



Vernon Historical Hometown

Vernon

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Vernon continued until the line was abandoned in 1977. Electric trolleys, or interurbans, ran along the railroad between Syracuse and Utica from 1907 until the end of 1930.

A public library was established in Vernon in 1806 and continued for some 25 years. The present Vernon Public Library was established in 1895.

The Case family gave the Library a stone building, erected in 1828 and formerly used for law offices, at the corner of Peterboro and West Seneca Streets. At the end of 1962 the Library moved further down Peterboro to a building donated by Breta Lewis; the old structure was demolished for a road project.

A Masonic lodge was formed in 1895, and was joined by a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in 1902. The present temple was dedicated in 1913.

A local water works provided service from 1896 until the village began buying Oneida city water in 1931. An electric power plant went into operation in 1914, it was later sold to Adirondack Electric Company, which eventually became part of Niagara-Mohawk.

Vernon Telephone Company was formed in 1912; it bought out Knoxboro Telephone Company in 1959, and continues to provide service to both communities. Western Union Telegraph Company had an office in Vernon from 1883 until 1923.

William Russell Post 404, American Legion, was organized in 1919. The post met in rented quarters until 1946; when it moved into a home on West Seneca Street built for Abraham and Sarah Van Eps more than a century before.

Burton's Livestock Exchange on Ruth Street was established in 1929. Dibble's Inn opened in 1936 at the former Cushman residence on East Seneca Street.

Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Cen-

demolished in 1960 and a new firehouse erected on the site.

Wettel School on Peterboro Street opened in 1961 and was expanded a decade later. The old school was torn down in 1973 and apartment houses went up in its place.

St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church on Youngs Road, organized in 1917, burnt in 1974. The congregation joined with that of St. Agnes Church in Vernon Center and built the new Church of the Holy Family on Peterboro Street.

Changes in the appearance of the village continue. After years of debate a new town hall is about to open on Peterboro Street, and the old building on North Sconondoa Street is

being put up for sale.

The Village Inn, a landmark on West Seneca Street since 1803, has been demolished. The store building on the corner of Peterboro and West Seneca Streets, which also dated to the early 19th Century, was torn down recently and a municipal clock erected on the site.

Vernon Downs, which now has Comfort Suites hotel next door, supplements its harness season by serving as a venue for snowmobile and motorbike races as well as concerts. The track recently announced plans to install video lottery terminals.

Despite its changes, Vernon retains qualities that can be attractive to people who like small-town life.



Courtesy ELLEN MURPHY

State Route 5 looking east. The church-like structure was the old town hall. It has since been torn down and the Vernon Fire Station now sits at that location.



State Route 5 looking west. The old now sits in that location.

- 1) Jeremiah's Squat & Gobble
- 2) Dick Stanton - Real Estate
- 3) Malecki Funeral Home
- 4) The Old Canning Factory
- 5) Pohl's Feedway
- 6) The National Bank of Vernon - ATM
- 7) Hawaiian Heatwave
- 8) Dibble's Inn
- 9) Vernon Foodland
- 10) Mason Jar
- 11) Vernon Power Equipment
- 12) The Black Stallion Restaurant & Catering

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