

Cornerstone contents

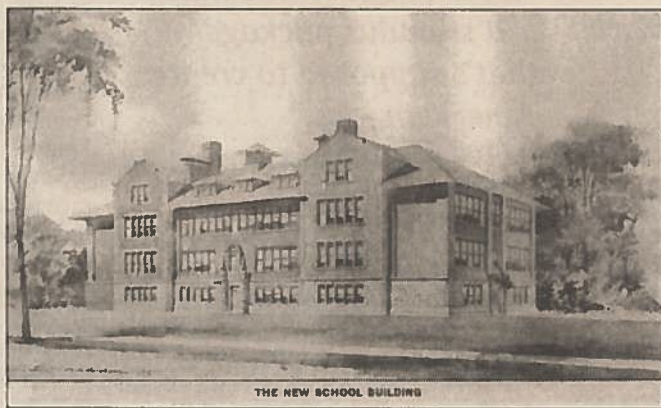
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At the recent opening of the Albion Academy Apartments a resident asked me, "What's in the cornerstone?"

The cornerstone was laid June 20, 1906, with ceremonies conducted by Renovation Lodge F&AM and members of the board of education. The cornerstone is approximately 12 feet above ground level in the traditional northeast corner.

A copper box deposited into the sandstone chamber of the cornerstone contains a number of items as reported by the Orleans American newspaper. Items are: "names of the President and Vice Presidents of the U.S., Governor and Lieutenant Governor of NY State, Village officers, Members of Assembly, Senator and congressman, photographs of the old school building and academy recently demolished, copies of the village newspapers, the name of P.L. Gear contractor and builder



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and the name of Nicholas Hensinger, the contractor who had charge of the stone work."

Our illustration of the building shown here was drawn by the architect in 1905 as a proposed high school. We note that only the first floor was to be of Medina sandstone and that the second, third and fourth floors were proposed to be. Note also a hip roof system shows in the view. By 1906, alterations and modifications came about especially with a expanded fourth floor. The school building also ended up with a flat

roof and a marquee.

The school was built at the height of the local Medina sandstone industry, hence this building material was favored even though it was more costly than brick. Not only did the quarry establishment bring on pressure for its use, but public sentiment prevailed in wanting a true expression of local material. Therefore, we have an extraordinary example of the use of gray Medina Sandstone which, now restored, is again in the pride of the community.