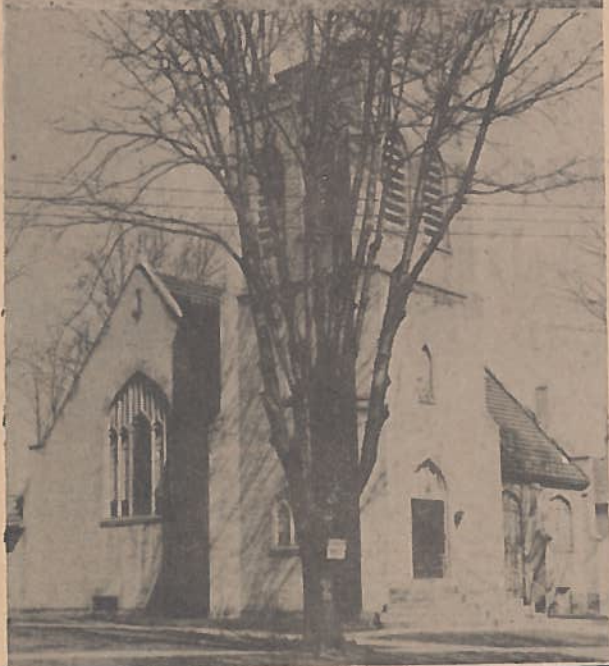


5-12-83
**Bethinking of
Old Orleans**

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Vol. V

L. Monacelli Photo Copy
ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED
Part III

No. 19

The Holley Presbyterian Church 1831 - 1907

We customarily think of losing some fine examples of architecture just during the last twenty-five years or so. This however, is not necessarily true. In fact, it's quite, quite surprising what some of our forefathers demolished seventy-five to one hundred years ago. Often what they wrecked was neither dilapidated or very old. Such was the case of the first edifice built by the First Presbyterian Church of Holley.

The Presbyterians at Holley were organized in 1819 even before that community had a name. Meetings of the congregation in those early years took place in homes, schoolhouses and barns. But after a religious revival in 1831, it was decided to build a church. This building which is pictured in the top photo was first occupied January 4, 1832. The size of the building was thirty-five feet wide and sixty-five feet long. Like many of the early churches of this period, it had three seating galleries with the seats facing the doors through which the congregation entered. Later (1854), these seats or pews were turned around and faced in the opposite direction for what we nowadays consider a more traditional seating arrangement. In 1869 the church was raised and a basement was built under it. From time to time various other improvements were made to this structure until 1907 when it was decided to build a new church on the same site. This lovely old Federal or Post Colonial Style church with real New England character was then destroyed. In its place was erected the present First Presbyterian Church (bottom photo) for a cost of \$18,255.30. The pipe organ and bell from the original building were moved to the new one along with a few other less significant items and on October 4, 1908 the present church was dedicated.

It would be easy for me to expound on the architectural beauty of the original church building as compared to the present structure. However, I'll let you be the judge of that.