



# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## GUY MERRILL'S SANITARIUM

Guy L. Merrill (1851-1925) was Postmaster at Kenyonville from 1875 to 1881. He then moved to Albion with his wife Mary Ellen and they built the large house shown here which was once located at the southwest corner of West Academy Street and West Bank Street. While a resident of the village he owned a hardware business and originated a mutual benefit insurance plan. Mr. Merrill was active in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his wife was a charter member of and active in the Pullman Church.

In the mid 1890's the Merrills enlarged their home for a sanitarium to treat alcoholics. It was known as the Baker-Rose Private Sanitarium or the Gold Cure

Sanitarium. The Baker-Rose Gold Cure was a noteworthy method of curing alcoholism. Patients were boarded here under the personal care of a physician and nurses.

In 1906 Guy Merrill sold out his hardware business and purchased a farm west of Albion on the Albion-Eagle Harbor Road. The sanitarium however, lasted in business until around 1910. During the early 1940's this mammoth house was torn down. Later the property was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Collins and they erected a smaller residence on the same foundations.