

Three Historic Inns in the Town of Schodack, Rensselaer County, NY

The **Lewis Tavern** was located at the intersection of Routes 9 and 20 (Columbia Turnpike) and Route 150 in the Town of Schodack. The tavern was built around 1801 by the Koon family who owned the tavern until 1827. It was sited by the intersection with Route 150 because that was the “new” road east to Lebanon Springs and Union Village (present-day Nassau).

Jacob Lewis acquired the tavern in 1848 and ran it. After Jacob’s death his wife and subsequently their son Oscar ran the tavern until 1929. In the 1880s the second story porch was added. The use of the tavern by long distance travelers dropped considerably with the building of the Boston and Albany Railroad in the mid-nineteenth century. By 1870 most of the tavern clientele was local.

The tavern closed in the early 1900s. It was sold in 1929, and then used by several different owners as a private residence. The Lewis Tavern was demolished in 1972 for the building of Exit 12 on Interstate 90.

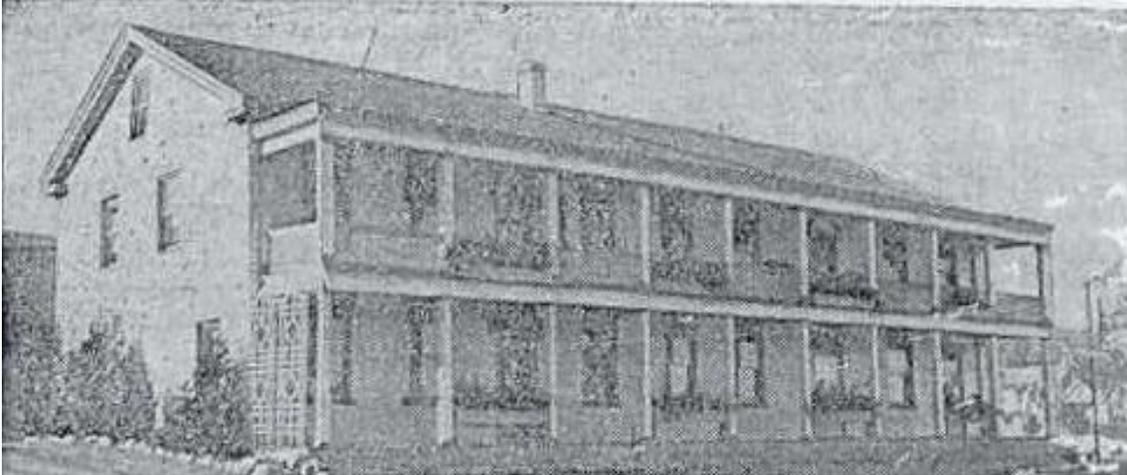
Lewis Tavern



The **Yellow Brick Hotel** is located on Routes 9 and 20 (Columbia Turnpike) near Kraft Road in Schodack and was built in 1816 by John Witbeck. When Witbeck owned the hotel, there was also a wagon shop across the road. The hotel was the site of the first post office in “Schodac”. In 1868 the name of the post office

was changed to “Schodack Centre”. The post office was at the Yellow Brick Hotel, later known as Vandenburg’s Hotel until 1861 when it moved to the Lewis Tavern. In 1953 after being damaged by fire, the porches were removed, and the hotel was remodeled. Now stripped of its yellow paint, the old hotel is used for apartments.

Yellow Brick Hotel



The **Cotton Hotel** was built by James McKown in the 1780s and was located opposite the end of present-day Old Miller Road. McKown, from Ireland, served in Col. Killian Van Rensselaer’s Regiment during the Revolutionary War. The earlier section of the “twin tavern” contained a 40-foot ballroom with an arched ceiling and a fiddler’s bench. The hotel also had impressive fireplaces and mantels. The tavern was demolished in 1954.

Cotton Hotel

