

## *Arterial Scrapbook No. 16*

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**ON WAY OUT** - Demolition has brought an end to this old hostelry that ranked with the best hotels in this section of the Mohawk Valley during the latter part of the last century. Located on the north side of the New York Central, opposite the passenger station, the travel services were liberally patronized during the days of heavy rail travel. It was operated for years as

Hotel Mitchell, and drew a liberal share of visitors during horse-and-buggy days when livery stables flourished in the Walnut Railroad St. vicinity. The section of the building on the right in the picture was added about 1915 during the proprietorship of John H. Mitchell.  
(Donlon)

## Central Hotel Was Hotel Brunswick When It Was Erected 95 Years Ago

For many years after the railroad was built through this part of the Mohawk Valley (1836) the location of the passenger station had strong influence on the location of Amsterdam hotels.

An 1852 map shows the "Railroad Hotel" near the tracks at the west side of Railroad St., and the immediate area has been the site of a hotel since that time.

Opposite, on the east side of Railroad St., was built in 1871 another hotel by Margaret Fox. It was called "The Brunswick" and it was the scene of important social functions, like the annual dinner of the Amsterdam Canoe Club, for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kline took over on March 16, 1894, and after his death the widow, Jennie Kline, continued operation

until Jan. 8, 1903 when she sold to John H. Mitchell. Mitchell for the five years previous had been running a restaurant in the Corey Bldg. on East Main St. at the Railroad St. intersection.

Hotel Brunswick became "Hotel Mitchell" and on July 24, 1915 was completed an expansion that included 20 additional rooms on the southeast part of the hotel (along Cherry St.)

Also, the old veranda on the south side was replaced and the new floor was of concrete, according to the grand reopening announcement that included: "The cafe department has been enlarged and there is a commodious lounging room in the rear, something the hotel has lacked heretofore."

Thomas Griffin, who had been

operating a cafe on West Main at the Guy St. corner, moved to Hotel Mitchell on Feb. 1, 1922, but after a short administration on Railroad St. he took over the Conrad Hotel on West Main St. west of Market, a site that has been in the Griffin family since that time.

Joseph Sapia purchased the Railroad St. hotel in 1923 and from that time it has been known as the "Central Hotel." So centrally located was the building when the arterial surveyers were looking for the best route to come north from the south side of the Mohawk River there was never doubt that the hotel would be one of the first buildings to go.

The burial plate, if there is one, can read: "1871-1966."