

# BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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## 'Let's Add On!'

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**O**ur photo taken in 1900 somewhere in the town of Barre shows the construction of an addition to a house. For this period of time the photo is somewhat unique, as people didn't normally have pictures taken like this. The photo from a glass plate negative is the compliments of Alan Isselhard.

Anyone interested in building trades should find this picture fascinating. The thing that strikes me first is the very flimsy scaffolding. It is simply made of poles with a few cross pieces nailed to the structure. Planks are then laid over the cross pieces.

I judge someone went to a nearby woods and selected some straight trees for this project. People back then were very thrifty and innovative in making things to save money. The ladders are also made of poles. The rails are poles sawed in half length wise perhaps with split rungs.

The two roofers are using hatches to nail down wooden shingles. We see some bundles



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

of shingles on the roof. Hatches were used because wood shingles had to sometimes be split when coming to the end of a row or a valley.

The new addition appears to be covered with wide boards used as sheathing ready to accept clapboards. Window sash and door have yet to be installed.

In the foreground we see a wooden pump at a well and nearby a drinking trough for animals. At the corner of the house there appears to be a rain barrel.

Fresh dirt around the new addition is the result of the excavating work done on the cellar wall. This side or back wing was probably finished off by the carpenters with a porch for entry into this new addition.