

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## TABLET DEDICATION



A couple of weeks ago an historic marker was dedicated by the Orleans County Historical Association and the Orleans County Department of History which denotes the many achievements of John Cunneen 1848-1907. The marker is located on Platt Street in Albion in front of Cunneen Hall, presently the Sheriff's Office. Of this type, there are seven historic markers which denote either important buildings or prominent people connection with the Historic Court House District. Six of these have been placed within the past five years aimed at elucidating our local history to visitors. But the idea of perpetuating our heritage is not new. The first historic marker to be erected at the Court House Square occurred in 1913.

Our photo illustrated here, shows the group of ladies who were responsible for it on the day it was dedicated in May 1913. However, we can't see the tablet here because they are standing in front of it. But to this day it remains mounted on the ground story of the County Clerk's Office centered between the two front doors. This bronze tablet states:

To Mark The Site Of  
Phipps Union Female Seminary  
Founded 1833  
And In Memory Of The Founder  
Caroline Phipps Achilles  
This Tablet Is Placed  
By The  
Seminary Association  
May 1913

The Seminary Association which is pictured, are the women (Alumni) who attended the Seminary. As the tablet notes, Caroline Phipps Achilles founded this girl's finishing school in 1833. In 1836 a large brick structure was built on the County Square to accommodate this institution, and in 1840 the school was duly incorporated. It continued to educate young ladies until 1875 when academies and girl's seminaries had become outmoded and were being replaced by high schools which were tuition free. In 1882 the county bought the property and demolished the old school building. It was at that time that the present County Clerk's building was erected near the site of the former Phipps Union Seminary.