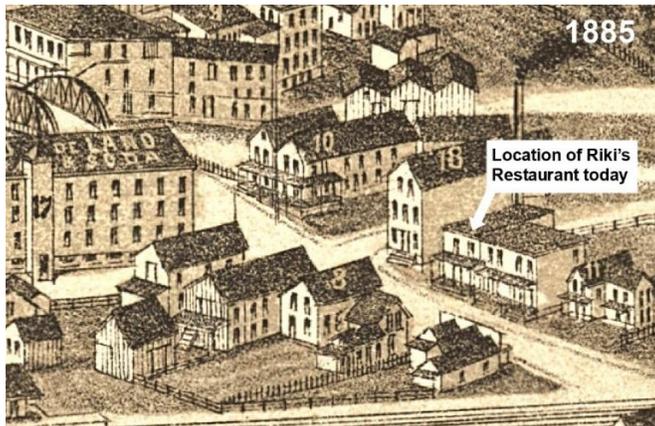


## An Old Building Resides Within Riki's Restaurant

By Bill Poray, Perinton Town Historian

You may have noticed the engraved words high on the façade of the red brick building on North Main Street, the home of a popular village destination, Riki's Family Restaurant. The large rectangular stone panel reads, "Fairport Hotel – 1930." Many, including myself, have taken the sign at face value, and have concluded that the structure was built at that time. As is often the case, it is not that simple. A study of maps, photographs, and items from our old newspapers reveals the rest of the story.



*This small portion of the 1885 Birds-Eye View of Fairport shows a narrow, deep storefront on the lot where Riki's Restaurant is today. The large 3-story building to the south was a mill, relocated in 1911 to allow for construction of the R.S. & E. trolley station.*

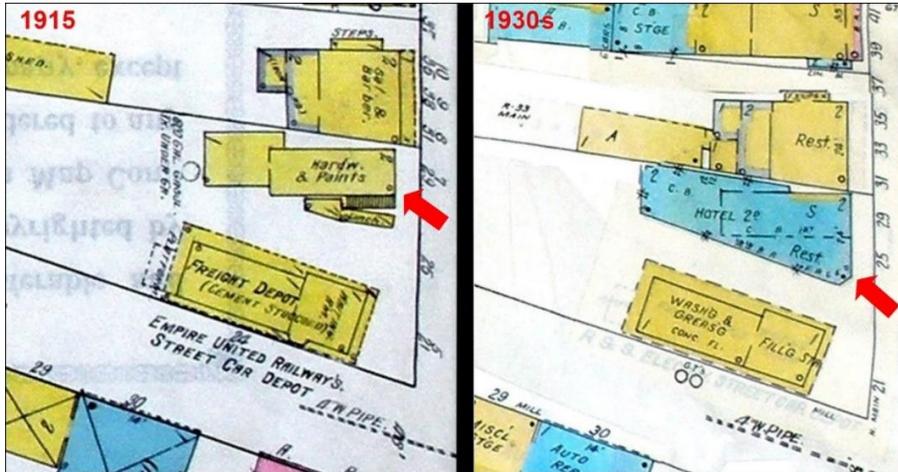
Evidence of a smaller wood-frame building on the site exists in two forms, the 1885 Birds-Eye View of Fairport, and an insurance map of the same year. The map confirms the presence of a meat market in the building. Newspaper articles identify the market was owned by W.H. Jerrells, a farmer and civil war veteran.

*In this 1916 photo, the trolley station is at the left, the building with the low roof is the Trolley Lunch. The narrow building next to it, only two windows in width, one of which is obscured by a utility pole, is the hardware store of H.H. Brydges. This was sold to the Antonakis brothers in 1928. They enlarged the building and added the brick and masonry exterior in 1930, and held their grand opening in March of 1931.*



By 1892, Jerrells moved his meat market to another location, and a hardware store opened on the first floor. The upper level contained a tin shop and billiard hall. The building was purchased in 1910 by H.H. Brydges, who relocated his hardware store from another nearby building. In 1928, Peter, Michael, and Christopher Antonakis purchased the narrow, deep wood-frame building from Brydges. The brothers previously operated a tiny restaurant known as Trolley Lunch, a few steps south of the hardware store. They worked day and night to expand their restaurant in the former hardware store.

The Antonakis brothers were successful, and by the summer of 1930, construction of the new brick building began. The old wood frame hardware store was not torn down, but instead was incorporated into the new building. Evidence of this is found in insurance maps prior to and after the modifications made in 1930. They indicate that the new masonry and brick building was added to the old 1880s structure, which is the north portion of the current Riki’s building.



*A comparison of 1915 [L] and 1930s [R] insurance maps. The later map shows the outline of the old hardware store within the newly modified Antonakis restaurant.*

The grand opening of the Antonakis brother’s new restaurant and hotel occurred in March of 1931. The Fairport Herald-Mail provided a detailed description of the facility, including a dining room with capacity for 100 people, 16 stools at a long oak counter, and “toilet and wash facilities” in the basement. In addition, 12 sleeping rooms and two bathrooms were incorporated into the second floor.

With a healthy dose of hometown pride, the local newspaper gushed, “It is no exaggeration to state that Mr. Antonakis’ new place is not excelled by anything of its kind in any town the size of Fairport, and even in the large cities.”



*A 1960 photo of Fairport Lunch and Hotel, at 25 North Main Street. The right-hand portion of the façade covers the original wood-frame storefront. Note what appears to be a horizontal band of leaded glass windows, probably an architectural feature of the original 1880s building.*

Christopher Antonakis survived his brothers, and retained ownership of the building until his death in 1979. Riki’s opened five years later, and has been a mainstay of the community ever since.