

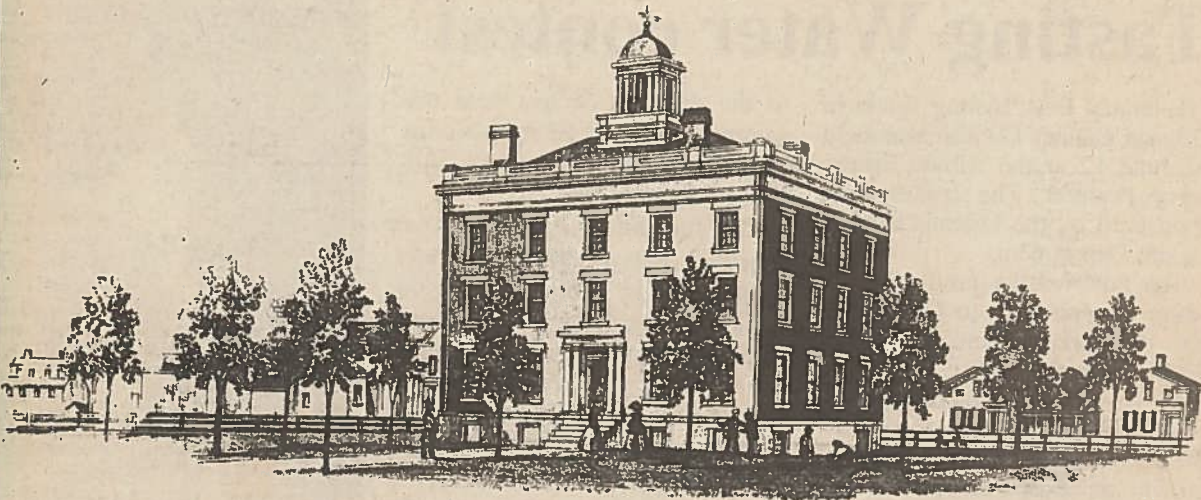
Bethinking of Old Orleans

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ALBION ACADEMY



Albion Academy.

From A Memorial of the Albion Academy which West Bank Street.

was a little booklet published in 1891 we find this information: "The Village of Albion, Orleans County, New York, was incorporated by an act of the State Legislature, April 21, 1828. The first settlers were chiefly from New England, and brought with them the inbred intelligence, enterprise and vigor, the love of religious and political liberty, the devotion to free institutions, and the belief in the utility and necessity of common school and higher education that had long prevailed among, and had been the glory of the old Puritan colonies from which they sprang. So, one of the first undertakings thought of, after building their own homes and churches, was the establishment of an academic institution, intermediate between the district school and the college."

Francis W. Forbes was the last principal and served through the spring term of 1876. The academy was then given up and the grounds and building were sold for the new Albion Union Free School April 18, 1878.

Until the mid-19th century all secondary education was by subscription rather than tax supported as were grades one through eight in the common schools. Students who attended academies had to pay tuition.

The first free academy (High School) in Orleans County was established in Medina in 1850. This was among the very first in N.Y. State. We also had academies at Holley, Gaines, Yates Center and Millville along with the Phipps Union Seminary for girls only, in Albion. The only academy building still standing, of the above mentioned, is the one at Millville which is cobblestone, now a residence.

The Albion Academy was incorporated by a special act of the New York State Legislature May 1, 1837. Consequently, the educational facility shown here was erected upon a block between East and West Academy streets in Albion. This building which is shown here faced West State Street. The houses at the left are on West Academy Street while the houses to the right are on

In 1905-06 the Albion School District tore down the old academy which had had subsequential additions. In its place a new high school was built out of our native grey Medina Sandstone. It later served as the Albion Grammar School and now contains apartments.