

ABOUT TOWN

Fall 2020

New Paltz Village: Then & Now



In that other lifetime, before we all learned the name, structure, and pitilessness of a virus, I was preparing a presentation titled *Then And Now* for the New Paltz Historical Society in November. Here are a few of the images I was planning to share.

The panorama postcard above is from around 1909. I believe this picture would have been taken earlier than that. It may have been taken from today's Cherry Hill Road area. There is no view to be had now to compare. Note how much of the land is cleared fields. The steeple on the far right is where Main Street and Church Street meet. That was the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Below, row one, L-R. The iron bridge over the Wallkill at the foot of Main Street, card is postmarked 1906. Center: Color view of the

iron bridge, circa 1910. Right: 2020, the new bridge, note the building with peace symbol appears in the far left image.

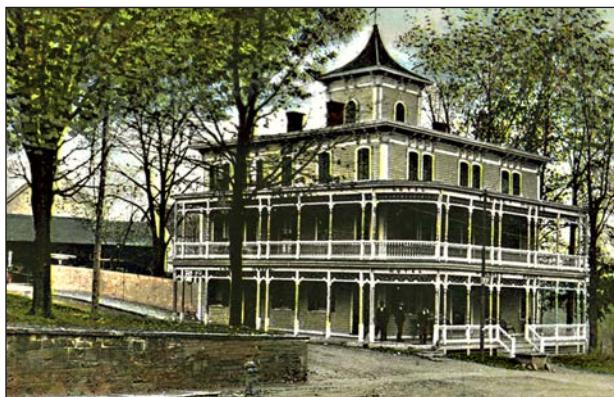
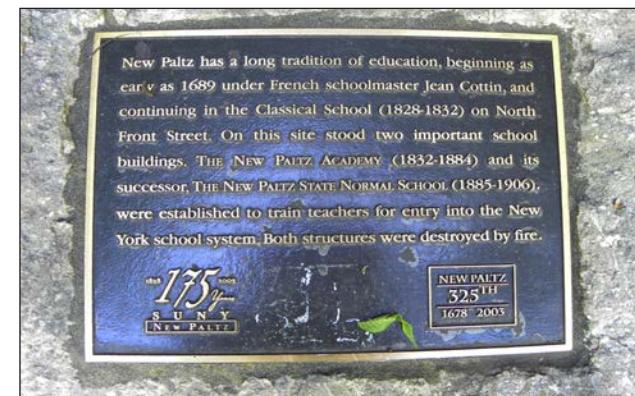
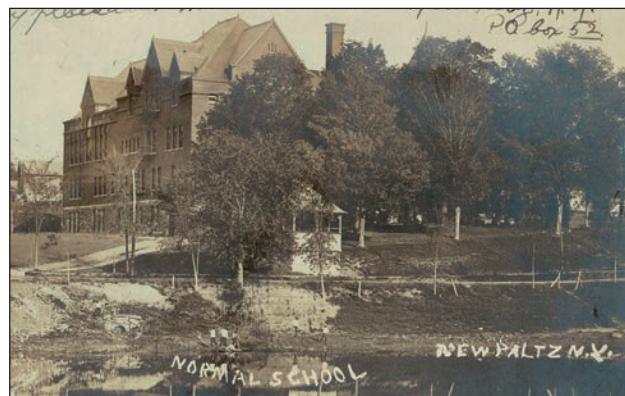
Row two, L-R. The WWI 10th Infantry Band, circa 1919 in front of the Riverview Hotel on Huguenot St. Center: The Riverview Hotel faced the Wallkill and was a popular resort in the first three decades of the 1900s. After the Riverview, a motel occupied part of the site, and now a brewpub/restaurant invites you.

Row three, L-R. Shortly after this postcard was sent, a raging fire destroyed the New Paltz Normal School (1884-1906) on Huguenot Street. Center: Painting of the fire by Lenny Tantillo, commissioned by Bruce McKinney, both New Paltz natives. McKinney, whose love of New Paltz inspired one wit to note, "he moved away, but never

left," has commissioned eight paintings by Tantillo, each depicting an important aspect of the history of our area. Right: This plaque, just north of Main St. on Huguenot St. marks the former site of the Normal School and its predecessors, the Classical School, 1832-1884, also destroyed by fire.

Bottom row, L-R. On the north side of Main St., across from the intersection with Wurts Ave., stood a number of masonry & frame buildings (1910) as pictured here. In 2020, the site houses Wells Fargo Bank (not pictured). Center: Across Main St. on the south west corner of Wurts stood the Tamney Hotel (1911 image). Right: Today, denuded of its gingerbread and widow's watch, it is an apartment house (its use for the last several decades).





About Town, 845-691-2089 AboutTown.us



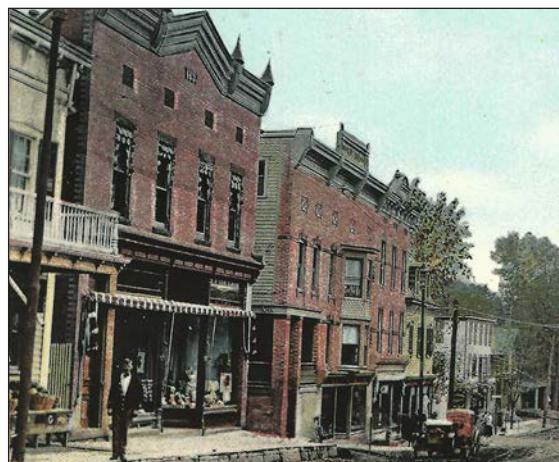
Above left: South side of Main Street, across from the today's Post Office, was the New Paltz Times newspaper (1860-1919) printing office. The image is from a 1909 booklet about New Paltz showing the office and res-



idence of the publishers. Above right: It is now Kosovars Law Offices as shown in 2020 above. The front right side of the building in the 1909 photo is gone and is now a garden.



Top: 68 Main St. 1952, I think that's my mother's Pontiac. Above: 68 Main St. 2020, Gourmet Pizza!



In these two images, we see the south side of Main St. just east of So. Chestnut St. The left image is circa 1907 and the right is 2020. The 1893 building and the building to the west of it have changed but are still closer than most to their early versions. The next building west in the early version was replaced, perhaps more than



once, and the current brick building is more modern. Just past that you cross So. Chestnut and come to another "flat iron" structure. It housed the Corner Nook Restaurant in the early 1960s. Today, with its bright green mural, it is home to a clothing shop.



North side of Main St. 1945 looks pretty much the same in 2020, except the cars are newer.

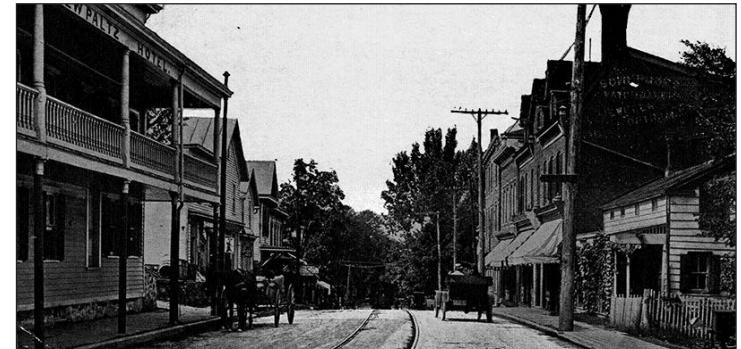


On the northeast corner of Main and Church Streets is one of New Paltz's two "flat iron" buildings (buildings with a less than 90 degree corner were named for the old stove-heated clothing irons). The bottom floor of the Church St. face once housed the New Paltz fire department. It now houses a chocolate shop. The steeple visible behind it was the Methodist Episcopal Church pictured on page 10. A new Episcopal Church building was constructed on Main Street and No. Oakwood Terrace. See bottom of page 5. The Methodists built their new church on the northwest corner of Grove Street and Main Street.



The far left building in older image is now the Main Street Bistro. In the panorama image on page one, the church steeple can be seen on the right side.

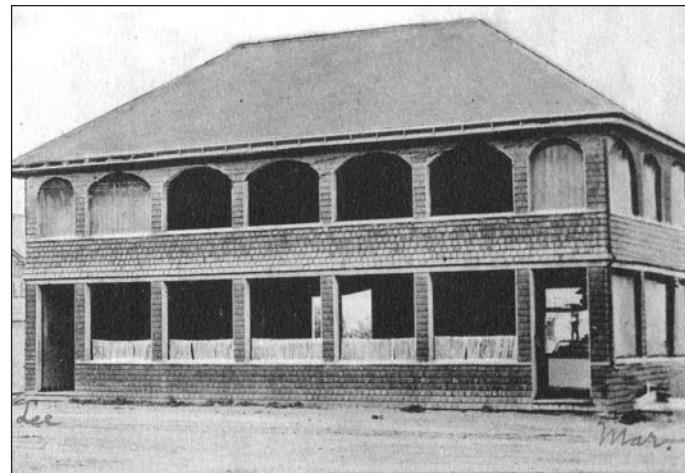
Above: Image taken in 2020 shows the Main St. face of the flat iron building & many small shops including Rock Candy Vintage, Cocoon, and Jack's Meats. At very top right side of image is P&Gs Bar and Restaurant. In 1900, it was the Casino.



Above: This postcard, postmarked 1910, shows the New Paltz Hotel on the left at the southwest corner of Main St. and Plattekill Avenue. Today that site has a Starbucks® and the Ariel Dental office. Jack's Meats today occupies the site of the white building on the right. Note the tracks of the Highland-New Paltz Trolley Co. running down Main Street.

Below. You can see the outline on the brick building where the white building from card above was demolished. The Blue Crane Inn, today's P&Gs, is on the right side of this postcard from the 1920s. The steeple, visible behind the buildings is from the Methodist Episcopal Church on Church Street.

Left: The Casino, evolved overtime to become P&Gs.





Top left: Lane-Sargent, Housewares, Stationery and Toys. A variety store on Main St. as it appeared in the late 1940s. It was run by two ladies, who I believe lived upstairs. As a child, in the 1950s, it was my favorite New Paltz haunt. It had art supplies, five and dime items, and the most wonderful smell of polished wood and scented soaps. Above: Today, the building houses a restaurant, clothing shop, and apartments on the second floor.

Center Top: Main Street, looking toward the Wallkill just before intersection with South Chestnut Streets. Postcard image circa 1912. Above center, the same buildings at the left and right sides (behind the cars) of the postcard image. The buildings between them burned and were replaced with the brick structure pictured here. It has had a number of restaurants, most notable, Chez Joey.

Top right: On the southeast corner of Elting Ave. and So. Chestnut Street intersection stood the Roman Catholic Church. Its school was at the intersection Innis Ave. and Elting Place. The church above was replaced, enlarged, and with additional buildings soon covered the site. It is known as St. Joseph's Church and the school was known to all its graduates as "St. Joe's."



Methodist Episcopal (ME) Church above faced Main Street. Built in 1841, it was later moved to face Church Street, and still later (1909), was renovated to the building on the right. The tower is visible on far right of the panorama on page one. To right of this “new” structure is the flat iron building, corner of Main and Church Streets. A new Methodist Church was built in 1928 at the corner of Main St. and Grove St. It is known as the New Paltz Methodist Church. St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church is also on Main Street at the northwest intersection with No. Oakwood Terrace (see page 5). The old ME building on Church St. was sold to the American Legion. In 1964, the Jewish Congregation of New Paltz purchased it for their Synagogue. They later moved to N. Chestnut Street into what had been Dominick’s Restaurant. Lower right image is the ME building taken in 2020, It appears to be residential.



Top: On the northwest corner of Main & Prospect Streets stood this beautiful Shingle Style Victorian home, the Scudder Residence. One time it was also the home of the President of the Normal School. The porch at left faced Main St. Sometime in the late 1940s or early 1950s a service station was built on the front lawn of the house facing Main St. Then the lovely old house was broken into apartments. In the late 1980s a fire damaged it and the owners decided it was beyond repair. It was demolished and another apartment house was erected on the site. Above: The service station in front of the apartment house was upgraded this year as reflected here. To the right of this service station, but not pictured, is the Adirondack bus station.

Text by Vivian Yess Wadlin. Images (Before) are from her collection, she took all the images (Now) during the summer of 2020. Copyright 2020. Vivian willingly share images as long as credit is provided as follows: From the collection of Vivian Yess Wadlin. viv@abouttown.us 845-691-2089. Published for 37 years. Go online to see more stories of local history.