



Hiram Curtis,
Foundry & Agricultural Works
 Albion, Orleans Co., N.Y.

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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Hiram Curtis Foundry 10/3/03

Today's illustration is taken from the 1857 map of the Village of Albion. Here we see the foundry and agricultural works of Hiram Curtis at North Main and Orchard streets.

The two-story building was built circa 1845; its walls are constructed from field cobblestones. The loading dock or platform was located directly on the edge of the street to the approach of the canal bridge. The two-story front building served as the warehouse and shipping department. The rear lower wing is where the actual furnaces were located and casting took place.

Mr. Curtis gained a fine reputation far and wide for his plows, buckeye mowers, reapers and other agricultural implements. His 4-foot mower was selling for \$125 in 1869 and the self-raking 5 1/2-foot reaper sold for \$190. Many of these items were shipped out on the Erie Canal. Likewise, pig iron was shipped in on the canal, which was almost adjacent to the foundry.

Hiram Curtis died in 1870, but his business continued and was reorganized, operating for several years. The two-story portion of the building was removed in the 1890s. The loading dock would literally be in the street today.

The one-story part to the rear remains in place and serves as the Lake Country Pensaver building of today, minus the smoke stacks.