

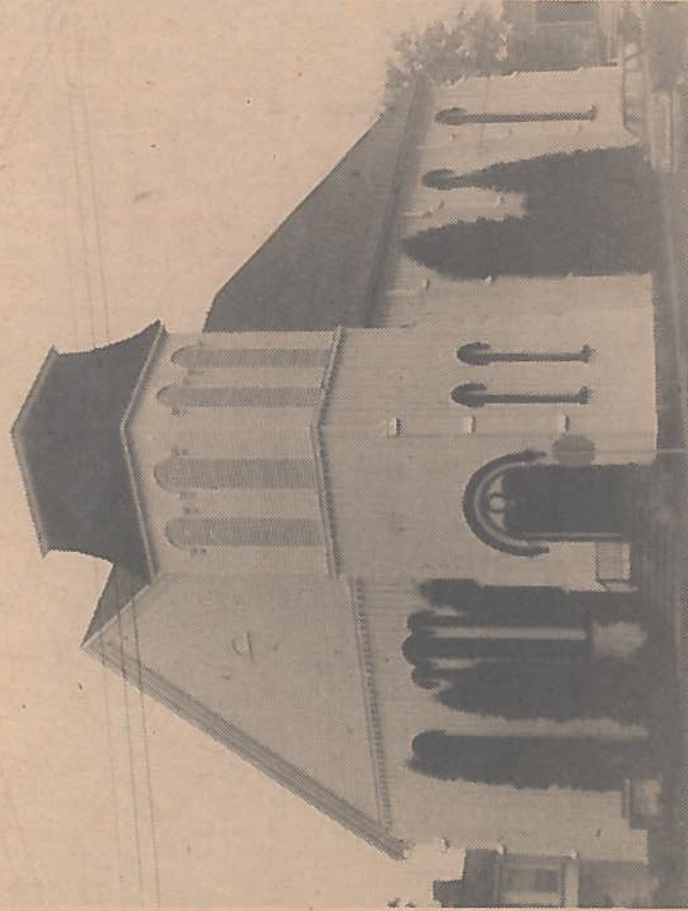
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# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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C.W.Lattin • County Historian

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ORIGINS - A New Years Perspective

How fascinating and stirring to the human intellect is the romance of our history. When we once recognize that the past, present and future are simultaneous we have indeed begun to answer some of our questions about the wonderment of life on Earth.

Leonardo DaVinci in the 16th Century wrote "Behold now the hope and desire to go back to our own country, and to return to our former state, how like it is to the moth with the light!"

In his poem Thus Spake Zarathustra Frederick Nietzsche affirms the idea of Eternal Recurrence in history when he writes: "Behold, we know what thou teachest: that all things eternally return and ourselves with them, and that we have already existed times without number and all things with us..."

The wish to return to a former state and that all things eternally return abounds about us. The desire to establish our roots and beginnings is well expressed through the current upswing of historical museums, geneological research, archeology, astrology, collecting antiques and architectural preservation.

We soon discover there is really nothing new and if we examine the architecture of our 19th Century forefathers we find that they too must have wished to return to a former state.

For example, Albion's First Free Methodist Church as pictured above was built in 1860 and is in the Norman Style of architecture which imitates Romanesque. These two styles trace their beginnings back to around 950 A.D. with the typical features being high peaked roofs, short or abbreviated towers and rounded arched openings.

The predominate Greek Revival Style of the second quarter of the last century actually has its beginnings back in the Sixth Century B.C. It is interesting how this pagan style was used by our early pioneers even for their houses of Christian worship. As we well-know the outstanding features of Greek Architecture include low pitched roofs and columns. Likewise, we find the Gothic churches of this area with pointed openings, high peaked roofs and spires to have its origins in the Tenth and Eleventh Centuries A.D.

That desire to return to a former state is ever being reincarnated as we continue to erect Colonial architecture - the architecture of the Revolutionary Period. Indeed, our contemporary society is deeply rooted in the past and as we transcend into a new decade the past will continue to play a leading roll.