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Tellers Chophouse, 605 Main St., Islip, 631-277-7070

Tellers Chophouse serves its juicy steaks in a converted 1927 bank building, where wine now is cellared in the old safe. The airy, high-ceilinged main dining room is illuminated via 30-foot windows and decorated with Art Deco friezes. The look is solid as stone: a temple to beef -- and to what banks looked like before they needed a government bailout. Pass the butter and the gold bar. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

(Newsday Photo / Thomas A. Ferrara / November 13, 2008)