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Holley Mansion House

BY C.W. LATTIN

This photo taken in the 1870s shows the Mansion House in Holley. The building faced Thomas Street to the left; hence we are seeing the east side of this hotel from the square.

The Mansion House was built around 1824 by a contractor named Thomas Plues, who gave it its name. It proved to be a successful rendezvous for canalers when much of Holley was still in the woods. It was either leased or owned by innumerable people over the years.

In 1841, Horace Perry, the owner of the Mansion House, was elected sheriff of Orleans County and served in that position until 1845. During this period, he leased the business and in 1858 remodeled the old tavern.

Following the death of Perry in 1860, the Mansion House was again owned by several businessmen.

Around 1885 John Downs



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bought the property and as an aggressive businessman decided to upgrade the physical structure and orient his hotel to the railroad clientele. The old building was seen as antiquated and much too small.

In 1892 the old tavern we see here was torn down and a new hotel of Medina

sandstone was erected on the same location, again facing Thomas Street. This structure that stands today was dedicated on Feb. 13, 1893. At the time, it was considered one of the most modern hotels in this section of the state.