

Albion Firemen's Hose Tower

12/5/03

Today's photo, taken in 1959, shows the Albion Firemen's Hose Tower just before it was demolished.

The tower was on the east side of Platt Street near the canal across from the fire department. It was behind the business blocks on East Bank Street, next to the back wing of Karns Monument Shop.

The hose tower was erected in 1880 at a cost of \$900 and stood a little over 50 feet high. Its purpose was to dry out wet fire hoses after a fire.

The hose was pulled up on a pulley system so as to stretch and drain it. During winter months, a potbelly stove was used to heat the tower so the hose would not freeze. Fifty feet of stovepipe stretched upward to the chimney, the pipe helping to radiate heat within the confines of the tower.

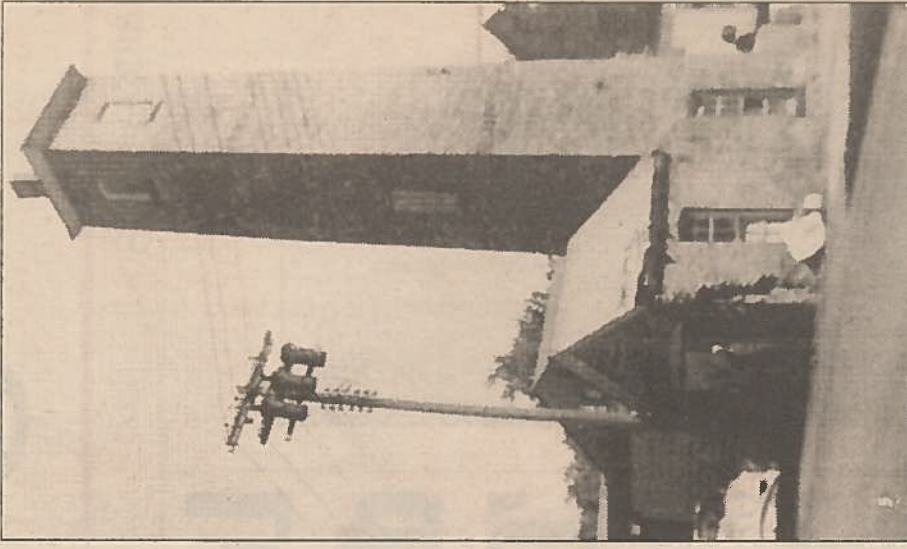
A built-in ladder led to a deck at the upper window level. A drain was located in the floor below.

Once dry, the hose could then be coiled up on a reel ready for use at the next fire.

By the 1950s, the tower had outlived its usefulness with more modern hose and was taken down rather than being restored as a unique landmark.

Sometime during the 1880s, Albion firemen filched out of Canada a small cast iron statue of a fireman using a fireman's horn. They mounted their "trophy" — out of hands reach, they thought — on top of the hose tower.

However, much to their chagrin, the statue was "lifted" by firemen from Honeoye Falls. As the story goes, the Honeoye men connected it to an alarm so no Albion firemen, or others, could



rip it off.

Consequently, the cast iron fireman never found his way back to Albion.