



## BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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# Shelby District No. 8 School

BY C.W. LATTIN

**O**ur photo taken a little over 30 years ago shows the one room schoolhouse which was once located at the corner of East Shelby Road and Wheeler Road. In fact, it was very close to the edge of East Shelby Road.

In December 1827, the fathers of District 8 voted to build a schoolhouse on the southwest corner of the Amos Gregory farm and to raise \$200 to cover the cost of the building. That situated the school, however, at the northeast corner of the intersection.

In February 1828, they again came together and voted at that time to erect a schoolhouse of brick. In November 1828 Amos Gregory turned the lot over to the district for the consideration of five cents. The lot measured 50 feet north and 40 feet east from the corner.

In 1828, according to the minutes of the annual meeting, the trustee was empowered to provide andirons, fire shovel, pail, cup and broom at district expense. The andirons suggest the school must have had a fireplace for heating purposes. The pail and cup would have been for drinking water as all children drank from the same cup.

In 1829, they voted to build a privy, which measured 5 by 3

feet. The lowest bidder got the job for \$7.

At each annual meeting of the district in early times, it was decided how much wood scholars were to provide. Sometimes they were expected to furnish a third or a half cord of wood. In those times a full cord measured 4 x 4 x 8 feet.

In 1833, the first mention of firewood in two-foot lengths is mentioned which suggests they were then using a box stove. In 1835, the minutes specifically note "wood to fit the stove."

Often, children were sent off to school in the morning with a hunk of wood for the stove.

Notice the small size in window openings and that the original window sash contained 12 panes over eight panes.

The entrance was on the north end of the school.

During the 19th century there were 132 school districts within Orleans County.

The District No. 8 School at Shelby was eventually centralized into the Medina School District. Centralization was completed in the county by 1953.

The little red brick school seen here was torn down over 20 years ago.