

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XV

6-11-93

No. 19

FROM FOURTH GRADE PERSPECTIVE

On May 20 I had the distinct privilege and pleasure of conducting a guided tour of Albion for fourth grade students from the Village Elementary School in Hilton. According to one of their teachers, Mr. Daryl DuPre, these pupils have done a unit of study this year on local styles of historic architecture. He feels that Albion is one of the best places to see all the various styles they had learned about. Much to my delight, these kids could tell the difference between an Ionic column and a Doric column. They knew the characteristics of Second Empire, Queen Anne and Gothic Revival. They were alert and well informed because of preceding instruction. Therefore, these students have an appreciation and better understanding of local history, thanks to not only Mr. DuPre but also Mrs. Elaine Mack Cook and Mrs. Beverly Thompson. Mrs. Cook wrote me as follows: "The children's comments indicated that they felt it was one of the best field trips they have ever experienced...this was truly the most wonderful way to 'top off' our year-long study of architecture."

We began the tour by first visiting the Orleans Chapter DAR House followed by a walking tour of the Albion Business District and Court House Square. Here they visited four churches, the Court House and Post Office, plus they saw a number of other buildings from the exterior which were described to them. Parts of the tour were video taped so the students could review what they had seen and so they could take copies home for their parents to see. Indeed, these are our architectural preservationists of tomorrow. Just a few days after this visit to Albion I received the nicest packet of letters from the students. Here are excerpts from some of the letters:

May 21, 1993

Dear Mr. Lattin,

Thank you for showing us around Albion. I really enjoyed playing the pipe organ.

I learned a lot about churches, the Court House and many other things too!

I can't believe the cost of houses in the 1800's!

Sincerely,
Michelle Roller

I enjoyed going into all the churches and learning about what they were made of and what type of church they were. I enjoyed seeing the huge Queen Anne houses.

I learned that a person climbed the huge Presbyterian Church on the steeple and stood upside down at the top and shouted "Hurray for Grant", because U.S. Grant was president at the time. I also enjoyed going into the courtroom and looking at the huge columns and how big the windows were.

Sincerely,
Amanda Poole

Thanks for volunteering your time for us. It payed because you taught us a lot.

The DAR House was very interesting. I like the fire extinguisher. It was a great idea. I didn't know that the four columns that held up the top of the stairs, was the only house that had that. That house was interesting.

I also liked the church in the shape of a cross. I learned a lot in that church.

I liked the whole tour.

Your friend,
Gareth Schutt

Thank you for the information on architecture. I enjoyed walking through the buildings and seeing how much work that went into them, it must have had to be a lot.

My most favorite house was the Queen Anne. It had so much detail on it.

Your friend,
Jenny Welch

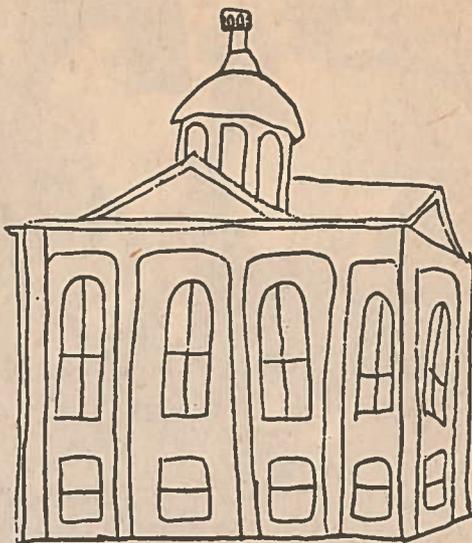
I really liked the church where the man stood on top of the steeple and stood on his head. I thought that was cool. I also liked the pipe organs that you showed us. The stained glass was very prettv. Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Rebecca Smalley

Thank you for volunteering to take us around Albion to show us different kinds of architecture.

I also liked the DAR House with the cases filled with antiques. I also liked the mural in the post office.

Sincerely,
Justine Shutt



*Orleans County Courthouse
Amanda Poole*

I liked the churches. I really liked the marble in the one church. I liked the stained glass windows.

Your friend,
Paul Colburn

Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to talk to us. First I liked the Presbyterian Church with the steeple. The Court House with the 40 foot high columns was my favorite. I liked the DAR because of the hand carved railing. The stained glass windows in the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church were pretty.

Sincerely,
Michael Sanger

Our favorite church was the Pullman Church. We enjoyed seeing and hearing the pipe organ. We learned about pieces of architecture that we had never seen before. We enjoyed learning about Tiffany glass. We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,
Annmarie Schimmel
Crystal Reynolds
Jessica Murdock
J.J. Key

Thank you for showing us the architecture in Albion. It was very interesting! The houses were terrific! Everything else was too. It was very hard to believe that the Free Methodist Church was oldest Free Methodist Church in the world. The pipe organ was very cool also. I liked the story about the kids that sat on the stone and the man who stood on his head on top of the church.

Sincerely,
Lee McOmber
Sisca Largares
Rachel Steinberg
Jim Sprating

We thought the Courthouse was interesting. We noticed the huge Corinthian Columns. My group also noticed the dentil work, moldings, pediment and frieze boards. We're really thankful about all the time you put into this!

Sincerely,
Joli Trotto
Jennifer Fiorino
Kelly Hull, and
Erin Hynes