

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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C.W. Lattin County Historian

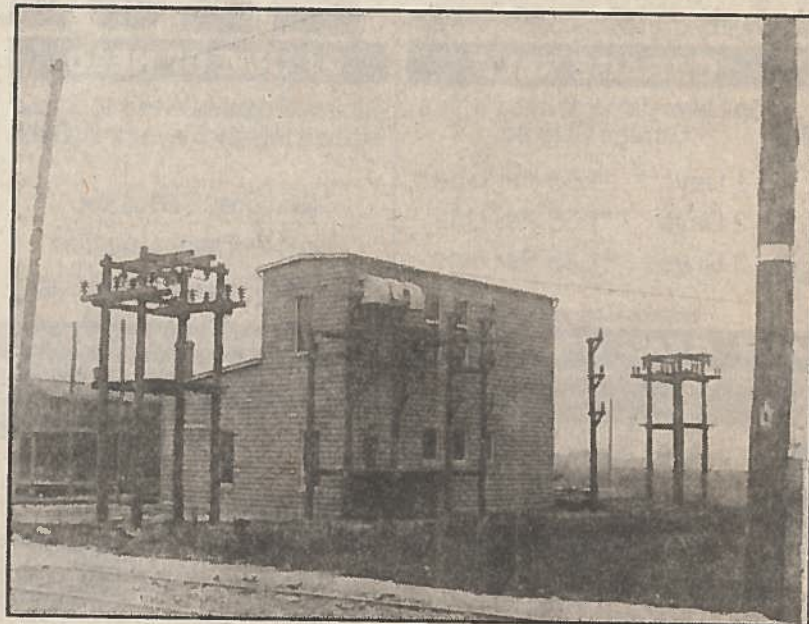
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THE B.L.R. TRANSFORMER HOUSE — ALBION

Occasionally someone will ask about this unique early concrete block building located near the end of East State Street in Albion. Our picture of it shown here was taken circa 1910. Now, minus all the electric poles around it, it still looks very much the same.

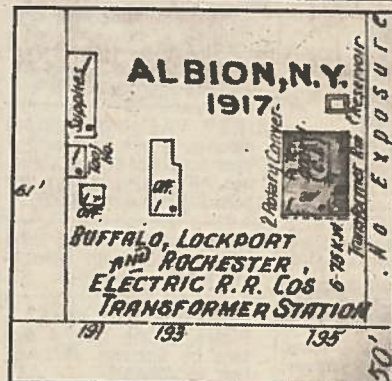
Actually, this is one of those things we can rightfully call by different names such as: Transformer House, Transformer Station, Substation or Power House. I've been able to document all these descriptive names for it. Completed in 1908, it was one of five substations to distribute electric power to the Buffalo, Lockport and Rochester Railway Co. Notice in the foreground of the picture the trolley tracks which went up the center of both East and West State Street through Albion. Other substations were located on the trolley line as follows: No. 1 was 1/2 mile east of Gasport, No. 2 was at Culvert Road near Rt. 31, No. 3 the one pictured, No. 4 was 1 1/2 miles east of Brockport and No. 5 was 1/4 mile west of S. Greece Road, near Elmgrove.

The transmission voltage was 60,000 volts A.C. and the trolley voltage was 600 D.C. Hence the power had to be transformed. The power was supplied by the Niagara, Lockport and Ontario



Power Co. Poles to hold the trolley power line were made of chestnut placed 110 feet apart.

We note in the photo large ceramic insulators for the wire contact. The building to the left in the picture is the office which also shows on the 1917 map of this complex. The B.L.R. trolley system operated from 1908-1931. The substation has since served for various purposes. I recall back in the 1950s going there with my father when the Mallimacis used it as a blacksmith shop. Currently it is owned



by Mrs. Joanne Berry and used for a garage.