternal and social organizations. The Mershons also owned a leading dry goods store and the bank building was home to the town's Opera House, the center of entertainment in town.

During this time Vermont became, according to historian, William Cronon in Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West, a medium-ranked urban place, a town that sustained specialized retail shops and services including jewelry, book, millinery, and music stores, implement dealers, photographers, lawyers, and doctors, as well as basic retail merchants including general stores, hardware dealers, and dry goods stores unlike a low-ranking town which only sold unspecialized goods and whose trade boundaries extended no more than a dozen miles beyond the town's limits, approximately the distance customers could travel on horseback and still return home in a single day. The buildings found on the main streets of these towns contained general stores, grocers, hardware dealers, and dry goods merchants with no real specialty stores. Specialized goods and services were high enough in price and were rarely purchased that it required a greater potential demand to merchandise these items and a better transportation connections that could draw wealthier customers from a wider area that included smaller towns as well as farms.²⁴ Vermont with its two railroad lines, wealthy agricultural land, and smaller surrounding towns such as Ray, Ipava, Summun, and Table Grove was able to attract more consumers to its retail shops and services becoming by the end of the 20th century according to C. M. Mercer, publisher of the Vermont Independent, the "Metropolis of Southwest Fulton." Newspaper accounts

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of the time report of the comings and goings of visitors from the surrounding towns, including Ipava, Table Grove, Adair, Ray, and Summun, and countryside who came to shop daily in Vermont's stores and use the town's services.

Agriculture

With the coming of the railroad, shifts in the transportation network changed Vermont's focus from a pork packing center to a shipping center for livestock on the hoof, grain and flour from its mills and elevators, and wagons and carriages. Agriculture also changed with the coming of the railroad as farmers found they could cheaply transport agricultural commodities including wheat and corn in the form of grain or flour and meal as well as livestock to growing cities such as Chicago, St. Louis, Peoria, Indianapolis, and even far away New Orleans. Coincident with the rapid settlement of Illinois and its railroad building during the 1850s through 1870s was the remarkable growth of cities in Illinois. Along the new railroads, especially at the intersection of tracks and where they crossed rivers, cities began to mushroom. As these burgeoning urban centers were dependent upon the state's farmers for the food they consumed, farmers profited from this unprecedented growth as land values doubled over and over again. An enormous increase in cultivated land was accomplished during the 1850s through the 1880s with primitive tools and teams of horses or mules. The invention of an efficient moldboard plow enabled farmers to cut through thickest, toughest grass sod and turn it over to crop farming.²⁵ The old self-sufficient farm economy which was largely based on dependence on local markets and consumption at home gave way to more specialized farming and the production of cash crops to be sold to expanding urban markets made easily accessible by the railroad. These new markets and their increasing urban populations meant a demand for meat and produce allowing farmers to expand their operations by buying more land and to turn to the use of modern, time and labor-saving machinery. This change in the character of farming in the Central Military Tract was evident by the close of the Civil War which saw the increased shipping of farm products to the military forces. A much larger amount of farm products was being shipped including fattened cattle, hogs, and sheep. By 1870, the Central Military Tract had changed from a two-crop system of corn and wheat to a mixed type of farming including both grain and livestock production.²⁶

Vermont's farmers gradually changed to a mixed type of grain and livestock farming with the coming of the railroads. Newspaper accounts of the 1870s through 1900 report of

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weekly grain and livestock shipments to markets in Chicago and St. Louis. Among the major livestock shippers in the area were Granville Wright and Elwood Sidwell. Sheep raising was another important activity in the Vermont area in the 1890s. Austin Phillips was reported to have over 1500 sheep on his farm east of town in 1892. Flour mills and grain elevators owned by Elwood Sidwell, Jesse Bogue, Jacob S. Harper, Obe Lash, Park Johnston, Israel Hill, and William Provine in town continued to expand to meet the increased production of Vermont's farms. Flour from Park Johnston's and Obe Lash's mill was marketed throughout the Midwest by the end of the 1890s.²⁷

In some areas such as Bureau, Fulton, Calhoun, and Adams Counties, large orchards were set out and fruit growing became an important enterprise. Fruit soon became one of the leading commercial products of the Central Military Tract.²⁸ The small fruit industry was a major summertime employer for the men, women, and children of Vermont in the 1880s and 1890s. The June 14, 1888 Fulton County Ledger reported that over 110 acres of strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries were to be harvested employing over 200 people.

Population in Vermont had risen from 1,964 inhabitants in 1860 to 2,289 in 1870. By 1879 the population was down to 2,204 residents.²⁹ The population of Vermont in 1886 was approximately 1200 citizens. This trend was basically true of other rural towns in the Central Military Tract which by 1870 was beginning to reach a peak in the growth of its agricultural inhabitants. In the succeeding decades, the counties which were largely rural including Fulton, with no large cities remained stationary or in some cases actually decreased in population. Many of Vermont's citizens left the area as the town was not able to attract large industry to provide employment. Former Vermont citizens moved to urban areas such as Chicago and St. Louis and further out west to find more land on the continually shrinking frontier.³⁰

Railroad Development

On February 11, 1853, the Illinois State Legislature had incorporated the Macomb, Vermont, and Bath Railroad Company with \$500,000 in capital stock. Vermont citizens on the board of directors were Joab Mershon and Harvey Lee Ross. The following year the name of the company was changed to the Peoria & Hannibal Railroad Company and a route was proposed to run from a point opposite Hannibal through the towns of Mt. Sterling,

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Rushville, Vermont, Lewistown, and Canton to connect with the proposed Peoria & Bureau Valley Railroad which would provide service from Canton to Peoria. Stocks were subscribed from local communities and county boards also provided funds for the railroad. Some work was started on the railroad prior to the Civil War but it was suspended during the war.

In the October 30, 1867 issue of the Rushville Times, the Schuyler County Board was considering suing the Peoria & Hannibal Railroad for no work. On December 18, 1867 the Rushville Times reported that the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad proposed to operate and complete the nearly defunct Peoria & Hannibal Railroad extending the line from Lewistown to Rushville provided each county, Schuyler and Fulton would give funds of \$130,000 per county.

State legislator, Major Caleb B. Cox in 1868 convinced the legislature to allow the Fulton County Board of Supervisors to appropriate a sum of up to \$50,000 to complete the Peoria and Hannibal Railroad and to provide for the raising of up to \$50,000 more in funds by taxation. On February 12, 1868, the citizens of Pleasant Township which included the town of Ipava, immediately east of Vermont voted to raise \$15,000 in stock for the railroad. The Rushville Times reported on February 27, 1868 that a meeting was held in Rushville in support of raising of funds for the railroad. The Honorable Caleb B. Cox and Joab Mershon of Vermont were the featured speakers and \$60,000 in pledges were quickly raised.

Not to be outdone, the citizens of Vermont conducted a fundraising meeting for the railroad on March 5, 1868. An amount of \$30,000 was pledged with Harvey Lee Ross donating \$3,000, land for the railroad through his farm, and land for the location of the proposed depot on the southeast part of town. Major Caleb B. Cox and Robert Dilworth collected signatures of the farmers along the proposed railroad line to allow the railroad to come through their land.

On April 25, 1868, the Joy Brothers Contracting Company of Detroit was awarded the contract for the completion of the railroad. Work commenced on the railroad on May 31, 1868 and on July 4, 1869, the first Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad train pulled into Vermont from Lewistown. As many as possible from Vermont rode on it to the terminus in Rushville to join in the celebration. A depot was built on the land donated by Harvey Lee Ross in the southeast part of town.

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A second railroad line was secured through Vermont in 1870 when the Rockford, Rock Island, and St. Louis Railroad built a line through Vermont from Beardstown and Astoria to Galesburg. Tracks of this line ran along the east side of the town three blocks east of Main Street. A depot was soon constructed for this railroad east of the downtown on the east side of the tracks just north of Third Street. On the west side of the tracks, stock yards were built.

The tracks of the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad ran on a southwest to northeast direction in the southeast part of town. In 1879 the Rockford, Rock Island, and St. Louis Railroad was bought out by the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad. That same year the two stations were town down and the lumber was used to erect a depot at the junction of the two branches south of Eighth Street.

The impact of the two railroad lines on Vermont changed the town's transportation focus. Before the railroad most goods and raw products were shipped overland by teams and wagons to the Illinois River landing at Browning and from there by steamboat and flatboats down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis. Local store owners would make business trips to St. Louis to purchase wholesale supplies for their shops and businesses to sell to the local farmers and citizens. The local newspaper accounts of the 1850s and 1860s mention often the taking of biannual trips by Vermont businessmen to St. Louis to buy goods and supplies. Before the arrival of the two railroad lines in Vermont, the closest rail connection was approximately 20 miles to the northwest in Macomb, Illinois. A branch line of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad ran from Quincy through Macomb to Galesburg where it connected to other lines of the railroad that led to Chicago. With the coming of the two railroad lines to Vermont, its economic and transportation focus shifted from markets in St. Louis to markets in Chicago.

A correspondence to the editor of the Macomb Journal from Vermont on June 23, 1869 was printed in the July 2, 1869 edition of the paper reporting the flurry of activity in town:

For a few weeks past, Vermont has been to a high fever of excitement, produced by the completion of the Peoria and Hannibal railroad, from Peoria to this point, and as you well know, this has been sufficient cause for excitement, as this section of the country has been deprived of the

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advantages of a railroad, telegraphs, or any other direct communication with the commercial world, except stages and mail carriers.

Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, Vermont has enjoyed a large commercial trade, and has kept fully up to the times, and in a great measure, ahead, taking into consideration the disadvantages under which she been laboring. . . .

The correspondent then related how changes in trade patterns for the village had come from the arrival of the railroads:

. . . For many years the merchants here have done all their trading with St. Louis, shipping up the river to Browning, then hauling them with wagons from there here, often suffering delays from four to six weeks in consequence of bad roads. At present things are undergoing a great change, merchants are turning to Chicago, and completely discarding St. Louis. Car load after car load of goods, lumber, and in fact everything merchantable, are daily arriving, causing one to stop and think where they can be stored and cared for, but when you take a look into the neatly fitted and spacious store rooms recently completed by the Messrs. Mershon's and Dilworth Bro's. it is easily accounted for, as these rooms would do credit to Chicago or St. Louis.— Nothing like good stores. Four lumber yards have been established recently There is only one drawback to the lumber trade in this place, it can't be shipped fast enough. A great many dwelling houses are under way of construction at present, but not half enough to supply the demand. Nearly every house in town is a "boarding house," necessity making it so. Nothing like plenty of good carpenters.

For the present I will desist commenting upon the inhabitants who daily visit the grounds marked out for a 'depot,' suffice to say, they come early and late by the wagon load, with baskets of provender, take accommodation on the open prairie, (even to the detriment of beaver hats, polished boots, and the ladies 'waterfalls,' owing to the frequent showers we are blessed with down in this region,) and wait patiently the arrival of every construction train, and marvel at its wondrous workings, interrogating the train "boss" as to the forms

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and mode of riding on 'them cars,' wondering all the while how people get
along without 'steam kears.' (sic)

The two rail lines which came to Vermont in 1869 and 1870 physically linked the area with major cities in the Midwest. They brought people and supplies much quicker to Vermont. The railroads facilitated the export of farm products by joining Vermont's area farmers and national markets. They gave viability to the commercial activity of the area by serving Vermont's retailers, distributors, salesmen, manufacturers, and consumers. In addition to providing transportation services, the railroads served as Vermont's primary communications link to the rest of the world through mail and telegraph service. The depot was a hub of activity as freight and passengers were loaded and unloaded there several times each day. By February 1874, six daily trains ran on the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and four daily trains operated on the Rockford, Rock Island, and St. Louis Railroad.³¹

Education

After the construction of the first school building on the public square in 1836, a number of frame buildings in the village were utilized for the education of the school children. By 1859 the North School had been erected on the east side of North Main Street at the present site of the Vermont Foundry. It was the first brick school building in the township. The South School building on the west side of South Liberty Street between Eighth and Ninth Streets was constructed in 1866. Contractor Martin Mercer erected the two story brick Italianate building which had a bell tower, hipped roof, bracketed cornice, and segmental arched windows. When the South School was constructed, all of the students in the village living south of the public square attended the South School, and those living north of the public square attended the North School.

During the summer vacation of 1872, the board of directors of the North School decided to have a basement excavated to install a furnace system. Excavation started on the basement but the supports were not strong enough to brace the walls and the building collapsed. An election was held on August 1, 1873 to borrow sums to pay for a new building, the vote was 47 for and 1 against. Contractor John W. Smith was awarded a contract for \$8,550 to construct the building. A two story brick Italianate style building was built with bell tower, cross gabled roof, bracketed cornice, and segmental arched windows.

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Both North and South Schools served the village until 1925, when the Community School was built.³²

Commerce and Transportation

Physically, Vermont's primary commercial growth was focused on Main Street. With the coming of the railroads in 1869 and 1870 some industries including brick yards and grain elevators developed along both sides of the railroad tracks during the late 1800s. Bird Mickle's Map of Vermont which dates from the late 1870s notes a grain elevator and flour mill known as the East Mill along the west side of the tracks east of Union Street between East First and Second Streets.

Seeing the need for a bank to provide exchange, deposits, and loans for businesses, industries, residents, and farmers after the Civil War, Joab Mershon and his nephew, Caleb Cox entered into partnership in 1868, and formed the Vermont Bank. They erected a substantial two-story Italianate brick building known as Mershon's Hall for a bank and store, and an opera house above on the second story. Due to the unfortunate early death of Cox in 1874, Mershon ran the bank with his family under the name of J. Mershon and Company.³³

One of Vermont's greatest periods of growth was in the early 1870s, when many of the community's brick business buildings and homes were built. This growth was a result of the great economic boom witnessed in the country after the Civil War. Newspaper accounts of the time from the Vermont Chronicle, Fulton County Ledger, and Canton Weekly Register, boasted of the progress of Vermont's newly constructed businesses and homes. Among these accounts were the building of brick homes for Edward Hamer, Caleb B. Cox, Robert Dilworth, Ezra Dilworth, Patterson Hamer, and William Franklin Durell in 1871 and 1872.³⁴ The Fulton County Ledger of August 2, 1872 also reported the construction of the two-story brick business building of Colonel Thomas Hamer. Other editions of the Ledger boasted of new brick and wood businesses for J. H. B. Stephens and Eleazor Jenkins in 1871, and a brick business block for Emmor and Ezra Dilworth in 1873. In 1875, Edward and Patterson Hamer had their store room enlarged and refitted.³⁵

The nationwide panic of 1873 was felt in Vermont with a general business slowdown, although there were no big business failures as those in the financial circles of New York

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and Boston. Newspapers of the time commented on the slowdown caused by the collapse of Jay Cooke & Company in New York, but the downturn in the local economy did not last for long. Later in 1874 and 1875 growth came back to Vermont with new businesses and homes being constructed in town and also several remodelings of stores.

Vermont's growth and development continued throughout the 1870s and 1880s with many men employed in several retail, manufacturing and service businesses. These manufacturing, retail and service businesses served Vermont's area residents, neighboring farmers, the surrounding towns, and also sold to wholesalers. Manufacturing and industrial establishments in Vermont in 1879 included Adams and Sexton, wagon makers and blacksmiths; J. W. Derry and Jacob B. Arrindale, manufacturers and dealers in carriages, buggies, and wagons, on Main Street; City Mills, flour mill owned by Jesse Bogue and Jacob S. Harper; George W. Derry, wagon manufacturer and blacksmith, southwest side of the square; W. P. Green, chairmaker, on Main Street; Alfred Hart, cabinet maker, at northeast corner of square; Silas F. Hoopes, buggy and carriage manufacturer; East Mill owned by E. Sidwell, flour mill; C. W. Sperry, boot and shoe manufacturer; S. J. Swartz & Son, furniture manufacturers; Henry Nelson and Enoch Dawson, washing machines; and James Thomas & Reverend P. D. Vermillion, brick makers.

In 1885, M. L. Gardner and Sons erected a one story brick building on East Third Street, just east of their drug store for additional warehouse space and to rent a store room. The post office moved into this building and in 1891 Charles E. Gardner (a son of M. L. Gardner) moved his jewelry store into the building.

The Sanborn Map Company map of Vermont of 1886 noted two mills in town, the Vermont Roller Mill owned by Harper and Jesse Bogue and the Eagle Mill owned by Cephas Toland and Park Johnston. The Vermont Roller Mill was located on the north side of West Second Street just west of Col. Thomas Hamer's home and had a capacity of 50 barrels of flour per day. The mill was built in 1865 and rebuilt in 1885. The Eagle Mill was located east of North Union Streets between East First and Second Streets, just west of the railroad tracks. Its production capacity was 60 barrels of flour per day. Both mills marketed several brands of flour to local Vermont citizens as well as to grocery stores throughout the country. Also on the Sanborn Map Company map of 1886 was the lumber yard of B. F. Bader located on the north side of East Third Street just east of North Union Street and Nelson's Lumber Yard at the northeast corner of South Main Street and East Seventh Street.

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Vermont has had six big fires in its downtown--the first of these being the livery stable fire of 1890. The fire started in E. S. Standard's Livery Stable on the east side of North Main Street, north of the Kirkbride Hotel. The origin of the fire is not known. The alarms were given out and the "bucket brigade" was organized to save the Kirkbride Hotel to the south, the frame row of businesses across Main Street to the west, and the frame row of businesses north of the livery stable. To save the hotel, Deobler's Tailor Shop and Ferguson's barber shop were torn down and the hotel was covered with blankets and water. The Methodist Episcopal Church and several residences' roofs caught fire but were quickly extinguished. The frame business rows to the west and north as well as the Kirkbride Hotel were saved but the Gardner Building at the southeast corner of North Main and East Second Streets, the livery stable with its contents, Samuel Deobler's Tailor Shop, Ferguson and Deobler's Butcher Shop and Ferguson's Barber Shop were all destroyed.

Manufacturing concerns in an 1890 business directory of Vermont included Bradley Horner, brickyard by the depot; McDowell Cox, wagon manufacturer; Sexton and Royal, wagon makers; A. Hart, cabinet maker; A. Amrine, grain dealer and elevator; Eagle Flour Mill, Johnston and Lash, proprietors; West Side Roller Mill; Wood and Mendenhall's Sawmill; H. G. Frain, wagon maker; and the Vermont Cigar Factory. In 1890 the Vermont Cigar Factory employed 10 workers and 2 salesmen. In 1892 Johnston and Lash built a new grain elevator for their mill on the east side of town, a switch from the railroad had been installed to the mill in 1891.

In the early 1890s, Vermont experienced a building boom in its residences, commercial structures, factories, and churches. The November 20, 1890 Fulton County Ledger reported that 17 new houses had been built in 1890. In the November 12, 1891 edition of the Astoria Argus, Contractor David Beal provided a list of Vermont's new buildings and improvements for 1891 including the construction of 11 new houses, 2 churches, and the Mendenhall Fence Factory. Also noted was the construction of four new commercial buildings, E. B. Nelson Hardware and Masonic Hall at \$9,000, the Odd Fellows Building at \$8,000, the Dr. Columbus McCurdy Store Building on the west side of Main, second block north of the square, and the David Kirkbride Building on the east side of Main, second block north of the square, as well as improvements to several businesses in town. The Masonic Hall and Odd Fellows Hall sat side by side on the east side of North Main Street, northeast of the public square.

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Vermont's building boom continued into 1892 with five new residences being constructed, but times, had changed for the Mershon firm. With the death of Joab Mershon in 1888, the bank, dry goods store, and Mershon's Hall were ran by heirs, Henry, his son, and William Franklin Durell, his son-in-law. On April 28, 1892, the bank was reorganized with several well-known Vermont merchants were added to the firm. But on Thursday, June 16, 1892 the bank was closed by the sheriff due to outstanding notes owed. Most of the schools', churches', and fraternal organizations' funds were deposited in the bank and with the bank closure being tied up in court the dedication of the new Masonic Hall had to be postponed several times in the fall and early winter of 1892 due to lack of funds for the festivities.³⁶

Following the Mershon Bank failure in 1892, several suits were brought against the assignees of the bank and the Mershon family. Newspaper accounts of the time reported the outcomes of the various suits but also noted that business did not come to a complete standstill due to the failure. In fact several residences were constructed in 1892 and 1893 while the country was in an economic depression. In 1893 and 1894 the depot brick yards put in a new brick making machine, Dr. McCurdy constructed a brick office building on the east side of the public square, and Henry Phillips constructed a brick business block on the west side of Main Street north of West Second Street. Employment in 1894 at Mendenhall's Sawmill and Fence Factory was at 8. William Hall's Timber Business south of town employed 40 men in 1894 who provided wood for the C. B. & Q. Railroad. In 1895 Jackson Davis added a new brick and tile machine to his brickworks on East Third Street. Also in 1895 it was reported that the coal banks around Vermont were being mined for coal to power the C. B. & Q. Railroad.

In 1896, Doctor Hamilton built a one-story brick office building on East Third Street and Henry Phillips built a brick business block with tree store rooms on the west side of North Main Street just south of Henry H. Hamer & A. P. Atkinson's Store. At least five new residences were built in Vermont in 1897 including a new frame home for retired farmer William Hoopes, built by William Myers on the west side of North Liberty Street, south of West Second Street.³⁷

C. M. Mercer, publisher of the Vermont Independent on September 29, 1898 promoted the town as "The Metropolis of Southwest Fulton." With a population over 1000, its prime location at the junction of two branches of the railroad, two cigar factories, a fence factory,

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brick yards, grain elevators and flour mills, a bank, hotels, numerous stores including specialty shops such as jewelry, photographers studios, millinery, and book stores, Vermont was noted for its continued growth in the area. The C. B. & Q. Railroad had nine daily trains that ran on the St. Louis branch of the railroad and seven daily trains that ran on the Rushville branch in 1898.

On September 16, 1899 Cox Brothers Hardware and Implement Store sold 25 buggies, phaetons, surreys, and two wagons at an auction. The carriage and wagon manufacturing firm of Derry & Kirkbride also sold on the same day nine buggies and two wagons.

Brickmaking

Brick manufacturing was another important business in Vermont in the 1880s and 1890s. In 1888 brick was shipped from Vermont for the new Table Grove school. The two-story brick building was constructed by I. N. Willis and Company. In 1890 Hamer & Thomas installed a new brick making machine that could manufacture 30,000 brick per day. In 1897, Jackson Davis added a 30' x 80', two story brick drying room at his brick yard on East Third Street and provided over 70,000 brick for a two-story business building in Ray, in Schuyler County, Illinois. The village board continued to install brick sidewalks throughout town buying 30,000 paving brick from Jackson Davis for \$90.55 in August 1898.³⁸

Timber and Lumber

Vermont's abundant supplies of hardwood timber to the south and east of town provided major employment for the area in the 1880s and 1890s. William Hall began a timber business in 1881 and by 1887 was contracting with the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad for all their pilings and ties for the entire state of Illinois. Hall would enter into contracts with local landowners in the Vermont area who had timber acreage and have the timber cut and sawn at Wood and Mendenhall's sawmill in Vermont. The timber business employed many men as it required workers to cut down the trees, teams and wagons to haul the trees to the sawmill, and men to work the sawmill and load the lumber and building ties onto the railroad. Wood and Mendenhall's sawmill was located along the railroad at the southeast part of town. On March 17, 1887 the Fulton County Ledger mentioned that William Hall had shipped an entire train load of piling for the C, B, & Q Railroad and on May 5, 1887 the paper mentioned that he had shipped a train load of piling for the Iowa Division

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of the railroad. The May 5, 1887 Fulton County Ledger mentioned that Mendenhall and Wood's sawmill had sold 20,000 feet of oak lumber to the city of Ipava, Illinois for sidewalks. In June 1887, William Hall secured a contract with the Santa Fe Railroad to provide pilings and ties and in August 1887 he secured a contract with the U. S. government to provide lumber. The December 1, 1887 Fulton County Ledger reported that William Hall had sold 2,000 feet of walnut lumber to persons in Danville, Illinois. The January 26 and February 12, 1888 editions of the Fulton County Ledger reported that in 1887 William Hall had shipped over 200 car loads of piling, Wood and Mendenhall had shipped over 500,000 feet of hardwood lumber, and another growing business in town--the poultry business of Fiedler Carnahan had shipped 40,000 pounds of poultry.

In 1889 the paper reported that William Hall was employing twenty men for his timber business. On April 18, 1889 the Fulton County Ledger announced that William Hall was finishing up his contract for all the piling and lumber for the Beardstown wagon bridge over the Illinois River. The same edition also reported that in the period from March 1888 to March 1889, William Hall had shipped 270 car loads of piling and 30 car loads of railroad ties. In 1890 William Hall was shipping car loads of piling for both the Iowa and Illinois lines of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad. Shipments from Vermont averaged 100 car loads per month in 1890. The June 11, 1891 Fulton County Ledger reported that William Hall had shipped 66 car loads of piling in the last 10 days and received order for 116 more car loads.

Entertainment and Social History

The September 5, 1935, Centennial Edition of the Vermont Union, wrote of the growing involvement of Vermont's citizens in social organizations, recreational, and entertainment events:

Perhaps the gayest period of Vermont's history began in the middle (18)70's when the people organized clubs, had parties, socials, etc., and continued into the late (18)90's. These were started perhaps to help Vermont forget the bitter years behind them, then as gradually people began to neighbor again. . . At any rate, the summer saw archery clubs, band concerts, Fourth of July celebrations, picnics and parties of all kinds, while the winters brought

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sleighing, skating and coasting along. . . the dancing clubs, dramatic clubs
and cliques of all kinds provided a place to go.³⁹

Besides serving as the focus for commercial growth, the public square and the buildings north of the square on Main Street served as the town's center for social and entertainment events as well as the home for various fraternal and social organizations. The public square was the site of many band concerts, speeches, circuses, and fairs. At first there was no landscaped park like today. Instead the square was surrounded by commercial buildings, small factory shops, and residences but the inside of the square was just mud or dust depending on the weather, without trees or grass. Mildred Grace Dilworth in "The Dilworth Family - Pioneer Vermont Settlers" recalled that in the early 1870s livestock was allowed to freely wander in the streets and in the public square. Her father, Robert Dilworth, worked to get an ordinance passed to have all livestock be put in pastures or penned in the pound. John Mathewson was the first pound master and the pound was located south of the South School yard. Other residents recalled that cord wood was stacked in the square during winter.

The square was also the location for circus tents as Vermont was a very profitable stop for traveling circuses and shows. In the town records of the late 1850s the street commissioner was authorized to "level off the circus rings on the square and fill up the hog wallers." Later, Robert Dilworth organized business leaders and raised funds to have the unsightly square made into a park. A wood bandstand (demolished) was erected on the east side of the square in 1872.⁴⁰ The Fulton County Ledger noted other improvements to the square and reported on August 25, 1871, that Isaac Witchell was laying a brick walk around the park.

The Vermont Military Band was a popular institution in Vermont's history. Although it is not known exactly when the band was founded, it is believed to have been organized after the Civil War when former members of the 84th Illinois Infantry Band was organized by E. P. Durell. The band played weekly concerts in the public square on Saturday evenings and during the winter in Mershon's Hall. With their neat dark blue uniforms the band traveled often to perform at parades and concerts at various fairs, soldiers' reunions, to Peoria for Fourth of July celebrations, and escorted former General John A. Logan at a parade in Bushnell, Illinois.⁴¹

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The square was also the site of numerous baseball games in the 1870s and 1880s. Among Vermont teams were the Stars, Dashaways, and Champions.

The Vermont Skating Rink was a popular spot for recreation. It was built by Rhodes Mershon in the early 1880s and was located at the present location of the Leighty Building on the east side of North Main Street south of Second Street. The rink was about 48 feet square with seats around the edge for spectators. On certain nights the Vermont Band played. Admission was 15 and 10 cents. Later, the skating rink became a livery stable and the building burnt down in the fire of 1890.⁴²

Among more popular social events was the Grand Reception and Ball given in Emmor and Ezra Dilworth's new hall on Christmas evening, 1873. This reception sponsored by the Methodist Episcopal Sabbath School was given for the purpose of purchasing a new library for the Sunday school. A program of vocal and instrumental music was given, and refreshments were served to all in the comforts of the newly completed hall.⁴³

On March 11, 1875 a Masquerade Ball was held in Mershon's Hall. Among the guests were people from Galesburg, Peoria, and Chicago. That same year a Martha Washington Tea Party also held at Mershon's Hall was a great financial and social success. The parts of George and Martha Washington were enacted by Col. Thomas Hamer and Mrs. Elwood Sidwell with both in appropriate costume.

To accommodate the growing numbers of crowds at events in Mershon's Hall, a large gallery was constructed in the winter of 1875. The iron gallery was 14 feet wide at the center and extended half way down the hall on either side. It contained 150 seats and was suspended from the ceiling by seven iron rods.⁴⁴ Improvements in the seating of Mershon's Hall allowed notable speakers such as Susan B. Anthony to appear before over 400 in February 1877. On April 27, 1877, former Vice President Schuyler Colfax delivered a lecture on Lincoln in the hall.

Perhaps the most noted and remembered social event through the years was the opening of the newly constructed Kirkbride House in 1882. Formal invitations from a committee of Vermont's leading citizens inviting townspeople, the surrounding area's citizens, and visiting guests for the opening of David Kirkbride's new hotel Thursday evening, November

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2, 1882. A formal banquet featuring a program of speakers and music and a grand reception was held for those fortunate enough to attend.⁴⁵

One of the finest things Vermont ever did in the way of both culture and entertainment was the production of dramatic works by the Literary Society. The Literary Society was formed in the 1870s to give dramatic entertainments during the winter. The proceeds would be devoted to public improvements in town. Performances were given in Mershon's Hall and benefited such projects as the library or the bandstand in the park. Director E. P. Durell would make two trips to Chicago each year to see plays and select appropriate ones to produce back in Vermont. Among these included "The Vanities," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and "The Two Orphans." Many of Vermont's citizens participated in these performances. Admission was 25 cents with reserved seats at 35 cents. There was always a full house and the plays were presented several times a week so that all in the area would have a chance to see the performances.⁴⁶

Fraternal and social organizations in the 1870s and 1880s continued to grow and several moved to newer and larger headquarters. On February 24, 1872, the Masons dedicated their new hall on the third floor of the newly constructed Eleazor Jenkins Building (demolished) at the southeast corner of North Main and East Third Streets. In the spring of 1874, the Odd Fellows Lodge moved into second floor headquarters in the newly erected Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building on the west side of North Main Street, two doors south of West Third Street.⁴⁷ The Vermont Rebekah Lodge, a women's auxiliary of the Odd Fellows was organized on October 8, 1872 with ten charter members. The Rebekah Lodge helped support charitable causes such as the Odd Fellows Orphan's Home at Lincoln, Illinois and the Odd Fellow's Home at Mattoon, Illinois.⁴⁸

A post of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), whose membership consisted of former Union soldiers from the Civil War was formed in Vermont in 1866. Meetings were held in the Good Templars Hall but the organization was soon disbanded. A later GAR organization, the George Yocum Post No. 324 was organized by T. A. Boyd on October 17, 1883. The post took its name from George F. Yocum of Company C, 84th Illinois Volunteer Infantry who was the company's color bearer. He was killed at the battle of Stone River, December 31, 1862. The G.A.R. led the observance of Memorial Day services at the cemetery. After the Odd Fellows moved out of the Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building in 1891, the G.A.R. Post occupied their former hall.

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In 1883 a Soldiers' Reunion was held in Vermont for former Civil War soldiers of the area. The town worked for weeks preparing for the great event which was to be held during the first week of September. Thousands of paper cartridges were made by Vermont's mothers and daughter for the "Sham Battle" and flags and decorations were made in a room at the Kirkbride Hotel. The program for the reunion included reveille, breakfast, formation of companies, a sham battle, dinner, assembly, concerts by the band and choir, and an address by General R. J. Oglesby. The encampment was located west of town, past West Third Street. On the second day of the encampment several Vermont ladies made one thousand boutonnieres for the former soldiers from flowers in the Webster flower garden. A banquet was served to over 700.

The George Yocum Grand Army of the Republic Relief Corps No. 167, an auxiliary to the G.A.R. Post was organized in the early 1870s. Among the Relief Corps activities were assisting with decorations for graves for Memorial Day and the sponsoring of the annual Chrysanthemum Show and Bazaar in the fall from 1895 to 1911. For many years the show was held in the present Masonic Hall or I. O. O. F. Hall on the east side of North Main Street northeast of the public square.

In 1878, the National Christian Temperance Union organized a local chapter in town and in the 1890s a local unit of the Women's Christian Temperance Union was organized. Both groups were founded to legislate for the prohibition of the production and consumption of alcohol.

In 1890 the Knights of Pythias was organized by members from the Rushville Knights of Pythias Lodge. The group met in the third story room of the former Masons in Eleazor Kirkbride's building (demolished) at the southeast corner of North Main and East Third Streets. The Knights of Pythias had 125 members by the 1900s. The Rathbone Sisters, an auxiliary unit of the Knights of Pythias was also organized in the 1890s. In the early 1900s both organizations disbanded due to death, illness, and lack of membership.⁴⁹

In 1886, Colonel Thomas. J. Kinney sold 12 acres of land southeast of town to the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad (C.B. & Q.). A dam and 13 acre lake was constructed to provide water for the railroad's steam engines. The company also appropriated \$1200 for improvements to make the lake attractive with rustic bridges, a steam motor launch, several

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canoes and boats. The "Q" Lake was a favorite picnic spot for the three area county's residents (Fulton, Schuyler, and McDonough Counties), with special trains being run from time to time bringing excursions for parties, picnics, and band concerts.

On July 11, 1889 the Fulton County Ledger reported that the Vermont Trotting Association had been formed with principal investors Dr. A. C. Wortman from Maryland, William Frank Durell and twenty others had leased 20 acres southeast of town to build a horse race track.

A track, stalls, house, and stands were completed in 1889 and 1890 and the grounds became the site for many popular races featuring Dr. Wortman's, Rhodes Mershon's and other Vermont citizen's prized horses.

Commercial Retail Center of Southwestern Fulton County, 1900-1946

From 1900-1946 Vermont continued to serve as a regional shipping center for agricultural products including cattle, hogs, sheep, and grain as well as brick, railroad ties and pilings, and flour from its two mills. The town functioned as a commercial retail center for the area's farmers, workers, and retirees. Although the population continued to decline slightly and no major employers came to the area, Vermont continued to be a major retail center for southwestern Fulton County, southeastern McDonough County, and northeastern Schuyler County until changes in transportation patterns caused by the coming of the automobile and the paving of hardroads allowed citizens to travel easier to larger cities in the area including Macomb and Canton in the 1930s and 1940s to find employment as well as purchase merchandise. The Depression caused a downturn in buying and selling much like the rest of the county. In 1933 the People's State Bank of Vermont failed. The coming of World War II and construction and opening of Camp Ellis near Table Grove created economic opportunities for Vermont's merchants as well as home owners who rented out their houses to employees of Camp Ellis during the war.

Agriculture

As cities continued to grow after the turn of the century, more and more efficient means to provide foodstuffs were acquired by Illinois farmers. Steam engines provided stationary power for threshing grain and baling straw, and steam powered traction engines pulled large banks of plows replacing teams of draft horses that were only to pull one or two plows. The gasoline tractor began to gain wide acceptance after World War I. Larger and

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more powerful machines enabled the farmer to cultivate more and more acres with fewer "hired hands." Illinois agriculture experienced a revolution with the acquisition of power tools and equipment by farmers, a trend that continues to the present. With the coming of the hard roads and development of the automobile and truck, farmers were able to drive greater distances to larger towns to exchange their produce, sometimes allowing them to get higher prices than the local markets offered.⁵⁰

Vermont's farmers took advantage of agricultural inventions and the newer, more powerful mechanized equipment during the 1900s through 1946. Those farmers who owned their own land as well as tenant farmers reaped the benefits of increased yields and increased demands by the country's growing population for foodstuffs. Among prominent farmers in the area were Benton McCormick, Henry H. Page, Thomas Cassidy, John Ellison, R. K. Seasley, William Travis Cox, Eben F. Cox, John Kost, and Stephen Kost. Several steam threshing units traveled throughout the area threshing the local farmer's wheat to be sold to Vermont's flour mills and grain elevators. Among owners of steam threshing units were Martin Horner, Lewis and Amos Beans, Clarence Haney, and Zeb Kost. Newspaper reports in the Vermont Union reported often the building of new barns, corn cribs, storage silos, and other agricultural outbuildings for Vermont's area farmers. Benton McCormick, Henry H. Page, R. K. Seasley, Marquis Leighty, and Willis Price all built substantial Queen Anne and Classical Revival influenced farm or town residences during the 1900s through 1920s which reflected their growing prominence and wealth as successful farmers.

By the late 1920s, Vermont's farmers began to notice a downturn in the economy as increased production and yields brought lower prices for their produce. This shift in the agricultural economy was felt throughout the nation. The following Great Depression seemed to accelerate the downturn in farm prices and prosperity. The Great Depression and drought continued to effect the area during the 1930s until World War II. Dust storms and clouds of grasshoppers devastated crops. Edmund Snowden commented that "clouds of grasshoppers devoured crops, and even hedge posts were eaten until the bright yellow hearts of the posts showed."⁵¹ World War II saw the return of prosperity to the area's farmers as food stuffs were in demand for the Allied Armies and country's war effort.

Railroad Improvements

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The Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad made much needed improvements to the two lines running through town with the construction of a new railroad switch southwest of the depot in the fall of 1904. The new switch allowed engines to turn around allowing easier access between the Rushville and Astoria lines.⁵² In 1905 the railroad announced plans to dig a cut through Vermont to provide an easier grade for the trains. The Third Street crossing was closed, a bridge overpass was built over the tracks at North First Alley Street, and a bridge overpass was built over the tracks at the first road north of town. In 1915 the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad began building a double track from Astoria to Adair. The new track allowed faster service and more trains to come through town.⁵³ In 1922 the Burlington Railroad announced plans to build a new line between Sugar Creek bridge near Frederick to a point near Vermont. This would eliminate the steep grade between Browning and Frederick, Illinois and the use of one of the largest steam train booster engines in the world to power the trains up the Illinois River Valley hill. The project was projected to cost over \$3 million and several Vermont men were employed for the work.

Commerce

Vermont's progress and development continued into the next century. Its population in 1900 was at 1,195 and the Vermont Union boasted that during the month of December the C, B, & Q Railroad had shipped 67 cars of grain, cattle, and hogs from Vermont. By 1900 the C,B, & Q Railroad was running four daily passenger trains and two daily freight trains while running ten passenger trains and five freight trains every other day. During the week of January 9, 1901, nine carloads of livestock were shipped. Brick and tile manufacturing was a major activity in Vermont in the early 1900s. The May 3, 1900 Vermont Union reported that Jackson M. Davis was employing 6 men and manufacturing an average of 5,000 four-inch tile per day.

In May 1901, a fire was discovered at the Henry Leighty Building on the east side of North Main Street, south of East Second Street. The fire destroyed the building and its businesses occupied by C. M. Hoskin, Mrs. Miles' Restaurant, and the W. O. Davis Clothing Store. In 1904, Henry Leighty rebuilt the building with a one-story brick structure that had four storefronts. The post office was one of the newer tenants in the structure moving into the south storefront in November 1904. In 1905, L. E. Gardner had a one-story brick commercial building constructed immediately to the south of the Leighty Building.

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Daniel S. Frazier was the contractor and H. L. Way's Clothing Store was the first tenant in the new building.

In 1908, fire destroyed the wooden and brick buildings owned by Mrs. Nettie Hamer, the widow of Henry H. Hamer who was the son of Patterson Hamer, on the west side of North Main Street, southwest of West Second Street. A one-story brick building (demolished) with three storefronts was quickly constructed by Mrs. Hamer to replace the destroyed buildings. Other new businesses constructed in town included a 17' x 70' brick building built for Lawrence E. Gardner by Daniel S. Frazier in 1909. The building was leased to McDowell Cox and his son, George for a new grocery store. Also in 1909, J. A. Burgard had a one story frame building constructed on the northeast side of the square for a machine shop.⁵⁴ In 1909-1910 Grant McLain had a two-story brick building built at the southwest corner of North Main and West Second Streets. The building was built for his 5 and 10 cent store and a residence for his family on the second story. Job Hughes of Lewistown was the contractor for the building.⁵⁵

Vermont continued to be a rural commercial trading center for the surrounding agricultural area in the 1910s and 1920s. Sales of new farm tractors and automobiles were reported weekly in the Vermont Union as these were major purchases for the rural farmers and citizens of Vermont at the time and showed that Vermont was a prosperous trading center to the newspaper's subscribers.

W. L. Derry was a major implement dealer in the area at the time and became president and later, secretary of the Illinois Implement Dealers' Association. W. L. Derry led the statewide movement for a cleanup of implement repair shops including the training of the repairman and the charging of fair labor prices for repairs. The firm of Derry and Kirkbride had begun as a wagon and blacksmith shop at the southeast corner of the square in the early 1880s. Later Kirkbride was bought out by W. L. Derry and the firm began to sell and repair farm tractors and farm implements, acquiring the McCormick-Deering franchise (a forerunner of the International Harvester Company) in the 1910s.

In 1914 S. K. Chipman had a two story brick garage at the southeast corner of North Main and East Second Streets constructed by Fred Rankin. The garage was the first building in town to be constructed for automobile purposes. The 40' x 80' building had an automobile garage on the first story and a skating rink and dance hall on the second story.

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In 1915 the People's Bank which had been under the ownership of Robert Dilworth until his death in 1913 and then under the ownership of his son, Edward K. Dilworth was reorganized. The new bank was organized under the State of Illinois banking law as a state bank and became known as the People's State Bank with Edward K. Dilworth as president; Benjamin G. Mershon as vice president; and Ross Mercer as cashier. In April 1916, Hammond, Baily, and Company of Table Grove, Illinois purchased a controlling interest in the bank and Edward K. Dilworth moved to Chicago. In May 1916 the People's State Bank merged with the Bank of Vermont which was owned by Walter Wyne. The new bank was headed by Walter Wyne with Ross Mercer as cashier.

New commercial construction in town during 1916-1917 included the remodeling of the People's State Bank Building and the building of the Lee Snowden Building on the south side of East Third Street. In 1916 the People's State Bank of Vermont's storefront was remodeled with a Classical Revival terra cotta front. The People's State Bank was located in Mershon's Hall northwest of the public square. The Lee Snowden Building was a one-story, brick commercial building with two storefronts completed in 1917.

Businesses in town continued to supply the area's farmers and village residents during the 1920s. Following the death of implement dealer W. L. Derry in 1921, his son, Herbert G. Derry continued to operate the business until 1923 when it was sold to W. C. Foster and J. R. Snowden. W. L. Derry had ran the farm implement business for over 40 years building it into one Vermont's most successful businesses. In 1926 Park C. Johnston, owner of the Vermont Mills died. Johnston had purchased the mill in the 1880s and had built up the mill into one of the area's largest flour mills shipping flour to several states throughout the country. The mill was also a major employer for Vermont's citizens. Park Johnston's son, Maurice continued to operate the grain elevator for awhile, eventually selling it to the Bader Company.

In April 1926, J. W. VanSycle who had operated a hardware store for 26 years, decided to retire and sold his stock to W. C. Foster. Foster later became a partner in the Nelson Hardware Store and combined his stock with Nelson's.⁵⁶ On February 24, 1929, James Lewis Hoopes died. Hoopes was the owner of a successful chain of lunch rooms in many Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad depots including Galesburg, Aurora, Quincy, and Burlington, Iowa. Hoopes also owned several farms and ranches near Vermont and the

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state of Montana. In the early 1890s Hoopes had built a large Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styled house on West Fourth Street in Vermont.

The continuing growth of the use of automobiles and trucks led to demands for auto related businesses in the area in the 1920s. Vermont's first filling station was built for Glenn Foster in 1925 on the former Derry Implement lots at the southwest side of the square. The one story house with canopy type gas station featured Marland Oil products and opened for business on Monday, October 26, 1925. It was demolished in the 1950s to make way for a larger concrete block gas station.⁵⁷

In April 1928 work began on Vermont's second filling station at the southeast side of the village square for Harvey Brinton. The brick, house type gas station was built by Harvey Brinton, a brick mason by trade. Also in 1928 work began on Marion Walker's filling station on the former Worsdell lots at the southeast corner of North Main and East Third Streets. The house with canopy type gas station was demolished in 1946 for a modern type gas station.⁵⁸

Vermont's businesses suffered a general decline in business activity due to the Great Depression. In 1933 the People's State Bank of Vermont failed. However, the Vermont Union, American Legion, Business Men's Association, and local business advertisers continued to promote the buying of goods locally to help out the local economy.

The C. B. & Q. Railroad began suffering from the general economic downturn of the Great Depression and from the new hard roads which allowed increased truck and auto traffic providing increased competition with the railroads. In November 1931, the railroad announced that several railroad crews were being laid off. In August 1932, the railroad announced that they were removing the morning run of the passenger train from Rushville.

In January 1933 four more trains were discontinued through Vermont by January 23. This still left six daily passenger trains that stopped in town.⁵⁹

New businesses in town during the 1930s included the construction of two new filling stations. In February 1932, Adam Masten had a Standard Oil Station built at the southwest corner of North Main and West First Streets and in September 1932 O. C. Renshaw had a Texaco Oil Station and tourist camp built on the site of the former north school grounds on North Main Street. Renshaw also built a roque court on the site of the former north

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school.⁶⁰ The June 22, 1933 Vermont Union announced that on the past Saturday night, 267 cars were parked in the downtown and a record turnout of shoppers were noticed in the shops and businesses.

Civic Improvements

In September 1899 the Village Board under the leadership of A. P. Atkinson let a contract for an electric power house to S. F. Hamer at the southwest corner of North Union and East Second Streets. Claude Andrews was in charge of the brick work and by January 1900 the wiring for the street lights and the steam engine was being installed. On January 31, 1900, the lights were turned on. In 1901 many of the old wooden board sidewalks were gradually replaced with brick. In June 1902 the telephone switchboard was installed with 40 exchanges including the elevator, depot, hotel, newspaper office, doctors' offices, and some residences.⁶¹

The village of Vermont continued making improvements in the early 1910s including a new concrete crossing on West Third Street between Carrick's and Mendenhall's stores in 1911.⁶² In September 1911 a new concrete floor was placed in the pump house (demolished) in the village square and it was announced that the town council would hold their upcoming meeting in the building.⁶³ In 1912, contractor George Thompson built concrete sidewalks on the east side of Main Street, south and north of the commercial district.⁶⁴

The town's electrical franchise was sold to the Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS) in 1922. CIPS opened an office in the Gardner Building on the south side of East Third Street and rewired the town for their electrical system. With the purchase of the electrical franchise by CIPS, the town had continuous twenty-four hour electrical service for the first time. The former light plant building later became the village hall and fire station.⁶⁵

In August 1923 another disastrous fire hit Vermont, this time destroying the three-story brick building owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Worsdell and the Walter Gaffney Grocery Store located on the first floor. The building was built for Eleazor Jenkins in 1871. Before fire trucks could arrive from the Table Grove, Astoria, and Industry fire departments, the flames reached two tanks of kerosene located in the grocery store. The resulting explosion spread

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the fire out of control. Also damaged was the narrow brick building to the south of the building and the I.O.O.F. Hall.

Lost in the fire was the Vermont Business Men's Association's rooms on the second floor and music and equipment of the Vermont Band. The association voted to use the \$800 in insurance money to begin a fund drive to buy a fire truck for the village. The Vermont Village Board and Business Men's Association raised the additional funds to order Vermont's first fire truck. The new truck arrived in May of 1924 and was stationed in the Village Hall.

The Vermont Business Men's Association decided to provide a public rest room for shoppers in the downtown business district. Funds to rent a building and provide for the rest room were raised and the new public rest room opened on the west side of Main Street in the south half of the 1872 E. & E. Dilworth Building in 1919. Annual fund drives to maintain the rest room were published in the Vermont Union throughout the 1920s.

Efforts to promote and recognize an appearance by Abraham Lincoln in Vermont on October 27, 1858 led to a funding drive to place a marker in the village square near the site of Lincoln's speech. A fund drive began on October 1, 1925 and a concrete and metal tablet and marker was dedicated on Tuesday, October 27, 1925 in the northeast corner of the village square. A box was placed in the marker with the Friday, October 23 issue of the Vermont Union, a list of all the grade and high school students, and a few historical notes about Vermont. The day long dedication ceremonies included many speeches by dignitaries including Attorney B. M. Chipperfield of Canton, a band concert by the Vermont Band and P. & O. Band of Canton, and dedication of the monument.⁶⁶

In March 1931 the village reached an agreement with CIPS to install eight ornamental light posts and globes in the downtown business district. The Vermont High School Class of 1932 installed two ornamental lights and posts in July 1931 at the front end of the school property marking the sidewalk to the front entry.⁶⁷

The federal programs initiated during the Roosevelt administration largely contributed to Vermont's improvement in the 1930s, providing much needed employment and income. These programs included water improvement projects, road building projects, and recreational and educational programs in town.

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In 1935-1936, over six miles of grading and a new bridge from Vermont to Astoria was completed for a proposed new all-weather road. The work was paid for by W. P. A. funds with largely W. P. A. labor.

The increased demand for water in the village was a continued topic of discussion in the 1930s. The February 20, 1936 Vermont Union reported that the Wyllie Price House in the southeast part of town was the fourth house in Vermont destroyed by fire during the winter. It continued that "A good waterworks will be the means of saving this huge loss of property by fire as no one questioned the fact that with water from a hydrant, our fire engine could have drowned out this fire . . ."⁶⁸

The Vermont Union, village council under the leadership of Mayor O. C. Renshaw, and the local Kiwanis Club led the drive for the construction of a new water works and well. Efforts to acquire water in 1936 by the village council and the Work Progress Administration included the drilling of several test wells around the village and in the surrounding rural areas. These efforts were soon given up by the WPA as the wells did not contain an adequate water supply. The village continued efforts to get a new waterworks and during 1938-1939 the Works Progress Administration allocated funds and manpower for the construction of a dam, brick water treatment plant, and a forty-acre lake approximately two miles to the west to supply water to Vermont. \$65,000 was raised locally to pay for water mains and pumps. The dam and treatment plant was completed in 1941. World War II halted all construction on the waterworks. In 1946, a 50,000 gallon water tower was constructed and the public water system went into operation in March 1947.⁶⁹

The WPA sponsored recreational, cultural, and educational programs and activities in town during the late 1930s. These included the opening of the WPA Recreation Center for men in the Village Hall (the former electric light plant) in February 1936. The Recreation Center employed Dale Rankin as director and Ray Ridenour as assistant of activities. The center was open to all men of the community free of charge and offered ping-pong, boxing, basketball, and a summer softball team.⁷⁰

Mrs. Stella Cook was also hired by the WPA to conduct volley ball classes in the Vermont School gymnasium on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. She also supervised a play room in her home for girls of ages four to ten years old on Saturday afternoons.⁷¹ The WPA

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Library opened the first week of February 1939 in rooms in the Mershon Bank Building on the west side of North Main Street.⁷²

Residential and Church Construction

Many residences were constructed in Vermont during the 1900s through the late 1920s. The Great Depression and a downturn in the economy slowed down new residential construction during the 1930s with only one new house being built in town. Labor and material shortages during World War II prevented much new construction.

The Vermont Union reported in September 1908 that four residences were being constructed including the one-and-a-half story frame residence for Elsworth Snowden on the north side of West Third Street and the large two-and-a-half story wood and concrete block Queen Anne style residence for Henry H. Page at the southeast corner of East Fifth and South Walnut Streets.⁷³ In 1909 several of the downtown's brick sidewalks were being replaced with concrete walks. Park Johnston had a concrete and frame grain elevator erected in 1909 at the east end of East Second Street on the west side of the railroad tracks. George Thompson was the contractor for the concrete foundation and Daniel S. Frazier was general contractor for the elevator.⁷⁴

In 1912, at least five new residences were built in town including Mrs. Samuel Chipman's two-story, Four Square residence at the southwest corner of North Liberty and West Third Streets and a larger two-and-a-half story brick and wood frame residence for Henry H. Page at the southeast corner of North Union and East Second Streets. Henry Page's new residence attracted notice in many of the area's newspapers because of its large size and cost reported at over \$7,000.⁷⁵ In 1915, seven new residences were constructed and several homes had new additions built.⁷⁶

New houses constructed in town during this time period included a one-story bungalow for Earl Frazier on the south side of East Third Street in 1916; a one-story bungalow for J. L. Coyner, built by Ray Daugherty on the south side of East Third Street in 1917; and a two-story frame residence for implement dealer W. L. Derry at the west side of the park, north of West Fourth Street in 1917. The Derry residence had a box placed in a cornerstone by Lewis Kirkbride in the west porch pillar on the south side. Contents of the box included a small coin, a copy of the Vermont Union newspaper, and some biographical and historical

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information by W. L. Derry.⁷⁷ In 1918, Postmaster Cleve B. Schroeder had a large frame, two-story residence built on the West Side of Main Street at the northwest corner of West Ninth and South Main Streets. Contractor Fred Rankin erected the Prairie School influenced house with its low-pitched hipped roof, wide eaves, ribbon windows, and wraparound front porch.⁷⁸

Construction in town during the 1920s included the raising of the Methodist Church for a new concrete block basement in 1924. The church was also stuccoed at the time. W. A. Bradley of Lewistown was awarded the general contract with Elmore Miller of Vermont in charge of the concrete work and L. Ray Daughtery of Vermont in charge of the wood work.⁷⁹ In September 1925 the Christian Church began a major remodeling of their building with new modern bell towers being built to replace the older ones, the building of a new central entryway, enlarging of the basement, and stuccoing of the exterior. Fred Rankin was in charge of the construction.⁸⁰

Many residents in town also built garages to house their new automobiles purchased during the 1920s including: Dave Atherton, 1920; Emmor Nelson, 1921; E. E. Frye, 1921; a ornamental concrete block garage for Earl Sears, 1923; Postmaster Leighty, 1923; Ross Mercer, 1924; Jerry Sears, 1925; Fred Rankin, 1925; and Daniel O'Connell, 1928. Houses built in town during the 1920s included several bungalows and a few two-story residences.

Education

Discussion of the merging of the town's two school districts was the news of the day during the early 1900s. Principals E. W. Dunham of the South School and C. Shields of the North School were largely instrumental in bringing about a union of the two districts. In 1905 a petition was circulated calling for a consolidation of the two districts. Following a vote in favor of the proposition, the south building housed the union high school, a primary and for a time the third and fourth grades. The north building housed the fifth through eighth grades and later also housed the third and fourth grades. In 1920 the north building housed all grades from first through eighth with the high school in the south building.⁸¹

Petitions began circulating around town in 1919, following the passage of the Community High School act by the Illinois State Legislature, for a new public school building. An election to form a Community High School District was held on Saturday, January 24, 1920

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and the new board began to make plans to build a new school. A site was selected by the board on the west side of North Main Street north of the commercial downtown. An election was held on January 19, 1924 which authorized the Board of Education to build a new school.

Thirty thousand dollars had been saved by the school board for such a purpose, and construction immediately began in 1924. Harry G. Aldrich of the architectural firm of Aldrich and Aldrich of Galesburg, Illinois designed the two-story brick building. Harvey Brinton supervised the masonry construction and Fred Rankin the carpentry work. The building was completed at a cost of \$85,000 in time for the first class for the fall term in 1925. Students from District 181, comprising the town of Vermont as well as many pupils from the rural areas, who paid tuition, attended the new school complete with a ground floor gymnasium.

A fund drive was held in the fall and winter of 1925 to finish the stage for the school gymnasium, including stage curtains. The new gym and stage had its first theatrical performance on Thursday, March 18, 1926 with the local Table Grove production of P. R. Wilmarth's "Our Boy." On April 22, 1926 a song festival was held at the school gymnasium.⁸²

It is interesting to note that the local newspaper, the Vermont Union, edited by C. Ross Arnold, had very little coverage about the construction of the largest institutional building ever built in Vermont. The only newspaper coverage about the new school was usually negative about the slow construction time for the project or about the inadequacy of the heating system being installed in the building.

The former south and north school buildings were converted into seed storage plants for the Gold Bond Seed Company. The former north school building was destroyed by fire on December 11, 1928.⁸³ The south school building was torn down in 1936.⁸⁴

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Entertainment and Social History

Vermont's downtown continued as an entertainment and social center for Vermont's and the surrounding area's citizens during the 1900s-1940s. Mershon's Hall continued to be a scene of entertainment from traveling companies, home town productions, the newly invented motion pictures, and dances. The November 8, 1902 Vermont Union reported that "His Honor" a home-produced play at Mershon's Hall had sold out and had netted \$100. The Grand Concert Company Troubadors entertained at the hall on December 18, 1902 and admission was set at 25 cents. The Grand Concert Company was booked through the Chicago Lyceum Bureau.⁸⁵ On Friday, December 7, 1906 the Kennedy Moving Picture Company was to show the "Holdup of the Leadville Stags" and the "Eruption of Mt. Pelee." at Mershon's Hall⁸⁶

The "Q" Lake southeast of town was a popular destination for Vermont's citizens as well as for reunions during the 1890s and 1900s. The September 15, 1892 Vermont Union reported that a Traveling Men's Picnic was held on the grounds Saturday, September 10 and drew about 1500 including over 800 that came by train from Canton, Illinois. That same edition of the newspaper also reported on the Soldiers' Reunion held September 7 and 8 at the lake. Attendance was estimated at 2,000 for September 7 and 2,500 for September 8. The Ipava Band and Vermont Glee Club were featured performers at the event.

On Saturday, October 26, 1907, an annual corn show began to be held in Vermont that drew crowds from the area. It began as a one-day corn judging contest of the area farmers' corn, sponsored by the Rex Clothing Company and Mendenhall's Furniture Store, but soon became a corn and horse show with five big days and nights of judging, shows, and entertainment. Shows from 1908 on were sponsored by the Vermont Business Men's Association. The show brought in thousands of spectators to downtown Vermont and its businesses. The corn and horse show continued until World War I.⁸⁷

Due to the closing of Mershon's Hall in 1907, the community's opera house, a movement began among the town's citizens and businesses to erect a new opera house. Led by Vermont citizen P. R. Wilmarth and the Vermont Business Men's Association, the frame building formerly owned by C. W. Craft on the northwest side of the square was quickly remodeled into an opera house in the fall of 1909. "Prairie Center" a locally produced play

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opened in the opera house on December 24, 1909. The opera house seated 200. Moving pictures were shown on Wednesday and Saturday nights with an admission of 10 cents for adults.⁸⁸

For entertainment and cultural events, Vermont's citizens were able to attend silent movies in the newly opened theater in 1913. Entertainment events began shifting from live performances from traveling companies to motion pictures, skating, and dances. The Duncan Theater which later became known as the Princess Theater was first located in the town's second opera house in the Craft Building on the west side of the square. In 1915 it was moved to the north store room of the Leighty Building on the east side of Main Street.

S. K. Chipman's roller skating rink opened to a packed house on Saturday, October 17, 1914. The skating rink was also used as a dance hall, for fundraising suppers, and a basketball gymnasium.

In the fall of 1914, the Vermont Chautauqua Association was formed and a contract was signed with the Nealy Chautauqua Association to hold its first Chautauqua the following year. The Nealy Chautauqua Association provided all the entertainment, speakers, and publicity for the event. The first Chautauqua was held on July 8-13, 1915 in a large tent in the village square. A season ticket cost \$1.50 for the event. Results from the Chautauqua showed a profit and plans for a second event were immediately made. The second Chautauqua was held on August 16-21, 1916.

Other places for entertainment and socializing included the newly opened Elmore Miller pool hall in the Leighty Building in 1915. In January 1916, The Vermont Business Men's Association decided to buy the former quarters of the Knights of Pythias Organization in the Jenkins Building at the southeast corner of North Main and East Third Streets. The quarters were to be used as a club room for the village.⁸⁹

In September 1920 the C.B. & Q. Railroad began building a larger dam for the "Q" Lake on the east side of the Price Farm southeast of town. The larger lake provided more water for the larger railroad engines on the line.⁹⁰ By October 21, 1920 the new dam was finished. The lake was 25 acres and 28 feet deep at the deepest point.⁹¹ The "Q" Lake continued to be a popular fishing, boating, swimming, and picnic spot for Vermont's citizens. Many family reunions were held at the lake during the 1920s.

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The downtown including the village square continued to be a center for recreation and entertainment in the 1920s. The Princess Theater located in the north storeroom of the Leighty Building on the east side of North Main Street showed silent movies with piano accompaniment by local Vermont citizens. A few vaudeville acts and plays were also held at the Princess Theater during the 1920s. The village square was the scene of weekly summer band concerts by the Vermont Band and traveling tent shows during the 1920s.

Vermont's fraternal organizations continued to be very active in the social history of the town's citizens during the 1920s. The Monitor Camp #581 of the Modern Woodmen of America met in the Odd Fellows Hall in October 1924 and voted to buy the Ezra and Emmor Dilworth Building at the southwest corner of North Main and West Third Streets for a new lodge quarters. Braden's Grocery would occupy the first floor storefront while the lodge would occupy the second story which formerly housed the G.A.R. and was later a showroom for carpets and rugs. Fred Rankin, a trustee of the lodge, was hired to remodel the second story rooms into a lodge hall.⁹² The Modern Woodmen who reported a membership of 194 met for the first time in their new hall on Monday, February 16, 1925. The Tri State Lodge, a branch organization of the Modern Woodmen also rented quarters in the new lodge hall. By April 3, 1925 the Modern Woodmen reported a membership of over 200 members. The lodge hall was used for meetings, dances, and banquets.⁹³

The "Q" Lake, southeast of town was a popular place in the 1930s for family reunions, picnics, concerts, boating, and fishing. The Illinois Fire Fighters Association held their Annual Tournament and Picnic at the lake on Wednesday, July 23, 1930. Several hundred fire fighters and their families throughout the state attended the event.⁹⁴

The high school gymnasium hosted many entertainment events produced by the school and local townspeople in the 1930s. On Saturday, November 1, 1930 the American Legion sponsored the production of "Monkey Bizness" with a cast of 100 local people. The production was produced by the Knepps-Sparks Producing Company and was sold out. On Friday, November 8, 1930 the senior class of the high school sponsored a carnival with food, entertainment, booths, and music. The gymnasium also hosted many local basketball and volleyball games between Vermont High School and other schools.⁹⁵ Singles and doubles tennis tournaments at the tennis courts west of the school were a popular recreational activity in town during the 1930s.

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In November 1930, local theater manager, Wayne C. Geer had the Princess Theater wired with speakers for "talkies." The Princess Theater, located in the north storeroom of the Leighty Building on North Main Street remained a popular entertainment venue throughout the 1930s. Around 1940, Theodore M. Cox had the former Mack's Garage building at the southeast corner of North Main and East Second Streets, converted to the Princess Theater. The movie theater continued in operation into the 1950s.

World War I

With America's involvement in World War I in 1917, Vermont responded by sending 109 men to the army, and 20 to the navy. On June 14, 1917 a Red Cross unit was founded in town and soon two storerooms were donated to make bandages and other items for the soldiers and sailors involved in the war effort. Several fraternal and social organizations volunteered to man the work stations during the week. Proceeds from the annual horse and corn show in 1917 were donated to the Red Cross. By 1918, the Red Cross had 763 members. In May 1918, Vermont was second to Canton in county membership with 814. By the Armistice in November, there were over 1,000 members. In May 1914, local farmers were asked to donate hogs for the war effort and 24 hogs were given which brought over \$1,000 for the Red Cross.⁹⁶ The People's State Bank was in charge of Liberty Bond sales and Vermont responded by subscribing for \$25,000 of Liberty Bonds in June 1917.⁹⁷

Red Cross members donated time and rolled surgical dressings and bandages. The February 7, 1918 Vermont Union reported that the Red Cross had prepared and shipped 3,406 surgical dressings to Canton, Illinois. Benefits were also held for the Red Cross including a benefit at Foster's Hall in the S. K. Chipman Building on January 23, 1918. The event featured a musical program, the Vermont Ladies Quartette, and a locally produced play put on by local cast members.⁹⁸

Following World War I, veterans of the war organized an American Legion Post in Vermont. On August 10, 1920 a charter was granted for Vermont Post No. 26. The post was later changed to the Carrol Rankin Post No. 26 in honor of Carrol Rankin, who lost his life while engaged in battle of Vesle River, France. The first meeting place for the new post was the former second floor G.A.R. headquarters above the Emmor and Ezra Dilworth Building on the west side of Main Street, two storefronts south of West Third Street. The Legion Auxiliary, a women's auxiliary unit, was founded on February 17, 1921. In 1936, the post

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purchased the Henry Mershon House on the west side of North Liberty Street for its headquarters. Both the Legion and Auxiliary sponsored the annual Memorial Day services in the cemetery and helped raise funds for the veteran's hospitals, Salvation Army, and the Red Cross.⁹⁹

The Spanish influenza epidemic hit Vermont in the fall of 1919. By February 12, 1920 when the epidemic was at its height, the local schools, churches, Princess Theater, and skating rink were all closed. No public performances or dances were allowed, to stop the spread of the virus. Several people in Vermont died from the virus.¹⁰⁰

Hardroads

Vermont witnessed the creation of national and state highways and paving of many of these routes in the 1920s. Under Governor Len Small, Illinois' "good roads governor," the state began "pulling itself out of the mud" and constructed over 7,000 miles of 18-foot wide hard roads. Fulton, McDonough, and Schuyler Counties all benefited from this new road construction including what became known as U. S. Route 136 which would run four miles north of Vermont; U. S. Route 24 which would run six miles southeast of Vermont, and U. S. 67 which was located 10 miles west of Vermont. The coming of paved roads led to the decline of Vermont as its citizens and the area's farmers were able to more quickly reach larger markets in cities which offered better prices for their produce and for items purchased.¹⁰¹

Construction work on the Peoria to Quincy road which would later become U. S. Route 24 proceeded southwest of Astoria in July 1925. Several Vermont men worked on the road crews which were working on the road six miles south of Vermont. The road was completed by June 1927.¹⁰²

Plans for the construction of State Route 98 which would later become U. S. Route 136 were finalized in 1926 with construction immediately beginning that year. By March 29, 1927 the road had reached Ipava and construction began on the six-mile stretch between Ipava and Table Grove. The road when completed would run east to west along the north side of Vermont Township, approximately four miles north of town. A viaduct for the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad was built over the new road, just south of Table Grove, Illinois.¹⁰³ The new hard roads provided Vermont with quicker access to Macomb,

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Peoria, Canton, Rushville, and other nearby cities and towns but travelers still had to take dirt roads for four miles from the north to Vermont or six miles from the south.

After Route 98 (U. S. Route 136) and U. S. Route 24 were paved, the town still did not have a paved road leading to either routes in the 1920s. In December 1927, Supervisor U. Grant Tingley presented a petition from 176 Vermont citizens for the paving of a road between Vermont and State Route 98 to the north, to the Fulton County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution that county motor fuel tax money for the next two years would be used to build a hard road from Table Grove to Vermont. The road was to be 18' wide to meet state standards and cost approximately \$85,000 for four-mile length.¹⁰⁴

Driving conditions for Vermont's citizens were terrible every spring and winter when snow and rain caused the dirt roads to become muddy quagmires. The July 3, 1929 Table Grove Herald reported in "Lost The Key" the experience of one Vermont motorist in dealing with the terrible highway conditions:

Theodore M. Cox, who has his summer residence in Vermont, but whose business interests are largely centered in Galesburg, came up from the village on the south, Monday morning, driving his Chrysler and accompanied by Mrs. Cox and their daughter.

Stopping here to remove the chains from the car after reaching our perfectly good and serviceable hard roads, Mr. Cox not only removed said chains, but also a pair of khaki overalls, which he threw in the back part of the Chrysler automatically locking the door to same. . . . He was faced with the awful fact that his keys were all in the pockets of the aforementioned securely locked up khakis.

. . . Finally expert help, in the person of M. C. Foster was secured and his knowledge of the secret workings of cars enabled him to get at the imprisoned overalls and secure the keys.

The moral to this is that a hard road is badly needed south from Table Grove to Vermont and beyond, so that it will not be necessary for travelers from that direction to use chains to get to our hard roads. We wouldn't weep much if

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some morning we saw Governor Emerson, Harry Cleveland, Frank Sheets and all the rest of the higher ups struggling to get their khaki pants out of the rear compartments of their cars. And we wouldn't help a darn bit till they promised to do something to make it unnecessary to use chains to get into town from the south.

Finally in August 1929 the State of Illinois accepted the plans to build a hard road to Vermont and surveying began for the new road.¹⁰⁵ The February 4, 1930 Vermont Union reported that Supervisor U. Grant Tingley had received word that the new hard road would be commenced after the spring thaw. On April 4, 1930 the Department of Public Works & Building of the State Of Illinois approved the construction of the new hard road and bids were let for the grading and culvert work later in the month.¹⁰⁶

The Canton, Illinois firm of Sutton and Moore received the contract for the grading and culvert work. Several Vermont men in the summer of 1930 worked on the grading and culverts for the road including Ralph Engle, John Anderson, Marcus Miles, Frank Darling, and Donald Corbitt. In August 1930 bids were let for the construction of the hard road with Jansen & Schaeffer of Pekin receiving the contract. Paving of the new road began the last week of September and by October 13, 9,000 feet of road had been completed. By October 27 the hard road had been completed to the north side of the school building. The November 17, 1930 Vermont Union announced that the new road had finally opened providing an all-weather road for Vermont's citizens.¹⁰⁷

To complete the widening of the new hard road which ran from the north end of the square to State Route 98, four-and-a-half miles north of town, the village requested bids in February 1931. The hard road was 18' wide and the new construction would widen the road to Vermont's curblines from the school south to the business district. Jansen & Schaeffer received the contract and the work was completed during March and April 1931.¹⁰⁸

Centennial

Efforts to promote the town and its history began to be realized in 1934 when editor C. R. Boynton of the Vermont Union persuaded others to form a Centennial Executive Commission to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the town's settlement. Due to

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lack of time to organize the event, it was decided to hold the Centennial, one year later on Friday and Saturday, September 6 and 7, 1935.

The Centennial Executive Commission organized many committees to orchestrate the event including a Historical Committee, who gathered and submitted articles on Vermont's history to be published in a Centennial Edition of the newspaper. Other committees included a Pageant Committee, Parade Committee, and Programs Committee. Thousands attended the two-day celebration which included a museum and relic display, dedication of the Crail marker at the cemetery, tour of historical sites, queen's coronation, parade, addresses, entertainments by featured acts and the Vermont Band, the historical pageant "O Pioneers", a carnival, and food stands. The estimated crowd at the two-day event was over 18,000 spectators.¹⁰⁹

World War II

The 1940s brought World War II to Vermont. Two hundred forty citizens from Vermont served in the armed services; eight died as a result of direct combat. Locally, war bond rallies were held to raise funds for the war effort and scrap drives were conducted. The economy also picked up due to war time demand for the area's farmers' livestock and grain. Many Vermont area citizens found employment in the newly constructed Camp Ellis, northeast of Table Grove, a prisoner of war camp operated during the war. Every available bedroom in the area was rented out to employees and soldiers at Camp Ellis, and their families.

Epilogue

Following World War Two, economic prosperity continued in the area. The Vermont State Bank was founded in 1946. Industry and mining contributed to the economic growth. Kenneth C. Kessler built and put into operation the Ken-Ray Foundry at the north end of town. The plant opened on May 29, 1946 with less than 12 employees. By year's end the staff had increased to 80. The plant continues to operate today as part of Mahoney Foundries, Inc.

In 1947 Loyal H. Tingley, Jr. built a concrete block building in the northeast corner of the square and began producing machine parts and screws for machinery and appliances. As

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the business prospered and room was needed for expansion. The factory moved to a larger building in Ipava. The Thunderbird Collieries' Sun Spot Mine opened in August 1962 and continued to major employer in the area until the early 1980s.

In the 1960s, the rise of chain merchandise stores in larger towns such as Macomb and Canton, Illinois and the decline of small family farms eroded small businesses in Vermont. Gone are the four grocery stores, five gas stations, two restaurants, doctor's office, and Vermont's weekly newspaper, the V. I. Trib-Union from the 1960s. In their stead, newer enterprises have come forward to carry Vermont into the next century.

The problems of promoting and upgrading Vermont have become the focus of a new organization of citizens and business people known as Vermont Betterment, Inc. who hope to recognize their architectural and historic heritage and revitalize their hometown.

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53. Vermont Union. April 29, 1915.

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58. Vermont Union. April 13, 1928; May 8, 1928; July 24, 1928.
59. Vermont Union. November 5, 1931; August 15, 1932; January 9, 1933.
60. Vermont Union. February 11, 1932; September 8 and 26, 1932; November 10, 1932..
61. "1895-1915," Vermont Union, Centennial Edition, Vermont, Illinois. September 5, 1935.
62. Vermont Union. August 31, 1911.
63. Vermont Union. September 14, 1911.
64. Astoria Argus-Searchlight. June 12, 1912, June 26, 1912.
65. Vermont Union. October 19, 1922; December 14, 1922.
66. Vermont Union. October 6, 27, and 30, 1925.
67. Vermont Union. July 30, 1931.
68. Vermont Union. February 20, 1936.
69. Bybee, John, "About History," Vermont, Illinois: A Pictorial History, compiled by Vermont Public Library. Astoria, Illinois: K. K. Stevens Publishing Company, 1993. p. 11.
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76. Ibid. June, 11, June 25, July 16, July 23, October 11, October 29, 1914; January 28, March 2, March 18, March 23, April 8, April 15, May 13, July 1, July 8, August 5, 1915.

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84. Vermont Union. July 30, 1936.

85. Vermont Union. November 6 and 25, 1902. December 11, 1902.

86. Vermont Union. December 6, 1906.

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90. Vermont Union. September 9, 1920.
91. Vermont Union. October 21, 1920.
92. Vermont Union. October 10, 1924; December 5, 1924.
93. Vermont Union. February 20, 1925; March 31, 1925; April 3, 1925.
94. Vermont Union. July 10, 1930.
95. Vermont Union. November 3, 10, 17, 1930.
96. "1915-1935," Vermont Union, Centennial Edition, September 5, 1935.
97. Vermont Union. June 21, 1917.
98. Vermont Union. January 10, 1918; February 7, 1918.
99. "American Legion," Vermont Union, Centennial Edition. September 5, 1935.
100. Vermont Union. February 12, 1920. Various issues in the fall and winter of 1919 mention a number of deaths and cancellations of public activities due to the epidemic.
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103. Vermont Union. March 29, 1927; November 14, 1927; July 24, 1928; August 10, 1928.
104. Vermont Union. December 16, 1927.
105. Vermont Union. August 30, 1929.

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106. Vermont Union. February 4, 1930; April 4 and 25, 1930.

107. Vermont Union. April 25, 1930; June 2, 1930; July 3 and 10, 1930; August 14, 1930;
September 22, 1930; October 13 and 27, 1930; November 3 and 17, 1930.

108. Vermont Union. February 19, 1931; April 12, 1931.

109. Vermont Union, Centennial Edition September 5, 1935. September 12, 1935.

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Associated Property Types

Introduction

Historic properties in Vermont represent a wide range of the village's development patterns from its establishment in 1837 through 1946. Vermont's residential, commercial, and public properties range from simple vernacular buildings to high style buildings. High style residences are scattered amongst simple vernacular residence throughout the town. Most of the historic commercial buildings in town are one to two stories in height. They are located in the central business district north of the village square along North Main Street for approximately two blocks. A few commercial buildings are mixed in with the residences, primarily along Main Street, north and south of the business district. Vermont's growth and development as a rural agricultural trading center is represented in its residential, commercial, institutional, and religious properties. Its periods of boom and prosperity from the 1850s through the 1870s associated with its settlement and the pork packing industry, and later growth periods during the late 19th century and early 20th century are expressed in its wide range of building types and styles.

Vermont is located in southwestern Fulton County, Illinois, 1.2 miles east of the Fourth Principle Meridian. The village lies in the southwestern part of Vermont Township along the Buffalo Hart Terminal Moraine. Its elevations varies from 650' to 697' above sea level with the village square at the center of town being 697' above sea level. Vermont Township historically was divided between timber and prairie land. Today, the township is largely agricultural producing lands with some small timber areas skirting water courses. Northeast and southeast of the village are large areas that were strip mined in the 1950s through 1970s. Sugar Creek, located west of Vermont runs south-southwest along the border between McDonough and Fulton Counties to the LaMoille River, and Otter Creek, located east of Vermont runs southeast to Spoon River. A former village lake is located northwest of the village square at the west end of First South Street. Northwest of town is Rankin Lake, a small farm lake. Approximately two miles west of town in McDonough County is the current lake that provides the village's water supply. This lake, dam, and water plant were built 1939-1946 by the Works Progress Administration. Southwest of the village is the "Q" Lake, built for the Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad to provide water for the steam locomotives. The Q Lake was a popular recreational center throughout Vermont's history.

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The corporate limits of the village at its longest point, running north to south is 1.75 miles and at its widest point, running east to west is 1.25 miles. The actual built up limits of the village is 1.2 miles running north to south and .9 mile running east to west. The village is rectilinear in plan with its main thoroughfares running north-south and east-west. Main Street which runs north to south through the village connects Vermont to U. S. Route 136, four miles to the north and to U. S. Route 24, six miles to the southeast. West Fourth Street which runs west of the village square connects to U. S. Route 67 approximately 10 miles to the northwest. The north-south Galesburg branch tracks of the Burlington Northern Railroad (formerly Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Railroad) run three blocks east of the downtown business district. The Canton branch line of the Burlington Northern Railroad runs in a northeast direction from the junction of Galesburg branch near East Eighth Street through the east part of town.

The original village of Vermont, platted in 1835 extends four blocks north from the village square to North Alley Street and east and west for two blocks between Union and Liberty Streets. James and Joseph Crail's Addition to Vermont, platted in the late 1830s, extends to the south of the Village Square four blocks to Eighth Street and east to west for two blocks between Union and Liberty Streets. Blocks in the original village, James and Joseph Crail's Addition, and Thomas Crail's Addition are generally square in shape and 240' x 240'. Each block has eight lots. To the north of the original village of Vermont was a platted village by William Hays. The area included twelve blocks with a public square on the east side of Main Street. It was soon absorbed into the village of Vermont and became known as Hay's First and Second Addition. Hay's First and Second Addition included plans for alleys but they were never built. Blocks in the later additions to Vermont vary in size but are generally square or rectangular in shape.

Principal north-south streets in the village are Main Street, Liberty Street, one block west of Main Street, and Union Street, one block east of Main Street. Principal east-west streets in the village beginning at the north are North Alley, Third Street, Fourth Street at the village square, Fifth Street, Seventh Street, and Ninth Street. Most of the village's buildings are located along north-south Main, Liberty, and Union Streets and along east-west North Alley, Third, Fifth, Seventh, and Ninth Streets. Building density in the village is low with most residential properties occupying at least two lots. Most residences are set back from the streets and sidewalks. Facade lines for residences varies with setbacks from ten to eighty feet from the sidewalks. The only concentrated building density is located for two

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blocks along North Main Street, north of the village square in the business district. The Bader Grain Elevator occupies a large area east of North Union Street between East Second and East First Streets. The Vermont Foundry, constructed in the late 1940s and early 1950s occupies a large tract of land at the village's north end, east of North Main Street and north of North Street. The Vermont Cemetery, which occupies approximately 16 acres, is located in the northeast part of town east of the Vermont Foundry and west of the Galesburg branch of the Burlington Northern Railroad. Memorial Park, containing ball fields and playground equipment is located east of Union Street at the east end of First North Street and extends to the east to the Galesburg branch of the Burlington Northern Railroad.

Residences are set amidst mowed lawns generally with garages located to the rear of the lots. The village has no alleys, access to garages are provided by private driveways. Of note are the large landscaped lawns along Fifth Street containing remnants of original landscaping from the 1870s including large tulip, ginkgo, tamarack, and pine trees.

During the pre-Civil War era this area was surrounded by very productive agricultural farm lands. Pre-Civil War buildings can be found on Main Street as well as on the side streets around Main Street. Buildings dating after the Civil War can be found throughout the village.

High style buildings and traditional vernacular buildings can both be found in Vermont. Most of the buildings in the village are simple vernacular building types with some stylistic ornament added, including Four-over-Four, Hall & Parlor, Side Hall, Gable Front, Gabled Ell, L-Plan, T-Plan, and Cross Plan. Some of the residential and commercial buildings are good examples of architectural styles including the Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles.

Builders and Plans

Vermont's contractors had access to builders' and carpenters' journals, plans and specs from house plan companies such as the Radford Architectural Company and Gordon Van-Tine of Davenport, Iowa, and even prefabricated houses from Sears, Roebuck & Company and the Aladdin Company. No known existing records have been located for Vermont's contractors' businesses. The local Vermont newspaper was used as a source for known

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constructions of buildings and their contractors. Unfortunately, the local Vermont newspapers are only available from 1898 on. Scant records from other nearby newspapers are available about Vermont and they often do not list the construction of a building in Vermont or the contractor.

The local newspapers such as the Astoria Argus, Astoria Searchlight, Vermont Chronicle, Vermont Independent, and Vermont Union began featuring house plans and sketches from house plan companies in the 1880s and 1890s. Payne and Payne of Carthage, Illinois had several advertisements for Queen Anne and Classical Revival styled houses in the local papers during the 1890s and 1900s. Radford Architectural Company of Riverside (later Chicago), Illinois also ran several advertisements for houses and commercial buildings including Four Squares, Bungalows, Classical Revival, and late Queen Anne styled houses during the 1910s. Daniel O'Connell's Lumber Yard, located on North Union Street featured many house plans in their advertisements during the 1900s through the 1920s.

Builders in Vermont included Jesse Cox, David Beal, William Martin, Sidney Smith Chapman and Sons, Jack L. Wiley, Simeon Hamer, Frank L. Underwood, Chris and Harmen Sheeler, Charles Mendenhall, Harry W., Ed, and Ray Daughtery, Alex Sexton, John Fair, Dexter Sargent, R. M. Wilcoxon, L. D. Williams, Daniel S. Frazier, A. S. Miller, and Fred Rankin. Some contractors learned the carpenter's trade from their fathers, including Jesse Cox, David Beal, Sidney S. Chapman. Other carpenters learned their trade by working as assistants to established contractors in the area.

Jesse Cox was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania and moved to Vermont in 1837. Cox learned the carpenter's trade from his father in Pennsylvania. Jesse Cox designed built several of the town's early store buildings, both grist mills, farm houses and barns, as well as residences in town. His known designs usually were influenced by the Greek Revival style. Among his residences in town is the Jesse and Rebecca (Cox) Bogue House, built for Cox's daughter and son-in-law in the late 1860s. The two-story frame I-house at 401 East Fifth Street has many Greek Revival influences including its elaborate door surround with sidelights and transoms, end gable cornice returns, pedimented window caps, and some six-over-six windows.

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David Beal was born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania and moved to Vermont in 1854. Beal built many substantial Greek Revival styled farmhouses and several brick store buildings in town including the Vermont Masonic Hall and Odd Fellows Hall in 1891.

Sidney Smith Chapman was born in the Amherst, Ohio vicinity on November 12, 1827. He learned the carpenter's and mason's trade from his father, Jacob K. Chapman who was a ship and house carpenter. Sidney Chapman came to Macomb, Illinois in 1845 where he erected many buildings including the first brick school house in town. On November 3, 1868, Chapman moved to Vermont where he began the construction of several high style brick residences including the Robert Dilworth House at 602 East Fifth Street and Major Caleb B. Cox House at 302 East Fifth Street, both of which were built in 1871. Chapman also was the brick mason for the Eleazor Jenkins Building at the southeast corner of South Main and East Third Streets in 1871. Chapman moved to Chicago following the fire of 1871 where he continued work as a contractor.

Jack L. Wiley was a popular contractor in Vermont during the 1870s and 1880s. Among his commissions include the general contract for the 1871 Eleazor Jenkins Building at the southeast corner of South Main and East Third Streets and the 1888 Second Empire and Eastlake styled Henry Mershon House at 400 North Main Street.

Frank L. Underwood built a number of Queen Anne styled and influenced residences in Vermont during the 1880s through 1900s including the 1893 Charles Lowe House at the southeast corner of South Main and East Ninth Streets, the 1899 A. L. Mercer House at 106 South Liberty Street, and the 1907 Margaret and Ruth Dilworth House at the northwest corner of South Walnut and East Sixth Streets.

The Daughtery brothers, Harry W., Ed, and Ray, built a number of Queen Anne and Craftsman influenced residences including the 1913 bungalow for Harry Daughtery at 404 North Main Street, 1920 bungalow for Ed Daughtery at 300 West Third Street, and the 1926-1927 bungalow for Elmer Onion at 402 West Third Street.

Daniel S. Frazier was a very popular contractor in Vermont and Astoria from the 1890s through the 1910s. Frazier's buildings included a number of Queen Anne influenced houses including a Gable Ell house for Nicholas P. Pittenger at 400 East Fifth Street in 1891, a Gable Front house for Charles Emmor McCormick at 712 West Third Street in

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1900, and a Queen Anne styled house for Park Johnston at the northwest corner of North Union and East Fourth Streets in 1903. Frazier also built commercial and religious buildings including the L. E. Gardner Building in 1905 on North Main Street and the First Primitive Baptist Church in 1907 (demolished).

Fred Rankin was a popular contractor in the area during the 1900s through the 1920s. Among his commissions include a bungalow for Sarah A. (Jewison) Cash at 301 West Fifth Street in 1914, a Pyramid house for Sallie Maharry at 400 North Liberty in 1915, a large Craftsman inspired Bungalow for Harold Bartholomew at 108 South Liberty in 1915, a large, two-story Prairie School and Craftsman inspired house for Cleve B. Schroeder at 506 South Main Street in 1918, supervising carpenter for the Vermont Community School Building at 500 North Main Street in 1923-1925, a two-story automobile garage for S. Klegg (Joe) Chipman in 1914 at 217 North Main Street, and a Four Square, Prairie School and Craftsman inspired house for Daniel O'Connell at 115 North Union Street in 1928.

A newspaper search of the Vermont newspapers from 1898 through 1946 was conducted for information about construction dates and contractors of buildings in town. Copies of the research including date of construction, contractor, original owner, and address are kept of file at the Vermont Public Library at 101 North Main Street, Vermont, Illinois 61484.

Materials

A variety of construction materials were used in Vermont. Brick was a popular building material throughout the village's history. Brick construction in Vermont includes commercial, residential, and public buildings which were built by local contractors and masons. Vermont had at times three to four brickyards, and many important examples of this local use of native hand-made brick exist in the village. Vermont's brick industry began early in the 1840s and continued to the early 1900s. Due to changes in transportation patterns and increased competition from larger firms in bigger cities its brickyards closed by the 1900s. Most of the brick was used locally with some brick being shipped to the nearby towns of Astoria, Table Grove, Ray, and Ipava. By the 1900s brick shipped in from brick yards such as the Purington Brick Yards in Galesburg, Illinois began to be used.

Early examples of brick construction include the Henry Mershon Building at 200 North Main Street. The Gable Front, Greek Revival styled commercial building was built in the 1850s

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of local brick. The bond pattern has seven courses of stretchers to each course of headers. An early c. 1850s brick house at the west end of First South Street is made of local brick. The bond pattern has seven courses of stretchers to each course of headers. Numerous brick residences and commercial buildings were built during the early 1860s and 1870s. The brick was locally manufactured by several different brick yards in town. The bond pattern found on both residences and commercial buildings generally is composed of seven courses of stretchers to each course of headers. Brick mason Charles C. Chapman and Sons built brick houses for Robert Dilworth and Caleb Cox in 1871 using brick from the Robert Dilworth Brick Works. Chapman also constructed the Eleazor Jenkins Building at the southeast corner of North Main and East Third Streets in 1871-1872. One-armed brick mason Caleb Brinton constructed many of the commercial buildings along Main Street from the 1870s-1890s including the Odd Fellows Hall and Masonic Temple. It was said of Brinton that he could lay brick faster than any other mason in the area. Brick was used as a foundation material for frame residences during the 1800s through the early 1900s. Twentieth century uses of brick included the two-story brick residence for Laura Branson, built in 1907 at the southeast corner of South Liberty and West Fifth Streets. Brick was also used for some veneer construction on frame buildings including the residence for Henry Page at 221 North Union Street, built 1912-1913. The first story and foundation are of brick while the second story and attic are frame construction. Alex Maxwell of Rushville was the mason in charge of the brick work on the Henry Page House.

Stone was used very little for construction in Vermont and the surrounding area. One of the reasons for this was the lack of nearby stone deposits in the area. The Federal Census of 1860 and 1870 list three stone masons and cutters for Vermont Township. It is not known where they were employed, if there was a local quarry, and what buildings, if any, they constructed in the area. The only examples of structural stone construction in Vermont are for the foundation of the Joab Mershon House at 507 West Fifth Street and the Jacob Koons Mausoleum at the Vermont Cemetery. The Joab Mershon House was built in 1859 and has a foundation of large, square cut ashlar stone set in straight courses. The limestone is a dark yellow-brown in color. It is not known where the stone came from. The Jacob Koons Mausoleum was built in 1894 at a cost of \$1200 by a Springfield, Illinois stone company. The limestone building has square cut stone blocks with smooth tooled faces. Pinnacles with foliate designs arise from the four corners of the gable roofed mausoleum. Other uses of stone include the use of keystones for the arched windows of the Robert Dilworth House at 602 East Fifth Street and the Edward Hamer House at 200 West Second

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Street; stone sills and lintels for the Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House at 401 North Main Street; and stone sills on the Ezra Dilworth House at 207 East Third Street.

Vermont also had early sawmills dating from 1837 which took advantage of the nearby stands of white oak, walnut, and other hardwoods for construction. Early 1850s residential and commercial buildings in Vermont were built of circular sawn lumber that was likely milled in Vermont. By the early 1870s lumber began to be shipped by railroad, although the Wood and Mendenhall Sawmill continued to operate in the area and provide locally produced lumber until the early 1900s. Wood was used for balloon framing which was introduced in the 1830s, siding including beveled and clapboards, and ornament such as cut shingles, pendants, jigsaw scrollwork, spindlework, and brackets.

Ornamental concrete block was another building material used in Vermont. Although the use of concrete for building material had been known for centuries, it wasn't until the late 1800s and early 1900s when experiments in block making enabled the cheap and efficient use of concrete blocks. The use of ornamental concrete block was popular from 1900 from 1930 when changes in technology led to block's decline as a building material. By the 1930s cinder block had replaced concrete block as a foundation and building material. O'Connell's Lumber Yard advertised concrete block in the Vermont Union during the 1900s through 1920s. In 1910, local contractor Daniel S. Frazier formed the Vermont Concrete Company featuring concrete block. The company advertised regularly in the Vermont Union in the early 1910s. It is not known if the Vermont Concrete Company manufactured concrete block or purchased it from building suppliers. The first use of concrete block in Vermont was reported in 1907 in the Vermont Union for the foundation and porch of the William F. Bader Residence at 301 North Main Street. Rock-faced concrete block was also used for the foundation and porch piers for the Henry Page House in Vermont at 301 East Fifth Street 1908. In 1910 rock-faced concrete block was used for the foundation, walls and porch of the Willis A. Price House at the southeast edge of the village on the south side of East Seventh Street. The house was constructed by Daniel S. Frazier. The residence was gutted by fire in the 1930s and not rebuilt. Other uses for ornamental concrete block in town include foundations and porches for a few houses and garages for William F. Bader at 301 North Main Street and a garage for Job Marshall at the former William Franklin and Rebecca Durell House at 408 West Fifth Street.

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Stucco has been used since ancient times throughout the world. It is found on many historic structures throughout the United States. The use of stucco in the United States included examples of Federal, Greek, and Gothic Revival styles in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Andrew Jackson Downing advocated the use of stucco in his book, The Architecture of Country Houses, published in 1850. The introduction of many revival styles of architecture around the turn of the twentieth century, combined with the improvement and increased availability of portland cement resulted in an increased demand for stucco as a building material in the United States. Stucco was associated with many architectural styles including Prairie, Art Deco, Art Moderne, Spanish Colonial, Mission, Mediterranean, and Tudor Revival styles. Many Bungalows and Four Square houses were also built with stucco. While stucco was usually applied during construction as part of the building design, in some instances it was added later to protect the structure or to update a building's architectural style.

Vermont had limited use of stucco with applications being a later addition to a building. Both the Vermont Christian Church and Methodist Church were remodeled in the early 1920s and stucco was applied over their clapboard walls. Two small rental houses one block south of the public square at 106 and 110 South Main Street, owned by businesswoman, Laura "Tot" Branson, were stuccoed over in the early 1900s.

The use of metal for construction in Vermont included cast and wrought iron and stamped sheet metal. Technological developments in the casting and molding of iron and sheet metal during the 1800s facilitated the widespread adoption of the use of metal for construction and ornament. By the 1850s, some commercial buildings began to have cast iron facades. Stamped sheet metal facades first began to appear in the 1870s, but didn't gain much popularity until the 1890s. During this later period a number of national companies marketed metal fronts through catalog sales. The most prominent manufacture of metal store fronts was the Mesker Brothers Company of Evansville, Indiana and St. Louis, Missouri. Vermont has a few commercial buildings with entire stamped sheet metal facades as well as a number of commercial buildings and residences that have cast iron ornament.

The Mershon Bank Building, Ezra and Emmor Dilworth Buildings, and Colonel Thomas Hamer Building at the 100 block of the west side of North Main Street were built in the late 1860s to early 1870s and have cast iron window sills with ornamental brackets. The Ezra

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and Emmor Dilworth Buildings have cast iron columns on the first story facade. The Vermont Masonic Hall at 107 North Main Street has the second story entirely clad with a heavy-gauge, lead coated, fabricated sheet iron facade in the High Victorian Gothic style. The facade came from the Willis Manufacturing Company of Galesburg, Illinois. The building was completed in 1892 and has an ornamental iron stoop and cast iron pilasters on the first story from the Buda Iron Works of Buda, Illinois. The William Henry Phillips Building at 204-206 North Main Street, built 1894, has the second story entirely clad with a stamped sheet metal facade. The facade is patterned to look like ashlar stone set in regular courses. The Dr. Columbus McCurdy Building built in 1891-1892 at 208-210 North Main Street has a stamped sheet metal facade with raised foliage patterns and metal finials at the corners of the building.

The Harvey Lee Ross House at 602 South Main Street, built in c. 1858 has an ornamental cast iron railing and balustrade above the first story porch. The William Franklin and Rebecca Durell House at 408 West Fifth Street, built 1871 has an ornamental cast iron railing and balustrade with fleurs-de-lis. The Major Caleb B. Cox House at 302 East Fifth Street, Robert Dilworth House at 606 East Fifth Street, and Patterson Hamer House at 405 West Fifth Street all have cast iron window sills with decorative brackets.

Glazed architectural terra cotta was only used for one building application in Vermont, for the remodeling of the first story store front of the Peoples State Bank of Vermont in 1917 in the Mershon Bank Building. Terra cotta was a popular building material between the late 19th century and the 1839s. It was particularly adaptable for use as ornamental detailing on high rises and Beaux Arts styled buildings. Terra cotta is an enriched molded clay brick or block. Terra cotta clays vary widely in color according to geography and types, ranging from red and brown to white. Glazed architectural terra cotta also known as architectural ceramics was developed and refined throughout the first third of the 20th century. The hollow units were hand cast in molds or carved in clay and heavily glazed (often in imitation of stone) and fired. Architects Cass Gilbert, Louis Sullivan, and Daniel H. Burnham frequently used the material. Significant examples in this country include the Woolworth Building in New York City and the Wrigley Building in Chicago. The white glazed architectural terra cotta on the People's State Bank in Vermont is molded to look like cut blocks of stone.

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The property types for the "Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois" are based on their function--Residential and Commercial. The types of properties in this submission are based on an intensive-level survey of the entire town of Vermont. Some property types are not included with the initial submission of nominations accompanying this Multiple Property Documentation form. Discussion of the architectural styles and building types in this document uses a variety of references that are found in the Bibliography section.

F2 Property Type: Residential Buildings

Subtype: Single Dwelling. The term "single dwelling" refers to a house originally built to be occupied by only one family. No historic buildings were built as duplexes in Vermont. This was due to the availability of small-scale houses in town and plenty of lots available for building. Although, today some houses have been converted to apartments and a series of new low-income duplex apartments are located on the west side of town. Materials used in construction include wood, brick, and concrete block.

Single dwellings dating before 1947 can be analyzed and categorized by their architectural characteristics, either by house type known as vernacular types or by their style or ornament known as architectural style. Vernacular architecture is nonacademic architecture, according to Stephen C. Gordon's How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory, buildings which "were designed and built by individuals who were more influenced by local climate, available building materials, and ethnic building traditions than by contemporary architectural fashions and styles."¹

Vernacular architecture evolved more slowly than architectural styles which existed during distinctive time periods. Vernacular building traditions were propagated regionally by builders prior to the Civil War. Shortly before and after the Civil War, the transition from regional vernacular architecture to a nationally distributed, popular architecture occurred. New inventions in industrial manufacturing allowed the mass-production of standardized building materials; and plan and pattern books, and construction trade journals acted as catalysts to disseminate popular architecture in the 1870s and 1880s, particularly in the developing urban areas.²

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Vernacular buildings, or building types, are defined by the building's function, floor plan, configuration or shape, number of stories, chimney location, roof shape, and window and door arrangements.³ The use of vernacular architecture crossed all classes, and is not necessarily associated more with the working or middle classes than the upper class. Buildings may be a vernacular type as well as possess architectural style. Vernacular buildings may have no architectural ornament or have a few details or features of an architectural style.

Architectural style refers to buildings that are "designed and built according to the dictates of a specific, readily identifiable, national or regional architectural style."⁴ "Often a professional architect or builder was involved, and was inspired by trends and academic principles of the time. The term high style is sometimes used for buildings which are clearly of an academic architectural style. The terms influence or elements of a style refer to buildings which have only a few aspects of a particular style. . ."⁵

Many buildings are altered over time and these changes may help in understanding more about the building. Changes in a building may tell us about how a building evolved architecturally as owners continued to remodel and update a building according to current architectural fashion. For example, the Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House built c. 1856 at 401 North Main Street began as a Greek Revival influenced brick I-house with a low pitched gable roof. In the 1870s an Italianate bracketed cornice and hipped roof, as well as Italianate and Gothic Revival inspired front and back porches were added. In 1892 a two-story, three-sided window bay with Queen Anne details was added to the side of the house and some Eastlake styled trim was added to the interior woodwork. While the later changes were not original, they are historic (fifty years or older) and have become an integral part of the house, illustrating the house's continued updating by successive owners. Many houses in Vermont have had their porches updated by the altering of their original porch supports. For example, many spindlework supports were replaced by heavy masonry piers during the early part of the 20th century including the George Swartz House at 407 North Main Street when the Prairie School style was in vogue. Other porches were sometimes updated in the 1910s and 1920s with Craftsman inspired tapered square columns with brick pedestals found on many earlier frame Hall & Parlor houses in town.

Houses were built in Vermont for the town's businessmen, professionals (doctors, dentists, lawyers, teachers), workers for service industries and farms, farmers, and retired farmers.

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Most of Vermont's residences are not high style buildings but rather vernacular or popular building types with some stylistic details. This is reflected in the economy of the town which was largely a trading and shipping center for the area's farmers, timber and lumber industry, and flour mills. No large industries or businesses that employed many workers were in the Vermont area, hence, no large scale mansions or estates were built in town. For the most part, simple one and two story wood frame and brick homes were built in the community.

Vernacular House Types

Vernacular house types in Vermont include chronologically the: Four-over-Four, Hall and Parlor, I-House, Side Hall, Gable Front, Gabled Ell, L-Plan, Cross Plan, and Pyramidal Cottage. Popular house types based on house plan publications include the Four Square and Bungalow.

Four-over-Four houses were built in Vermont from the 1850s through the 1910s. Four-over-Four houses have a central hallway, double pile plan, and side-gabled or low-pitched hipped roof. The house is two- or two-and-a-half story building with two rooms paired on either side of the central hallway. The plan of the house is roughly four rooms over four rooms. Typically, paired-end chimneys are located on the ends of the side-gabled roof or at the sides of a hipped roof. Fenestration patterns on a Four-over-Four house usually have three to five symmetrically placed openings on the front elevation. Vermont has a few examples of the Four-over-Four house including the Joab Mershon House and Patterson Hamer House. The Joab Mershon House at 607 West Fifth Street was built in 1859. The two-story, brick Greek Revival and Italianate styled building has a low-pitched hipped roof. Originally paired-end chimneys were located on the side elevations of the house. The floor plan has a central hall on both stories with two rooms on either side of the hall. The Patterson Hamer House at 405 West Fifth Street was built in 1872. The Second Empire styled three-story brick house has a mansard roof. Originally paired-end chimneys arose from the ends of the mansard roof. The house has a central hall with two rooms on either side on the first story. On the second story the house has a central hall with three rooms on the east side and two rooms on the west side of the hall. The Harvey Lee Ross House at 612 South Main Street, built in c. 1858 has a variation on the Four-over-Four plan. The two-story frame house has a side-gabled roof. The first story of the house has a central

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hall with two rooms to the south. On the north is a large parlor covering the entire depth of the house. On the second story is a central hall with two rooms on either side.

The most numerous vernacular house type in Vermont is the Hall and Parlor. The Hall and Parlor House is a folk type derived from the British Isles. It has a simple plan one room deep, rectangular in shape and is one story in height with a side-gabled roof line. Fenestration patterns are typically three bays with the doorway located near or at the center. Orientation to the street is parallel. The floor plan consists of a hall and parlor. The hall refers not to a hallway but to one of the two rooms, with the hall being a general all-purpose room for eating and living space. The parlor may have been a more formal room that may also have been used for sleeping. Some examples may have been built with small, rear wings. Hall and Parlor houses date in Vermont from the 1860s through the 1900s. It is hard to date Hall and Parlor houses as they have little stylistic details. Most examples in Vermont have wings, due to lack of space in the main part of the house for growing families. Most Hall and Parlor houses in town have been altered with the addition of synthetic siding, new wings, and porch removals or alterations. All of the Hall and Parlor Houses in Vermont are wood frame construction. One of the few pristine examples is located at 817 North Main Street, the c. 1870s frame house has wood shingled siding and an original wood shingle front porch. Oftentimes porches in the early 1900s were updated, many with Craftsman/Bungalow features.

The I-House was a popular vernacular house type from the 1850s through the 1890s. I-Houses are characterized by their two-room wide and one room deep floor plan, rectangular shape, two stories in height, side-gabled or low-pitched roof, orientation parallel to the street. The fenestration pattern is generally symmetrical with three, four, and five bay patterns common. Generally the first floor plan consists of a hall and parlor and may have a central hallway. Upstairs are bedrooms. I-Houses in Vermont are both constructed with brick and wood. They have three, four, and five bay patterns.

Among Vermont's earliest remaining houses is the c. 1849 Henry Mershon House, a two story, brick I-House at 102 North Liberty Street. The house has a five-bay fenestration pattern with Greek Revival details, including its six-over-six windows, horizontal sills and lintels, and cornice returns. The interior has no central hallway and the staircase is located at the southwest corner of the house. At 401 East Fifth Street is the Jesse Bogue House. Built in the late 1860s, the frame I-House has a four-bay fenestration pattern. The house

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was constructed by local carpenter Jesse Cox, the father-in-law of Jesse Bogue. Cox had come from Pennsylvania in the 1830s to Vermont and is known to have built several residences in town and around the area. The Bogue House has some Greek Revival details including its corner pilasters, built up cornice, and elaborate entry with transoms and sidelights. The first floor interior space has two rooms with the stairway located in the room to the west, straight back from the front doorway and leading to the rear of the house. A three-bay example of an I-House is located at 602 North Main Street. It has Greek Revival details including an elaborate entry with paired, engaged Doric inspired pilasters, cornice returns, and nine-over-six windows. The interior of the house has a Greek Revival styled wood mantel and staircase located along the southwest wall.

The Side Hall vernacular house type is characterized by its plan. Popular from the 1840s to the 1890s the most recognizable feature is the entrance located in the far left or right bay, usually with a two or three bay facade. Side Hall houses may be one-and-one-half or two stories in height. The type may have a variety of roof forms including hipped, side-gabled or gable front. The house type may also be a version of the Gable Front type, depending on its roof form. This is the case in Vermont where many Side Hall homes are also a Gable Front type. Two rooms deep and one room wide, the side hall of these buildings contains a staircase immediately behind the front entry to access the upper story. Side Hall houses generally have a hall with a staircase and wall separating the front room. Another type of a side hall plan house, which is not found in Vermont, has no side hall, instead the main front room goes across the entire width of the building containing a staircase to its side. Greek Revival and Italianate features may be found on this building type in Vermont. The J. H. B. Stephens House at 103 South Main Street is an early version of a Side Hall house in Vermont. Although it has been clad with synthetic siding, the house dates to c. early 1850s, and is among the oldest dwellings in town; it continues to reflect its form with some degree of integrity. The two story, wood frame house, has a side-gabled roof, two bay front facade, cornice returns, and a two story rear wing. An excellent two story brick Side Hall house is located at 301 West South First Street. The c. 1850s house has a simple brick classical inspired cornice, side-gable roof, and three bay facade. Unfortunately an enclosed front porch covers the view of the entry door. The Elwood Sidwell House at 706 North Main Street is an excellent example of both a Side Hall house and Gable Front type in Vermont. Built in the mid-1870s, it unfortunately has been covered with asbestos siding but still retains a great degree of integrity reflecting its plan and stylistic detailing. The home has both Greek Revival and Italianate details. Greek Revival

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details include its elaborate entry with transom and sidelights. Italianate details include its window bay with segmental window hoods, segmental hood moldings, and its tall four-over-four and six-over-four windows.

Gable Front vernacular houses were popular in Vermont from the 1860s through the 1930s. The Gable Front house can be one, one-and-a-half, or two stories in height. The type is characterized by its front facing gable with the gable roof ridgeline running perpendicular to the street. Earlier Gable Front houses were inspired by Greek temple forms and often have a side-hall plan. Many earlier Gable Front houses had Greek Revival or Italianate details. Later Gable Front houses had Queen Anne or Classical Revival details. In the 1910s and 1920s, many Gable Front houses had Craftsman details. Among the earlier Gable Front houses in town is the Greek Revival styled Milton I. Amrine House at 208 East Fourth Street. The two story wood framed house built in 1864 has a side hall plan. A good example of a Gable Front house with Queen Anne details is located at 303 East North Alley Street. The one-and-a-half story wood frame house was built for Frank L. Underwood in 1895. Queen Anne details on the house include sunburst patterns, projecting smaller gables, jigsaw trim, and fishscale shingles. A good example of an early 20th century Gable Front house is the Charles Emmor McCormick House at 712 West Third Street. Built in 1900 the house has a few Queen Anne details including its projecting smaller front gable and spindlework porch with turned columns. A later Craftsman inspired Gable Front house is located at 203 West Ninth Street. The one story frame house has Craftsman inspired brackets.

The Gabled Ell house type was popular from 1865 through 1915. The type is characterized by its intersecting gable roof and L-shaped plan. The house is situated so that front facade comprises a gabled upright with the cross gabled wing to the center or rear. The entrance generally is located at the perpendicular wing sheltered by a porch or may be in the upright portion of the house. Porches sometimes wraparound two elevations or may be only a small entry porch. A Gabled Ell house may be one, one-and-a-half, or two or more stories in height. The apexes of both roofs must be at the same height.

Most of the Gabled Ell houses in Vermont have been covered with synthetic siding and have had changes to their porches including updatings and enclosures. Examples exist at 305 East Third and 400 East Fifth Streets. Both were built in the 1890s and have some

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Queen Anne detailing. They are one-and-one-half stories in height and have all been clad with synthetic siding.

Related to the Gabled Ell house type are the L-Plan and T-Plan house types. L-Plan houses differ from Gabled Ell houses by their roof shape which may include hipped or hipped roofs with lower cross gables. T-Plan houses have an additional side wing compared to the Gabled Ell type. The David Bates House at 406 West Fifth Street is an example of T-Plan House built in the 1870s. It has been extensively remodeled including the addition of synthetic siding, the covering over of windows, and the removal of the front porch, but the house still reflects its T-plan.

Similar to the Gabled Ell, L-Plan, and T-Plan types is the Cross Plan house type. The type is identified by crossing or intersecting wings, forming a cross like shape. They may be one, one-and-a-half, or two stories in height and have gable roofs or gable roofs with hipped roof projections.

The Cross Plan was a popular type in Vermont as it allowed room for families with its first floor plan devoted to a front living room, dining room and bedroom in the middle, and kitchen in the rear, and bedrooms upstairs. Examples of Cross Plan houses in Vermont include the Elsworth Snowden House at 504 West Third Street, a one-and-a-half story house built in 1908. The house has some Queen Anne details including its segmental shingles in the gables and porch gables, cutaway bay, and a wraparound porch.

The Pyramidal Cottage type was popular from the 1870s through the 1910s. One or one-and-one-half stories in height with square or nearly square plans, the key feature of this building type is the pyramidal hipped roof. Gable or hip roof dormers may provide light and ventilation to the upper story. Porches, either covered by the main roof or an extension off the main roof are also common. Porches usually cover the entire front facade if they are an extension of the main house block.

Vermont has a number of Pyramidal Cottages. They include an excellent one-story example at 303 South Main Street built in the 1870s and remodeled about 1890 to its present appearance. It has cutaway corners on the front facade with full length multi-paned windows. Its low-pitched roofline rises to a polygonal platform centered over the roofline. The front porch has turned columns and a spindled frieze. Another excellent example of a

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wood frame Pyramid Cottage is located at 409 South Main Street and was built in the 1890s. A Pyramid Cottage built in the early 1910s by local contractor Fred Rankin at 1200 North Main Street has some Prairie School style detailing in its horizontal emphasis.

Early twentieth century house types are also found in Vermont, those being the Four Square and Bungalow. The Four Square house was popular in the early 1900s to the 1930s. The Four Square house is square or nearly square in shape. The house is two-stories in height, and usually has a hipped roof. Oftentimes dormers are centered on each elevation, and a one story porch extends across the facade. The porch and dormer roofs usually echo the hipped form of the main roof. Some examples are quite plain or may be associated with Colonial Revival, Craftsman, or Prairie School architectural styles. The first floor usually has four rooms with a hall, four rooms with no hall, or three rooms with a vestibule and hall. Fenestration patterns, and entry and chimney locations are diverse.

There are very few examples of the Four Square house type in Vermont. The W. F. Bader House, built in 1907 at 301 North Main Street is a good example of a wood-framed and concrete block Four Square with some Colonial details including its classical inspired porch columns. The home has recently had some of its windows replaced with smaller windows or they have been entirely removed and closed in. The Edith Chipman House, built in 1912 at 201 West Third Street, is an example of a Four Square house with classical details including its porch columns and etched and leaded glass. The Daniel O'Connell House at 115 North Union Street, built in 1928 by contractor Fred Rankin is a good example of a Four Square house with Prairie School and Craftsman details including its ribbon windows and overhanging eaves.

Bungalow houses were popular from c. 1915 to c. 1930. Generally low in scale Bungalows are one to one-and-a-half stories tall. Usually Bungalows have a gable front or side gable roof with a large central dormer and full width front porch. Often Craftsman stylistic details are found on Bungalows including broad overhanging eaves with rafter tails or brackets and tapered square porch posts. A good example of a bungalow with a side gable roof, large dormer and recessed porch is located at 402 West Third Street. The house was built by Fred Rankin for clothing merchant, Harold Bartholomew in 1915. It has Craftsman inspired knee braces at the cornice line. A good example of a hipped roof bungalow was built by Fred Rankin for Sarah Cash in 1914 at 301 West Fifth Street. It has been clad with synthetic siding but still retains its integrity and is recognizable as a Bungalow.

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Architectural Styles

Although no known academic trained architect practiced in Vermont or designed buildings for Vermont's citizens, some of Vermont's houses and commercial buildings can be characterized as high style architectural designs. Vermont's builders including Jesse Cox, David Beal, Sidney S. Chapman, Jack L. Wiley, the Daughtery Brothers, Daniel S. Frazier, and Fred Rankin were knowledgeable about architectural trends in the country during their respective careers.

The Greek Revival style is the earliest architectural style found in Vermont. Popular from the 1820s through the 1860s throughout the country, it is seen in a number of residences throughout town. The Greek Revival style evolved from an interest in classical buildings during the final years of the 18th century. This was first based on Roman models but archaeological investigations and measured drawings of ancient Greek temples in the early 19th century emphasized Greece as the mother of Rome which in turn, shifted interest to Grecian models. Other factors enhanced Greek influence in the United States including Greece's war for independence in the 1820s which aroused much sympathy in the newly independent United States while at the same time the War of 1812, diminished American affection for British influence, including the still dominant Federal style in architecture. The Greek Revival style began in the United States with public buildings built in Philadelphia including the 1818 Bank of the United States by William Strickland. The style was spread through carpenter's guides and pattern books including Minard Lafever's Modern Builder's Guide and Beauties of Modern Architecture as well as Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter and The Builder's Guide. Greek mania swept the nation during the 1830s and 1840s and many towns were named for Greek cities. The style gradually began to be replaced by the newer Gothic Revival and Italianate styles in the 1850s.

Greek Revival architecture is characterized by its symmetrical fenestration patterns, low-pitched hipped or gable roofs, cornice lines emphasized with a band of trim including dentils, horizontal sills and lintels, multi-light nine-over-nine, or six-over-nine windows, classical inspired columns and pilasters, and an elaborate entry with transom and sidelights.

The Harvey Lee Ross House at 610 South Main Street is an excellent example of a Greek Revival styled house built in c. 1858. The two-story wood frame residence has a side-

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gabled roof and double-pile central passage plan. Its Greek Revival details include its cornice with dentils, cornice returns, six-over-six windows, elaborate front porch with dentils and Doric inspired columns with fluting, and entryway with divided transom and sidelights. The interior has elaborate fluting on the door and window trim as well as an interior double doorway with a multi-light transom and sidelights. Another excellent example of Greek Revival architecture is the Milton I. Amrine House at 208 East Fourth Street. Built in 1864 the house has a Gable Front form with a Side Hall type plan. It has many Greek Revival details including its cornice with dentils, six-over-six windows, engaged corner pilasters, and entryway with transom and sidelights. Many houses in Vermont although not high style, have Greek Revival style influences. They include Greek Revival details such as cornices with dentils, cornice returns, six-over-six and nine-over-six windows, engaged pilasters, and entryways with transoms and sidelights.

The Gothic Revival style was a popular style in the country but no high style examples exist in Vermont. Gothic Revival began in England in 1749 when Sir Horace Walpole began remodeling his country house in the Medieval style, complete with battlements and multiple pointed-arch windows. The Gothic Revival style appeared in the United States during the romantic period of the mid-19th century when picturesque architecture was gaining popularity. The Gothic Revival was loosely based on late medieval forms, and made extensive use of the pointed arch. Alexander Jackson Davis' Rural Residences and Andrew Jackson Downing's Cottage Residences and The Architecture of Country Houses popularized the style throughout the U. S. Gothic Revival began to decline in popularity after 1865, although a small rebirth of interest during the 1870s was stimulated by the writings of John Ruskin who advocated European continental rather than English as examples. This later phase was known as High Victorian Gothic and was mainly used for public and religious buildings. Gothic Revival styled houses have steep-pitched roofs, usually with steep cross gables. The gables usually have decorative vergeboards and the wall surfaces generally extend into the gable without a break. Windows often have a pointed-arch shape and porches often have decorative flattened Gothic arches.

Dating from the 1850s through 1870s in Vermont, the influence of the style is seen on houses with steeply pitched gable roofs, gables decorated with bargeboards, decorative large front facing gable dormers, pointed arch sash, and porches with pointed arch trim. The one-and-a-half story wood frame residence at the southeast corner of East Fifth Street and South East Street has Gothic Revival influences including its steeply pitched roof with

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forward facing front gable dormer and decorative vergeboards. Originally the house had one-story front porch with Gothic pointed arch trim which has been removed. Other Gothic Revival influences can be seen on the Edward Hamer House at 200 West Third Street, built in 1871 the house has a combination of styles, this time the older Gothic Revival style paired with the fashionable newer Italianate style. The Gothic Revival style can be seen on the steeply-pitched gabled roofs with intersecting gable dormers on the east wing of the house. Two Gothic Revival inspired porches with pointed arch fretwork are located on the Stapleford-Hoover-Whitney House at 401 North Main Street. Many other front porches in town have Gothic Revival influences including flattened pointed arches and quatrefoils.

One of the more popular styles in town was the Italianate style. Popular from the 1850s through the 1880s, Vermont has many excellent examples of the style. The earliest Italianate houses in the United States were built in the late 1830s. Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books increased the style's popularity throughout the 1840s and 1850s. The Italianate style, along with the Gothic Revival style, began in England as part of the Picturesque movement, a reaction against the formal classical styles that had influenced architecture throughout the world for over two hundred years. The style was loosely based on rambling informal Italian farmhouses. Formal Renaissance Italian town houses also served as models for Italianate dwellings. Most Italianate houses built in America were based on the Italian medieval farmhouse. The Italianate style declined during the financial panic of 1873 and subsequent depression due to a lack of building. When prosperity returned later in the 1870s, new housing styles including Queen Anne became dominant. The style is characterized by a low-pitched roof, wide overhanging eaves, cornice with decorative wood brackets, arched windows and entryways with crowns or hoods, polygonal window bays, and porches with chamfered columns and arched spandrels, and sometimes towers or belvederes.

An excellent example of the transition from the Greek Revival style to the Italianate style is the Joab Mershon House at 507 West Fifth Street. Built in 1859 when the Greek Revival style was in decline and the Italianate style was becoming popular the house has earlier classical inspired influences including its symmetrical facade, horizontal cast iron hoods with stylized anthemion designs, cornice returns on the rear wing, and double-pile central passage floor plan. Among the home's Italianate features is the belvedere with brackets and arched windows, wide overhanging eaves with a bracketed and paneled cornice, tall, narrow windows, and a segmental arched entry with beak shaped moldings.

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Good examples of Italianate residential design from the 1870s are found at the Caleb B. Cox House built in 1871 at 302 East Fifth a Side Hall plan simple hipped roof Italianate house with belvedere, paired decorative brackets, segmental and half-arched windows, and wraparound porch with chamfered columns and arched spandrels. Other examples include the Robert Dilworth and Edward Hamer Houses at 604 East Fifth and 200 West Second Streets. Built in 1871 for Edward Hamer and Robert Dilworth, these houses are good examples of a Gable Front Italianate house with decorative brackets, segmental and half-arched windows with keystones, and Italianate inspired porches and bay windows. The William Franklin and Rebecca Durell House at 408 West Fifth Street, built in 1872 is a good example of a simple hipped Italianate house with a side hall plan. It has many Italianate features including its low-pitched hipped roof, decorative brackets, segmental and half-arched windows, and elaborate front porch with arches and chamfered columns.

The Second Empire style was popular in Vermont from the 1870s through the 1890s. Related to the Italianate style in its cornice line brackets and arched windows, the main characteristic feature of the style is its dual pitched, hipped mansard roof usually with dormers. Named for the reign of Napoleon III in France during the country's Second Empire, the style was popular for government buildings as well as residences and commercial buildings. The distinctive mansard roof, the hallmark of the style, was named for the 17th century French architect, Francois Mansart. The box shaped roof-line was considered functional because it offered a full upper story of usable attic space. The style became popular both for adding additional space on to older buildings as well as for new construction. During President Grant's administration (1869-1877), many public buildings were designed in the new fashionable style. Second Empire passed from fashion following the panic of 1873 and subsequent depression. Queen Anne, Stick, and Shingle styles rapidly eclipsed the Second Empire style in the late 1870s and early 1880s.

The Ezra Dilworth House at 205 East Fourth Street is a good example of a straight mansard roof Second Empire house built in 1871. The three-story brick house has gabled dormers with decorative jig sawn trim, cornice brackets, segmental and half-arched windows, and front porch with chamfered columns and decorative spandrels. The Patterson Hamer House at 405 West Fifth Street was built in 1872. The three-story brick house is a good example of the Second Empire style with its concave mansard roof, gabled dormers, cornice with brackets, corner quoins, and three porches. The home also has a mansard roofed brick summer kitchen.

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Later Second Empire styled homes in Vermont also show the influence of the Queen Anne style and Eastlake ornamentation. Built in 1888 by Jack L. Wiley, the Henry Mershon House at 400 North Main Street is a good example of the combination of the older Second Empire style with the Queen Anne style. The two story brick home has a central mansard roofed tower, concave mansard roof, bullseye or patera patterns in the cornice, segmental arched windows, and spindled fretwork over the front porch hood and side porch.

The Queen Anne style was popular in Vermont from c. 1880-1910. The Queen Anne style was began by English architect Richard Shaw, who popularized the style by borrowing designs from late Medieval styles. The Queen Anne movement had its origin in the United States at the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876, which awakened an interest in the country's colonial architectural heritage. At the Centennial, America had its first look at a new style of architecture, the Queen Anne, a style that dominated the next twenty years. The style was influenced by the use of different elements, first Elizabethan architecture, then Jacobean architecture, and finally classical features. The movement towards classical ornament and form that began at the 1876 Exposition was popularized at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The style was also spread throughout the country by pattern books and the first architectural magazine, The American Architect and Building News. The expanding railroad network also helped to popularize the style by making precut architectural details readily available to building contractors. In the 1890s the Classical Revival styles, using classical columns as porch supports rather than turned posts and spindles, began to influence the Queen Anne-styled houses. The Colonial Revival and Classical Revival styles supplanted the Queen Anne style after 1910. The style's main characteristic feature is its irregular massing, a variety of surface wall treatments, bay windows and other devises to avoid a smooth wall surface, steeply pitched roof with varying shapes, and a partial or full-width porch that sometimes wraparounds one or both side elevations.

Influences on Queen Anne architecture included Eastlake ornamentation with its lacy, decorative spandrels, knob-like beads, and spindlework detailing. The Eastlake style was named after Charles Eastlake, an English furniture designer who advocated somewhat similar patterns in his furniture designs. Later influences on the Queen Anne style, after the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 in Chicago included the academic movement towards classical styles. These elements can be seen with the use of classical columns as porch supports, Palladian windows, cornice dentils, swags, and garlands.

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Good examples of high style Queen Anne houses are found in Vermont as well as many houses with Queen Anne influence. Examples of spindlework detailing can be found at the R. C. Adams House at 101 West Ninth Street. Built in the early 1890s, the one-and-a-story wood frame residence has a hipped and cross-gabled roofline, cutaway bays, turned porch columns with fretwork spindles, and Stick style details. A good example of a towered Queen Anne residence is the Eva O. Witchell House at 303 West Fifth Street. Built in the 1890s the two story residence has a polygonal tower, courses of wooden shingles between the first and second stories, and a wraparound porch with classical inspired columns. At 400 West Seventh Street is a good example of an 1890s Queen Anne styled residence. The one-and-a-half story, wood frame residence has an L-shaped plan. It has many Queen Anne features including its shingle-pattern pressed tin roof with many cross gables, patterned wood shingles at the second story, recessed panel and Stick style patterns, and cutaway bay.

Later 20th century versions of Queen Anne architecture include the 1903 Park Johnston House at 101 North Union Street. The large two-and-a-half story wood frame residence was built by local contractor Daniel S. Frazier. It has a hipped roof with large front facing gabled dormer, patterned shingles in the gables, sunburst patterns over the porch pediment, flared projecting walled surfaces, and classical inspired porch columns. At 301 East Fifth Street is the first house Henry Page had built in Vermont. Constructed in 1908 by Vermont contractor Fred Rankin, the two-and-a-half story residence has many Queen Anne features including its patterned shingles between the first and second stories and in the front projecting gable dormer, hipped roof with projecting rear and front gables, a variety of surface treatments including rock face ornamental concrete block, wood siding with vertical and horizontal Stick style patterns, a cutaway bay, and wraparound porch. The home exhibits classical influence in its Palladian window. Queen Anne influences can be seen in a number of houses in Vermont with spindlework detailing, patterned shingles, cutaway bays, and varied roof-lines.

The Classical Revival style was a popular academic style in the early 1900s. The revival of interest in the classical styles dates from the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. The Classical Revival style emerged in the late 19th century as a reaction against the perceived excesses of Late Victorian era architecture, especially the Queen Anne style. Classical Revival architects attempted to convey a sense of order, stability, and repose through their adaptations of Greek and Roman forms. The Classical

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Revival style include elements of earlier Georgian, Federal, Jeffersonian Early Classical Revival, and Greek Revival traditions. The style was characterized by classical columns, symmetrically balanced front facades, and elaborate door surrounds with pediments. The style often features decorative elements including elaborately molded cornices, balustrades, and decorative urns. By the 1920s the style was eclipsed by other revival styles.

No high style examples of the style exist in Vermont although many houses have Classical Revival influences. These influences include classical porch columns, scroll like modillions, pediments with swags and garlands, leaded glass windows, and symmetrical facade fenestration patterns. The Four Square house type often had Classical Revival influences including its classical inspired porch columns and etched glass. The second house built for Henry Page in Vermont at 221 North Union Street has some Classical Revival influences including its modillions, leaded windows, and interior woodwork with Doric columns.

Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts movement influenced architecture and the decorative arts in the United States from the turn of the 20th century to shortly after World War I. People who embraced the Arts and Crafts philosophy favored simpler design, natural materials, and fine craftsmanship. The movement was part of a larger international concern for reform in the arts. Major advocates of the movement include 19th-century English designer William Morris and American furniture designer, Gustav Stickley, publisher of the Craftsman. The Arts and Crafts movement influenced house designs by its emphasis on the use of natural materials such as stucco or cement surfaces and wood shingles, open floor plans, built-in furnishings and inglenooks, and outdoor rooms including sleeping, living, and dining porches, and pergolas. Styles that expressed the design principles of the Arts and Crafts movement include the Prairie School and Craftsman styles.

The Prairie School style was a popular style in the 1900s and 1910s. The style was one of the few indigenous American styles and was developed by a group of Chicago architects that have come to be known as the Prairie School. Frank Lloyd Wright early on became the leading master of the style and his 1893 Winslow House in River Forest, Illinois is recognized as one of the first Prairie School designs. Examples of the style are concentrated in the Chicago area suburbs and in other large midwestern cities, although

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numerous local architects produced creditable and sometimes outstanding Prairie School designs throughout the midwest, and less commonly in other regions. The style was spread through pattern books and popular magazines published in the Midwest. Most Prairie School designs were built between 1905 and 1915. The style quickly faded from fashion after World War I. The Prairie School style is identified by a low-pitched, usually hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves. Porches, eaves, cornices, and detailing generally emphasize the horizontal rather than the vertical. Banks of ribbon windows often with geometric patterned art glass are often used. Massive square or rectangular masonry piers used to support porch roofs are found on many examples. No high style examples of the style exist in Vermont but some houses have Prairie School influences. The Prairie School's main characteristics are its horizontal emphasis, low-pitched roofs with wide overhanging eaves, banks of ribbon windows, and massive square porch supports. Homes with Prairie School influences in Vermont include the house built for Daniel O'Connell in 1928. The two story wood frame, Four Square house at 115 North Union Street has a low-pitched hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves and its banks of ribbon windows. The 1921 Cleve Schroeder House at 506 South Main Street has a low-pitched hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, and ribbon windows at the house's corners.

The related Craftsman style was popular from about 1905 through 1930. Craftsman houses were inspired primarily by the work of two California brothers, Charles Sumner Green and Henry Mather Greene. By 1903 the brothers began to design simple Craftsman-type bungalows and by 1909 they had completed several exceptional examples. Several influences including the Arts and Crafts movement, an interest in oriental wooden architecture, and training in the manual arts can be found on the Greene brothers' designs. The style was quickly spread through the country by pattern books and popular magazines. The Craftsman style was the dominant style for small houses throughout the country between 1905 until the early 1920s. The style rapidly faded from favor after the mid-1920s to be supplanted by the more traditional revival styles. Craftsman styled houses are identified by their low-pitched gabled or hipped roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhangs, exposed roof rafters with decorative false beams or braces often were added under gables. Porches were usually full- or partial-width, with the roof supported by tapered square columns or pedestals extending to the ground level. Although no high style examples of the style exist in Vermont, some houses have Craftsman influences. Craftsman styled houses are characterized by their low-pitched roof, triangular knee braces, exposed roof rafters, decorative beams, and porches with tapered square columns.

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Subtype: Outbuilding. This subtype includes residential related buildings such as carriage barns, privies, garages, and storage buildings. These buildings are usually found in conjunction with single dwellings, as ancillary buildings.

Carriage barns, constructed of wood or brick are found in Vermont from c. 1870 through the early 1900s. Carriage barns had a variety of uses including sheltering animals such as horses, mules, cattle, and hogs and storage of carriages, wagons, equipment, and feed. Carriage barns can be simple rectangular buildings or can have stylistic detailing including varied roof shapes, cupolas, and windows with hoods. Pattern books featured carriage house designs in a number of styles and types from the 1830s on that complemented the related home's style and design.

Garages were constructed of wood, brick, and ornamental concrete block. They date from 1912 to the present in Vermont and are generally free standing one story structures. They come in a variety of roof shapes including hipped and gabled roofs. Garages were designed for automobile storage but may have storage space within the garage itself or in a wing addition. Garage designs were found in a number of pattern books and through architectural design company's such as the Radford Architectural Company in the early 1900s.

F3 Significance: Residential Buildings

Residential buildings may be eligible in Vermont for their historic and/or architectural significance. Residences associated with historic significance may be eligible under Criterion A for direct association with an event or pattern of events important in Vermont's history. Residential buildings may also be eligible under Criterion B for their direct association with the lives of persons significant in Vermont's history. Residential buildings in Vermont represent the growth of the village from its beginnings in the 1830s through its periods of boom in the 1850s as a pork packing center, in the late 1860s through the early 1870s as an agricultural trading center, and on into the early 1900s as a regional commercial center for southwestern Fulton County. These resources may be important for being associated with the lives of persons significant in Vermont including pork packing merchants, railroad developers, and civic and business leaders. Significant persons in Vermont include Joab Mershon, a leading pork packer, railroad developer, and merchant in the mid to late 19th century; Harvey Lee Ross, a railroad developer, banker, and

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agriculturist in the mid 19th century; Major Caleb B. Cox, a railroad developer, state legislator, and banker in the mid to late 19th century; Harold Bartholomew, a leading merchant and promoter of Vermont in the early 20th century; Theodore M. Cox, a leading merchant and real estate developer of Vermont in the mid 20th century; and Cal Renshaw, mayor and promoter of Vermont in the mid 20th century.

Residential buildings may also be eligible if they are good examples of an architectural style or combination of styles; good examples of a time period; or possess the traditional forms, floor plans and materials of a vernacular or popular type. Vermont's residences are of a variety of building styles and types, many of which could be described as vernacular or popular housing. These are buildings that are generally quite simple in form, minimal in architectural detailing and not architect designed. Some do have some elements of architectural style with many having combinations of two or more styles. A few high style examples are found in town including Greek Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne. Most houses were built by local contractors or owners using local carpenters. Vermont's houses reflects its character as a rural agricultural, trading community.

F4 Registration Requirements: Residential Buildings

To be eligible under Criterion A, a residence must be the building associated with the event or events important in Vermont's history.

To be eligible under Criterion B, a residence must be the building directly associated with the productive life of a person significant in Vermont's history, or it may be eligible if it is the only remaining building associated with the significant person. These include homes of railroad promoter and businessman, Harvey Lee Ross; pork packer, merchant, and banker, Joab Mershon; state legislator, railroad promoter, and banker, Major Caleb B. Cox; railroad promoter and banker, Robert Dilworth; merchant and village promoter, Harold Bartholomew; and mayor and village promoter, Cal Renshaw.

All residences nominated for Criteria A and B must also have the sufficient integrity of association, setting, feeling, materials, design, workmanship and location with the building's historic period of significance. Historic character and associations are embodied in and conveyed by the physical features of a resource. All properties change over time, but a

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basic test of the integrity of a property significant under either National Register Criteria A or B is whether the person(s) historically associated with a significant event(s) or a significant person associated with the resource would recognize it as it exists today. Interiors should be considered as well as exteriors.

To be eligible under Criterion C, a residence must have retained sufficient integrity to convey the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style, combination of styles, time period, or building type. Buildings significant for an architectural style, combinations of styles, or time period must retain sufficient design and materials associated with the style and period. Vernacular buildings must possess the forms, floor plans, and materials of the type. Later additions and changes are acceptable if they are clearly secondary and do not significantly obscure the stylistic attributes or forms of the original building.

Location and setting: The setting of Vermont's residential buildings is intact in terms of the original grid layout of the village, set, massing, and architectural diversity. In addition many of the residences built before 1947 still stand today that the village clearly reflects its historical patterns of growth, although a great many of them have numerous alterations including additions and synthetic siding. The integrity of location is necessary for a property to be eligible for the National Register for Criteria A and B.

Materials, workmanship, design, and association: These elements of integrity are essential in defining the importance of architecturally significant properties. Without all or nearly all of the original materials and workmanship united in the significant design, the property does not possess the characteristics for which it is important.

Unfortunately, no residential area in Vermont has maintained its historic integrity for listing as a historic district. Vermont, like a number of towns has had a many of its homes covered by synthetic siding, porch updatings and removals lessening the area's historic integrity.

F2 Property Type: Commercial Buildings

Subtype: Commercial Buildings. Commercial buildings in Vermont housed the town's businesses, small scale manufacturing, social clubs, and entertainment functions during the historic period of significance, from 1837 when Vermont was founded through 1946, the fifty-year cutoff for significance for the National Register. In Vermont a general store, bank,

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automobile showroom and repair shop, and service garage are examples of this subtype. Nearly all of the pre-1947 commercial buildings are located downtown along Main, Second, and Third Streets although examples may be found near the railroad tracks. Materials used for construction include brick, as well as wood. The building scale varies from small one-story buildings with one small storeroom to long rectangular, two story buildings. Typically, these buildings have different treatment on the front facade than on the side and rear elevations. Most front facades have a storefront design usually with windows to display goods or to allow illumination into the interior space. The side and rear elevations may have some stylistic treatment or have plain surfaces. Exceptions to this are found on corner buildings where exposed side elevations usually have segmental arched openings or window hoods. Most of the downtown buildings share party walls with adjoining commercial buildings. They are sited close to the street, adjacent to the sidewalk and fill up most of their building lot. Most commercial buildings have parapet walls with flat roofs that gently slope to the rear or a low-pitched gable roof whose ridgeline is perpendicular to the front facade.

Commercial buildings in Vermont may have elements of Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, and Commercial styles. Some examples, especially those built after 1900 may have no style at all or are minimally Commercial Style. Nevertheless, they are good examples of simple utilitarian buildings that who contributed to the commercial life of the town.

Greek Revival style influences on commercial buildings in Vermont include simple horizontal wood lintels and sills, dentil blocks at the eave line, and lunette windows as seen on the Henry Mershon General Store Building at the northeast corner of North Main and West Third Streets, the earliest known remaining commercial building in town. The two story brick building built in the early 1850s has a Gable Front three bay form. The Greek Revival style could be found on commercial buildings from the late 1830s through the 1860s although most of these first generation commercial buildings have been demolished to make way for other commercial buildings.

The Italianate style was a popular style for commercial buildings in Vermont as many brick buildings were built from 1868 through the 1880s. Italianate style influences can be seen on the group of four buildings at the west side of North Main Street north of the public square. These influences include paired decorative brackets on the Mershon Bank and

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Mershon Hall Building built in 1868, segmental arched windows with cast iron sills with decorative brackets on all four buildings, and Venetian styled windows on the Mershon Bank and Emmor and Ezra Dilworth buildings at either ends of the block. The Italianate style can be seen on commercial buildings in Vermont from 1868 through the 1880s.

Late Victorian era buildings were characterized by their cast iron storefront and front facade designs. Cast iron storefronts were popular in the latter half of the 19th century and full metal facades were popular in the late 1880s and 1890s. Good examples of these cast iron fronts are at the Masonic Hall and Nelson Hardware Building on the east side of North Main Street built in 1891 and the Henry Phillips Building on the west side of North Main Street.

The Commercial Style was a popular architectural style in the early 1900s and through the 1920s. It is characterized by its plain detailing which reveals the utilitarian function and structure of the building although some attempt at formality or classically inspired elements may be employed. Constructed of brick or wood, buildings feature brick corbeling or parapeted walls, brick stringcourses, raised panels outlined in brick, segmental window arches, and plain window heads. One commercial storefront, the People's State Bank front added in 1917 to the Mershon Bank and Hall is an example of the Classical Revival style with its terra cotta and cast metal front.

F3 Significance: Commercial Buildings

Commercial buildings may be eligible under Criteria A or B for Commerce, Social History, Entertainment/Recreation, and Industry. Commercial buildings are associated with Vermont's economic history as well as serving as the town's social organization headquarters and entertainment and recreation centers. These properties represent the development of Vermont from c. early 1850s through the early twentieth century. Vermont's commercial properties, reflect the continued growth and development of the town as a commercial and agricultural trading center for southwestern Fulton County. The money that agriculture, timber, and the railroads brought into the community is reflected in the ornately finished blocks of brick commercial buildings from the 1850s through 1920s. Commercial buildings may be eligible under Criterion C for architecture. Architecturally, commercial buildings may be good examples of an architectural style or combination of styles as established in F2 for Commercial Buildings.

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F4 Registration Requirements: Commercial Buildings

To be eligible under Criterion A buildings must be significant in the commercial life of Vermont which includes the trading and storage of goods, services, and commodities. These buildings will often have a long association with a particular function for example a general store, hotel, or company office. Significant commercial buildings important for their commercial role include the Mershon Bank Building, and the Ezra and Emmor Dilworth Hardware Store. Commercial buildings can be significant for social history or entertainment/recreation history if they are directly associated with fraternal and social clubs or places of entertainment or recreation that have had a significant impact on Vermont's social or entertainment/recreation history. These buildings include Mershon's Hall for its role as the village's opera house, the Odd Fellows Hall for its role as headquarters of the Odd Fellows, an important fraternity in the village's history, and the Chipman Building for its role as the village's dance hall, roller skating rink and movie theater from 1919 through the 1940s. Integrity of location, setting, association, materials, design, and feeling are important for Criterion A.

To be eligible for Criterion B, the commercial building must be directed associated with the productive life of a person significant in the history of Vermont; it may also be eligible under Criterion B if it is the only extant building associated with the significant person. These buildings may be important for business leaders of the community who had a direct impact on Vermont's growth as commercial retail and trading center for southwestern Fulton County.

To be eligible under Criterion C for architecture, a commercial building must be a good example of an architectural style, combination of styles, or period. The building must retain sufficient design and materials associated with the style or period in order to be eligible individually. As the area continued to grow and develop some store owners remodeled their first story storefronts to keep up to date with stylistic fashion. Altered first story facades must retain the original fenestration pattern of their design. For example a storefront that had a window, recessed door, and window fenestration pattern whose windows have been made into smaller openings but still retains its original configuration may be still be eligible for listing. The first story of the storefront should not be enclosed with permanent materials to be individually eligible for listing. Changes to second story windows are acceptable if the window openings are still intact.

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To be eligible as a historic district, a collection of commercial buildings must be a significant grouping of pre-1947 resources which were united historically or aesthetically by their physical development. Resources within a district may be altered or have some new infill. However, the scale, setback, feeling, and function of the new infill or alterations must be in keeping with the historic commercial buildings in the area. The district must have sufficiently retained its appearance from the time period when it achieved its historic significance. The district must possess integrity of location, setting, feeling, materials, design, and association.

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1. Gordon, Steve, How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory, Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Historic Preservation Office, 1992. p. 76.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid. p. 121.
4. Ibid. p. 74.
5. Edwards, Alice. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of Grafton, Illinois, c. 1830 - 1943. 1993.

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Geographical Data

The corporate limits of the village of Vermont, Fulton County, Illinois.

Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

The multiple property listing for the Architectural and Historic Resources of Vermont, Illinois is based on an intensive survey of built resources in the village conducted in the Winter of 1994 by the National Register Committee of Vermont Betterment, Inc. The National Register Committee was composed of David Newton, Historian; John Reinert, Architect; Vernon Thomson, Jr., Historian; Harold McCurdy, Historian; Helen McCurdy, Historian.

A windshield survey was conducted on all streets and blocks of town noting general patterns, major building types and styles, and numbers of buildings in town. The windshield survey noted 359 houses, commercial buildings, churches, and schools constructed between c. 1840 and the present. Of those 359 buildings, 274 were judged by the committee to be at least fifty years old or older and were documented on an inventory form. Members of the committee began documenting the buildings by photographing every historic structure and completing survey forms for each. Being an intensive-level survey, a thorough architectural description including number of stories, building shape or plan, foundation and wall materials, roof shape and materials, porches, windows, decorative work and architectural styles or vernacular type were recorded for each main building. Outbuildings were also noted on the forms and briefly described. Those outbuildings judged to be of significance were also photographed. The outbuildings were not counted in the number of historic resources.

The Illinois Historic Structures Survey and the Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey records were consulted to see what previous buildings had been surveyed and duly noted in the forms.

The survey forms were then evaluated by the committee for recommendations for both individual listing of buildings to the National Register and whether the property would contribute towards a potential historic district in the downtown. Vermont, like many towns and villages has been effected by the addition of synthetic siding to its homes and buildings. Approximately 150 houses of the 274 historic buildings have been covered with

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synthetic siding. Thirty houses were recommended for pursuing for listing in the National Register and 27 commercial buildings were identified as potentially contributing to a downtown historic district. Copies of all survey forms are located at the Vermont Public Library, Vermont, Illinois for further review, study, and for a photographic and written record of Vermont's built resources for future posterity.

The associated historic contexts for this multiple property listing represent significant eras of development in Vermont, each encompassing major themes of the town's history-- transportation, agriculture, commerce, industry, architecture, education, social history, and entertainment/recreation. The property types are organized by function and style. Registration requirements have been based upon the survey of the town's resources and past National Register nominations.

As part of the initial submission for the multiple property listing, twelve individual properties were chosen. The properties were selected for their representation of the town's architectural history, high degree of integrity, and owner consent. The houses chosen reflect all types of people that lived in Vermont including leading businessmen as well as workers and retired farmers. Vernacular and popular house types were chosen as well to demonstrate that not only are high style buildings important in the town's architectural history but good examples of all types of buildings from all times were important in documenting Vermont's history. The committee will proceed with further submissions as time allows.

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