



The W.L. Deegans Hotel at 366 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains. Originally built and opened as an inn in 1737 by John Sutton, it has been known as Ye Olde Historical Inn, the Stanbury Inn, Ye Olde Tavern, Sutton's Tavern, and De Boud's Hotel, but has most recently been known as the Stage House Inn. The history of the site dates back prior to white settlers—during excavation for restoration the remains of a Lene Lenape village was uncovered on these grounds. In fact, quantities of oyster and clam shells were unearthed, proving that these seafood-loving Native Americans camped on this site over long periods of time. The inn became the focal point of local activity, serving not only as a restaurant and inn but also as a post office and political meeting place. Its location on the old York Road (which ran from Elizabethtown to Lambertsville) insured the building's introduction to the commercial world as stage lines reached out between New York and Philadelphia. Sutton's Tavern became a regular port of call on the Swift Sure stage line. During the Revolutionary War, the inn was the chief meeting place for troop messengers and officers. Lafayette and his aids stopped at the hotel when General Washington was encamped nearby. The owner at that time was Colonel Recompense Stanbury II, who had joined Jedidiah Swan's company of local men after he had already been wounded in the Battle of Long Island. During the Civil War, there were rallies here as President Lincoln called up more troops in defense of the Union. This postcard shows the local inn as it appeared in the 1880s.