

The corner store was rebuilt and there were several owners over the next few years. When William Cochrane owned the store, he bought the blacksmith shop which had stood where the Toronto Dominion Bank in Dorchester now stands, and had it moved beside his store in Nilestown.

Some of the other early settlers in this district were: Sam Sage, William Burdick, John Oliver, Peter McClary, Mr. Gardiner, Peter Lawson, Levi Myrick, James Williams, Mr. Bostwick, Frank Norton, John Byers, James Byers, H. Edwards, and Mr. Barrows.

Mr. Harry Reynolds settled at Nilestown in 1836. In 1857, there were about one hundred inhabitants. Joshua Putnam was Justice of the Peace and Postmaster. By 1888 there were 310 persons. Nilestown also had two blacksmith shops. One was owned by Mr. York. Joe Wilson and Mr. Collins were also blacksmiths. There were two wagon and carriage shops. One was kept by Mr. Craig where the first Masonic Hall stood, and Mr. William Rolfe was the owner of the other one.

Dr. Moore was one of Nilestown's first doctors. He had an office in the house owned by Mr. McCrae (since destroyed and replaced by a new one, #2000 Westchester Drive). He later built the house located on the Leta Lawson Farm, #2324 Hamilton Road. Dr. A. W. Smith of Dorchester and Dr. Beatty of Belmont served the Nilestown district for many years.

West of the village was the John Byers' farm, later Peter Lawson's. According to a letter written in 1943 by Agnes Pearson, mother of Mr. Earl Pearson, the next farm was the lovely home of Mr. William Niles. This property was also, at different times, owned by Levi Myrick, Earnie McFarlane and Earl Hodgins. Next was the dairy farm of Nelson Sage and then the William Sage farm where trained horses were kept. On the south side was the Jarvis tile and brick yard. Also, on the Peter Lawson farm, Jersey cattle were kept, the milk separated, and the cream sold to creameries. They also sold milk door to door. The McClary farm also was on the south side of Hamilton Road, having been first occupied in 1817. William Burdick owned the Hann farm, later Hodgins and now Ianni farm.

The Hamilton Road was built in 1812, as a military road from London to Hamilton. In many places it followed an Indian trail and in 1840, was covered with pine planks placed lengthwise and then crosswise. Even though the road had been gravelled, some 60 or 70 years later travellers were still stumbling over pieces of plank which had worked their way up, particularly in the spring of the year. Toll gates were used to help pay for the upkeep of roads. One was near the corner of