

Rethinking of Old Orleans

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Albion Post Office

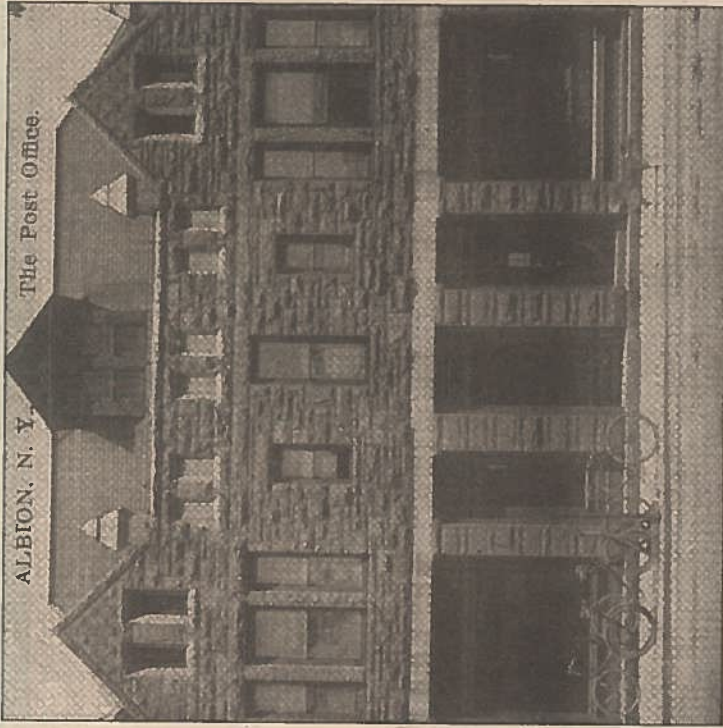
Our photo, taken around 1904-05 from a post card, shows the Kinmont Building located on East Bank Street in Albion. At the top we see the printed information "Albion, N.Y., The Post Office."

Actually the post office only occupied half of this building. The center doorway is a stairway leading to the second floor. The storefront to the left was the post office. The storefront to the right was the Albion Marble and Granite Works owned by George Kinmont. To this day his name remains engraved over the large window at the right.

In fact, the right half of the building was built first. Within

a short time of its completion Kinmont then enlarged the structure, building on another storefront for the post office which was a mirror image of the right side. At first glance one would assume the building was done all at the same time. However, there is a slight variation in some stone work. Notice the support posts on the left are not as rough-cut as the ones on the right. The smooth stone lintel above these posts is also a little thinner on the post office side. Telltale signs like these are often important clues about a building's history.

In 1937 the present Albion Post Office was built,



replacing the accommodations here. It's my guess this building was built in the late 1890s. It is a superb example of the use of Medina sandstone. To this day the facade remains as one of Albion's outstanding business blocks.

No doubt George Kinmont selected Medina sandstone

for this facade because of his own business of dealing in monuments. In later years the business was owned by William E. Kams and William E. Kams Jr. Today the building is owned by Tom Laine who, like George Kinmont, has a sense of pride for this architectural jewel.