

The formative years of the village, 1836 to the early 1920's started in three places; Main Street, an area northeast of the Methodist Church, and around the Railroad Station. The first stock of goods offered for sale in the village was brought from Bellevue by Wells R. Martin and Stephen Scovill, both original Colonists, but the first regular store was established in 1846-47 when Hale & Frink opened one in the lower story of the Academy, now known as the Chapel. The business district first started where Mrs. Beck's house now stands, just north of the Methodist Church, with two or three stores in that area, but they soon moved one block south and developed the business district as it is now.

The firm of Frink & Barber came next, Homer G. Barber succeeding Mr. Hale in 1855, and they were followed by D.F. Barber Co., who sold out in 1863. The Firm of Barber & Martin, both sons of original Settlers of the area, was organized May 15, 1863 and continued for 10 years. Homer G. Barber exerted a great influence in the community in his lifetime. Barber's Drygoods store was one of the finest in the county.

The New England Hotel, shown below, which was built expressly for a hotel in 1855 by James Tufford, stood just north of the Chapel, later known as the Follette House, and still later as the Park Hotel, was later owned by S.A. Gunn, the Marbles and Arthur Allen.



Another hotel, stood on the SW corner of 2nd and South Main Sts. and was owned by several people, among them were Mr. Sherman, Alf Briggs, Warren French, Mr. Helm and Mr. Cook. Later used as a Funeral Home it is now a residence. The Newspaper called the Vermontville Enterprise was established in 1874 by J.C. Worchester, sold to G.W. Hoskins then later to F.M. Potter, who changed the name to the Vermontville Hawk. Another change, Vermontville Echo, was it's last local name.