

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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ARCHITECTURE DESTROYED
Part XXIII
OLD FAIR GROUNDS BUILDINGS

Now that we are in the middle of 4-H Junior Fair week I thought it would be of interest to see some of the Old Fair Grounds Buildings. The Orleans County Agricultural Society was formed in late 1856. In 1857 the organization purchased twenty-five acres at the western edge of the county seat for a fair grounds. From then until 1942 the Orleans County Fair was held on these grounds under the auspices of the agricultural Society. During this period of time various buildings were erected for functional purposes. It would be difficult to describe them in any architectural style as they were strictly utilitarian and simplistic in form. From the c.

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1905 photos shown here we see the King Street entrance which was a gate house located at the very end of West Park Street in Albion. Members of the Agricultural Society board of directors pose in the foreground. The gate house is believed to have been constructed in 1903. Another photo shows the grand stand, filled to capacity, which was erected in 1904. Another and early grandstand stood adjacent to this one. Both were demolished in the late 1930's.

A third picture depicts the Fair Grounds dining hall which was on site until a few years ago. Besides these buildings which are now all gone, there was a judge's stand for the race track, a log cabin built in 1882 for a museum which only lasted around twenty years, and Floral Hall, the main exhibition building which burned in the late 1950's.