

THE HOMESTEAD HOME OF Archibald Hershey & Elizabeth (Barter) Hershey:::

Niagara River Road north of Thompson:::

The Hershey homestead stood on the river road, downriver from the Stockdale farm. The front of the large home was constructed of brick, with a large front veranda. Attached to the rear of this was a large frame addition. To the back of the home Archibald had his tannery shop. He also had a thriving lumber business, which employed a large number of the blacks who escaped by the underground railway and had settled near his property. He also farmed the lands and raised turkeys for sale. The Hersheys owned over five hundred acres, and were great money lenders.

Mr. Hershey died while just a young man in his 40's. He set out to work in the tannery when a large log rolled over him. His son Ed continued to run the lumber business. One day in 1882 when returning from a business trip to Black Rock, he met his death by accident when the Dummy on which he was travelling, went through the open swing of the International Bridge. Eliza married Archibald Jr. while the family was still at the old homestead, June 9, 1875. The remainder of the girls continued to live on the farm for six years when they were persuaded to move into the village. A great deal of thefting was going on at the time and the girls felt insecure after the tragic loss of their brother. At that time the old home was sold to Henry O'Brien from Buffalo. It was later to become "The Colonial Club". Still later in a very sad condition it was occupied by the Speakman family, and in the late thirties destroyed by an explosion, and fire.