

Then and Now, Past and Present

Can you spot the changes over time in these two pictures?

1890s



Cities and towns are always changing. Historians compare old photographs with new ones of the same place to find out what has changed and what has stayed the same.

Here are two photographs of Merchants Row in downtown Rutland. The one on the left was taken in the 1890s, the one on the right, in the 1980s. What changes can you discover? To start off, count six buildings from the left on the early photograph. The

grand Victorian building with the flagpole and the roof railing is the Baxter Bank. Now count down six from the left in the new photograph to see which building replaced the Baxter Bank after it burned down. Look familiar? With a keen eye and maybe even a magnifying glass, spot six more changes over time.

Photograph of Merchants Row today, courtesy of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

