

# Medina United Methodist Church

10-28-10

BY C.W. LATTIN  
Orleans County historian

## Bethinking of Olde Orleans

Vol. XXXII, No. 42

In last Thursday's edition of The Journal-Register under the headline, "Church Finds New Home" was an article about the Medina United Methodist Church. The story states: "The current building at 222 West Center Street in the village is between 150 and 200 years old ..."

I dare say there are no buildings standing in Orleans County today that are 200 years old. At that time in 1810, this area was a dense forest and the log buildings that were erected back then are long gone.

In December 1874, the Methodist Church building located on Main Street in Medina was destroyed by fire. Following this, the congregation bought a lot on the north side of West Center Street, thereby leaving the business district. The present Methodist Church was erected at a cost of \$32,000 and was dedicated Dec. 8, 1876, making it now 134 years old!

It was constructed of red brick in the Gothic Revival style; hence, the buttresses and pointed openings. The bell tower originally had a tall, graceful steeple, which was removed in the 1890s.

The ground floor level was designated for Sunday

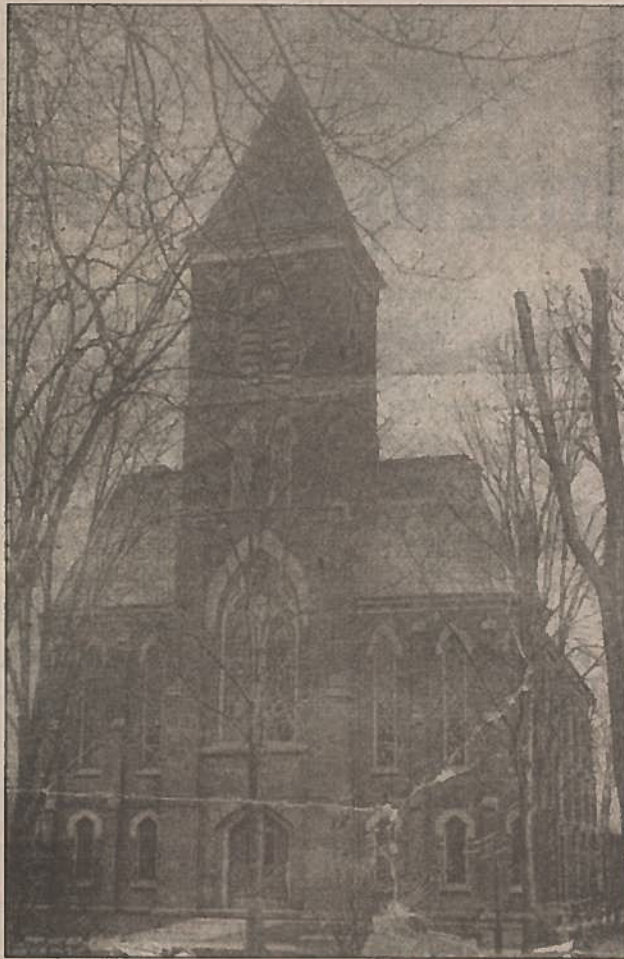
School rooms, dining room and kitchen. The sanctuary on the main floor is accessible by handsome curved staircases.

Original stained glass windows from 1876 are fine examples of the typical geometric designs used in Protestant churches of that time frame. These windows are made of glass, which was painted or stenciled and fired as in the medieval tradition of stained glass art.

In 1894, a large new bell was placed in the tower; the gift of Mrs. William Underhill.

Throughout the years, various other renovations and redecorating projects have occurred with the church edifice. In 1966, a modern educational building was added to the west side of the church, forming the current configuration of architectural elements.

Our photo of this landmark, an anchor in its neighborhood, was taken in 1897 shortly after the original steeple was removed.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO