



BETHINKING OF OLD ORLEANS

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Brown's Drive Barn

Our photo is taken from "A Souvenir Book of the Village of Albion" which was printed in 1905. It shows Frank Brown's Drive Barn, Livery, Boarding and Sales Stable which was located just north of the Erie Canal on Main Street.

The building we see here is long gone and was replaced years ago with a garage now owned by Bill Burgio.

A drive barn was where people living in the country could take their horse and carriage once they drove to town. It was something like a modern parking garage. Here the horse was taken care of if the owner was to be in town all day on business.

With Albion's downtown business section being a destination 100 years ago, this drive barn was in easy walking distance to stores, banks, business offices and other needs.

A livery was where one could rent a horse and carriage if one had come to town on the train and needed transportation to places out in the country. Likewise, Frank Brown boarded horses for people living in town who didn't have their own stable or barn.

In accompanying advertising, with this picture it's noted: "Sheds free on Sunday till 2 p.m. and on funeral occasions."

Some churches had their own sheds for parishioners to leave their horses while in church. The Baptists had one directly behind their church off Beaver Street, the Free Methodists had one behind their church off

Platt Street and the Universalists had two sheds off Platt Street.

Brown's ad also indicates: "Fine Hacks" and "Waiting rooms for ladies and gentlemen." A hack would have been like a taxi service if desired.

Our photo shows several carriages along the approach to the canal bridge. a number of men are standing in line for the picture as well as Frank Brown who is standing by himself to the right.