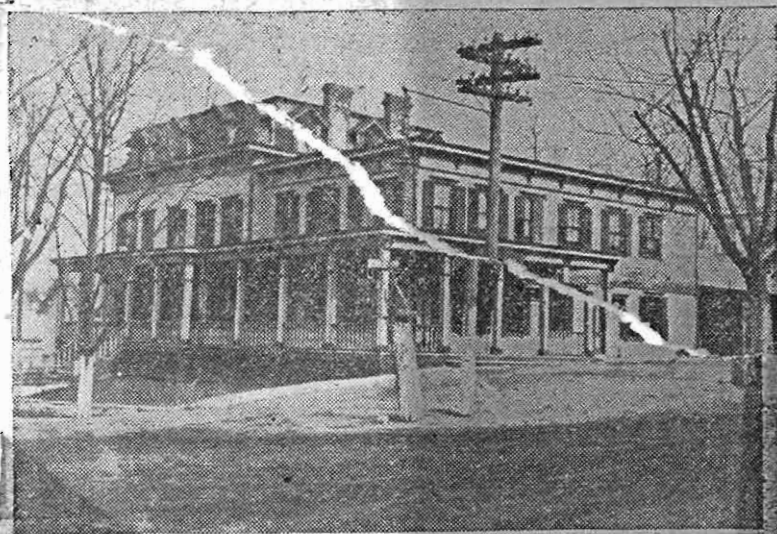


First Fire Co. Organized Here



The Central Hotel pictured above stood on the Northeast Corner of Main Street and Shore Road for many years.

It was built in 1872 by Gideon Seaman. This was about the same time The Bayles Store (Bayles Pharmacy) was built on the Northwest corner, by Alfred C. Bayles. The original Bayles store was destroyed by fire in May 1902 when Port suffered its worst conflagration in its history. Many other stores were burned also but the Central Hotel protected by trees was saved by the hard work of firemen who came from all nearby towns and also from Bayside.

The above photo was taken about the time the "News" was first published. This old 37-room hotel had a ballroom where most of the entertainments and dances were held prior to the opening of the Atlantic Fire House (Old Liberty Hall) in 1891. The Town Board met in this hotel when it rotated from village to village throughout the Town of North Hempstead. Many of the older families in Port first stopped here as summer boarders.

Harold L. Seaman, said this week concerning this photo "when my grandfather died in 1891, my father ran this hotel for about a year. He did not care for the hotel business and my grandmother sold it to Jerry O'Brien who operated the hotel until his death in 1908. When this picture was taken this corner was the busiest place in town with the Bayles Pharmacy across

Shore Road and the Baxter store across Main Street.

Port's first fire Company (Atlantic H and L Co.) held its organization meeting in the billiard room of this hotel. Gideon

the boys would
their hands, thinking there was
a fire in the stove."

The name of the hotel was
changed to Cove in around 1908.
Some of the later proprietors
were Dr. C. H. Perry, and "Pop"
Kenrad. The building was torn
down around 20 years ago.