

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

Vol. XXVII No. 37

'The monument that never was'

BY C.W. LATTIN 11-24-05

Over the years this column has frequently carried pictures and stories about structures that have been torn down. Today's story and picture relates to a proposed monument, which was never constructed.

It was supposed to be a memorial to the pioneer settlers of Orleans County. The Orleans County Pioneer Association, established in 1859, proposed this project in 1911. At a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors on April 18 of that year, the Pioneer Association was given permission to erect this monument on the Courthouse Square.

A committee of three supervisors and the president of the association selected a site at the southwest corner at Main and park streets, across from the Universalist Church.

Plans for what you see here were drawn up by E.M. Viquesney, a monument architect and designer, from Marietta, Ga. The granite obelisk and base together would have been slightly over 50 feet high.

On each of the four sides of the base were to be life size cast metal figures representing various aspects of pioneer living.

It was estimated that this monument at the time was going to cost around \$5,000 to erect. This was a considerable amount of money back then and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

as a result the project never got off the ground.

Feeble attempts were made within the county to raise funds but it eventually died in

committee. The Pioneer Association was, in essence, the first historical society established in the county and eventually died out around 65 years ago.