

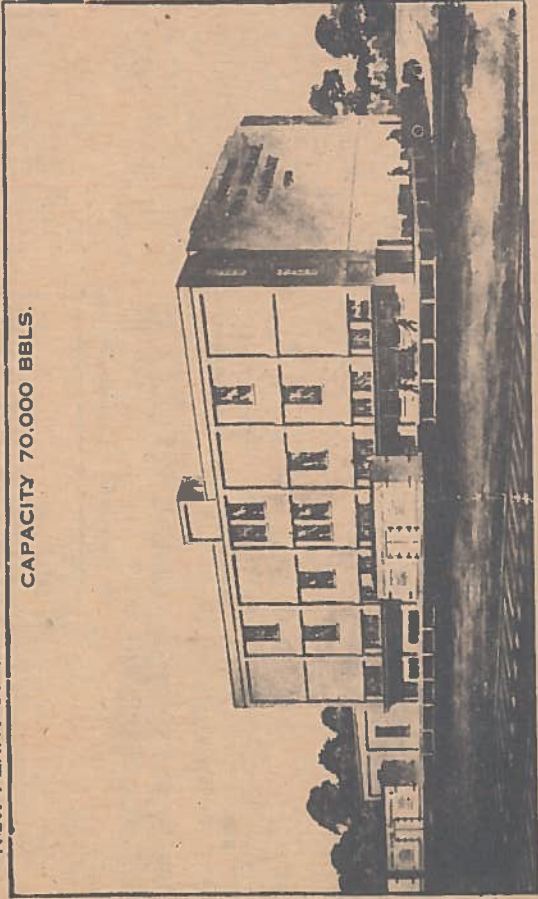
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Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian

NEW PLANT OF THE GROWERS COLD STORAGE CO., WATERPORT, N. Y.

CAPACITY 70,000 BBLs.



JOHN G. ELLENDT, CONSULTING ENGINEER AND CONTRACTOR, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

GROWERS COLD STORAGE, INC.

The following in part is from an account written by the late Francis H. Blake in 1953, President of Growers Cold Storage.

"In 1915 a group of fruit growers in the Town of Carlton under the leadership of G. Ray Fuller, Benjamin G. Wilson and Perry H. Stowell decided that a cold storage warehouse located at Waterport, New York would be of great advantage to this area.

"There was great need for this facility in order that the large fruit crop which was annually produced could be more efficiently delivered to the consumer, as well as greater profit ensue to the farmers. As a result, the Growers Cold Storage Co., Inc. was organized and immediately proceeded to erect a cold storage plant at Waterport. As to how well this was done is attested to by the fact that today after 38 years of continuous operation, the design and construction is still classified as most modern.

"Upon completion, the Company handled locally grown products exclusively until the submarines became so effective in the First World War that it was necessary to move products overseas in protected convoys. Food products were moving daily from the packing plants in the West with ships being loaded at intervening periods which were required by the convoy system. These food products had to be moved and warehoused at a daily rate until such time as sufficient volume had accumulated and in addition arrangements completed for the necessary ships to make up the convoy. The Growers Cold Storage played an important role in this war activity. The Company entered into contracts with the French, British and Italian Governments as well as packing firms throughout the country and continued for several years after the war with the British Government in the storage and movement of their food supplies from packing houses to the seaboard for export."

"The company started research in frozen foods in 1926. In 1930 contracts were made, for warehousing and transportation of the Birds Eye Frosted Foods, with General Foods Corporation, who at this time, entered the Quick Frozen Food Industry. There being, at this time, no commercial manufacturers of the trucking equipment which could maintain the proper low temperature, the Company had to build its own equipment. Today this is not necessary as there are many companies making truck bodies that will meet their requirements. At this same time a policy of conversion from so called cooler space in the warehouse, at approximately 30 deg. F. to subzero temperatures was put in effect."

"The plant today is completely converted to freezer storage with the exception of the basement which is maintained at 25 to 35 Deg. F. In addition there are quick freezing facilities consisting of a blast room in which a temperature of 75 deg. F. below zero can be attained.

"These warehouse facilities together with the transportation services of its fleet of modern aluminum, heavy insulated, trailers and diesel tractors make the Growers Cold Storage Co., Inc. one of the important operations in the frozen food industry throughout the north Atlantic States."