

men from nearby villages adopted and signed a constitution for the Union Colony.<sup>5</sup>

The document outlined the religious and secular purposes of the Vermont colonists, and also reflected the future pattern of occupancy. Some selected articles from the "Rules and Regulations of the Union Colony" are:

4. We agree when we have arrived in the western country, to locate ourselves, if possible, in the same neighborhood with each other, and to form ourselves into such a community as will enable us to enjoy the same social and religious privileges which we leave behind.

5. In order to accomplish this object, we solemnly pledge ourselves to do all that is in our power to carry with us the institutions of the Gospel, to support them with the means which God has given us, and to hand them down to our children.

6. We do also agree that, for the benefit of our children and the rising generation, we will endeavor, so far as possible, to carry with and perpetuate among us the same literary privileges that we are permitted here to enjoy.

7. We do also pledge ourselves that we will strictly and rigidly observe the holy Sabbath, neither laboring ourselves, nor permitting our children, or workmen, or beasts to desecrate this day of rest by any kind of labor or recreation.

8. As ardent spirits have invariably proved the bane of every community into which they have been introduced, we solemnly pledge ourselves that we will neither buy, nor sell, nor use this article, except for medical purposes, and we will use all lawful means to keep it utterly out of the settlement.<sup>6</sup>

The fundamental articles established the purposes of the colony. A series of resolutions were needed for implementing the plan.

3. Voted, That we hereby authorize our agents to purchase for the use of the colony three miles square, or 5,760 acres, and as much more as they may have funds to purchase.

4. Voted, That the land, when purchased, be laid out by the agents so as to conform as nearly as the location and other circumstances will permit to the schedule adopted by the colony.

5. Voted, That no individual member of the colony shall be allowed to take more than one farm lot of 160 acres, and one village lot of ten acres, within the limits of the settlement.

5. The original document is preserved in *Plat Book Eaton County, Liber A of Miscellaneous*, 14-19.

6. *Ibid.*, 14-15.

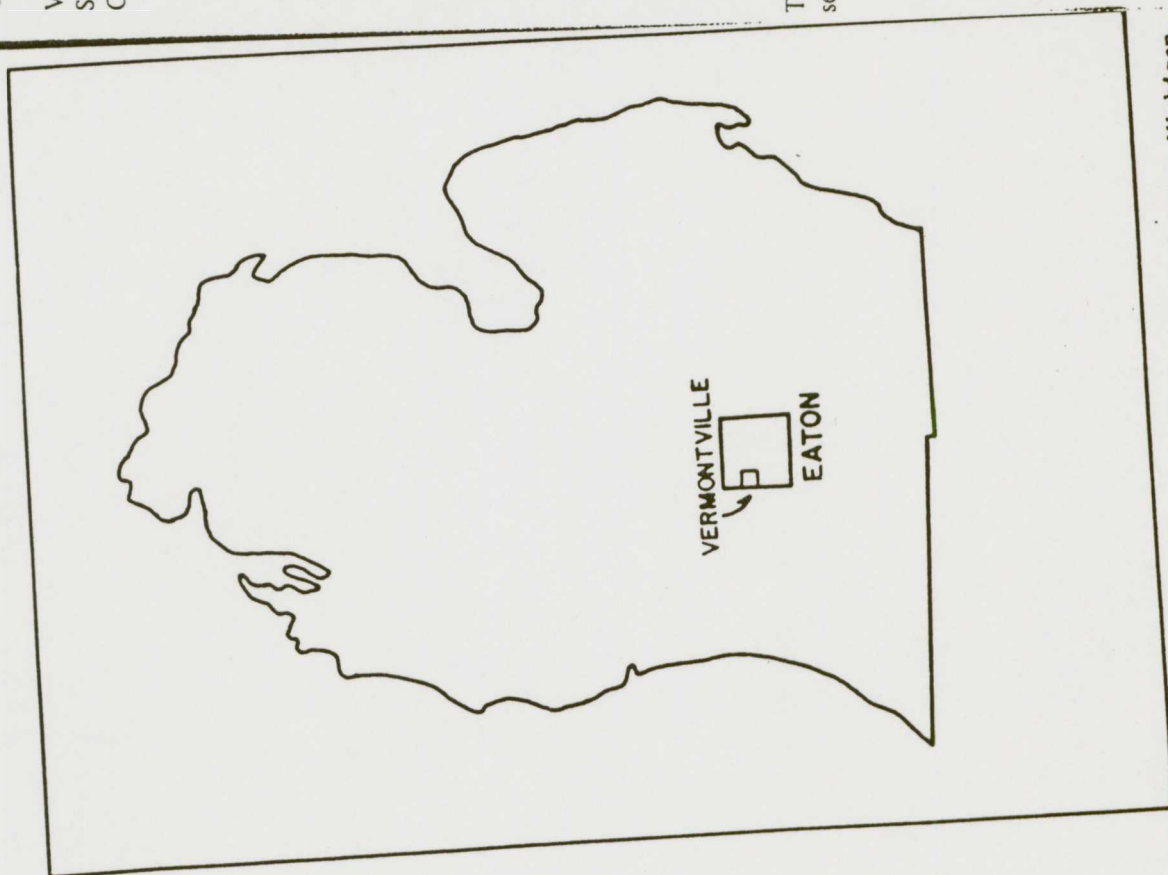


Fig. 1. Vermontville Township in Eaton County, Michigan.