

Rethinking of Old Orleans

Vol. XX

C.W. Lattin County Historian

No.15

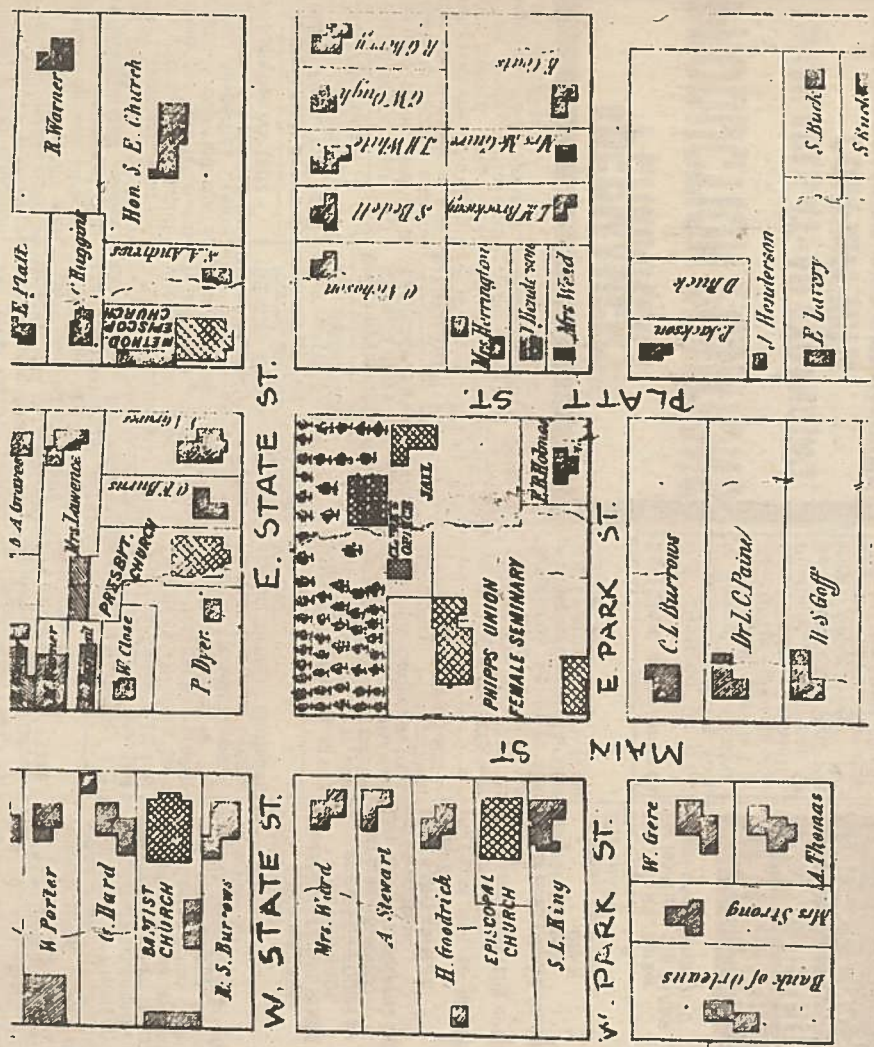
HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

With the 175th anniversary of Orleans County on April 15 at the Court House, it seems appropriate to look at the County Square in historical perspective. The diagram which is included here is a small section of the Village of Albion map which was printed in 1857. The portion which has been selected shows the County Court House Square in the center. Most of this area shown here was selected for inclusion on the National Register of Historic places in 1979.

However, since this 1857 map was made there have been many changes not only on the Court House Square, but in the surrounding neighborhood. The top of the map is north and I have printed on the names of the streets as a reference.

Let us begin first, with the Court House. When this map was made the Court House was still under construction, Next to it or just left of it was the first County Clerk's Building which was built in 1836 and removed in 1884 after the present County Clerk's Office was erected. To the right was a County Jail erected in 1838 and torn down in 1902. Note the number of trees depicted on the Court House lawn.

Also, back then the county only owned about half of the square. This has been given to the county for a Court House by Nehemiah Ingersoll an early settler. The other major part of the Square was owned in 1857 by the Phipps Union Female Seminary. Note that a house at the corner of Main and East Park Streets was part of this property along with the school building. A private residence owned by E.B. Holmes appears at sheds where horses would have been



stabled during inclement weather while people were attending church services.

Many of the residential properties have since been subdivided into smaller lots for houses. The R.S. Burrows property is a good example as there are now three other residences along with the library on that land. Someone once said "Everything is transitional" which is certainly the observation here.

175th anniversary

On Saturday, April 15 beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Orleans County Court House, a program relating to our county history will take place. Several local historians, the Community Mass Choir and Terry Heary on banjo will entertain people. An anniversary cake created by Irene Fox will be a feature along with a resolution from the N.Y.S. Legislature through the efforts of Assemblyman David Seaman. The public is encouraged to attend this milestone of local history.