

33 Railroad Place, Hopewell - Post Office (1947)

Rev. 1/11/2021 c - D. Dixon

Built 1947 for Hopewell Post Office and Carballal's Luncheonette / Grocery Store.
Confusing building now looks like two separate buildings. One-story front faces Railroad Place (33 Railroad, now Art Sparks), with entrance positioned diagonally at corner with Blackwell Avenue. Two-story back half originally was Hopewell Post Office with entrance on Blackwell Avenue with residence above; now has residences facing Cook Place (26 & 32 Blackwell).

Built 1947 - Owned by Carballals?

Front (Railroad)

1947 - 50 = Carballal's Luncheonette (Taxi) [was 25 RR]
1951 - 53 = Selmar's Luncheonette
mid 1950s - 1966/68 - Don & Angie Mollica's ice cream
by 1968 - 70s - Hopewell Auto Parts [Seminary]
by 2020 - Art Sparks

Rear (26 & 32 Blackwell / Cook Place)

1949 - Post Office moves in [was 13 E Broad - now HPL]
c1958 - P.O. moves to 9 S Greenwood [current]
pizza store? Vincent and Mary Scalfani?
by 1959 - Angeline's Clothing, children's clothing
by 1966 - first floor converted to apartments
1970/71 - Clothing store (children's?)



1968 [Gantz]



<p style="text-align: center;">NOTICE!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ITALIAN-AMERICAN GROCERY STORE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT 25 Railroad Place</p> <p>Home-Made Sausage, 26c lb—Fresh every Thursday Complete and New Line of Italian, Spanish and American Foods. —We Serve Sandwiches— Telephone Hopewell 339 (2-21-4(1-1tp) JOSE CARBALLAL</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CARBALLAL'S TAXI Service LICENSED TAXI Call Hopewell 339 Taxi Stand 25 Railroad Place</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We sell Breyer's Ice Cream to take out 1-24-1946</p>
<p>[HH 2/28/1940]</p>	<p>[HH 10/23/1946]</p>

Chronology from Bob Gantz Family Photo Collection

 <p>Hopewell Post Office (left), June 1958 [Gantz]</p>	 <p>Post Office and ice cream store, 1958 [Gantz]</p>
 <p>Clothing store (left), still Breyers ice cream sign (right), 1959 or later [Gantz]</p>	 <p>Hopewell Auto Parts (right), fall 1968 [Gantz]</p>
 <p>Right side painted, 1971 [Gantz]</p>	 <p>Tudor style, side door closed in, corner door diagonal, 1977 [Gantz] (Tudor by 1973, side door after 1973, corner door after 1971)</p>

Chronology

Post Office had entrance on Blackwell to the right of two long horizontal windows. Moved from old National Bank building (current Hopewell Public Library), where it had been since 1915. Store in front had Breyers ice cream sign (with the distinctive green leaf) above corner entrance.

Jose Carballal previously ran the Italian-American Grocery Store next door (25 Railroad) through the 1940s ("We sell Breyer's Ice Cream to take out"), and also operated a taxi service from there. The Carballals occupied the second floor apartment above the back half of the new building, and apparently owned the entire building (it was called the Carballal Building in 1950).

The front became Selmar's Luncheonette and pizza store (including 1961 - 63), and then became Mollica's ice cream store (through 1966/68), run by Don & Angie [Arena] Mollica.

Mollica's ice cream store, remembered by Bob Gantz:

The east side had two full length marble counters with round stools, all the beautiful stainless store fixtures for ice cream, soda, and other cold items, and on the south side behind the other counter was where they cooked food such as hamburgers, etc. The west and north sides of the room were lined with "booths" and built in tables for people to sit in. Each booth had a "miniature" jukebox that was hooked up to the main large jukebox on the floor. It was a booming place for kids. They also had two pinball machines back in the south west corner.

The Post Office moved out around 1958 to its current location at 9 South Greenwood. By 1959, the first floor of the back half of the building was Angeline's Clothing, a children's clothing store run by Angie Mollica.

By 1966, the first floor was converted to apartments, but the front corner still had the Breyers ice cream sign. By 1968 the front corner became Hopewell Auto Parts, before the business moved back to 11-13 Seminary Avenue in the 1970s. (Around that time, the entire exterior also was redecorated in a "Tudor" style, white with brown cross-beams.)

After further renovations, the front half is Art Sparks, now looking like a separate building, and with an angled door, changed in the mid 1970s. Sometime after 1977, the door facing Blackwell on the back was closed up, and all the windows were changed to standard double-hung, resulting in the building that we now know.

References [Hopewell Herald]

Front (Railroad)

December 1947 - **Carballal's Luncheonette** / Grocery Store opens [HH 12/3/1947]
(Jose Carballal - Italian-American Grocery Store previously at 25 Railroad [HH 2/28/1940], also ran " only regular taxi service in Hopewell" from same location [HH 1/30/1946])
1951 - Carballal's Taxi Service ad / Post Office Building [HH 12/12/1951]
through 1950 - Carballal's Taxi & Luncheonette ad / Post Office Building [HH 12/20/1950]
1950 - Blaze Threatens Carballal Building - Mr and Mrs Jose Carballal's dwelling, corner of Blackwell avenue and Railroad Place - post office, luncheonette, apartment [HH 1/18/50]
1951 - **Selmar's Luncheonette**/ Next to Post Office / Formerly Carballal's [HH 5/31/1951]
1951 - Selmar's Luncheonette ad / Corner of Railroad Place and Blackwell Avenue [HH 10/24/1951]
thru 1953 - Selmar's Luncheonette ad / serving Tomato Pies / opp Railroad station [HH 12/2/1953]
mid 1950s - 1966/68 - Don & Angie **Mollica's ice cream store** [photo]
by 1968 - 1970s - **Hopewell Auto Parts** [from/to 11-13 Seminary] [photo]
1970/71 - Clothing store (children's?) [photo]

Rear (26 & 32 Blackwell / Cook Place)

1949 - 1 - **Post office** to move Jan 1 - needs special safe [HH 12/1/1948] [was 13 E Broad - now HPL]
1958 - P.O. moves to 9 S Greenwood [current]
pizza store? Vincent and Mary **Scalfani**? [OH]
by 1959-63+ - **Angeline's Clothing**, children's clothing store run by Angie Mollica [photo]
by 1966 - first floor converted to apartments [photo]