cold and deep snows that killed George Beckwith now regularly locked vessels within the piers each winter, setting them free to ply their trade anew each spring. By 1837, framed dwellings had replaced log houses. There was still the river with its seasons, but the old village of 1812 had extended up the street two or three blocks. The period from 1837 to 1861 saw the building of an east–west railroad accompanied by slow but steady growth. A town was emerging.

Town rhythms are more contrived, less influenced by nature than those of a village. The Civil War (1861–1865) added the frenzy of rapid growth—a burst of activity based on two new rail lines extending southward. Everyone still had household chores, perhaps a garden to keep. They still went forth every day to work, shop, and meet friends. But wartime connections to an outside world imposed unfamiliar rhythms of manufacture, trade, and travel on top of the older, more natural rhythms. Clocks and compelling schedules led to an increasingly rigid temporal order. An inflexible rule of being "on time" contrasted with the more relaxed and spontaneous attitude of rural life.

The different aspects of a town, unlike those of a farm or village, cannot easily be seen at one time. They are spread further apart. One cannot see all of life's essentials by standing in place and turning around. Still, the town can be explained as being made up of only a few distinct parts.

The main parts of a town number no more than the parts of a village. Lewis Mumford describes them as the *shrine*, *spring*, *village*, *market*, and *stronghold*. But here, within each part, individual elements often multiply and lose their identity. We must shift our focus from things to classes of things, from number to quantity, and from count to measure in order to describe the town's changing connections.

Houses in a town differ in two significant ways from rural

Houses on Walnut Street.

houses. First, each one stands on a parcel of land big enough for growing only a few favorite vegetables or fruits. While each village house gets water directly from the ground, here fresh water arrives by one set of pipes, and foul water departs by another. Behind the house may be a place for a carriage (later for automobiles) but there is no barn, no individual granary.

Second, the individual identity of each house is lost within a uniform design set. Similarities among them can border on near or actual replication. The building, lot, and street all repeat with only slight variations at the hands of different occupants. The result is the anonymity of individual houses but distinctions among groups of houses based on social status, period, or common site characteristics.

Other types of buildings in a town also appear in quantity. There is not one shop or office but many. Like the houses, they do not stand by themselves. The ones that occupy corners may be special. But along the blocks, while each may try for individuality, more often than not the buildings merge into a common commercial theme.

Districts, not individual structures, are the functional parts of a town. Even when there is a one-of-a-kind thing, such as the bas-