

Bethinking of Old Orleans

2-29-84
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Vol. VI ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED No. 9
Part XIX
Stratton - Hanlon Residence

"We have set ourselves over many things; We have gathered terrible powers into our hands. We have made ourselves masters of the planet, users of its stores, governors of its teeming life, exploiters of its energies of fire and fission. We have built and we have torn down; we have created and we have despoiled. We have chosen ourselves to be the leaders; but where are we leading the earth and its creatures?"

- Kenneth L. Patton

It is believed that this fine residence was built by Abram Stratton of Medina who owned and operated a tannery adjacent to this house in the mid-19th century. These buildings were all located near the canal bridge on Rock Street which was later renamed Glenwood Avenue. In the 1870's this property belonged to John Kearney, a member of a once well known and prominent family of Medina. Still later this house became the residence of Edward Hanlon and his brother James A. Hanlon. The Hanlons who were also prominent in many affairs years ago, had established a hardware store in 1876 which was located on Main Street in Medina.

During the time the Barge Canal was being enlarged from the years 1911 through 1914 this house and property was appropriated by the State of New York. So far, I've not yet been able to determine why the State appropriated all this land as the house itself was far enough away from the canal construction and enlargement of the basin at Medina. Perhaps it simply goes to show that the State has frequently operated in strange and mysterious ways. At any rate, the house is gone. The State not needing this property sold it back to private interests. Hence the DeWitt gravel storage lot which you see in the lower photo. Forssooth - "...we have created and we have despoiled."

The Stratton-Hanlon house was basically Carpenter Gothic in style although the larger portion to the left was added later. Carpenter Gothic was an early style of Victorian Architecture which lasted from 1840-1860 and was made popular by the architect A.J. Downing. Buildings of this sort usually give an angular appearance with various wings intersecting one another. High peaked roofs and high chimney's are typical. Frequently pointed windows with Gothic detailing (behind the window blinds here) were used. The dominate finial on the smaller gable is a very obvious Gothic Revival characteristic as well as the pointed and two-sided bay window. Few houses in this style were ever built in our area and the best have all vanished.