

**The Jake Brabble Store
(also Delamar Brothers Store)
presently
The Trawl Door Restaurant**

This building has a rich history not only as one of Oriental's oldest commercial structures but also as a long lasting grocery and mercantile/hardware store. Construction began in 1913 and the building was finished in 1915. The building was built by Team Haskins, who along with his sons, Howard and Fred, ran the business.

The Haskins had the business until the 1920's when it changed to the hands to Captain Joe Roberts for a short period of time. It was then sold to W.J. Brabble in the late 1920's. The store continued to offer hardware, seed, feed and fertilizer while adding New Perfection oil stoves and furniture.

When Brabble died in 1946, his wife Emily ran the store for about a year before selling it to Paul and Vivian Delamar and Ned Delamar. The Delamars added on to the store and began to sell appliances and shoes. In 1949-50, the Rural Electrification Association (REA) had "powered up" parts of the area. Demand for electrical appliances increased.

The building is constructed fully from brick, there is a stepped parapet running along either side plus a facade marked by identical brick panels. The building had a large metal overhang in front that served as an awning for shade and also could be let down for hurricane protection for the oversized display windows. In the front of the store were a number of metal chairs plus Pepsi and Coke machines selling soft drinks for 5 cents. It was here that the discussions between the men occurred. Discussions covered a wide range of topics: politics, agriculture, fishing, baseball, and a host of others pertinent to the times and the community. From 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the chairs were full. About 3:00 p.m., the men would return picking up where they left off.

As time passed, the Delamars added groceries and meats to their line of products. The carried Fashion Craft shoes for ladies and Bob Smart shoes for men and Lion Brand work boots for men. The store was one of the first self service grocery stores complete with push carts. It was also possible the store housed the first television in the county, a Philco.

In 1965, Paul died of a heart attack and shortly after, it was decided that it would be best that the store be sold. In September 1966, Dick Walker purchased the store and opened Walker's General Merchandise. The shoes and clothing lines were discontinued in favor of more space for hardware. Groceries and top of the line meats and locally grown produce were still sold. And the gathering of men still continued to get together to talk about the topics of the day.

Walker decided to sell in 1977 and relocate his business to another area of town. This new location became Village Hardware. The building was purchased by Jim Moye and two partners. Part of the building was converted into a tavern. Bobby Prescott leased the other part of the building for a restaurant called The Trawl Door.

During restaurant renovations, a brick was found with a message written on it. "Dear Hubert, Sorry I kicked you so bad and took your wife." It was dated 1915. Some of the bricks used in the building came from a factory in Vanceboro and perhaps that's where the "note brick" came from.

In 1980, Prescott decided to get out of the restaurant business and Moye and his partners continued it. As of today, the Trawl Door is owned by Jim Moye and the tavern has been moved from its original location in the back to the front of the building.

As you enter the restaurant, two 19th century church pews are there for anyone to sit and relax before dinner. Guests enter the dining room through two trawl doors, giving the restaurant its name. A trawl door can be found on a trawling boat. These heavy wooden doors drag along the bottom and keep the nets open. They are fastened to the end of the outriggers that lower the nets into the water.

In the dining room at the end of each table is a section of pilings from a 19th century pier. In the back of the restaurant, the beams are actually old telegraph poles from Halifax County. The walls on each side of this part of the restaurant were actually walls from old slave quarters also located in Halifax County.

The lounge was added in 1991. On the walls are artifacts from several former landmarks of Oriental. Of note is an original advertisement for the Breeze Inn circa 1930.

The Trawl Door is proud to be a part of Oriental's rich history. Jim Moye and the Staff congratulate the Town of Oriental on its Centennial and look forward to being a part of this community in the future.