

# CUBA FRIENDS OF ARCHITECTURE

12 West Main St, Cuba, New York 14727

[www.cubafriends.us](http://www.cubafriends.us)

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## Cuba Friends of Architecture

Vision: Stop deterioration and prevent destruction of historic properties in the National Historic Districts of Cuba, New York in order to ensure that the districts remain on the National Register of Historic Places. To promote unified cooperation among businesses and organizations in Cuba.

### Palmer House Update

The Friends of Architecture is in need of several directors. If you like what is happening in downtown Cuba call 585-209-5512 and offer your services.

The first Poker Tournament sponsored by Leadership Allegany was a mild success. Proceeds were shared by the Cuba and New Hudson Fire Departments.

Preparations for upcoming events are incomplete. Check our web site: [www.palmeroperahouse.com](http://www.palmeroperahouse.com) or [www.facebook.com/Palmer-Opera-House-788287704624569/](https://www.facebook.com/Palmer-Opera-House-788287704624569/) to see what's coming.

### Goings On In Cuba

Yes, it is true. A B&B will be at 46 Genesee Street, the house behind the old Rocking Duck Inn.

Billie's Luncheonette is now open at 12 Genesee Street.

Duane Rowland has opened Brandy's Pub at 46 West Main.

Town offices have relocated to 15 Water Street.

Those wood ties running into the old fair grounds on Medbury? Niagara Mohawk put down a series of wide ties, some over 4 feet deep to drive on through the swamp to reach and replace damaged poles.

Linda Simon's Team VP Real Estate office is now located on Main Street at 26 West Main.

A new Realtor, the HomeStar Agency has moved into 25 East Main using half of the Village Outlet Store.

An antique store will be located at 18 West Main next to the By the Light of the Moon shop.

### Memorials

A donation from Peg Baker in memory of Mary Lou Cummins was listed incorrectly as being given

to the Cheese Museum. The Cuba Friends of Architecture received and gratefully accepts the contribution.

The CFA also acknowledges and appreciates the receipt of a contribution, from Janice Rinker, that will be used to erect a street lamp in front of the opera house in memory of Timothy Rinker.

Thank you Mrs. William Parker for a contribution in honor of Shirley Pugh's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was requested that this donation be used toward the purchase of awnings for the front of the building.

The CFA gratefully accepts a contribution in memory of Clara Lang from Sandy Mountain.

### Architecture in Cuba

Ooooh Maan! Someone playing tricks with 12 Grove Street?

If you read the last newsletter you know I determined that 12 Grove was a Folk Victorian with some Queen Anne bays. I thought the bays were added at a later date.

Nuh-uh. I do believe it is Folk Victorian which often uses some Queen Anne characteristics but the bays were always there. What confused me was the difference between the window designs.

This is the original look which matches the bay windows.



Below is the way the windows look now. When the second floor apartment was added, the decorative pediments were removed.



Folk Victorian architecture was a simpler design that included features from other styles. The simpler Victorian style was made possible with the advent of the railroad when inexpensive parts could be ordered and shipped to builders. It seems that the decorative pediments above the windows in the original house were easily removed to transform the house to a more modern style.

Here is the original house before the addition of the second floor apartment.



It would be interesting to know if the original porch is still under all that wood.

Thank you Mary Nease for the photo and input. Go to Cuba's Historical Museum for more information from curator Mary.

The house featured in this newsletter has an interesting past with ties to several prominent Cuba families.

The architectural style of 26 Maple Street is definitely Queen Anne. It is recognizable by its hipped roof with crossed gables and the irregular house outline, including a bay window on the south side and a half tower on the north side. Queen Anne used bay windows and extended outside walls to avoid straight lines. The attractive turned spindles on the porch that covers the entire front of the building add more asymmetrical detail. A porch on the second story compliments one of my favorite styles.

Royal Grady came as a young boy from Scotland with his father William. He fought in the civil war and after the war he purchased property from Calvin Chamberlain, choosing the site on the corner of what we know as Maple and Medbury to build his home. I believe Grady, a carpenter by trade built the lovely Queen Anne house, with help from his son Earl, where he lived with his wife Augusta and five children until 1907.

At that time, in failing health, Royal sold the property to Hubert Hammond. Royal Grady and Augusta, his wife, moved to Spring Street where Royal died in 1909. Augusta outlived him by 18 years, dying in 1927.

Hubert Hammond, who worked at the Ackerly & Sill mill married Leona Wheeler in 1897 just as Royal was finishing his house. Leona was the daughter of Fred Wheeler.

John Wheeler and his family lived in New Hudson. Their youngest son, Charles A. moved to Cuba in 1884 and started his grocery business on the corner of South and West Main. Over the years, C.A. moved up the street and expanded his business to include stores for men's clothing, lady's clothing and a "5 Cents to a Dollar store".

Fred Wheeler, Leona Hammond's father was C.A.'s brother. Leona and her mother Adelia Wheeler were often seen traveling together to visit family and friends.

Hubert Hammond was employed at one time as a cheese wholesaler. His son, Leon, made a name for himself in the oil industry when he lived in Wichata Falls in Texas. Hubert and his family moved to Olean in 1916 when he sold the house on Maple Street to George and Gertrude Dye.

George was the father of Lawrence Dye who, after a turn at being a traveling salesman for dental supplies, started the Dye Insurance Agency. Lawrence W (Larry), a son, took over the agency and in 1965 advertised, "Lawrence Dye Inc, Cuba's Leading Insurance Agent, 6 South St, Phone 182.

Gertrude Dye Greeley (having remarried) lived at her residence on Maple until her death in 1961 when Lewis and Ruth Holden purchased it.

Lewis Holden, as an active member of the fire department, helped in the rescue of 19 year old Nyla Sloat when she fell through the ice on Cuba Lake in December of 1962. He was active in the Methodist church and performed with a quartette there and at other functions. He occasionally filled in as cook at the historic St. James Hotel.

So...if walls could talk, 26 Maple would tell stories about a civil war veteran (Royal Grady), Leona Wheeler Hammond's ties to the most popular entrepreneur in Cuba at the time (her uncle CA Wheeler), the difficulties of starting a new business (Lawrence Dye) and the making of the

popular fish fries at the St. James Restaurant (Lewis Holden).

#### And More

Did you know that it was the bicycle that brought about the improvement of roads before we had automobiles? With the popularity of bicycles in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the need for decent wheeling paths was needed. The League of American Wheelmen was founded in 1880 and this organization encouraged states to take an interest in and provide funds for the building of bicycle paths. The League provided "route information to members" and when it disbanded in 1902, the American Automobile Association continued the practice.

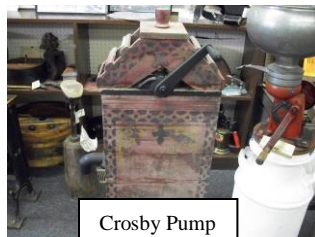
Cuba had its share of wheelers with a special racing attraction at the Cuba fair with a rider "performing many wonderful and..impossible evolutions." Cuba commissioned a path to be made between Cuba and Friendship.

Not to be outdone women took up the sport and bloomers became their mode of dress.

#### Cuba History Museum

Believe it or not, there is more to Cuba than Cuba Cheese. Adon D. Crosby came to Cuba in 1855 and brought his invention of a Combination Tool with him. He advertised in the Patriot: "Last but Not Least in usefulness, Combination Tool, Six Tools Combined in One." This "cheap", steel and durable tool came in three sizes. It had a hammer, an adjustable wrench, a screw driver and a pair of pincers. And A.D. was a master promoter. The ad states, "Try it. If it 'Suites You', Buy it".

While A.D. busied himself with this project he was promoting a pump he invented in 1876 that would eventually revolutionize the extracting of water from wells. Before he even settled in Cuba, he met with "village authorities" to test his pump "in the well at the corner of Main and Canal (Genesee) streets." According to the Patriot of June 1876, "This pump appears to be just what is needed. It draws the water from the very bottom of the well, while at the same time the pump works so easily that a child can handle it."



Crosby Pump

A new and lucrative business was born.

The pump's unique design included A.D.'s patented rubber buckets. His ad in March 1884 describes it as the "**Best Pump Ever Invented! ONE THAT NEVER FREEZES...** It is a perfect water drawer...It ventilates the well, so that there is no danger of the water becoming stale...It will pump a barrel of water per minute. See it! Try it! If it suits you buy it."

As part of A.D.'s promotion he mailed out "25,000 circulars advertising his pumps and new combination tool."

Crosby's warehouse was on Cemetery Street, now 41 Medbury. This house was highlighted in the Nov-Dec 2013 Newsletter as the first plant of the Guilford Dairy. A.D. had added an extension on the east side for his shop and Guilford had it moved to the west side for his factory.

His business profitable, Adon built a new home across the street on the corner of Cemetery and Union. Unfortunately, around 1900, A.D.'s health was beginning to deteriorate. His lucrative business allowed him to retire to Pasadena, California and he sold the pump business to Sisson & Smalley Hardware and a shop was set up at the Sisson house at 76 South Street where the pumps were assembled.

The business was eventually passed down to Mildred Sisson (Mrs. Monroe Conklin), a daughter, who ran the business with Miss Marie Amsden for 20 years. After the ban on the use of rubber during WWII, it was too expensive to continue production.

Adon D. Crosby died in Pasadena in March of 1915 and his ashes were sent to Cuba for burial. Elmira, his wife, died the same year in December and her ashes were also interred in the Cuba Cemetery with her husband and their 8 year old daughter, Mary.

You can see this pump at Cuba's Historical Society Museum. It is open Friday's from 2 PM to 4 PM.

**Cuba Friends of Architecture is truly thankful for all contributions and welcomes stories about the Palmer Building and downtown Cuba.**