

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HOLLEY

BY C.W. LATTIN
Orleans County historian

7/23/09

At the northwest corner of White Street and East Avenue in Holley is an historic marker stating: "Baptist Church organized November 12, 1825. First Church building in Town of Murray dedicated to the Glory of God May 29, 1834 services held until 1894."

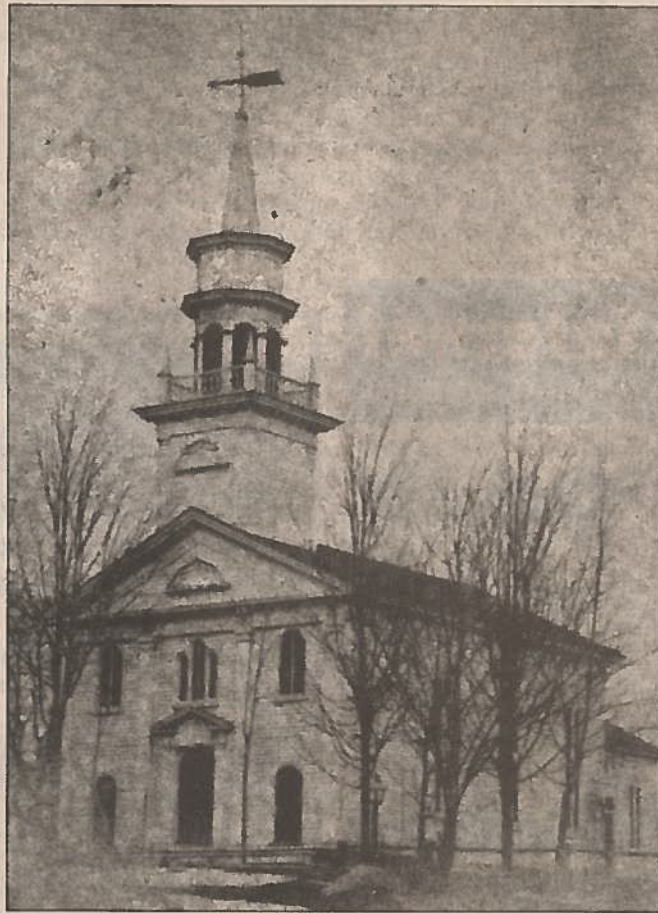
This building still stands but no longer functions as a church but rather housing.

The photo of this grand church edifice was taken following some extensive remodeling which was begun in 1866.

The church was erected in 1834 at a cost of \$3,000. The remodeling undertaken in the mid 1860's was more than the original cost. At that time, old-fashioned galleries were removed, stained glass windows installed in round headed openings and the interior totally redecorated.

The bell tower, spire and weather vane remained as originally conceived seen in our picture. This was for all intents and purposes a beautiful New England style meeting house when built. It surely reflected the heritage and values of those early pioneer settlers who generally came here from New England.

With changing styles and attitudes, church buildings of this nature were greatly altered after the second half of the 19th century. Holley Baptists by 1890 gave up this



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

older style edifice and had one built of Medina Sandstone on Geddes Street which was dedicated in January 1891. It reflected a more ecclesiastical approach to church architecture as compared to the earlier dour Protestant interiors.

Vol. XXXI, No. 30

Bethinking
of Olde
Orleans