

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED
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Clark Residence - Birds Eye Lab

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"In the 1820's American admiration for Greece reached a burning intensity - sparked by her valiant struggle against the Turks and fuelled by a new understanding of the vigor of her ancient culture! In the spirit of Greek Architecture Jacksonian America found its aesthetic ideal."

-- Carole Rifkind --

This extraordinary Greek Revival Style house was built in the early 19th Century on South Main Street in Albion by Zephinia Clark. Later, this residence became the home of William J. Cornell, son-in-law of Mr. Clark and still later it became, in 1942, the headquarters of the Birds Eye-Snyder's Laboratories. Following the relocation of the Birds Eye Laboratories in 1962, the building was used as Albion Laboratories until that business closed in 1965. At that time Head Start came into existence and the structure was utilized for that purpose for several years. However, due to the ever presence of commercialization, the property was purchased and consumed by a developer in the early 1970's. What a tragic loss to a once beautiful landscape.

The upper photo of the house as seen here, was taken around 1900. The lower picture taken from approximately the same vantage point is recent. And we talk about progress! Where, in the contemporary scene if the beauty of symmetry, grand proportions, strength of appearance through breadth, simplicity, and the sheer expression of elegant permanence through architecture? The portico alone, on this house, with its Doric columns was practically a virtual representation of the Parthenon in Greece. Greek Revival dwellings often emphasized broad proportions, simplified details, six-over-six window lights, attic frieze windows just beneath the eaves and very low-pitched roofs. In a word, this house was an exquisite example of the Greek Revival Era 1820-1860. How asinine to have lost it for the ages to come.