

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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THE ALBION HOUSE



The photograph represented here, was taken of the Albion House around 1905. This fine hotel was located on the east side of South Clinton Street at the N.Y. Central Railroad crossing. Directly opposite the Albion House on the west side of the street was the passenger depot. Some thirty-five years ago this railroad crossing was eliminated when the T.J. Lipton Co. expanded its plant and warehouse across S. Clinton Street.

This Gothic Revival style hotel was built in 1853 by George Coxe who was a well-known contractor in his day. When the hotel was completed, he sold it to Daniel and Ambrose Kingsland of New York for \$7,000. It was at this same time the railroad was completed through here. Hence, the Kingsland House as it was known, attracted many overnight guests because of its proximity to the depot. For many years this hotel did a thriving business.

In 1859 O. Bennett took the business over from the Kingsland brothers and perhaps renamed it the Albion House. During the Civil War period the ballroom on the second floor was the scene of most of the public balls held in the community. In later years it became a popular boarding house for local residents. It was also considered a fine restaurant that attracted local clientele one

hundred years ago.

I believe the Albion House was last operated by R.A. Reed and George H. Allen who also operated a Medina Sandstone Quarry Company located on East State Street. A sign mounted on the corner of the Albion House near the ground notes it as being owned by Reed and Allen. Notice the sign attached to the tree in front stating Livery. This makes sense as anyone traveling by train, getting off at Albion, might well have wanted to rent a horse and some kind of conveyence for local travel. The livery sign indicates that Reed and Allen must have had a livery stable in conjunction with their hotel.

In a newspaper article dated April 6, 1921, we find "...but the building of the B L & R trolley road and finally the coming of the "dry" edict put an end to the old hotel's possibility and its death as a business venture followed."

The Albion House was demolished in the spring of 1921. In 1939 the Barcelona family built a small brick building for a restaurant on the site and used the rest of the space as a parking lot. The Just Around the Corner Tavern occupies that building presently.