



Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Stone Crusher

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Today's picture, taken Jan. 11, 1911, shows a stone crusher. Noted on the photo are the words "Orleans Co. Quarry Co." and "appropriations."

I found this in a 1911 album of pictures taken along the Erie Canal. At that time, when work was being planned for enlargement, photos were taken of buildings and property that were being appropriated by the state.

The Orleans Co. Quarry Co. owned several quarries and parcels along the south side of the canal east of Albion. A notable operation through the years was known as Pecks Quarry.

At any rate, this stone crusher sat directly on the canal bank where enlargement was to take place. Consequently the stone crusher had to be demolished.

The structure, strictly utilitarian in its architectural quality, was comparable to a five-story building. Notice three hoppers project-

ing out of the building for loading crushed stone into the canal boats for shipment. At the time this crusher was used, the major sandstone product from our local quarries was paving in the form of squared paving blocks. Other products were curbing, flagging (sidewalks), architectural stone and crushed stone. This was more of a by-product, having been produced from scrap stone created by the other products.

It also looks like there was a track coming into this building, so perhaps open-top cars could be loaded with stone.

In the distance we can barely see the power poles for the BL & R trolley system. The quarries were ideally situated between the Erie Canal, the NY Central Railroad and the BL & R Trolley.

This truly must have been a significant landmark for those traveling the old Erie Canal during the peak time of the Medina Sandstone Quarry industry.