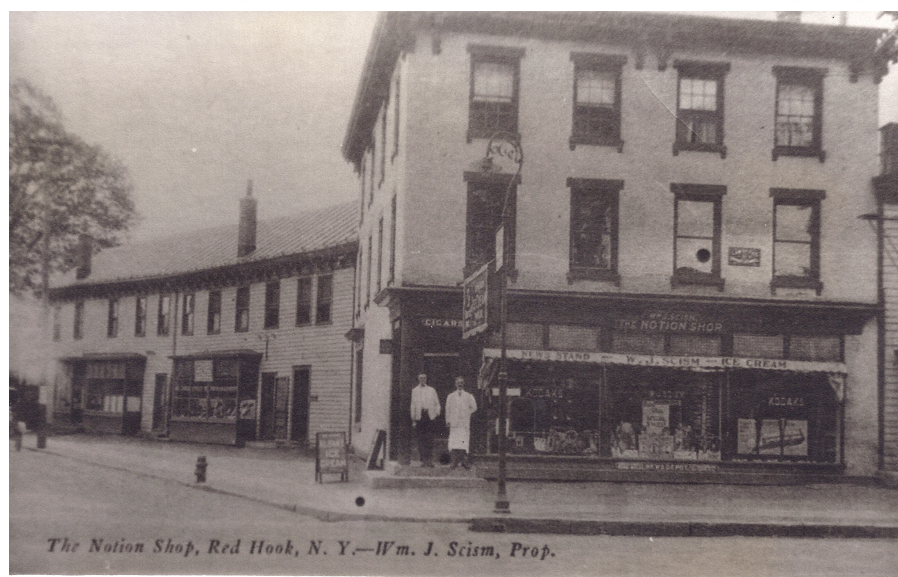




1981



### The Massoneau Building

RHWG: Built in 1855 by the Massoneau family, early tobacco merchants, this three-story Italian Renaissance Revival brick building replaced an early wooden building. It contained a general store, with meeting rooms upstairs. The early site of community meetings, the second floor housed the town's first library in 1899. A long wooden extension was razed and replicated with a new row of shops. A large arch, through which horses and teams passed to an interior public stable, was removed in the 1970. It is now a bookstore, with apartments on the second floor.

RHHG: This building was built in 1855 as a large general store and through the years has housed the Red Hook Post Office, grocery, dry goods, and clothing stores. A large hall upstairs served as a general meeting place for entertainment, shows and political meetings. It was built on the site of an original store of Claudius Massoneau, which was probably the very first store in Red Hook. A fourth generation descendant, William Massonneau, restored the Lutheran cemetery and was instrumental in helping the library to be organized. He died in 1933.

Bassett: Charles W. Massonneau and his brother Ed kept a general store with the post office and they were selling porous plasters at the time. The north side of the brick building had a large advertisement of the porous plasters, and Charles W. Massonneau was publishing the original "Aurora Borealis" to promote the use and sale of the plaster which had been compounded by him. It was a very interesting paper for the kind, and I remember seeing many copies of the same. The building east of the store was divided from the store by an archway for teams to pass to the public shed. There were about four divisions in the building occupied by different parties for business purposes. Sometime later after a fire, the archway was closed and the upper part was changed to a hall with the entrance on the east end. This hall was the means of much pleasure for the people in the old days.

The Massonneau store was entered by burglars one night and the safe blown open and about eighty dollars taken. Suspicious characters were noticed about town and a party was engaged to set up and watch. Another volunteer party stayed in a feed store in the row under Massonneau Hall. This store had a large show window and the time and the boys would smoke and light matches...Results: the expected robbers raided two or three places in Rhinebeck that night and Red Hook watched in vain. The next night Red Hook slept while the robbers came in the silent night, opened the store and blew open the safe, took some merchandise, and walked away and Red Hook did not stir till the hour of dawn. When the wrecked safe was found, the robbers had left for parts unknown.

About last photo: Maynard Ham posted this on the FB page, "Red Hook's History in Pictures and Words". I know you would not see it there so here it is.

For everyone who remembers "The Notion Shop" and "Irving". It was in the 19th century that the Massonneau Building and a dry goods store was located on the first floor and run by Edward Massonneau. After his death in 1913 the store was auctioned by the family and it was then that the new owners established the name "The Notion Shop". Here is an article from the [December 12, 1913](#) Red Hook Journal.

"The Notion Shop, (one door south of Link's Market) is now open. We are displaying a very attractive line of high grade stationery, school supplies, toys, candy, Christmas seals, Christmas cards, holly paper and ribbon, tinsel twine, playing cards, crepe paper napkins and novelties, shelf paper, toilet paper, sanitary paper towels, Ever Ready Flashlights and electrical specialties. A full line of Edison Mazda Lamps and the celebrated Belle Mead Sweet Candy constantly on hand. After [January 1st, 1914](#), we will carry all the leading daily and [Sunday](#) papers and Magazines. Place your orders early and they will receive our best attention. We solicit a share of your patronage. Longyear & North, Red Hook, N.Y."

In this photo the proprietor is W. J. Scism. Probably taken a few years after the above article after it had changed hands.