

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## HOLLEY SCENE



This turn of the century photo was taken on State Street or what is now Mechanic Street in the Village of Holley. The photographer pointed his camera looking directly east to capture this moment in time. Clearly visible is the sign on the building which states: "F.W. DONOHUE. HORSE SHOING AND REPAIRING." On the back side of the photo someone, a long time ago, wrote down and identified the individuals standing in the picture. They are: Joseph Haight (man in middle), Mag (horse), Frank (Duff) Donohue (on the right) owner of shop, Andy Jenks (on the left).

The 1903 Orleans County Directory lists two of the people. We find one under Holley "Donohue, Frank W. blacksmith, State" and on under Murray "Haight, Joseph W., blacksmith and farmer." We notice that all three are wearing the typical blacksmith garb of leather aprons and short sleeves. Next to the shop are several wooden spoke wheels. As was the custom, most blacksmiths were also wheelwrights or at least, could fix the heavy metal wheel rims when needed.

The blacksmith was indeed, the forerunner of the present day service station operator. Both quarried stone buildings still remain on Mechanic Street although very much disguised from what we see here. The building to the far left which shows a partial sign in the window and the former blacksmith shop are now the Holley Speed Queen Coin Laundry. To the right, in the distance, we can still see the house which appears in this old photo. It is now painted a brownish yellow color. In the middle ground we can just barely see some lumber stacked up which was on the grounds of the Murphy Lumber Co. when it also had buildings on the east side of Mechanic Street.

Although it doesn't show in this photo, the old loop of the Erie Canal was between the stacked lumber and the afore mentioned yellow house. In fact, the house on its high foundation was actually quite close to the canal.

To help you better locate this scene today, the blacksmith shop was just two doors off the Square or immediately behind the present day tavern on the corner.