

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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9-7-83



Vol. V

No. 36

## ONE OF MEDINA'S OLDEST RESIDENCES Dating back to early canal days.

With the Medina Canal Festival coming up on September 16 and 17 let's look back 150 years or so to what was considered one of the real show places. This century old photo shows a dwelling on the corner of Orient and East Center Streets in Medina. This Federal Style massive brick house shown with its original Dutch stepped gables was probably built around 1825 by William Lowber. In that era the canal docks were a center of activity and East Center Street and Orient Street were two of Medina's leading streets. Mr. Lowber, a wealthy gentleman, was a very early resident of Medina who was interested in various business enterprises. His home was once embellished with beautifully laid-out grounds including shrubs, flowers and a fountain. This handsome home also served as a center of the social life for Medina's aristocrats in those early days after the canal opened in 1825.

Following William Lowber's death, one of his daughters and her husband, Admiral J.E. Craige, lived in the house. Eventually the house became the Medina Elk's Club followed by Van's Grill, now the V.F.W. Hall. It was dedicated as "The W.V. Gallagher and Son Memorial Veterans Club Inc." William J. Gallagher was the last person to own the property before its present use. Of course, time has seen many changes in this building including the addition of a large stone front porch and the removal of the stepped gables which suggest the early date of this photo.