

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XIII

6-4-91

No. 22

FRIENDSHIP MANOR ON HOUSE TOUR

On Saturday, June 1 the Cobblestone Society will hold a tour of homes in the Albion area from Noon - 5 p.m. Tickets may be purchased the day of the tour either at the Cobblestone Museum in Childs, N.Y. or the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion. This year's tour includes the interiors of six private homes, the DAR Chapter House and a cobblestone masterpiece from the exterior. Tour tickets also include the seven museum buildings at the Cobblestone Museum Complex. Members of the Pullman Church will also be serving a light lunch June 1 from 11 - 2 p.m. With the purchase of a tour ticket, one will receive a booklet giving a map for locations of all stops on this self-guided tour plus information on the architecture of each home.

One of the highlights of this year's tour will be Friendship Manor pictured above as it appeared around 1900 when it was the home of Joseph S. and Harriet A.C. Hart. This large Italianate house located at 349 South Main Street in Albion is now the residence of Jack and Marilyn Baker who operate a bed and breakfast out of it.

As we examine more closely this old photo, we notice that there are two houses in the picture. Friendship Manor, the large red brick house is seen in the center, while a smaller older Federal Style house appears to the rear. This older house was built between 1820-23 by Joseph Hart and took the place of a log cabin which he had erected in 1811 as an early settler. In 1920 this house was moved down the street to its present location at 323 South Main Street. Presently, it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Starkweather. It functioned however, as the Hart residence until 1880 when Joseph S. Hart, a son of the original settler decided to build a new home for his wife Harriet A. Cole Hart. At that time the old Federal Style house was moved back on the lot just a short distance so that the original site might be used for the brick house. At the time Mr. Hart ran a large farm which also included a huge set of barns which partially show in the picture.

While Friendship Manor, from its exterior, gives a characteristic appearance of being Italianate, it



is certainly transitional architecture with many Eastlake influences. Charles Eastlake, an English architect and furniture designer, influenced American household design during the fourth quarter of the 19th century. Eastlake characteristics include a rectilinear approach to design with incised details. These are both features of the architecture and furniture. Hence, the decorative brick work on this house. Eastlake buildings will also frequently include roofs with gables and many angles to the sky line.

The house has some interesting brick work on it including panels under second floor windows and bricks which are painted black. The lintels over the windows are unusual in that they are a combination of brick and castiron with alternating black and natural red brick in a keystone design. The double windows are a characteristic feature of Italianate houses. Incidentally, the black bricks are original. The house was stained upon completion, perhaps using brick dust to color the mortar joints like the brick. A fine bead of light colored mortar was then added to give each brick a precise appearance.

The character of the house was somewhat altered when a large porch of massive proportions was added during the earlier part of this century. This took the place of a much smaller, more delicate porch which shows above.

Inside, the front hall exhibits a staircase in the Eastlake Style and corresponding woodwork. The living room which was originally two rooms, was changed in the early part of the century with the addition of a huge stone fireplace reminiscent of those seen in Dutch paintings of the Renaissance.