

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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MEDINA HOSPITALITY

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Kudos to the Medina Historical Society for a fabulous Christmas Tour of Homes last Saturday. It was an afternoon well spent and while the buildings were all impressive, what stood out the most was the graciousness and hospitality with which visitors were welcomed to each and every building that was open.

It is only natural that every homeowner wants to present a fine image of their residence. Consequently, preparation for such a tour takes commitment, dedication and time. It also takes those same elements for the historical society to plan such an event and to produce a highly professional booklet with a writeup on each building on the tour. Volunteers for this can be very proud of their entire product.

At the stately brick home on West Avenue, Cathy Granchelli welcomed visitors to a restored residence built in the late 1850s. Later, the home of Miss Flora Webb who told that the bricks were made locally. Joe and Cathy Granchelli have lived here since 1973. It is a fine example of Italianate architecture with a wonderful Medina sandstone porch built in 1917.

Kathleen Krieger was on hand in an extraordinary Queen Anne residence located on Park Avenue to greet visitors with pertinent information. This late 19th century Victorian home was built for William Robins and contains outstanding natural woodwork, stained glass windows and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

original lighting fixtures. It's just amazing these were still all intact. They are all the type where some branches are gas and some are electric. Here Larry and Kathleen Krieger are doing a superb job of preservation.

A little farther west on Park Avenue, Aaron Grabowski spoke of the work he and his wife Gayle are doing to restore this home built in 1896 for Francis Maher. It was interesting to see here a work in progress, as the Grabowskis are now putting this Queen Anne back into a single family home.

At Garden View B&B on West Center Street, Pat and Bob Fox welcomed visitors to their home built around 1910. It is an interesting example of architecture with some arts and crafts period details.

On North Gravel Road, Nancy OneSong, in her friendly manner, presented history of the large red brick Italianate residence that was built around 1875 for William Matson. It is now a B&B and small theatre she and her husband Ron

operate.
Members of the Medina

Masonic Lodge graciously opened their doors on West Center Street for visitors as well. What a perfect fit for this lodge to purchase this wonderful Colonial Revival church built in 1922 by the Christian Science Society.

At St. John's church, the rector, Father Outwin, greeted guests with information and graciously answered questions. This early Medina sandstone church is outstanding for its mid-19th century stained glass windows.

I did not attend the tour to see people's furnishings but rather to see various types of

local styles and architectural details. This tour was indeed rich in historic architecture.

It was Longfellow who stated, "Architecture is the most useful of the fine arts and the finest of the useful arts."

The Medina Historical Society maintains a museum on West Avenue in Medina located in a brick home built in 1841. By conducting such a tour of homes, their Society has extended itself beyond its own confines. A good move and well done!

Our accompanying photo shows a post card view of homes on Pearl Street around 100 years ago.