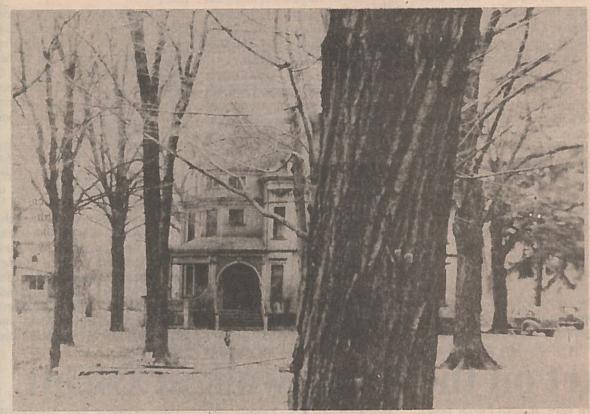
Bethinking of Old Orleans

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ONE OF ALBION'S FINEST



we have of it.

oped into what is now Waterman Park. The Water- ing cherry, golden oak and maple. man house was later used by the Snyder Canning It was truly a neat house with Co. as offices. About 1955 or 1956, the property nately been lost. I would be was sold, the house demolished and a Gulf obtaining a copy of a good picture of this enterate gasoline station was erected on the lot. Following mansion which once graced South Main Street. the garage and gas business, Radio Shack was Fact of Myth? located here and presently this is a vacant lot.

examples of Queen Anne-style, which was popular because of A.L. Swett's granddaughter, Alice. see a turret over the front entrance. Inside the A.L. Swett's grandson, who thinks that possibly turret, which was on the second floor, was the the lake may rather have been named for A.L. painting studio of Clara Waterman (1847-1911). Swett's daughter, Alice A. (1873-1884), who died This studio was actually a story-and-a-half in of scarlet fever at age eleven. However, he states height, which included the attic story windows of Tlantsay for sure that it was or that it is not."

small panes of translucent amber glass. Mrs. own information comes from Legwithin the house. The most fascinating feature of granddaughter? The more we know, sometimes the house to me as a kid was the hall and its the more convoluted history becomes.

This was one of Albion's finest old mansions uniqueness. The front doors went into a vestibule located on South Main Street. Sadly, not only the at the very northwest corner of the house. From house is gone, but to date, this is the best picture here, a central hall ran diagonally through the house to the southeast corner. At the end was a Our photo, taken from a snapshot, only gives us magnificent staircase with a landing halfway up, a partial view because of a tree trunk which is in where the stairs reversed their direction. The landing was triangular in shape. At this level, there The house was built around 1890 by George were two stained-glass windows at right angles to and Clara Waterman. It was situated on the east each other. One faced east, the other south. In the side of South Main Street, the first house south of center of each window was an etched glass lifethe railroad. I believe our picture was taken in the sized portrait, one of George Waterman and one 1940s. George Waterman (1846-1932) was a local of Clara Waterman. Because of the diagonal hall, hardware merchant who also built a large busi- the rooms ended up with corner doors, fireplaces ness block in downtown Albion. Following the across corners or triangular closets. Different demolition of that structure, the site was devel- rooms had different kinds of wood for trim, includ-

In this column (Vol. XXI No. 29), I indicated that The Waterman house was truly one of our best the name Lake Alice at Waterport came about in the late 19th Century. From our photo, we can Since that column was published, I've heard from

Waterman had used her painting skills to decorate ends are not always totally factual. So at this point, fireplace tiles used around several fireplaces it remains somewhat of a mystery — daughter or