

EARLY PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Orleans County historian

The photo we see here was taken around 1870 on Main Street, Albion. The photographer aimed his camera from a second-floor window on the west side of the street. The photo was taken to show a firemen's parade and/or convention.

More than 100 people are seen here, including not only firemen in uniform, but also spectators. Along with the firemen are a number of pieces of firefighting apparatus.

The brick building in the background, known as the Ough Block was fairly new at the time. Note the awnings and advertising, one stating: "Millinery & Fancy Goods." This would have been a ladies' hat and dress goods shop.

The building next to the

Ough Block is listed on the 1871 Albion map as an engine house. This was the first firehouse in Albion; hence, the firemen are posed in front of their building.

When the current Village Hall was built in 1873, the fire company moved there. This property was then purchased by John Denio. The old engine house was torn down and replaced with a nice sandstone business block. This now houses Gurney's Olde Coach Inn.

To the far right in the photo is the Exchange Hotel; above that in the upper right corner, the Court House dome. Note the fire bell in a belfry on the engine house. A gas post lamp also is seen in front of the fire company. Those were lit each evening by a lamplighter employed by the village. He carried a ladder and matches to climb up and ignite each one.