

Bethinking of Old Orleans ⁸⁻¹⁰⁻⁸³

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Vol. V

No. 32

ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED Part XII

The Frisbee Mansion 1832 - 1934

During the second quarter of the 19th Century many fabulous examples of the Greek Revival style were erected. One such example was the residence built for Hiram Frisbee in Holley in 1832. A local carpenter by the name of Stedman actually constructed the house which had six twenty-foot pillars around the porch. These were turned out of whole whitewood trees by a specially set-up lathe that was located on the schoolhouse lawn. The classic front entrance with Greek detailing was also hand-carved by Mr. Stedman. This mansion was located on a knoll surrounded by a loop of the first Erie Canal. Hiram Frisbee was a wealthy businessman and prominent pioneer in the Holley area which is well-expressed by the house he had built.

After the Erie Canal was enlarged in 1914 the old loop which swung into downtown Holley around the Frisbee Mansion was abandoned. This in turn, eventually became an unsightly area. In 1934 the Village of Holley purchased the Frisbee property with the intent of making it into a community park. The mansion was then demolished and the knoll it sat upon was leveled to fill the abandoned loop of the canal. The park never came about and in due time the property was sold back to private interest. The front entrance of the mansion however, was saved by Albion Legionnaires who put it into the building they were renovating at the time in Albion. This beautiful entrance is still in use today as the main doorway to the County Treasurer's office and Probation Department [the former American Legion Hall] on East Park Street in Albion.

During the 1960's Korn's grocery store was built on the general site once occupied by the Frisbee Mansion. That store as we know it today is Holley Super Duper, a non-architectural entity as compared to the beautiful lines of Greek Revival architecture.

"Industry is the root of all ugliness". -- Oscar Wilde