

From the new historic marker book

Our photo shown here, taken by Alan Isselhard, depicts a historic residence on Route 237 in the town of Clarendon.

The historic marker in front of it states:

Lewis Home
Also used as Inn,
Built Ca. 1818
By Col. Shubael Lewis
Of N. Y. S. Malitia.
His Son, James T.,
Born Here, Became
Gov. Of Wisconsin

This is one of 78 markers placed in Orleans County, which gives us a nugget of history in brief terms. The New Historic Markers book is now available at local libraries, Chamber of Commerce offices, the Cobble-

stone Museum Gift Shop and Watt Fruit Co. for \$7. Published by the Orleans County Legislature, the book highlights local history throughout our county.

The Lewis home is a fine example of the Federal style of architecture. Its configuration in symmetrical arrangement is what is known as a five-bay house.

In other words, there are five openings on the front in both the first and second floors. The surface treatment of the exterior walls is stucco, which I'm guessing may have been applied 60 or 70 years after the house was built.

I have often wondered if perchance it was not cobblestone underneath or perhaps quarried limestone.

One thing of note is the door on the end of the house. Homes of this style and vintage often had these seemingly unused doors on the end, out of a parlor. They are sometimes

referred to as funeral doors.

Many years ago the custom was to have home funerals. The body of the deceased would have been laid out in the parlor. The problem was moving the coffin from the parlor and making a sharp right angle turn to get out the front door to the hearse or wagon.

By having a funeral door it was a straight, direct access out of the parlor with the coffin. By doing this the coffin did not have to be lifted over the newel post or tilted for its removal to the graveyard.

