

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## ON THE PUBLIC SQUARE



If you are not around forty years old none of the buildings in this picture will look familiar. All of these structures which were located on the east side of the public square in Holley were demolished in the 1960's with the expansion and building of a new bank. I believe our picture was taken between seventy and seventy-five years ago. All four businesses shown here are listed in the 1921 and 1926 Orleans County Directory. The 1930 Directory lists only three which helps us date the photo to the 1920's.

To the far left we see the building which would have been on the corner. The signage indicates S. Greenhouse. The 1926 Directory states: "Greenhouse S & R (Samuel and Rosa) dry goods, Public Square."

The next business block in line is the Payne & Trimble Hardware Store. The 1926 Directory notes: "Payne & Trimble (Wm. Payne, and Verne G. Trimble) Hardware Public Square". A gasoline pump was located directly on the curb in front of their store. Automobiles could easily pull up there to get gas. A few items of merchandise are piled next to the store front. These include a step ladder and perhaps a little red wagon with something in it.

The next building is outstanding because of its classical facade and Spanish Tile roof. It was

the 'State Exchange Bank at the time which in the 1921 Directory indicates a Capital of \$60,000.00 and Surplus and Undivided Profits of \$57,000.00.

The identifiable business to the right is listed in the 1926 Directory as: "Holliday, Arch W., H. C. Oakley, Mgr. Jeweler Public Square". For many years A. W. Holliday also had a jewelery store on East Bank Street in Albion. Finally, the building to the far right was the Frisbie Opera House.

However, because of the plants in the mall, it is impossible to see the lower store front. It is plain to me that the Payne & Trimble and A. W. Holliday stores were at one time all a part of the same building continuous with round headed

windows where the bank is. At some point, perhaps in the teens, the bank modernized its facade thus interrupting the Victorian Style street scape. A couple of gentlemen are seen in the picture in front of the bank discussing problems of the day. To the far left, we barely see the front end of perhaps an old touring car. Marsha DeFilippis, Village of Holley Historian, says the mall was added in 1913. Prior to that, it was all street space. She also tells me that the village removed all hitching posts in 1922 which again helps us date our picture to mid or late 1920's