



BETHINKING OF OLD ORLEANS

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Albion High School

The information on the back of today's photo indicates: "Picture of Albion High School. Taken May 28, 1891." This was the first high school in Albion.

It took the place of the Albion Academy and was located between East and West Academy Streets.

The Albion Academy faced West State Street but the new high school, built in 1876, faced East Academy as we see here. Additions were made in 1878 and 1885 as we see from its appearance in the picture. The large three story section is what was added in 1885.

In 1905-06, this building was removed

when a new high school built of gray Medina sandstone was erected on the site.

When we look more closely at the picture, it lends us some interesting information. There are a dozen boys posed throughout the photo, which was common years ago rather than grouping them together.

Three of them are standing by a cast iron drinking fountain where the grass is obviously worn bare.

At the end of a walk by the street is a long wooden step for students to step up to or down off of a wagon or carriage. Note the hitching post to the right of the step.

Still further to the right is an unused cast iron gas lamppost. The village had electric street lamps by April 1890.

Now look at the steps on the school and notice no handrails. Railings were not a priority on public buildings back then. You simply maneuvered yourself up flights of stairs without this simple relied upon device for us. Say nothing about the present ubiquitous ramp and handrails.

The boy sitting on the window sill is by the window, which has lettering on the glass stating, "Superintendent's Office."