

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Torn up

5/30/03

Our two pictures, which were both taken roughly 90 years ago, show the Erie Canal in Albion when it was enlarged. A quick glance at these give the impression of everything being torn up. Albion is not much different today with the reconstruction of Routes 98 and 31.



The upper photo was taken on Dec. 10, 1912, looking west to where the Main Street lift bridge was to be located. A temporary bridge of wooden posts and planks has been built across the canal at this point. This was situated just east of the present lift bridge, which was put in to replace a swing bridge. On the north side of the canal there appears to be a great deal of rocks and earth yet to be removed. The storefronts to the left are the buildings which are there today.



The other photo looking east was taken on May 5, 1913. In the foreground we see the temporary bridge still in place. However, I believe the lift bridge has been partly erected from

which the photographer took the shot. The canal has now been cleared of rubble. In the distance we see the Ingersoll Street bridge, which also is under construction. Both banks remain

filled with stone and earth awaiting removal. To the very far right in this picture is the top of the Albion Fire Department Hose Tower. A smokestack also is visible from the Albion Gas Works.