

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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INSIDE THE ORLEANS



During the past ten days much has been written and televised about the terrible conflagration which struck the old Orleans Hotel (Henri's Inn) on April 1st. The three-story brick and cut Medina Sandstone hotel was erected in 1862-63 by C.A. Harrington. It opened for business in late April 1863.

Our two interior pictures were taken after 1920 when A.R. Dunshee ran the hotel. One shows the hotel lobby and register desk in the rear. The other picture gives us a clear impression of the barroom during prohibition. Note that there are no liquor bottles while a large gumball machine stands on the bar. We notice two spittoons and the general absence of bar stools. The ceiling is pressed metal

and is painted a dark color. The bar and back bar are both extraordinary pieces of cabinetry work. In a far corner is a wooden cooler. The general atmospheric character in these rooms is what Ex-President Taft would have seen when he stayed over night here on March 8, 1920.

Not only has Albion lost a piece of history, but also a building of architectural value in the Italianate Style. Another significant loss is the bronze benchmark which was attached to the east side of the building. Such bench marks indicate elevation and serve as a stationary point of reference from which surveys and measurements may be made. Tampering with such bearings ordinarily subjects a violator to fine.