

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

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## COURTHOUSE HISTORIC MARKER



front entrance indicating the members of the board, building committee, architect, contractor, etc. The Courthouse never had one, probably because back at the time it was built they just didn't do that sort of thing. With increased tourist interest in the Historic Courthouse District, it seems appropriate to draw attention to this landmark. In fact, I feel it's long overdue. As County Historian I've tried to promote interest in this district as a local attraction and do frequently conduct tours of several of the churches and Courthouse for groups by pre-arrangement. These tours point out the significant art and architecture as well as historical highlights and interesting anecdotes. But, for the casual onetime passerby, there really isn't much information which tells about the unique heritage of our Courthouse District. By placing markers at various locations people can at least learn some basic local history about the county.

Since the county cannot afford to buy a lot of these at one time, Legislator Frank Berger suggested to me that other organizations might be willing to buy them if I were to approach them. Consequently, the marker for the Courthouse was obtained by OCHA. I am also pleased to announce that Christ Episcopal Church will procure one to designate the historic significance of their edifice. Likewise, the Orleans County Department of History has plans for erecting one concerning the Sandstone Industry location for which has been approved by the First Presbyterian Church of Albion. Plans for other markers at the Historic Courthouse District include the home of Gov. Rufus Bullock, one for John Cunneen and one at the Cooperative Extension denoting the one-time major canning business in the county. Existing markers at the district include one at Merrill-Grinnell Funeral Home about Sanford E. Church; one at the Free Methodist Church and one at the Pullman Memorial Church. Once all the markers are in place, a walking tour of the Historic District will be much more informative. Any organization interested in providing an historic marker, not just for the Courthouse District, but anywhere in the county, is asked to contact the county historian for coordination.

As part of the opening of Albion's Strawberry Festival, an historic marker will be dedicated on the courthouse lawn June 14 at 5 P.M. Participating in the dedication ceremony will be Hon. James P. Punch, County Judge; Dr. Neil Johnson, Albion Village Historian and C.W. Lattin, County Historian.

The traditional state marker painted blue and yellow states: "Orleans County Courthouse Erected 1857-58 for \$20,000 in the Greek Revival Style. Building Comm: Lyman Bates, Henry King, Charles Baker. Architect: Wm. V.N. Barlow." The credit line states: "Orleans Co. Historical Assoc."

Markers of this type are produced in aluminum and cast at the Walton-East Branch Foundry at Walton, N.Y. for \$345.00.

Nowadays, when municipal buildings are erected, we can usually find a plaque near the