

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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10-22-84

Vol. VI

No. 42

## Architecture Destroyed

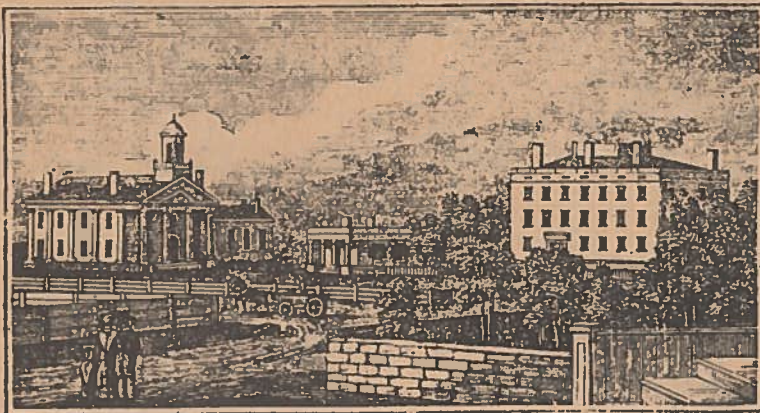
### Part XXVII County Buildings

The illustration shown here can be found in Landmarks of Orleans County by Signor 1894. It is from an old wood cut dating to 1840 which depicts the Court House Square in Albion. I realize this is of rather poor quality but it's the best we have. So let me orient you as to what you are seeing. The scene is looking south-east across the Main and State intersection. The building to the far left is our first County Court House which was erected in 1827 at a cost of a little over \$8,000. This building which had a belfrey and faced Main Street was used until 1857-58 when it was deemed to have inadequate space. At that time the old Court House was demolished and the present Court House was erected on the same site facing State Street.

Directly next to the first Court House in this picture is also shown an early jail. It appears to be connected to the Court House but it was actually a separate building which was built in 1838. It was used until 1902 when it too was deemed to be an inadequate facility. At that time it was demolished and another jail was erected for a cost of \$50,000 which in 1972 was also demolished.

Dead center in this woodcut is a very small building which was built in 1836 at a cost of \$2,000 for a County Clerk's Office. It was used until 1883 when the present County Clerk's Office was erected to give more commodious space in a fire-proof structure for vital records. The older clerk's office was then demolished with its site becoming part of the Court House lawn.

The building to the far right in this early view of



Albion shows what was once the Phipps Union Seminary. This was a girl's finishing school operated by Caroline Phipps Achilles that occupied what is now part of the Court House Square. The Phipps Seminary closed in 1875 and in 1882 the county purchased the property, demolished the building and erected the County Clerk's Office which was referred to earlier.

In the very lower right hand of this old print a set of steps appear. These were the steps of the first Baptist Church which was erected in 1830 and only used until 1860 when Albion Baptists erected their present church edifice. The first Baptist Church was used as a concert hall and eventually was demolished in the 1890's. In other words, all the buildings depicted in this 1840 view have been demolished for one reason or another and most of them over 100 years ago.

I guess it all goes to show that renewal and renovation are a tradition and as much a part of the American way as apple pie. In some cases architectural improvements have been made, but in many other cases, the pie has flopped which is sometimes hard to digest.

