

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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THE DEPOT



The Murray Holley Historical Society will hold a grand opening ceremony for the Depot in Holley on Sunday, July 31 from 2 until 4 o'clock. It must be with extreme satisfaction that this organization can now say "we did it." The establishing of a society, the moving of a large building and its complete restoration are major accomplishments. Vision, leadership, foresight, persistency, goal setting, community cooperation and down right hard work are the ingredients in a recipe for such a successful project as the Depot. This museum and historical research center not only has saved a portion of our local architectural heritage but will serve as an educational institution for generations to come.

It is the embodiment of the Murray Holley community and serves as a focal point for all who pass. The success of the project engenders those values we hold dear and often fear are missing in today's society. Let me simply state: the people of Murray & Holley can be very proud of their new museum, not only for what it will be able to do, but what it basically says about them as people of this community in the late 20th century. It is an example of what other communities might well emulate.

The Murray Holley Historical Society was established in 1985. In 1987 they decided to move

them by Diaz Chemical Co. In March 1988 the move took place thus relocating the Depot on its present site near the Jubilee Super Market in downtown Holley. In need of extensive restoration, Crawford and Stearns, architects of Syracuse, were engaged to make specifications. Grants were received from the Gannett Foundation, the Curtis Foundation, N.Y.S. Council on the Arts, N.Y.S. Discretionary Grant and Natural Heritage Trust. Fund raising projects and individual donations have brought this project to fruition.

The waiting room will be a display center to exhibit local historical artifacts. The ticket office has become an interpreting center for genealogical and local history research. The baggage room has been turned into office and storage space.

A cellar now provides space for lavatories, kitchen, workroom and meeting room. The Depot did not originally have a basement. Regular museum hours have yet to be established but it is anticipated that the museum will be open perhaps three days a week.

The Depot was built in 1907 and closed in 1954. The last passenger service on the N.Y. Central line through Orleans County was continued how-
December 1957.