

Rethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin
County Historian

Exceptional

Entrances

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The exceptional entrance shown here this week is the third in a series of articles in this column on outstanding doorways in Orleans County. A poster entitled "Exceptional Entrances" recently published by the Orleans County Department of History is available at the Swan Library in Albion and the Cobblestone Museum in Childs.

This particular entrance is one of three that are alike in the Lyndonville Elementary School auditorium/gym. They were created in 1935 in the Art Deco Style and are by far, the most outstanding examples of this architectural work in our county.

Art Deco was a popular style from roughly 1925 to 1940 for public and commercial buildings. Enthusiasts of this style hailed it as modern...a style that avoided past styles. Art Deco designs usually have a strong vertical quality to them. They are also bold and angular in feeling. Faceted surfaces, zigzags, pointed shapes and chevron patterns dominate for motifs. You will note here the very angular design of the eagle above the door. The transom, although it is made of curved pieces of wrought iron, is still unmistakable in its Art Deco feeling. Design elements in this style are always reduced to simplistic shapes. Note too, the zigzag pattern created by the panels in the door itself. Another fine example of this style which has also been preserved is the interior of the Albion Middle School auditorium.

