

# History by Horsman: The 'other' Sloane House

Tom Horsman, Sandusky Register 3-4-2021

SANDUSKY — When Sanduskians hear “Sloane House,” many probably think of the beautiful and elaborate home at the corner of East Adams and Franklin streets.



*This transposed photo imagines what the old Sloane House hotel at Columbus Avenue and Washington Row would look like today.*

*Photo illustration and provided photo/Tom Horsman and Sandusky Library Follett House Museum*

And while that house was indeed home to notable abolitionist and former Sandusky mayor Rush Sloane, there was another much larger and even more elaborate “Sloane House” that once existed at the corner of Columbus Avenue and Washington Row.

The corner of Columbus Avenue and Washington Row had been the site of the home

of Eleutheros Cooke since 1844. Upon acquiring the property in the late 1870s, Rush Sloane had the house dismantled stone by stone and relocated to its present location down the street at 1415 Columbus Ave., now known as the Cooke-Dorn House.

In its place, Sloane had the Sloane House hotel constructed, which opened its doors on Nov. 17, 1881.

The Sloane House was a large five-story red brick building that contained 125 guest rooms. The day after it opened, a description of the new hotel appeared in the Nov. 18, 1881, edition of the Register:

“[The Sloane House] is a stately structure. Few cities, if any, in all the land, the size of Sandusky, have so large and handsome a mercantile building. A leading feature of the interior is its splendid light, furnished by two large skylights and two courts painted white and distributing plenty of light everywhere.”

The article went on to further describe the various dining rooms and parlors along with its elegant furnishings. When it first opened, the nightly room rates ranged between \$2 and \$3, depending on the room (roughly \$50 to \$80 in today’s dollars).

The Sloane House became an important landmark in Sandusky and was home to many events and celebrations in the city. Many different businesses lined the first floor of the building along Columbus Avenue and Washington Row.

The building served as a notable gateway into downtown Sandusky for many decades, until its life came to an end in the late 1940s. Demolition started on the building, then commonly called Sloane’s Block, on Nov. 5, 1948, in order to build a new building for LaSalle’s department store.

According to an article in the Register on that day, the cornerstone of the old Sloane House was removed and was to be preserved for use in the new LaSalle’s store. (I haven’t been able to find if they followed through on this and would love to hear from anyone if they know the answer to this!)

LaSalle’s department store opened in 1949 and served as an anchor to the downtown shopping district until 1982. After sitting vacant, Erie County converted the building into their downtown office building in the mid-90s, which is what we know it as today.

You can learn much more about the Sloane House and the history of the site from the Erie County Historical Society at [eriecountyhistory.com](http://eriecountyhistory.com) or on the Sandusky Library Sandusky History Blog.

This transposed photo shows the Sloane House as it appeared shortly after it opened at the same location today.

*Editor's note: Tom Horsman works for the city of Sandusky's department of community development as serves on the board of trustees for the Erie County Historical Society.*