

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED

### Part XVI

#### Dye-McNall House

This stately residence was the home of William B. Dye, clothier and at one time, mayor of Albion. The house along with several other fine specimens of architecture was located on South Main Street in Albion near the railroad. Being built in the Italianate Style, I would judge the house was erected in the late 1860's. From earlier photos we know it had outside window blinds and a large cupola. Buildings in the Italianate Style typically featured such design elements as those along with the high rectilinear windows with arched tops. Low-pitched roofs with wide overhangs and a generally bold massive shape for the entire structure is also typical. The octagonal porch in the Colonial Revival Style was a later addition.

In 1929 Freeman and Burt McNall purchased the property and established the first funeral home in Albion. As we know, prior to that time, funerals were usually held in the home of the deceased which meant undertakers embalmed on the spot. In the 1960's McNalls went out of the mortuary business and the house was then used for other purposes until it was sold to Liberty Bank. The lower photo shows this memorable example of once gracious living, being razed in 1972 to make way for Liberty Bank.