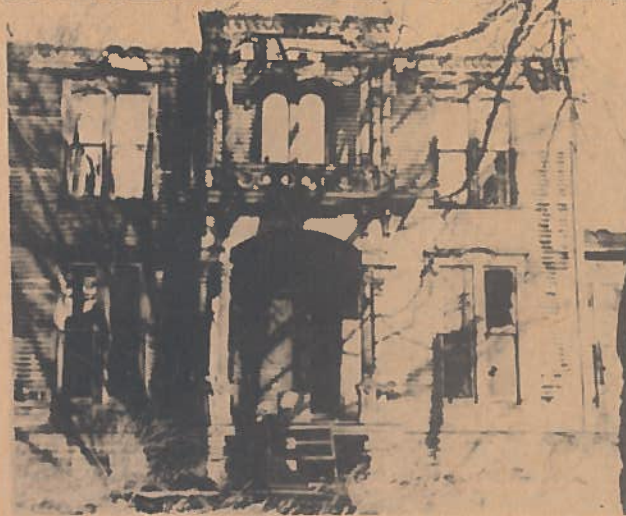
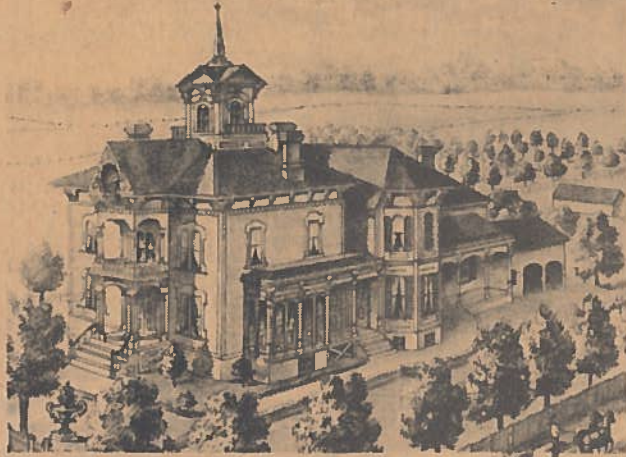


Bethinking of Old Orleans⁷⁻²⁰⁻⁸³

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



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ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED

Part XI

Residence of Arnold Gregory

In a glance these two pictures tell a story of the demise of what must have been a real show place. Many noteworthy buildings have been destroyed through progress. However, here is a case where disinterest and neglect largely contributed to its doom.

The upper picture which is a lithograph appeared in the *Illustrated Album of Orleans County 1879*. It was entitled "Farm Residence of Arnold Gregory Esq." and shows it to be a rather elegant country home in the Italianate Style. Frequently, the main portion of houses like this are apt to be square with a cupola perched upon a low-pitched hip roof. Decorative balconies typically appear as focal points along with arched and double window combinations. Wide bracketed overhangs are also characteristic features. Italian Villas such as this were built during the 1850's, 60's and 70's. This particular house was built on County House Road in the western part of the Town of Albion just east of the Wood Road. It was probably constructed around 1870 for Arnold Gregory a wealthy farmer who in 1912 established the hospital in Albion. He died in 1916 at the beginning of the time when large homes of this nature were looked upon as old fashioned. Being a cast off piece of architecture, it became a residence for migrant laborers in the 1950's when local farmers needed such help. Little doubt that through carelessness and negligence the house was badly burned. The lower photo shows the remaining shell as it appeared in the mid-1960's. This site is now simply a vacant lot.

"Cellar holes and ash heaps mark the loveliness where we lived..."

- Kenneth L. Patton