

Vanished Orleans: Former county jails

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By C.W. Lattin

Orleans County Historian

Two pictures are shown this week of former Orleans County Jails. Both photos were taken from Platt Street in Albion looking towards the Courthouse which partly shows in the background.

In the lower view is a Medina Sandstone jail and sheriff's residence which was built in 1838 in the Greek Revival style. The wooden wing was later added for the sheriff's office.

In 1903 this structure was torn down and replaced with another Medina Sandstone jail, office and sheriff's residence seen in the upper view. Costing a little over \$50,000, it was a monument to the thriving sandstone industry at the time. Using rough cut ashlers, it's architecture could be described as Romanesque Revival.

In 1970, this, however, was deemed inadequate and was demolished to make way for the present Orleans County Jail, which incidentally, is the fourth jail to occupy the site.

The first jail to be razed here was a log one erected in 1826. The current jail is in the modern style of architecture known as Brutalism which appears to most as an intrusion into the Historic Courthouse District.

As a final note, each time a jail has been demolished on this site, it has been because of state mandated improvements.



Two views of former Orleans County Jails