



Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Hutching's House

Judging from the vintage autos in this picture, I'm guessing it was taken between 1910 and 1913. Up near the roof line of the building we note the painted sign stating "Hutching's House." The 1911 Orleans County Directory lists George E. Hutching (Christina) Proprietor of Hutching's House, Main St., Waterport. This hotel stood on the west side of Main Street at the head of the Waterport-Carlton Road.

This straight forward and utilitarian type structure was probably built during the first decade of the 20th century. With exception of the two decorative brackets at the roof level, this is a no-frills hotel.

Obviously the people here were proud of their automobiles. The one to the right would have been known as a touring car. To the very far left, there is a horse hitched to a wagon with a driver.

Notice all the people either in cars or standing on the porch are men. The two women in the picture are posed away from the men's activities on the second floor balcony or porch roof. This subtle division is clearly intended and a commentary of the times.

To the far right in the distance we see what appears to be a barn. The signage however indicates "F. W. Hey Horseshoeing and Repairing." The 1911 Directory lists him as Frank D. Hey (Mary A.), blacksmith, Waterport, N.Y.

Finally, with the Albion Power Company just a stone's throw away from here, it would be only natural to see a power pole and all kinds of wires strung up on glass insulations. A couple of transformers appear at the top of the pole. Around 80 years ago, a disastrous fire claimed this three-story hotel.