

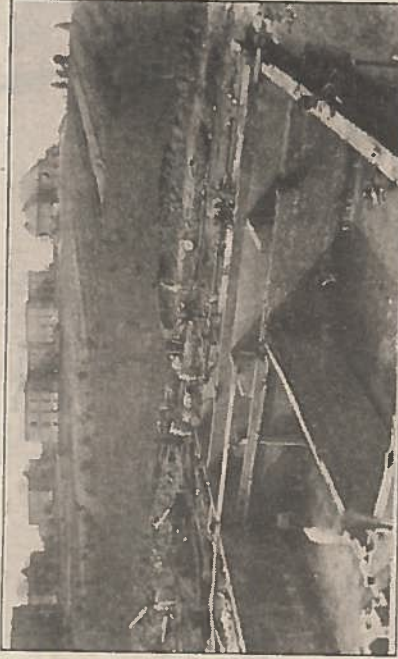
# WESTERN HOUSE OF REFUGE

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By an act of the New York state Legislature passed in 1890, a reformatory institution was established under the name Western House of Refuge. A board of managers was appointed including Hon. E. K. Hart of Albion a former Congressman.

In June 1890, sites were considered for the location of this reformatory. These were: Albion, Bergen, Canandaigua, Corfu, Lockport and Silver Springs.

A commission inspected the proposed sites who expressed a desire to have



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this institution. In October 1890, Albion was selected as the best location.

The managers looked at a couple of sites with open

land. The first was on the east side of Route 98 at the outer edge of the Albion village limits. The second site was the one selected just

west of the village somewhat adjacent to the old fair grounds.

Here 97 acres of land was purchased and in 1892 the first buildings were erected at a cost of \$62,000. In 1893, additional brick buildings were erected at an expense of around \$30,000.

Once this initial construction was completed the reformatory opened in 1893 with a capacity of 150 inmates. Those who were institutionalized were taught skills in domestic science as well as being enrolled in a regular school curriculum.

Our photo with this article was taken in 1899 when

improvements were being made to the sewer and septic systems on the grounds. The prison buildings where inmates lived were called "cottages." Four of these show in the photo. The building to the far right was the reformatory hospital while the building to the far left was the prison. Other structures on this site included an administrative building, a chapel and a laundry. On Sundays impressive religious services were held for the inmates.

The only original building which remains today at what is now the Albion Correctional Facility is the chapel.