

The Little Red Brick Store

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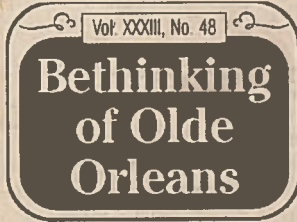
An Albion photo was taken in 1902 of Mrs. A. Leonard, a milliner, in front of her shop known as the Little Red Brick Store.

A millinery shop was where ladies could procure hats and fancy trimmings when such wearing apparel was a must. By contrast, men's furnishings including hats were procured from a haberdashery or haberdasher's shop.

Any village the size of Albion would have had one or more milliners over 100 years ago.

The Little Red Brick Store was actually built perhaps as early as 1826 by Gideon Hard for a law office when he began his practice in Albion. This was located on the west side of Main Street a little north of the Swan Library. It was a fine example of the Federal style of architecture.

In 1924 it was torn down when Will Robson built the Rialto Theatre on this



site. The house is currently offices for Albion Agencies.

As to Gideon Hard, he was an early settler in Albion who became a prominent citizen and public servant. In 1827 he was elected county treasurer, 1832 a representative in Congress and in 1841 was elected senator in the State Senate. In 1856 he was elected Orleans County judge.

Lawyers and doctors frequently built little office buildings like this one in the 19th century. Few remain today, however, two have been saved at the Cobblestone Society Museum. These include a shoe shop built by Starr Chester in 1838 from Gaines and a lumber yard office built by William Headley in the mid 1870's from Medina.