

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## EXCEPTIONAL

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## ENTRANCE

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The exceptional entrance shown here this week is that of the Chapel at St. Joseph's Cemetery on Route 31 just east of Albion. Stylistically I would call this building Romanesque architecture during the 1100's. The round headed arch over the door and the series of slender recessed columns are unmistakable Romanesque features. The chapel which was constructed in 1920 made use of our native Medina Sandstone. This material gives the chapel a massive character to its appearance which is typical of Romanesque Architecture. The wrought iron gates and heavy plank doors of the entrance create an ensemble which is particularly outstanding if you appreciate this style. The chapel is also adorned with its original Spanish tile roof which adds great textural character to the structure. Inside, the basic plan is cruciform with a dome ceiling in the crossing. A vault in the rear was used to hold deceased persons during the winter. The building is illuminated by four attractive stained glass windows.

The design of the building and supervising of its construction came under the direction of the late Pasquale DiLaura, local quarryman. Around \$10,000 was expended on the erection of this chapel during the tenure of Monsignor Francis Sullivan. Architecturally, this structure is a jewel. It has been maintained as it was intended and represents today, complete architectural integrity so rarely found any more in older buildings. St. Joseph's Church in Albion is to be commended for preservation of such a noteworthy architectural specimen. Indeed, St. Joseph's has set a good example to follow in its maintenance of this seldom used structure and that is: "If it isn't broken, don't fix it."