

There were 36 lots, each 20 rods in width, extending 80 rods, containing 10 acres each. From the four center lots, one acre was taken for the Village Square. The farm lots of 160 acres were located around the Village as agreed in Vermont for the sum of \$212.50 for both.

The village was located on a hill, at the foot of it to the south the Thornapple River and a branch of the Scipio to the west, running to the north to Round Lake. The surveyed Clinton and Kalamazoo Canal never materialized, which they had put so much hope in, and the panic of 1837 came. Michigan fever abated, there was no sale for land at any price, but these early settlers commenced work of making homes in this wilderness.

By 1837, the village stretched out a mile long from east to west with two rows of log houses fronting the street, with one frame house built by W. J. Squier, located from ten to forty rods apart. Small structures, low ceilings, often going upstairs on a ladder through a hole in one corner, a trap door in the floor to get down cellar. A fireplace made of stone and clay with a chimney made of sticks and plastered with mud on the inside. The floors were split out of white ash and spotted with axewhere they laying on the round stringers with a hewed upper surface to make them as smooth as possible. Roofed with peeled basswood bark. Log houses which succeeded them were shingled with rived oak "shakes," and warping under the summer sun, they shed rain fairly well, but the wind-driven snow sifted in freely.

When Michigan became a state in 1837, the Legislature approved March 11, 1837, provides that "all that portion of the county of Eaton, designated in the United States Survey as townships 3 and 4 North, of range 6 West, and 3 and 4 North of range 5 West, and the same is, hereby set off and organized into a separate township by the name of Vermontville, and the first township meeting therein shall be held in said township."

From this territory have since been formed the townships of Chester, March 21, 1839, Sunfield, Feb., 1842, and Roxand, March 19, 1843, leaving the present township of Vermontville to include only the southwest quarter of its original area, or town 3 north, in range 6 west.

The following account of the first township meeting is from the township records: