

Dewitt

OLD LANDMARK WILL BE RAZED

Tear Down Former Hotel at
Dewitt Which Was Built
In Early Fifties

(By Abbie E. Dills)

Dewitt—P. H. Halterman is having the building south of his residence torn down. Thus will pass another one of the old landmarks of this village. The older part and front of this building was built in the fifties when the county seat was at this place and was owned and used by Dr. Bacon, one of the earlier physicians. After passing through the hands of several parties it was purchased in 1865 by Dr. A. T. Bates, formerly of Coldwater.

In that day the hotel business was in a flourishing condition, soon after Dr. Bates located here he built on to the east and north of the building, (which he also used as an office as long as he lived) and for a number of years he ran a hotel known as the "Dewitt House," in connection with his medical practice. There was quite a large ball room in this building, where the "light fantastic toe" was tripped by many of the older citizens of this locality.

In later years, after Dr. Bates gave up the hotel business, the ball room was rented by various lodges until they could build halls of their own. In the early days of Dewitt grange the members rented this hall, also the I. O. O. F. lodge met there for years. A few years ago when Mr. Halterman built his residence he tore down the north ell to make room for his residence. It will add much to the appearance of Mr. Halterman's property to have this building removed.