

11-10-11

40 year anniversary of the modern Orleans County jail

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The photo here was the county jail and sheriff's residence which was built in 1903-04 at a cost of \$54,000. It replaced a jail deemed inadequate which had been built in 1838 at a cost of \$4,000.

By 1967, the state Correction Commission, after several inspections, found the jail to be "unsafe, unsanitary, inadequate and illegally conditioned." This state agency increased pressure on the Board of Supervisors to either build a new jail or revamp the

old one. Cost estimates were obtained to build a new jail in 1968. On Dec. 12 of that year, a resolution was passed to construct a jail next to the courthouse making it then the fourth jail on the site. Estimated cost was \$1.5 million.

Nine supervisors voted "aye." They were George Batchellor of Barre, Veeder Howard of Murray, Carl Kleindeneck of Carlton,

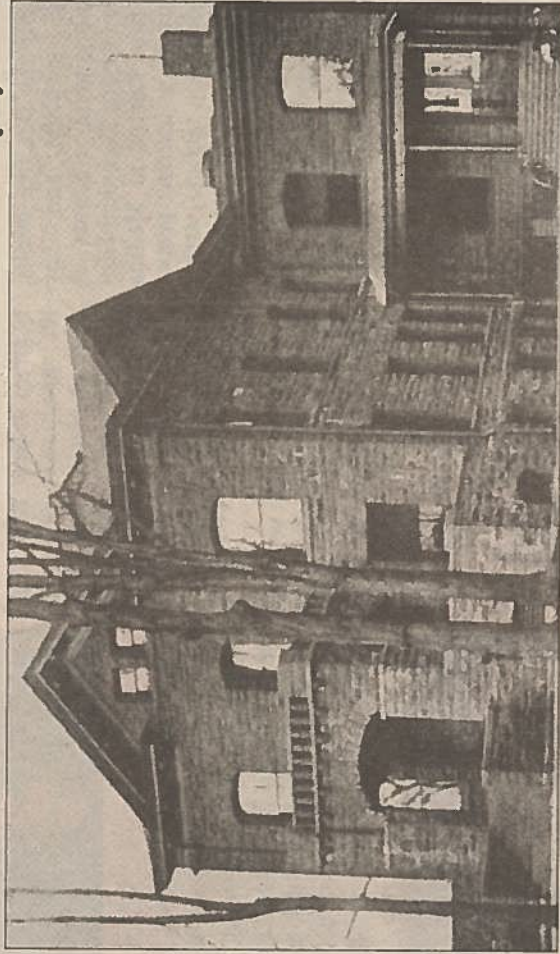
Bethinking of Olde Orleans

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Alvin Hilfiker of Clarendon, Lester Canham of Gainese, Harold Paineau of Kendall, William Kennedy of Ridgeway, Orren Roberts of Shelby and Everett Johnson of Yates. One dissenting vote was cast by Maynard Reed of Albion.

The Carl Petronio Construction Co. of Albion began work in March 1970 by first razing the house at the corner of Platt and East Park Streets. Work then proceeded to the construction after demolition of the old sandstone jail. Building of the new jail progressed slowly due to strikes and late shipments of materials.

The present jail was finally opened for public inspection on Nov. 27 and 28, 1971 with over 1,000 people in attendance.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In mid-January 1972 prisoners were returned from the Niagara County jail where they had been boarded after the old jail was dismantled.

Therefore we are coming up on the 40th anniversary of the opening of this facility. It was designed by James Bazemore of Niagara Falls and is in the style of architecture known as brutalism. Another

example of this style popular at the time is the Albion High School (1972) on East Avenue. There the brutalism seems less intrusive than it does in the historic courthouse district.

Recently, the question has been posed to me as to who was responsible for the present jail. I hope this article may help to answer those questions.