

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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Clinton St. crossing



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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This photo taken in 1905 shows the South Clinton Street railroad crossing in Albion.

The photographer who took this stood next to the railroad depot and pointed his lens east down the tracks.

In the lower left part of this picture, we see a flower bed in the shape of a star on the lawn of the depot.

Across the street, in the left half of our picture, is the Albion House. This was a hotel built in the 1850s following the establishment of railroad service in 1853. A livery sign attached to a tree indicates such service from behind the hotel.

Directly center in the photo is a flagman's shanty.

These little hexagonal buildings were often located on bust crossings. Before automatic signals, the railroad hired flagmen to stop vehicular and pedestrian traffic from crossing the tracks with an approaching train.

During the winter time a small coal stove served for heat in the shanty. Hence a stove pipe chimney appears out the roof.

Down the tracks a ways are some box cars on a siding next to the cold storage. This was all part of the Morgan & Linson business, which is seen to the right side of our picture.

The 1903 Orleans County Directory lists: "Morgan & Linson, (B.F. Morgan and L.S. Linson) wholesale

dealers in grain and produce, apples and beans a specialty; retailers of coal, wood, masons' supplies, fertilizers & also chemical cold storage and manufactures of bean and apple barrels 37-39 Clinton."

It's sad to say everything in this picture is now gone. The flower bed years ago; the Albion House was torn down in the late 1930s. The flagmen's shanty was removed with automated signals in the early 1950s. The Morgan and Linson building was taken down when Liptons expanded over 40 years ago. In fact, even the railroad crossing is gone when this part of Clinton Street was closed off for the Lipton expansion the crossing was eliminated.