

Bethinking of Old Orleans ³⁻⁷⁻³⁴

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Vol. VI

No. 10

ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED

Part XX

The Dr. Charles M. Burrows Residence 1825-1937
and

The Dr. A.W. Jackson Residence 1841-1937

During the past forty-five years or so the Village of Albion, in particular has seen a number of its venerable old landmarks crumble into dust from the wrecker's ball. Although many noteworthy landmarks were removed even before the turn of the century, the past forty-five years has been our worst period of destruction. Perhaps it was the removal of these two houses in 1937 that started to set a trend and precedent for the removal of many other fine old residences along Albion's South Main Street.

The upper photo shows the former residence of Dr. Charles M. Burrows next to the Jackson house. (Note Swan Library in the distance). It was a frame dwelling in the Federal Style reputed to have been built in 1825. Indeed, it was one of the original houses in Albion which had through the years undergone a number of decorative Victorian additions.

The middle photo depicts the brick home of Dr. A.W. Jackson which was a superb example of the Greek Revival Style. The house was built in 1841 by Judge Alexis Ward who was the first President or Mayor of Albion. During World War I Dr. and Mrs. A.W. Jackson allowed the Albion Chapter American Red Cross to use a room or two in their house, rent free, for a headquarters.

In September 1936 the Federal Government completed negotiations for purchase of these two sites on the Southwest corner of Main and State Streets. The Burrows estate sold out their property for \$3030.30 while Dr. Jackson received \$9469.70 for his house. In September 1937 both of these houses were razed to make a lot large enough for the present U.S. Post Office. Prior to this time the Post Office had been located in the Kinmont Building on East Bank Street in Albion.

Unlike most of the preceding articles entitled "Architecture Destroyed" this story ends on a somewhat positive note. At least in this case a fairly handsome building was erected in the same place compared to so many stores, gas stations, vacant lots or parking areas which we have seen take up space once occupied by beautiful buildings. The Post Office was opened in 1938 and cost \$52,150 to build. It is Colonial Revival in style and was a stock plan. Attempts were made in 1937 to have it built out of our native Medina Sandstone but the government refused, saying that material was too costly. Louis A. Simon was the supervising architect and Neal A. Melick was the supervising engineer. As the years have passed by the Burrows and Jackson houses have all but been forgotten and in their place stands another landmark which in time to come will be looked upon as significant in its own right.