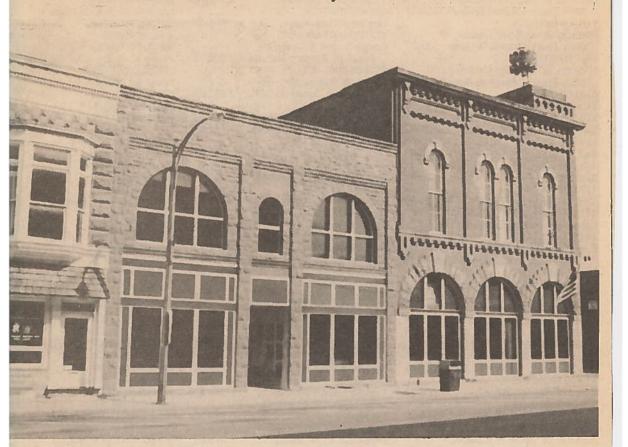
Bethinking of Old Orleans

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ol. X 10-12-88 No. 40 Albion Aesthetics

Far too often we humans make our complaints idely known but withhold our compliments. I'll peat it. Far too often we humans make our comaints widely known but withhold our ampliments.

Compliments are in order, you know, but I've sard a precious few for the recent improvements

Albion's aesthetics. Indeed, Albion Mayor pseph Sacco and Trustees David Albanese, pseph Gehl, Jeanette Riley and Robert Gurzynsare to be thanked and commended for the visual aprovements they have undertaken for their continuents. As a governing body it's often hard to ake improvements within the community when our own house is not in order. The Village of Albanes set an example to follow. Their own house now in order. I refer first to the recently cometed Village Hall complex located on East Bank treet.

Here pictured above is this outstanding exame of what can be done by renovating two historic uildings for modern needs and usefulness. The tirk Building (left) built in 1923, last used as am's Bar was nothing more than a burned out nell when the village purchased it. The old Village all (right), adjacent to it built in 1873, had become muddled up hodge podge with inadequate, little paces. What a sorry image these two buildings ft upon the community until the village board had e foresight to renovate them. With the creative bility of architect Norbert Hausner, the new vilge offices are, on the interior, most functional, immodious and attractive. Utilizing two floors, is office complex sets a tone for professionalism nd pride in local government for the future. The ain floor contains a nice lobby with a balcony off e upper floor, the village clerk's office and a large om with a seating capacity of around 50, which in be used as a court or audience room.

The second floor holds the mayor's office, pard room, Codes Enforcement office and room r future expansion. Here, now stands a landmark

to an upbeat era especially for downtown Albion. Wouldn't the late Mayor Donna Rodden be pleased with the aestetic results which have been acheived.

Not only had the village board made strides within their own house, so to speak, but they have also taken an interest in improving other areas. Remember that ugly burned-out Waterman Building, once covered with windtorn, shredded plastic which at very least was an eyesore and laughing stock. Now demolished, it is attractive Waterman Park with its focal point being a Victorian type gazebo centered amidst planters with blooming vegetation. A marked visual improvement for sure! And then there is the more recent replacement of sidewalks along the south side of East Bank Street and the west side of Main Street between Bank and State. The advantage of diagonal parking restored in the Bank Street area, adds a number of spaces for vehicles. With these two projects the private sector has become involved through donations.

Something obviously comes from all this. It's catching and before you know it everyone starts to take more pride in their environment. Surely no one wants to live in a community they cannot be proud of. We've all lived long enough to see Albion turn around. Just a few years ago downtown looked like a bombed-out war zone. Today we are beginning to see the potential that lies behind those stone and brick Victorian facades. Batavia and Lockport didn't see the potential during their revitalization days back in the late '60s. Fortunately Albion, like Lyndonville, Medina and Holley didn't get the grants to rip everything down that was old. Utilizing the old, the way the Albion Village Board had, deomstrates how the retention of the original fabric can ultimately enhance the livelihood, pragmatics, heritage and aesthetics of a community. The late Joseph Achilles, a former county historian, noting the rich and voluminous architectural history of Albion, used to refer to her as "the Queen of Orleans." Perhaps now, this title is a little less tarnished with the polish which has been spread by dedicated elected officials.