



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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A Wynantskill Landmark

As you drive through Wynantskill, you may notice an empty building which formerly was Roxy Cleaners. While this may not be a "landmark" as mentioned in the title, the building that preceded it certainly was.

A Troy Times Record newspaper article from December 1959 tells the story.

"Once again the old makes way for the new as another of our landmarks soon will be replaced with a modern building.

The Van der Zee house, or more recently known as the Film house, which is located on Main Avenue and Orchard Terrace, has been purchased by a firm which plans to erect a dry cleaners there. Already the former service station has been razed and work has been started on the new building.

Mrs. George Film, former owner of the house is the daughter of Edgar Van der Zee, who purchased the property about 73 years ago from Miss Molly Twiss, whose father was an Indian Trader.

At that time the Twiss farm covered the area from Orchard Terrace to Bellemead Street and extended back into the woods. Mrs. Van der Zee owned and operated a grocery store on Fifth Avenue in Troy, opposite the county jail. Desiring to purchase some land in the county he approached Miss Twiss for a section of her property. At first she was reluctant to sell, but when foreclosure was threatened, Miss Twiss offered Mr. Van der Zee a tenant house, which was located behind the present house, and almost an acre of land.

About 1888, the Van der Zee's brother who was engaged to build the house. Mrs. Film has lived in the old homestead since she was 6 years old and with her sister attended the Wynantskill Public School, which was located on Church Street. Mrs. Film recalls dressing up in Indian costumes which were loaned by Miss Twiss for church plays. She favored especially an authentic war bonnet, which was in that family's possession.

Mrs. Film was married in the old homestead in 1903. The family then moved to Nebraska and to Wyoming where Mr. Film held a position with the Union Pacific Railroad. The family moved back to Wynantskill due to family illness."

So a Wynantskill landmark was taken down for a dry cleaner and now is an empty building.
Progress?

Remember this house? Call me at 283-6384.