

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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ALBION'S FIRST FUNERAL HOME

This Stately Residence Of The Late Mayor Wm. B. Dye, Symbolic Of A Memorable Era Of Gracious Living Was The First Home In This Area Which, On Oct. 5, 1929 Was Set Aside For The Exclusive Use Of Families Who Have Lost A Loved One From Their Midst."

So reads the bronze tablet which was once mounted on the McNall Funeral Home that was located near the railroad on South Main Street in Albion. Its founders were Freeman E. McNall 1870-1940 and Burt C. McNall 1877-1938 who in 1907 started a small furniture and undertaking establishment. "The business prospered and grew because it was built around a cornerstone of friendly understanding and integrity".

McNalls went out the undertaking business and closed the Funeral Home in the 1960's. The house then serving several temporary purposes was sold to Liberty National Bank and in 1972 that fine specimen of Italianate Architecture was destroyed.

The bronze tablet however, was saved and will now be mounted by the Orleans County Department of History in the third floor hall of Swan Library for the Golden Anniversary of Albion's first funeral home. It will serve with a corresponding photograph of the house as an historic marker and a reminder of many things for years to come.