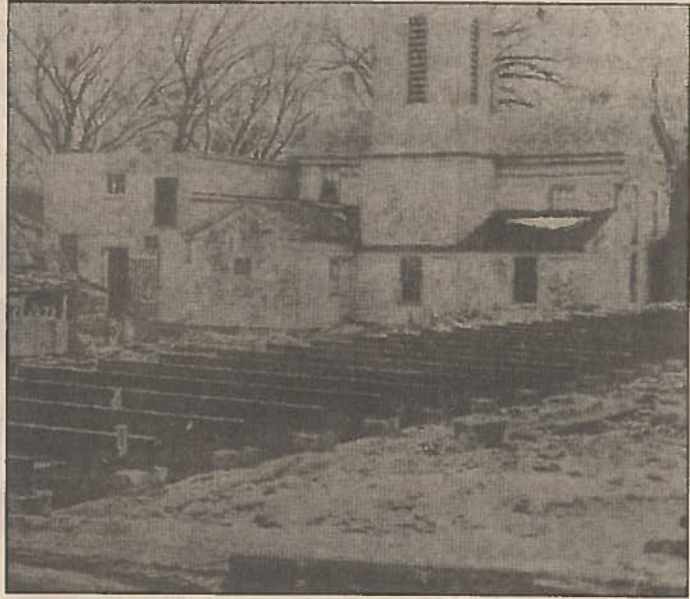


BETHINKING OF OLDE ORLEANS

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The site of Medina City Hall

C.W. LATTIN

This picture was taken in the early 20th century when the old open raceway on Main Street in Medina was being covered. We note here the steel I-beams which are in place about to be covered with concrete.

The raceway channeled off of Oak Orchard River farther south, emptying into the canal as a feeder to manage proper canal water level.

Our photo shows the old fire department building in the distance, which was located at the southwest corner of Park Avenue and Main Street. The fireman's hose tower with

lowered openings shows in the center. Hose towers were used to hang up wet fire hose to drain out and dry them years ago before coiling them up.

Ironically, a disastrous fire destroyed all the buildings in this picture on March 24, 1907. Firemen were able to save some of their equipment and kept the fire from spreading. However, the blacksmith shop just west of the fire department belonging to Brook and Dockery was badly damaged.

It was following this fire that village trustees decided to build City Hall on this site, combined with a fire department which was completed in 1909.