

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## 1857 VIEW



Residence of P. Dyer

Presbyterian Church  
Albion N.Y.

Residence of O. F. Burns

Our illustration for this article is taken from the Village of Albion map dated 1857. The featured building in this view is the Presbyterian Church as it was at the time. Located directly across the street from the Court House it faces East State Street. This handsome Greek Revival Church was erected in 1845 serving as such until 1874 when the present mammoth Medina Sandstone Church was built directly adjacent to it. This building still stands as part of the Albion Presbyterian Complex and serves in part for the Nutra Fair Program.

However, the appearance of it has been somewhat altered since this lithograph was made. I believe the alterations to its appearance were done in order to downplay the building's prominence after the other church was built. As you can see, it had a very classical looking bell tower. A porch projected forward with two sets of double columns supporting a flat roof. Two inner columns still exist as part of the remaining recessed porch and entrance.

After 1874 this old church was utilized for Sunday School rooms, dining room, kitchen and a second floor auditorium. What had originally been a large open sanctuary was divided up into the smaller spaces just mentioned. The recess of the porch contains a door to the east and one to the west. Back in the 1840's I believe women would have entered the east door while men would have entered the west door and sat separately for worship. However, they would have all come out the main center doors at the conclusion of worship. In

a church like this you would have been facing State Street when seated in your family pew. The pulpit would have been centered and backed up to the partition separating the front lobby from the sanctuary. Three sections of seats and two major aisles were the custom in those days. The clear glass windows were outfitted with inside folding shutters. A beautiful plaster medallion still remains in the ceiling of the auditorium which would have once graced the sanctuary.

Although significant renovations have occurred to this structure, the exterior still remains as a good example of the Greek Revival Style.

The little house to the left of the church we believe was moved off its lot in 1874 and is now located at 113 Platt Street. This was done so as to make way for the present Gothic Revival Presbyterian Church. The house to the right was removed in 1893 when a Presbyterian Manse was built on the site at the corner of East State and Platt streets.

The Greek Revival Church shown here was actually the second house of worship Presbyterians built for themselves in Albion. Their first meeting house was erected on the west side of Main Street in 1830 and now serves as Christ Episcopal Church. By 1844 the Presbyterians had outgrown this meeting house and swapped a vacant lot and building materials on East State Street owned by the Episcopalians for their existing church building. Hence, the Presbyterians built this Greek Revival Church in 1845.