

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## A JOB WELL DONE



Last Summer when driving on the Maple Ridge Road in the Town of Shelby, I noticed a remodeling project under way at the old Pettit farm residence just west of the municipal water tank. Now, in my way of thinking, this house is an outstanding architectural specimen which retains much of its original fabric and integrity. To my surprise and discouragement, the old front porch had been torn off and was lying in a heap on the front lawn. I thought to myself, well here goes another fine old home, being wrecked by new owners who should have built a new house instead. As I drove on, I grumbled to myself about people who have no sympathy and no understanding of historic or beautiful buildings, and figured if the porch were replaced, it would probably be with some awful looking atrocity.

In a few weeks when driving by this place again, I could see from the road some nice stone work being laid up for a new porch deck. I then thought to myself, well, maybe I was too hasty in judging these people. Several weeks went by before I had an opportunity to pass this place again. When I did; I was totally impressed with the renovation work which had been undertaken with the porch. I thought who ever was involved with this, needs some accolades and maybe others can learn by a good example.

Upon finding out who lives there, I called Tim Enderby one day to introduce myself. He promptly told me "Lisa's mother designed the porch". I said "Who is Lisa's mother?" He replied "Bonnie Hartway". At that point it all began to make sense to me. I know that Bonnie Hartway has a great deal of sensitivity for architecturally significant historic buildings. She is an associate of Architect Jim Cooper in Medina, working for him as an architec-

tural designer.

As to the porch, Bonnie did her homework so as to have it look right when restored. The former porch was removed because of serious water damage and it was not the original one on the house. Bonnie had already designed what you see in the photo before the former porch was removed. A "ghost" of the original was behind it all revealing an outline which Bonnie's drawings matched. You see, she knows what she's doing!

The house which was probably built in the 1850's is what we might call a transition piece. It has both original Greek Revival details and Italianate details. The pilasters are certainly Greek in origin while the overhang has the typical Italianate brackets. The former porch had been extended beyond the pilasters thus covering them. Bonnie, in her plans, recessed the porch to its original location.

The columns used here in the Greek styling, came off Laurita Payjack's home. This is especially meaningful to Lisa as Mrs. Payjack was her grandmother. Indeed, there is something to be said for recycling architectural house parts.

The actual construction work on the porch was done by two local firms. Bradley Rath did the cut stone restoration and the Zacher Bros. Construction Co. did the carpentry. In summation, Tim and Lisa have ended up with a beautiful restored front porch which will add beauty to their home for a life time. Bradley Rath and the Zacher Brothers can be very proud of their skills. This is certainly a testimony of quality work for future restoration projects. And finally, never but never, underestimate the professional consultation services of an architectural designer.