

5289 St. Paul Ave.,  
Niagara Falls, Ont. L2J 2M2  
March 6th, 1981.

Dear Louis:

The enclosed picture is that of the Whirlpool Hotel located on the north west corner of Portage Road and Church's Lane. It is my surmise that Hugh Alexander operated his store in this building or close thereto. This picture probably was taken early in the 1900's as a electric pole is in view. It appears much the same as I can remember going back to 1910. The following write-up is contained in Niagara Falls Canada, a History, published by the Kiwanis Club in 1967.

"One of the best known inns on Portage Road, this hotel was probably built about 1800 by Andrew Roarback. Andrew came to Canada from New Jersey about 1799. He kept a store and conducted a saddley business. He was adjutant of the 2nd Regiment of the Lincoln Militia in 1813-14 and in 1837-38 commanded the Regiment with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. He is listed as one of the trustees for the Glebe Lands of St. John's Church. In 1841, The Erie and Ontario Railway began to operate between Queenston and Chippawa, and he was identified with that enterprise. He was commissioner of the Court of Requests in 1837 and postmaster in 1842. He died in 1845".

I believe i forwarded you a copy of "A survey of the Niagara River" made in 1817. This map showing the location of the store of Mr. Alexander leads me to believe his store was located in the Whirlpool Hotel or nearby.

This photograph was loaned to me by the grandson of a former owner. I copied it on a new Cannon copier which our church resently purchased. I am surprised it copied so well.

Louis

PH