



This Fine Old Landmark Deserves Preservation— Not Destruction

In this day of cement mixers and big wrecking balls, it's common practice to remove the old, historic landmarks, replacing them with square concrete blocks that resemble nothing more than an architect's nightmare.

The above early day photo of the present courthouse at Westy shows part of the building which was built about 1884. The Centennial booklet tells us that "Westmoreland townspeople and those in the surrounding community put up the shell of the present courthouse, donating it to the county to finish."

According to history, the shell of the building was there before Westy was incorporated as a city. That's history worth keeping.

In these times, it is of special interest when we see "historic" structures being saved from the wrecking ball. In Onaga, the First National Bank enlarged its quarters quite considerably. The front of the new portion of the bank is of native stone, matching the material used in the older portion of the bank. It was an expensive endeavor, but the old building was preserved, and looks as good as new. While the interior is of the latest in modern design

and furnishings, the exterior consists of materials which reflect early examples of true stone masonry.

The Stallard building (formerly Dr. Shumate's) is presently undergoing a face-lifting, but the original appearance of the native stone used in its construction will not be altered. Mr. Stallard also plans to re-install the "porch" or whatever it was on the exterior of the second floor—to give it back its original appearance.

Thus, it can be seen and believed that to preserve the old is but to preserve the beauty and historical value of yesteryear.

Cities can be proud when early examples of their growth do not fall prey to the "wrecking ball," and landmark buildings are preserved as living record of their history and development. Hardship and struggle put these buildings up; they're worth a little struggle to preserve them.