

# The Settler's Dream

*A Pictorial History of the Older Buildings of Prince Edward County*

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NM-16

## *Hayes's Tavern* c.1838

Mill Street, Consecon, Hillier Township

Relocated in Waupoos 1970s

The Greek Revival came to Waupoos only recently with the ambitious reconstruction of the hotel that had stood in Consecon for over 120 years. Waupoos, once a sawmilling centre, comprises a collection of later frame houses, but has been given a new architectural focus with the Greek-inspired inn from the opposite end of the County.

That Greek character is expressed in several details: the heavily moulded pediment across the gable ends, the boldly panelled cornice, and the unusual panelled pilasters at each corner of the façade. However, as the two-storey silhouette of the building implies, the old hotel firmly stems from the familiar 'Loyalist' tradition.

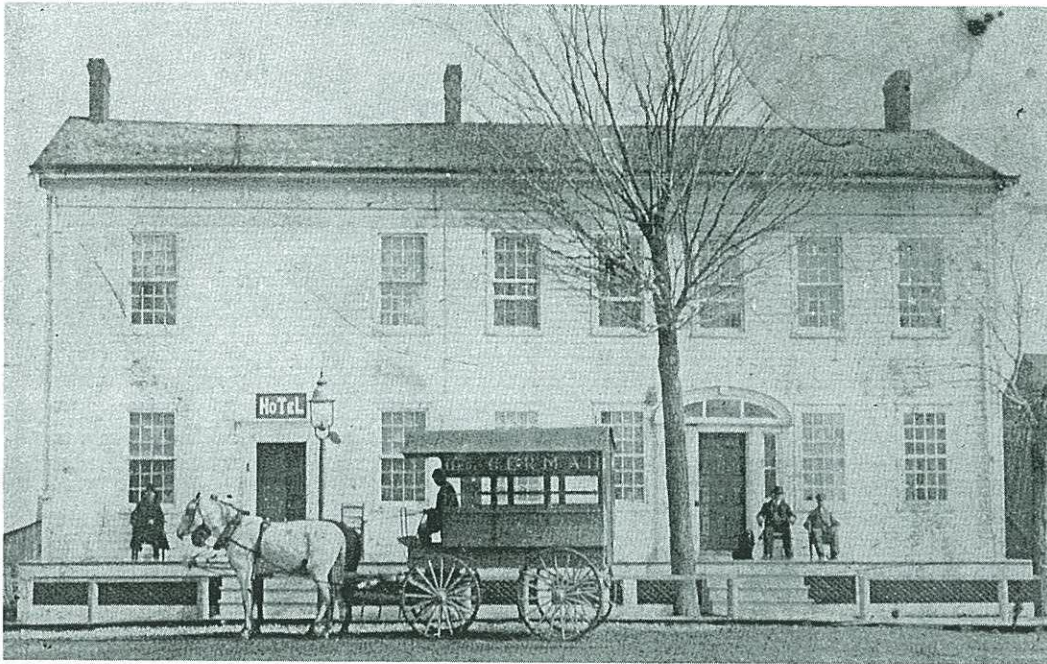
On its original site, the hotel was a major landmark in the heart of Consecon. Standing adjacent to the gristmill and not far from the market square, it typified the arrangement of commercial buildings in a nineteenth century milling village.

A search through registered titles reveals Richard Hayes to be the builder. He acquired the Consecon lot for only £50 in March of 1838, but just three years later when he sold it again, the real estate value had jumped twenty-fold. The 1841 deed describes the interim improvements as "the buildings thereon erected known by the name of Hayes's Tavern . . . with all out buildings consisting of barns stables shed yards and all other opportunances."<sup>18</sup> George Hayes, presumably a relative, was the buyer at the time, retaining the inn until 1847, later appearing as a carpenter and builder.<sup>19</sup> Over the next few decades, the hotel had several owners, including John C. Pennock, J.P.<sup>20</sup> but the proprietor who is best remembered today

18 Deed 3665 dated 9 Oct. 1841.

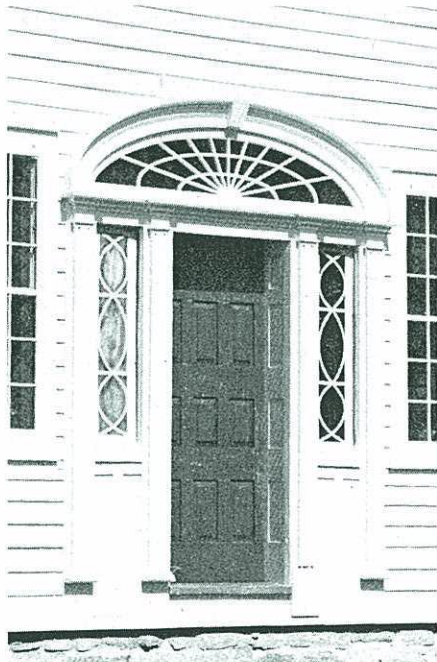
19 Mackay's directory, 1851. It is tempting to suggest Geo. Hayes, as carpenter, could have built the hotel.

20 *The Canada Directory for 1857-58*, pp. 114.

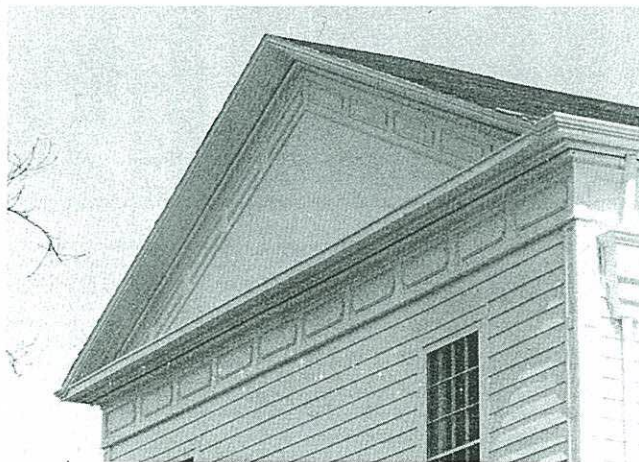


*Hayes's Tavern on its original site in Consecon, in a turn-of-the-century photo. The wing (left) was not included when the building was relocated at Waupoos. (Courtesy Jeanne Minhinnick)*

*Hayes's Tavern reconstructed and ready for occupancy.*



*Little evidence of the original fanlight and sidelight pattern was found but reconstruction was based on the tradition of the 1830s.*



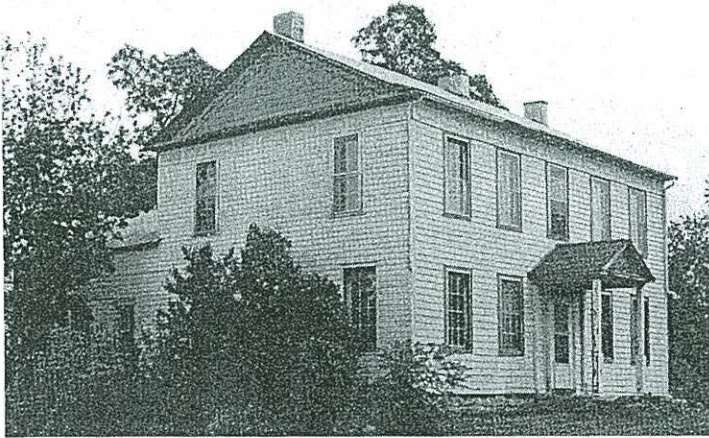
*The pedimented gable is characteristic of the Greek Revival. Panelled frieze to cornice is unusual.*

is Robert Porter who held it from 1869 to 1895. With the decline of milling in Consecon, so went the fortunes of the hotel, and when local option banned the sale of liquor the fate of the old hotel was sealed.

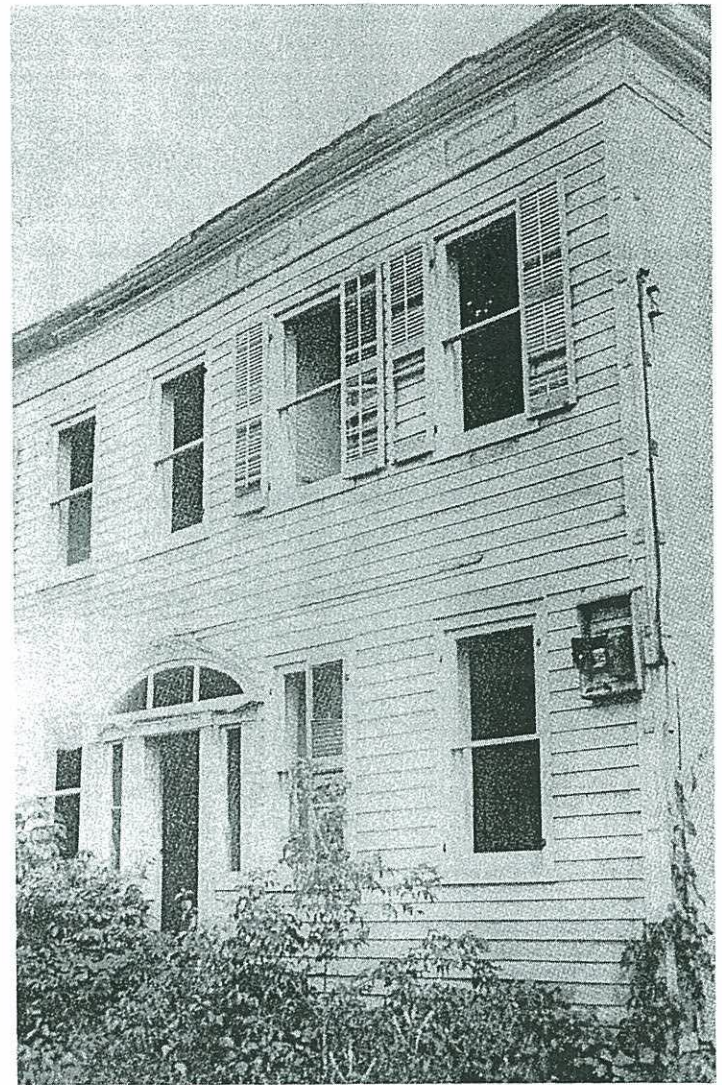
It stood derelict until the mid-1960s, when it caught the eye of the present owner, long an admirer of the quality and beauty of old buildings. The inn was dismantled piece by piece and, over the next decade, working on weekends with friends and neighbours, it was reassembled in Waupoos using as many of the old structural components as possible. The basis of the reconstruction was the original H-shaped 'bents', the massive hewn posts and beams which form the structural skeleton framing the walls and floors of the building. The later side extension, however, was not salvaged for reconstruction.

An old photograph shows that even at the turn of the century, the hotel had lost some significant detail, especially the glazing pattern of the doorcase. The sidelights and fanlight transom have been reglazed to suggest the original, giving the front door its deserved emphasis. Such attention to authenticity extended into restoration of the original cornice gutter, the 'built-in eavestrough' common to the most refined early buildings. The gutter effectively conducts rainwater to metal heads and downspouts at each end of the façade. (See Macaulay House, (PI-7), and Cronk/Brooks/Vincent House,

*The Whittier/Hall House, Consecon is the architectural twin of Hayes's Tavern.*



*Whittier/Hall House, Consecon: a slightly different approach to the Greek Revival with mutules, and guttae represented by drilled holes, to the soffit.*



*Abandoned and badly deteriorated c.1965. (Courtesy Ontario Archives)*

(SO-6). Its form was suggested by a slight jog in the roofline, shaped like a hockey stick, at the point where the roof meets the eaves.

Waupoos is not so 'urban' as Consecon, but the new site of the hotel displays the building to good advantage. Just recently occupied, it faces south on a corner lot, and over the years of reconstruction, the inn has come to dominate the hamlet.

Back in Consecon, where the original site of Hayes's Tavern is now a small park, there still stands a sister building very reminiscent of the hotel in form and detail. Once again, its silhouette suggests the 'Loyalist' style, but the Greek mode inspired much of the detail. Like the hotel, the pediment and panelled frieze are present, but unique to this building are the mutules with drilled guttae below the soffit. Registry records are vague but this appears to have been built as a private residence for Clark Whittier, "issuer of marriage licenses, carriage and sleigh maker and general storekeeper."<sup>21</sup> Its location, secluded between two side streets adjacent to the millpond would seem to preclude any commercial function.

21 *Ibid.*