

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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ART AND ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES IN THE HISTORIC COURT HOUSE DISTRICT



"Visions of poets and mystics are not delusions but glimpses of reality. We are all of us participants in a world of concrete music, geometry, and lumber - a world of odors, forms, motions, colors and mathematically related and coordinated that surround our pygmy bodies, equally with the farthest star, and vibrate with the music of the spheres. There is a beautiful Necessity which rules the world, which is a law of nature and equally a law of art, for art is a realized creation: nature carried to a higher power by reason of its passage through a human consciousness."

Claude Bragdon

The Orleans County Department of History is pleased to announce the completion of a photo exhibit on "Art and Architectural Treasures In The Historic Court House District, Albion N.Y." The exhibit is mounted on four 24x36 inch panels covered with plexiglass, each of which stands on an easel. The forty seven pictures are the work of local photographer Dr. James Orr. Most are in color although a few are in black and white. The purpose of this exhibit is to point out some of the more artistic and unique art and architectural features of the historic Court House District. All seven churches are represented with mostly interior shots which

either take in panoramic views or focus on works of art such as stained glass, mosaics, sculpture, murals or architectural details. Public buildings represented include the Court House, Clerk's Office, Swan Library and Post Office. A couple of residences which are architecturally important along with the Merrill-Grinnell Funeral Home are also pictured.

This exhibit portrays the functional as well as the decorative features of the Historic Court House District which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. We can see through these photos the religious, social and the economic history of the county seat. The purpose is to look at ourselves more closely, to see and appreciate what we have in our very midst which is often taken for granted. The exhibit was not designed with the intent that it should travel outside the county, but rather, to be used locally. Therefore, it is now available to local churches, schools, libraries, banks, etc. where it might be seen by the public. To make arrangements for borrowing this display on a first come first serve basis, please contact the County Historian at 589-9510. In Claude Bragdon's terms, what you will be looking at is the Beautiful Necessity.