

Congregational Church of Millville

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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

Having attended an antique show recently at Nazareth College, I was fortunate to find the accompanying photo. It is the interior of the Congregational Church, which once thrived in Millville.

The photo was taken in 1881, when many churches held memorial services for President Garfield. Hence the banner states: "We Mourn Our Loss" with Garfield's portrait above it. To the left we see an American flag, as well as black and white bunting draped around.

What an extraordinary interior with all its trompe l'oeil painting imitating gothic architecture.

This edifice, built of brick constructed in 1870, was



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

dedicated Jan. 25, 1871 free from debt. The cost, totally completed and furnished, was \$7,000.

The organ shown in the picture was given to the church in 1875. It was probably a reed organ with a fake pipe top.

Church history indicates that in 1884, after this photo was taken, the interior was repainted in a more modern style.

In the late 1890s, it was discovered that the pastor was of dubious character with moral issues. As a result, the congregation fell apart and services were discontinued. The building was then used by the IOGT Lodge.

In 1935, it was sold and reused as a farm storage building.

In more recent times it has been a gift shop, first "Thee Congregational Emporium" and currently "Another Time Another Place."