

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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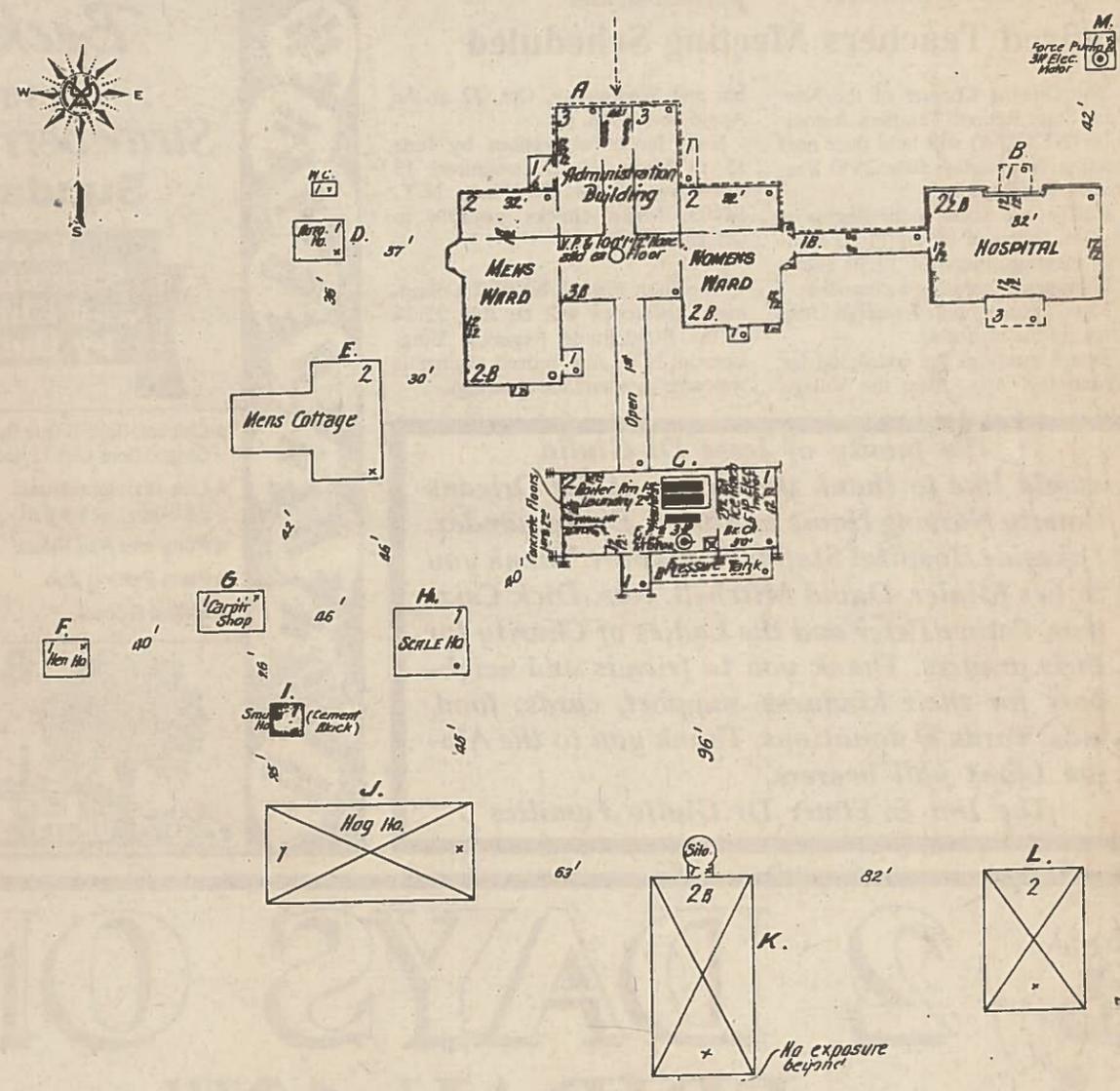
HISTORICAL HOUSE PROGRAM JUNE 13

On Friday evening, June 13 I will present a slide/lecture program on the theme "A House For Everything" at the Pullman Memorial Universalist Church in Albion beginning at 7:30 p.m. This history program will be preceded at 7:00 p.m. by a half hour of piano and organ music provided by Richard Della Costa. The history program and musical introduction is free to the public. The Orleans County Quilt Guild will also be sponsoring a quilt show and sale at the Pullman Church during Albion's Strawberry Festival June 13 and 14.

Let me now refer your attention to the map which is pictured here. This has been taken from the Underwriter map of 1917 and shows the configuration of buildings at the old Orleans County Home which was located on County House Road. Many of the structures on this map are referred to as some kind of house while others may not be noted as such. Those labeled as a house include: Auto house, Hen house, Smoke house, Scale house, and Hog house. The building noted as W.C. was an out-house and the building for the force pump was the Pump house. The Administration building including the Men's Ward and Women's Ward was called the County House or Alms House or disparagingly referred to as the Poor House. Behind it was a separate building known as the boiler house. Just around the grounds, this map shows there are at least nine different kinds of houses, indeed, there is a house for everything, (well almost).

After completion of the new County Infirmary in 1960, the old County House, hospital and boiler house which are showing on this map, were razed. The site was then developed into the County Civil Defense Center.

The first County House was erected on County House Road in 1830. In 1878 the original building was torn down and the one shown on the map was erected in its place.



In 1903 the hospital building was erected to the east of the County House and connected with a breezeway. For many years the county ran a farm here which in essence was a self-sufficient operation to support the infirmed, as the various houses indicate. Hence, the residents were eating home-grown pork as the hog house and smoke house indicate. The hen

house suggests residents of the County House were also eating chickens and eggs which were produced on the grounds. The barns also suggest home-grown beef and sheep which would have been fed from hay and grain raised on the county farm.

There is a lot of local history through houses. The slide/lecture

program on Friday, June 13 will only be a sampling of what to expect in a future publication on this theme. The children's edition of "A House For Everything" will be available for sale at \$3.25 per copy. This has recently been published by the Cobblestone Society and is an attempt to get children interested in old buildings and local history.