

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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GAINES AND MURRAY CHURCH



Our pastoral view taken in the Town of Murray during the second decade of this century shows the Gaines and Murray Church better known as the Transit Church. This church took its name because of the Transit Road which affected the names of two other roads. Those being East Transit Church Road in the Town of Murray and West Transit Church Road in the Town of Gaines.

The Gaines and Murray Baptist Church was organized in 1832. In 1835 they erected this meeting house at the northeast corner of Transit Road and East Transit Church Road. Built in the Federal Style of architecture this house of worship served its congregation for close to one hundred years. In 1907 the church purchased an acre of land across the road and in 1909 built a parsonage in this convenient location facing the church. Around 1920 dissension caused many to withdraw their membership and services were eventually discontinued in 1930.

In 1932 the Transit Grange voted to buy the unused church for \$200. The parsonage was also sold by the church for a private home.

When Transit Grange members became too few in number to maintain their hall it was sold in 1958 for the lumber and torn down. In the summer of 1960 the Hulberton Fire Co. burned the debris and heavy beams. In fact, one farm tractor, when hitched to the remaining framework, was unable to pull it down. This illustrates the durability of pioneer workmanship through mortise, tendons and wooden pegs. Once the old church was completely removed, the land was deeded to the Transit Cemetery, graded and seeded. Today it is hard to tell there was even a church on the site.

Our photo shows the parsonage to the left and the shed to the immediate right of the church.