

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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FAMILIAR SITE/UNFAMILIAR SCENE



It's doubtful if very many people will recognize this site from our turn-of-the-century photo. Today it is a high traffic area and what is now located here is quite widely known to children, their parents and tourists alike. In the foreground of the photo we see the Oak Orchard River Road which places this scene in the Town of Carlton.

The white building pictured is the First Presbyterian Church of Carlton which was erected in 1854. Notice to the left and behind the meeting house as it was known, the church sheds. These served as shelter for horses and carriages especially during inclement weather while people attended services. The two front doors on the church, perhaps indicate that women went in one door, the men in the other. A post lamp for kerosene lighting appears in front of the stoop. Indeed, this is a fine Greek Revival meeting house as it appears here. The barns and board fence to the right are that of the Simpson Farm as it was

then.

The Presbyterian Church of Carlton was organized in 1841 and disbanded around 1917. Eventually, the meeting house and property reverted back to the parcel of land (the Simpson Farm) from which it had been taken. In subsequent years the old meeting house became a farm storage building but remained as a landmark in the neighborhood although neglect took its course.

Eventually, this building and the adjoining barns were purchased by the Brown Family and in 1959 the old Presbyterian Meeting House was torn down. In fact, none of the buildings in the picture are there today.

So what place is it? This is now the site of Brown's Berry Patch on Route 18.

My thanks to Ruth Brown for the loan of this photo.

NOTICE Tour of Mt. Albion Cemetery Sat., Oct. 18, 2 p.m. Rain or Shine.