

Bethinking of Old Orleans ⁷⁻⁶⁻⁸³

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED

Part X

Buildings at the Albion Correctional Facility

Perhaps none of these buildings were of any great significance architecturally. But with the up-coming 30 million dollar expansion of the Albion Correctional Facility, I thought it timely to review what the place used to look like. The Western House of Refuge for Women as it used to be known was established in 1890 by an act of the NYS Legislature. 97 acres of land was purchased west of Albion, and in 1892 the first buildings were erected at a cost of \$62,000. In the following year additional structures were erected at an expense of about \$30,000. In all, this included almost a dozen buildings three of which are shown above. They were all made of red brick trimmed with Medina Sandstone. But by the 1930's many of these buildings had become, or were thought to be obsolete and so the prison was then greatly updated with more modern structures. The top photo shows the original administration building which served as a focal point with its tower on the prison campus. It was replaced by the present administration building about fifty years ago. The center picture shows the main prison building or refuge as it appeared around 1905. It was razed in 1933. The bottom picture shows one of the four cottages which housed a select group of inmates. This building was known as "Hart Cottage" and was named in honor of Hon. E.K. Hart who greatly influenced the legislation to locate the Western House of Refuge in Orleans County at Albion. In fact, Mr. Hart was the first president of the board of managers of the institution.

Watch next week for some interior photos of the Western House of Refuge.