

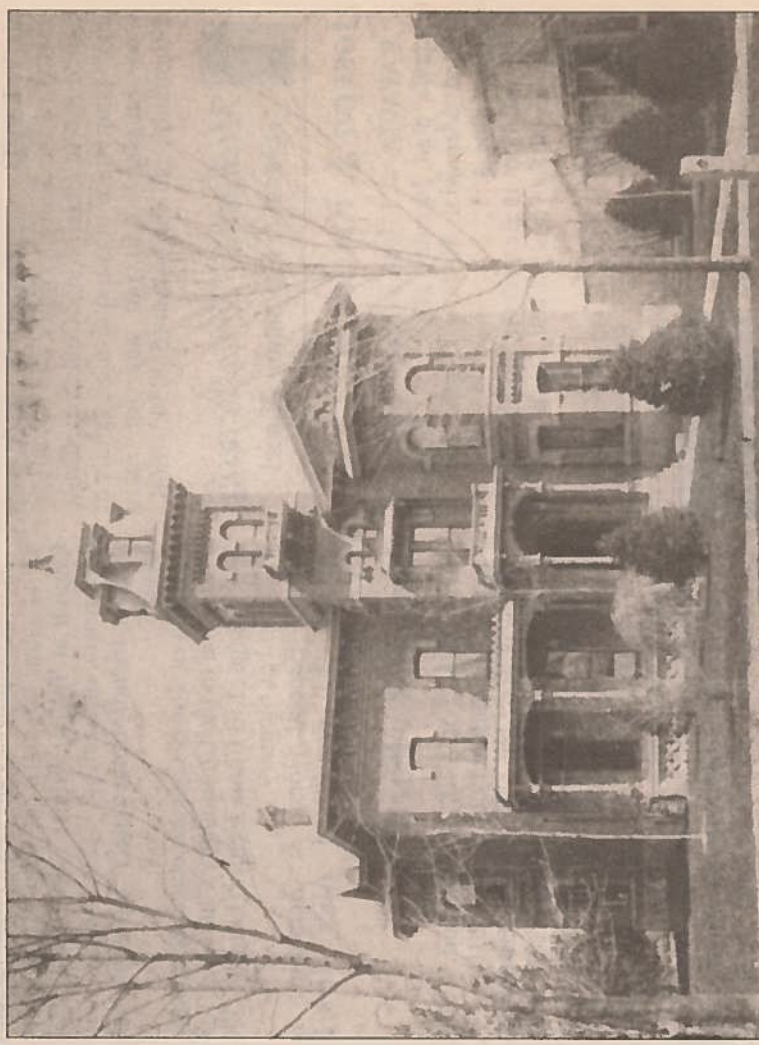
Vanished Orleans: Swan-Hart house, South Main St., Albion

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One of the most prominent and outstanding homes on Albion's South Main Street in the 19th century, was the residence of William G. and Emma Swan.

The house was designed by William V.N. Barlow in the Italianate style and constructed in 1877. Swan was a longtime resident of Albion and was, for a number of years, in the dry goods business. He was also part owner of Albion's Electric Light Company and a village trustee. For 38 years he was superintendent of the Niagara Railway Suspension Bridge and was later its treasurer. Upon his death in 1897, he left a bequest for the establishment of the Swan Library.

After the death of Emma Swan in 1904, the house was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. E. Kirke Hart. Following her death, the property was sold by heirs in 1941. It was then this magnificent dwelling was demolished to



The Swan-Hart brick house, Albion

make way for an Atlantic gasoline station. This site today at Routes 31 and 98 serves as the location for the Rite Aid Drugstore. The Swan-Hart brick house boasted a five story tower as its focal point.

Typical features of Italian villas built during 1850s, 60s and 70s include: round headed windows, low pitched roofs supported with decorative brackets, double windows, little balconies and of course, towers or cupolas. In this case, the tower was capped with a Mansard type roof with projecting dormers. The sad fact is, when something like this is destroyed it's gone forever.