

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## A model hog house

From the Orleans Republican of Jan. 3, 1900, we find this most interesting article entitled "A Model Hog House."

"A Barre farmer, who thinks \$2,000 a big price for a hog house, asks The Republican to give some particulars about that new structure on the almshouse farm. If he could see the building, he would probably conclude as a practical farmer that the investment was a good one.

The building is 80-feet-by-35-feet in size, if our recollection is correct, and it has a six-foot basement. The floor is of cement. Through the center of the basement is an alleyway wide enough to admit a wagon. On each side of this alley are the swine pens, six or seven in number, and about 10 feet square, provided with doors leading out of the building as well as into the alley.

At one end of the basement are quarters for cooking feed and slaughtering. Two large boiling kettles are here placed, connecting with a big chimney which runs through to the basement. On the second floor are the corn cribs.

The sides of this story are so constructed that by a sliding mechanism the whole floor can be perfectly ventilated or cooled. In the peak of the roof is suspended a hopper or car by which the corn is elevated to the second floor and then run back to be unloaded. This second floor is a very roomy affair, as can be judged by the dimensions of the building, and here the corn can be stored for husking during cold weather.

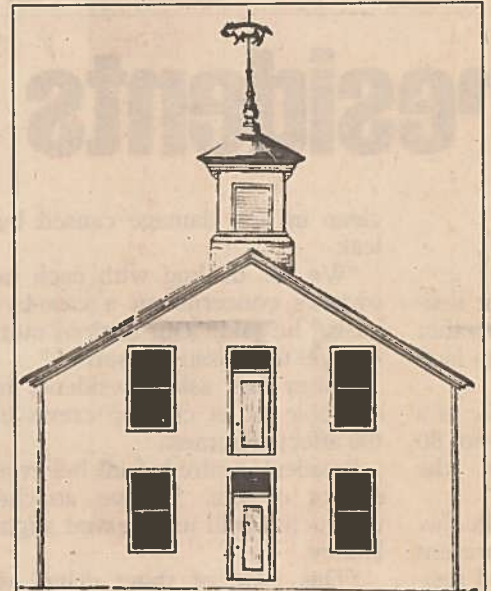
The cost of this swine house appears at first sight to be a little high, and yet all who have inspected

it agree that it is the best building on the farm today and will stand for years to come. It is absolutely rat-proof and will accommodate a big family of porkers."

The almshouse farm referred to in the article was the county farm located on County House Road in the Town of Albion. This was practically a self-sufficient operation years ago — sometimes despairingly referred to as the "Poor House." This institution was the forerunner of the present day county nursing home.

Years ago, however, the county ran this farm to provide food for residents of the Almshouse. The farm, likewise, provided work and chores for able residents, giving them something to do while living there. For example, as the article notes, the second floor was used for husking corn during the cold weather. No doubt several hands would have been needed for this process.

Our illustration presented here is taken from an old building manual published in 1883. Under a chapter heading "Barns and Outhouse" we find "A Model Swine House" which in configuration is not totally unlike the one described. Room A is for slaughtering and cooking feed. The spaces labeled F.P. are Feeding Pens while the spaces labeled S.P. are Sleeping Pens. Information in the book indicates that the Swine House was planned by A. J. Warner for the Superintendent of the Monroe County, N. Y. Penitentiary. It would accommodate from 40 to 50 hogs. This was certainly designed for a similar type of self-sufficient operation as there were often farms years ago to accommodate prisons.



FRONT ELEVATION.

