

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin
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ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED

Part XV

Summer home of Charles Grief

"Ashes to ashes, dust to dust"

This was a rich man's cottage built in that style of architecture which became popular in the second decade of this century. To give it a specific name is a little difficult because of its innocuous features. Buildings of this type began to appear on the scene seventy years ago up through the early 1940's. Although this cottage lacks decorative features of earlier styles it's definitely an obvious testimony to wealth. It was built by Charles Grief at Troutberg on the Orleans County side for a summer retreat. It is believed Mr. Grief and his family spent their winters in one of the southern states. Charles Grief was a produce dealer who started the Morton Cold Storage.

In 1933 we find that this elegant cottage had evidently been sold to a group of wealthy people from Rochester who attempted to establish an exclusive, restricted social and athletic club to be known as the Lakeview Colony Club. Beautiful lawns, gardens and a pergola decorated the grounds. However, this idea for a club did not bloom into fruition evidently because of the great depression at the time.

Eventually the property was bought by the Salvation Army which used the building for a few years until it was abandoned which lead vandals to ravage it. The Salvation Army became concerned that children playing in the dilapidated structure might be injured. To alleviate this problem, the Morton and Kendall fire companies were engaged to burn it (lower photo). This was accomplished in 1969 in the form of a training session for new volunteer firemen. When will we ever understand the meaning of conservation?