

BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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St. Mary's Church and School

BY C.W. LATTIN

The printed information on this old post card notes: "St. Mary's Church and School Albion NY." Judging from what is in the picture I believe this photo was taken around 1909.

In the distance to the left is St. Mary's-Assumption Church located at the corner of Brown Moore streets. The cornerstone was laid Aug. 14, 1892, with large delegations of people coming from other Polish parishes in the Buffalo Diocese.

The building in the center of our picture was the original schoolhouse for this parish. It was during the pastorate of the Rev. Leopold Stein in 1907 that this old school was replaced. The new two-story school house to the far right in the picture opened Sept. 29, 1909. The old school was then sold and moved off the property.

The new parochial school building also provided convent space for the three Felician Sisters who taught there.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Mioduszewski, in 1912, a rectory was built between the church and the new school which does not yet appear in this picture.

In the foreground, we can see an unpaved Brown Street.

To the right, we can also see a street which is perpendicular to



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Brown. This shows on the 1913 atlas as Kosciusko Street. Today this has gone back to nature, as they say, with no evidence of a street having been there.

In 1911 and 1912 with the enlarging of the canal, an extended earth ramp to the north approach of the Brown Street bridge came across this intersection. In other words, the lay of the land today in this location is much different.

As a side note, every time the canal was enlarged (three times) it was not only deepened but the canal banks were raised up. Thus, approaches to get over bridges were made longer and higher.

Notice: Guided walking tours of Mount Albion Cemetery will be held the third Sunday of each month from May through October with either Bill Lattin or Neil Johnson.