

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of Albion's oldest homes

BY C.W. LATTIN

Our picture shows the house next to the Free Methodist Church on East State Street in Albion. In some reminiscences compiled by L.H. Beach and published in the Orleans Republican in January of 1922, we find some interesting information.

Beach states, "A very old lady many years ago told the house next to the Free Methodist Church was standing when she was very young." He goes on to say, "It is difficult to fix the year of building of the old houses in Albion, but it is say to say the better class houses were all erected subsequent to 1835."

The main portion of this house is brick, which would have been a better class of house. The 1852 map shows it simply as a rectangle, which would have been just the brick part. Subsequent maps show an L-shape configuration thus indicating the wooden wings were additions.

Beach in his article also notes that this house was probably built by Dr. Orson Nichoson, the first physician in Albion. He came to Orleans County in 1819 from Saratoga County and settled in Albion in 1822. He was elected our first County Clerk

in 1825 and held that office for six years.

It is entirely possible the house was erected in the 1820's considering its location to then the center of the newly founded village and county seat. Later, Dr. Nichoson sold this house and moved to one he also possibly had built where the

Baptist Parsonage now stands at the corner of Liberty and West Park streets.

Beach was very prominent in public life and later with Dr. L.C. Paine operated a drug and bookstore in downtown Albion. This store was where the Snell realty office is now located. L.H. Beach in 1922 states, "This is

one of the original business buildings still in use. It was probably erected in the early thirties (1830's)."

There is little question in my mind that this house may well be one of the three oldest dwellings in the village left standing today.