

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Part IV

Burrows - Martina Residence 1905-1967

It has now been sixteen years since this exceptionally beautiful Georgian or Colonial Revival Style home graced South Main Street in Albion. The house was built in 1905 by Albert C. Burrows, an Albion Attorney of some wealth and prominence. In later years it was owned by Charles Martina who sold it for Bells. This house and the one next to it were then both razed to make way for the supermarket pictured here. I must say "all for naught" because we have now seen, during this past week, the Grand Opening of a new and larger Bells supermarket in another location.

Let's reflect briefly upon the Georgian or Colonial Revival Style of architecture. Either term applies to buildings like the Burrows house. This style which is now over 100 years old became popular during the 1880's and 90's following our nation's Centennial when interests were aroused in our heritage. Amazingly, we are still creating buildings in this mode, but not with the same stylistic integrity as seen before the 1930's. The most obvious features of houses in the Georgian Style are symmetry or balance with well proportioned shapes and masses. The Burrows house emulated this and all the typical decorative features of a graceful early American home. The center entrance with fan-like transom and sidelights along with columns using composite capitals are classic details. Houses of this style frequently have hip roofs with balustrades and dormer windows. The noted architect Stanford White, during the early part of this century, helped popularize the Colonial Revival which emerged into a truly American style and one with which Americans have fallen in love.