

# SAND LAKE HISTORY

A continuing history of the houses, businesses, churches, schools and events which have contributed to the growth of the Town of Sand Lake from its beginning to the present day. This book is intended to be a continuing project which will some day, years from now, include every aspect of our town's history.

This project is made possible through the Sanford G. Young Memorial Fund. It is, therefore, our intent to dedicate this book to a man who devoted most of his final years to the preservation and recording of our town's history. Thanks, Sanford, for giving us the incentive to begin such a task and we hope and pray that your inspiration will remain with us throughout this great endeavor.

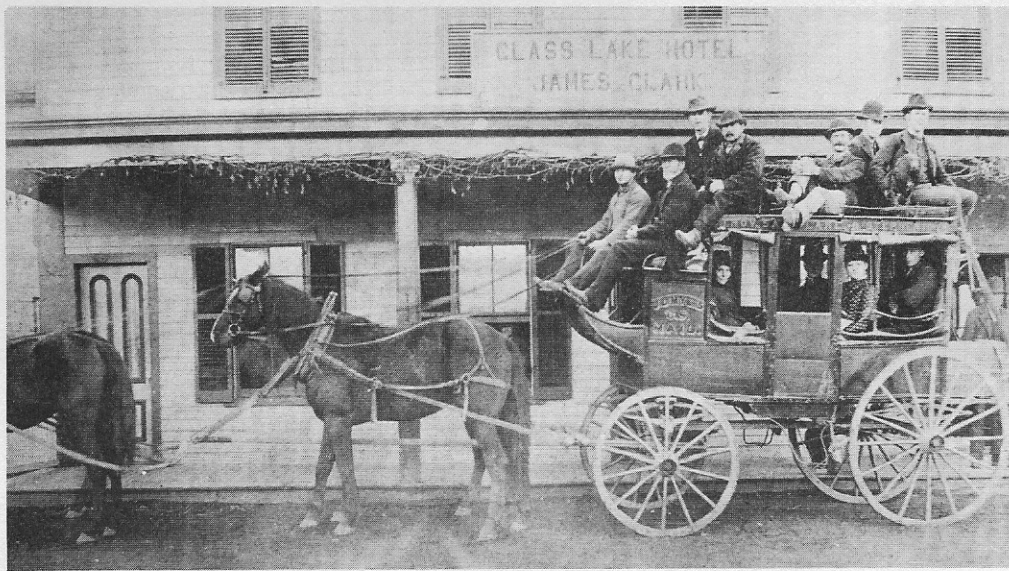
Everyone is asked to contribute to this extensive compilation of facts and stories. If you have any stories, histories or photographs, including that of your own home or family, and any photographs which could help us in our project, please contact the Sand Lake Historical Society.

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Project Begun: March, 1979



## Glass Lake Hotel

Sometime between 1833 and 1853, Albert and Samuel Fox, who ran the Glass Works during this period, erected on this site a large frame building called, "Mechanics Hall", to accommodate those of their workmen who had no permanent homes. After the fire of 1853 which destroyed the Glass Works, "Mechanics Hall" was converted into a hotel by Joseph H. Gabler.

Joseph H. Gabler erected the hotel at Glass Lake about 1860 and kept it for a number of years. William Haynor succeeded Mr. Gabler for three years, then James Clark took it over, in the 1880's.

The Troy-Stephentown Stage Coach Line ran between the Gifford House on Congress Street in Troy, N. Y. and Stephentown, N. Y., and Glass Lake Hotel was one of its stops along the way.

In an old Sand Lake Business Directory of 1870-71, which is part of 1870-71 Rensselaer County Directory, it gives the following: Gabler, Joseph H., (Sand Lake) hotel prop. and farmer 20. Hayner, Wm. (Sand Lake) hotel prop., Glass House.

The Glass Lake Hotel was completely rebuilt in 1933 by John H. Niebuhr, who was its proprietor until 1944. Since then it has had numerous owners. At the present time 1979, it is run by Clayton and Eleanor R. Teal, and is called, "Glass Lake Inn", and is a popular eating spot.







# W. H. Scram's Collegiate Institute

This beautiful old building was located where the Church of the Covenant is today (1979).

W. H. Scram's Collegiate Institute in Sand Lake (now Averill Park) was exclusively for boarders, and limited to 36 pupils. This school was established by William H. Scram in 1852 and ran until his death November 1, 1875. It prepared young men for college as well as for general business. Tuition for the year was \$200.00.

After Mr. Scram's death in 1875, it was converted into a hotel by Horation F. Averill.



1977







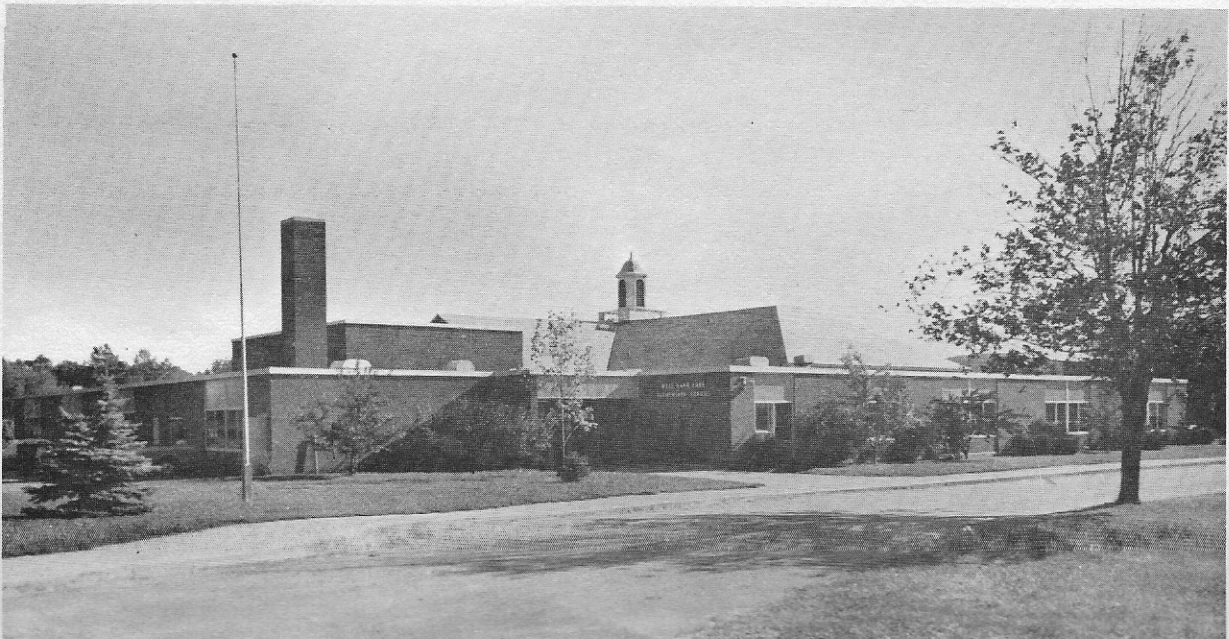
1935

## West Sand Lake School

The West Sand Lake Elementary School was built in 1935 to replace the small District #4, two-room schoolhouse, built circa 1830, near the former St. Henry's Chapel on Route 150.

In 1935; the section which now contains the third grades, library, TCA office, stage and auditorium was built on the former Rensselaer County Fair Grounds. In 1939 it was extended to add the present faculty room, reading room and 2 second grades. In 1951 the entire first grade wing was opened. And as of September 1967, the last addition, which includes the fourth and fifth and kindergarten rooms was open.

The present school now houses over 460 students in 18 classrooms (K-5). Mr. James F. Hargrave was principal from 1935 through 1969, at which time Dr. Larry C. Schrader became its principal. (C.V)



1976





## Tremont's Lumber

The old Troy and New England Railway which ran between Troy and Averill Park from 1895 to 1925, terminated at the depot on Orient Avenue in Averill Park. This was a large building, with a waiting room and an overhang for the trolleys to run underneath.

Following the termination of the trolley system, the building was purchased by William Rendert. It was enclosed and used as a warehouse for his Ford car dealership.

Previous to becoming Tremont Lumber, it was used as a storage for the Boyce Lumber Company.

In 1958 Ken Tremont started his lumber business in this old depot building, which has been added on to several times over the years.







## Nash's Store

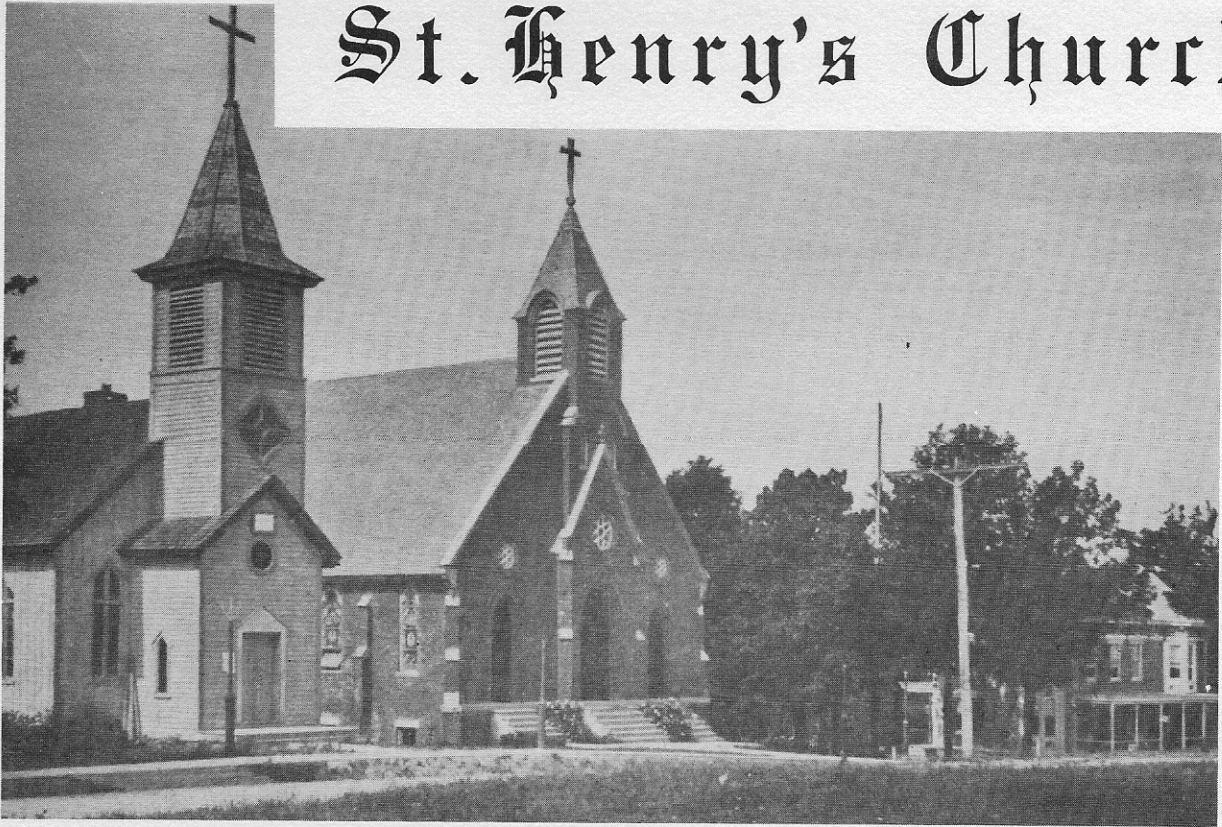
The original part of this store was built about 1830 when Franklin Averill ran a store there. It was also run by Lester & Horton at one time.



In 1912, Chester and Fred Nash acquired it and it has been in the Nash family ever since. The Sand Lake Post Office was located in this building also for many years.



# St. Henry's Church



St. Henry's Church was founded on October 25, 1868. Previous to this time, parishioners worshiped in a small chapel located in the mountains of East Poestenkill. The chapel was built about 1860 and was named St. Mary of the Woods.

The original St. Henry's Church was a wooden structure located directly east of the present brick building. In 1902 a new brick church was built to seat 300 people. This building is presently being used and will be enlarged in a few years to accommodate 500 people.

There have been a total of 15 pastors to St. Henry's since 1868. Since 1975, the pastor has been Rev. John H. Mealey. (c.v)







The present Town Hall at Sand Lake, is the former First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake, New York, and was erected in the year 1834-35.

In 1967, the First Presbyterian Church of Sand Lake united with the Averill Park Methodist Church and became known as the Church of the Covenant, Averill Park, New York.

After the merger the Town of Sand Lake purchased the former Presbyterian Church and remodeled the interior for offices and use as a Town Hall. It was dedicated as such on June 25, 1972.

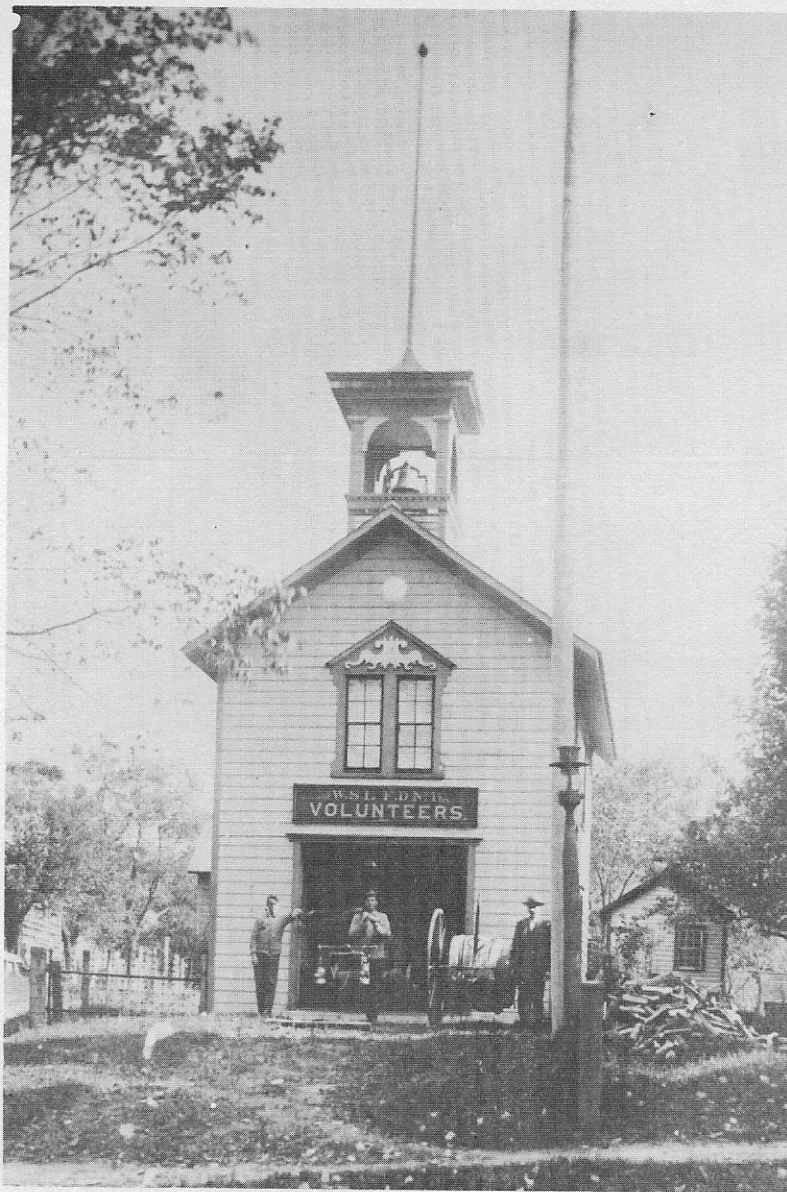
## Sand Lake Town Hall



1977



Circa 1915



The West Sand Lake Fire Company was formed in April of 1874 and was incorporated on April 17, 1876. The fire station has remained the same for the past 100 years, except for the addition of another bay and a meeting hall, plus the development of a full cellar under the Fire Hall.

It has purchased a total of seven fire engines which included the original "Old Joe".

In 1975, a new station was built directly west of the old firehouse. This station now houses the three presently owned pumpers including the original "Old Joe". (c.v.)



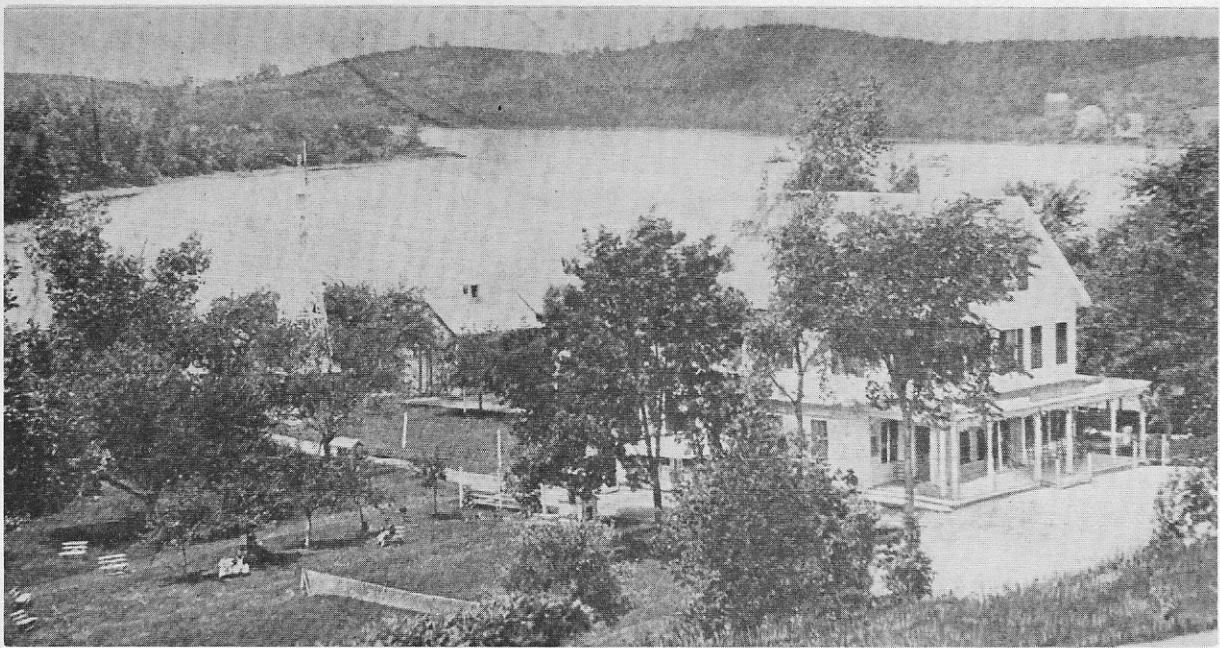
1979

# West Sand Lake Fire Dept.



1976





## Crooked Lake Hotel

An early tavern run by Phillip Upham was located at this site in the early 1800's. Sometime in the late 1850's it burned. In 1860 it was rebuilt by James McKay Mosher, who was its proprietor for a great many years until he sold it in 1881. Then it was acquired by the Brown family, who ran it for a number of years. Teddy Roosevelt spent a great deal of time here when he was Governor. He and his family made it their headquarters for vacations and hikes. The walls of the dining room are decorated with heads of moose, bear, deer, elk and other animals as well, which were given to the proprietor by Mr. Roosevelt.

In 1935, Al W. Coon became proprietor along with his wife, the late Theresa Maloney Coon. Mr. Coon has made many improvements and changes over the years to this beautiful old hotel. In 1947 it was completely remodeled. In 1957 a 35 unit motel was built on the hill opposite the hotel. In 1962 an indoor heated pool was added. This hotel in 1979 is still run by Al Coon and is a very popular place.





ON THE  
FOLLOWING  
PAGES

PHOTOGRAPHY: R. M. CARPENTER

LAYOUT: MARY & ROSS FRENCH



# Old Taverns

Taverns, down through the ages, have always been an integral part of any community. They have not always been limited to their primary purpose of providing the weary traveler with refreshment, but have also served as a place for town meetings, political gatherings, and stagecoach stops. In general they were the center of communications for the community.

The Town of Sand Lake was not unlike any other community, for it had its share of taverns scattered along the roads in all areas of the town. Some of these old taverns are still standing, although most of them have been converted to other uses or destroyed by fire.

One of the oldest taverns in town was on Route 43 in Averill Park, where the Warren Danks family now resides. Who ran it is not recorded.

Sometime between 1780 and 1800 Thomas Thompson built another tavern in Averill Park, and that is the old Salt Box House where Harry O'Donnell has his liquor store.

Jacob Hageman built an early tavern around 1830 on the site of Cooper's Tire Service in West Sand Lake, at the four corners. He later built the Brewster House on the same spot.

On the Second Dyke Road at Burden Lake where Kay's Pizza is now located, the Calkins family ran a tavern and hotel for over 75 years, dating back to the early 1800's.

Lewis Bullock ran a tavern in the early 1800's on the land owned by the Baxter family at the junction of Route 43 and Thais Road. The building is no longer standing.

In the early 1800's Theodorus Gregory built a tavern and hotel on the site now occupied by Palmer's Sunoco Gas Station in Averill Park.

Around 1830, Philip Upham ran a tavern on the site of the present Crooked Lake Hotel.

In the late 1830's Clement Sliter remodeled the old John Stephen's Store in Sand Lake Village into a tavern. It later became Crist Crape's Central Hotel.





Hilke's Averill Park Hotel - 1910



Church of the Covenant - 1983



# Hilke's Auerill Park Hotel

This beautiful old hotel known as Hilke's Auerill Park Hotel, originally housed the Sand Lake Collegiate Institute, established in 1852 by William H. Scram. The Institute was a well-known boarding school for boys and was carried on with great success, drawing students from as far away as the Philippines.

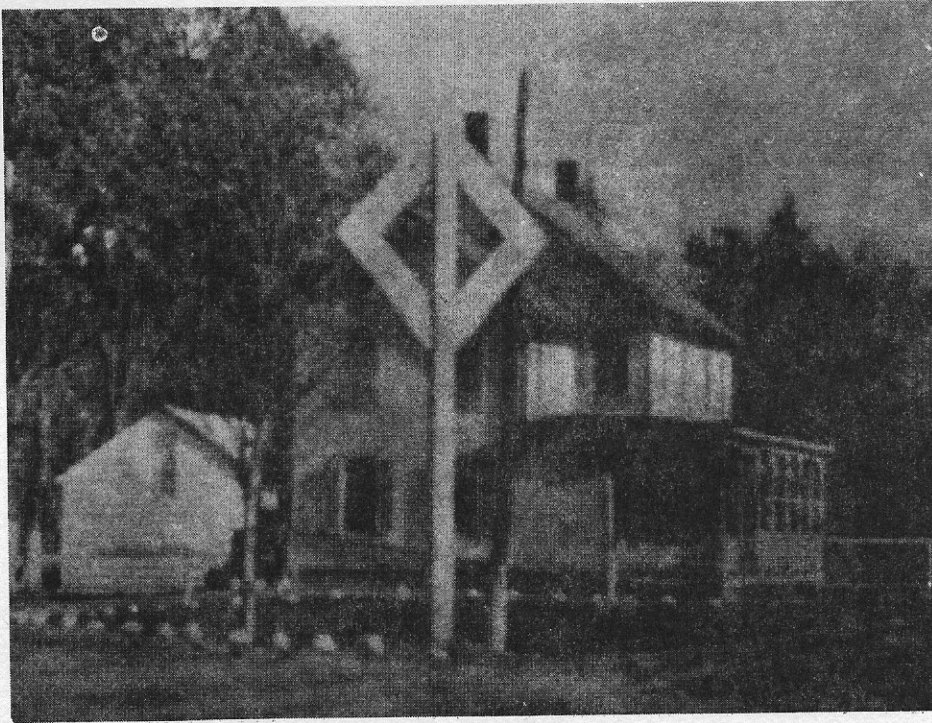
After Mr. Scram's death in 1875, the building was converted into a hotel by Horatio F. Auerill. In the early 1900's it was run by the Hilke family and known as Hilke's Auerill Park Hotel or the Park House.

Fire destroyed the old hotel in 1921. The barns by the trolley tracks were subsequently torn down and the debris from the fire removed, leaving the lot vacant for many years. In 1953 a brick building was erected on the corner portion of the lot to house the Auerill Park Post Office. This building has been added on to several times, and presently houses a bank and apartments in addition to the Post Office.

In 1961 the Methodist Episcopal Church of Auerill Park built a new "church-in-the-round" on the spot where the hotel stood. The hotel had been built into the bank, with a bar on the lower level. The church's designers also took advantage of the shape of the lot and built the church into the bank. As a result, what appears as ground level from the front, is in fact, the upper level. At the rear, "basement" classrooms are also at ground level.

In 1967 the Methodist Church united with the Sand Lake Presbyterian Church, and the building then became known as the Church of the Covenant.





Arlington Hotel  
1800's

## Journey's End Hotel

Journey's End Hotel was probably built about 1890. At one time it was known as "The Elk Horn Hotel" and "The Arlington Hotel". The Troy and New England Trolley tracks ran close to what was then the rear door of the hotel, and it was a trolley stop.

The front door of the hotel was on old Route 43, which is now called Werger Road. Route 43 now runs where the old trolley tracks did. When the new road was put through in the 1930's the former rear door of the old "Arlington Hotel", became the front door of "Journey's End Hotel". It has had several owners over the years, and at the present time is known as the new "Old Journey's End".



1983





circa 1830



1983

## Traveler's Rest Hotel

This beautiful big old hotel used to stand on the corner of Eastern Union Turnpike and Johnny Cake Lane, where at the present time, 1983, Palmer's Sunoco Station now stands.

The hotel had many different proprietors over the years and was also called the "Sand Lake House", "Tillson's Hotel", and "Werger's Hotel", before it was called Traveler's Rest Hotel. It was converted into a tavern sometime in the 1830's.

This beautiful building had a porch across the front and along one side on both the first and second floors. During the 1920's it housed the Averill Park Post Office after it ceased being run as a hotel. Fred Shoemaker was the Postmaster, and he and his family lived in the building. The Post Office was located in the part where the bar room used to be.

The old hotel was destroyed by fire on March 2, 1930.

There were big barns and sheds down in back of the hotel for the horses. Notice the little triangle of green grass and the trees, and sidewalk. The old wooden Honor Roll for the Town of Sand Lake used to stand on this green.



# Crist Crape's Central Hotel

The Crist Crape Hotel was built in the early 1800's by Clement Sliter, probably about 1820. It was noted for its fine food and became a well known hostelry for many years under the management of the Crape family.

This hotel was located at Sand Lake corners at the junction of Taborton Road and Route 66 and 43.

Many people from Troy traveled by horse and buggy or by sleigh to Crape's Hotel for Sunday dinner, and what dinners they were! The Crapes had their own gardens, a poultry house where they raised chickens and turkeys, a berry patch and a dairy. They also raised lambs, pigs and beef cattle.

The Crapes smoked their own hams and bacon, made their own jam, pickles and delicious chili sauce, canned fruits for pies, made their own butter, cream and cheese and froze their own ice cream.

The guests sat at long dining tables and were served family style. They were served heaping platters of stewed chicken and golden buttermilk biscuits, chicken pie baked in milk pans with only the best parts of the chicken reposing in golden gravy, smoky hams baked in maple sugar, every kind of vegetable the garden could produce, hot muffins, corn bread and pitchers of rich milk. The table was laden with bowls of cottage cheese, wild strawberry jam, pickled peaches, ginger pears, conserves thick with fruit and nuts and a half dozen varieties of pickles. For dessert they served home-made ice cream, plates of several kinds of cake and three or four different kinds of pie. All the guests were urged to eat until they were at the bursting point.

The hotel had a wonderful old bar and an upstairs ballroom with a spring floor.

When Clement Sliter built the hotel it was built as a tavern and stage coach stop. The village was then called Sliter's Corners. Today it is known as Sand Lake.

This beautiful old hotel was torn down in July 1957.





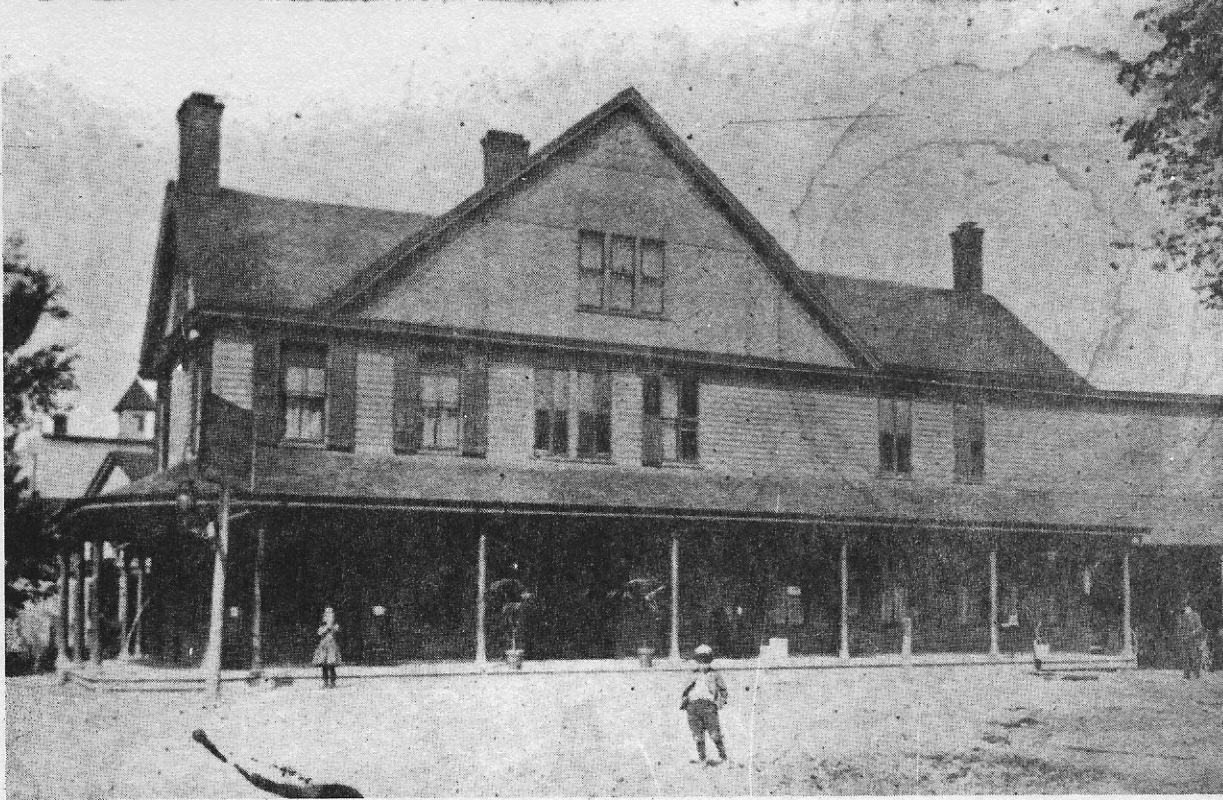
Chris Crape's Central Hotel, Sand Lake, N.Y. - 1800's



Present site of Crape's Hotel in Sand Lake, N.Y. - 1983



BREWSTER HOUSE. John J. Flynn,  
Proprietor. West Sand Lake, N. Y.



1890

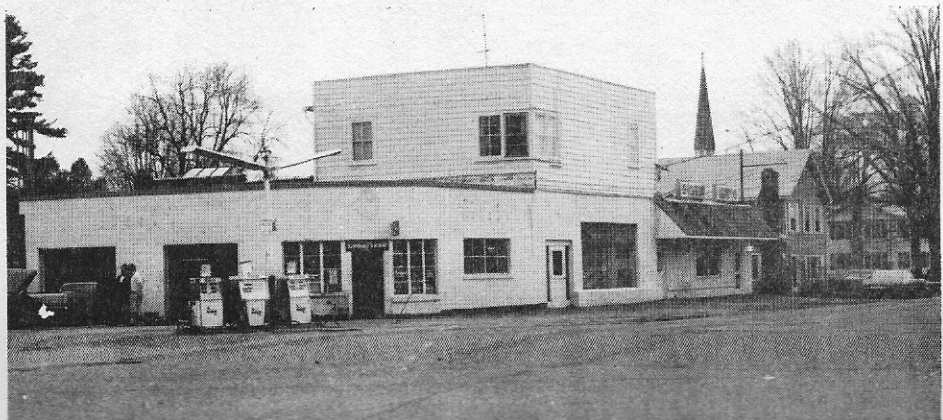
## The Brewster House

On the present site of Cooper's Tire Service, at the four corners in West Sand Lake, there stood for at least 100 years a hotel known at various times as Sliter's Inn, Sliter Exchange Hotel, Seymour Hotel and The Brewster House.

The original hotel was built in 1830-35 by Jacob Hageman and run by him until the 1840's, when W. Sliter acquired it. In the late 1860's S. D. Seymour ran it until sometime in the 1880-90's, when Fred Brewster acquired it.

In 1925 Zenas Greenman and Howard Apple ran a garage which was located in the north end of the Brewster House. Later when the trolley cars stopped running the KLWM Bus Company used the garage to store their buses.

When the old building was destroyed, a new concrete block building was built on this site.



1983