

Vanished Orleans: Albion Firemen's hose tower

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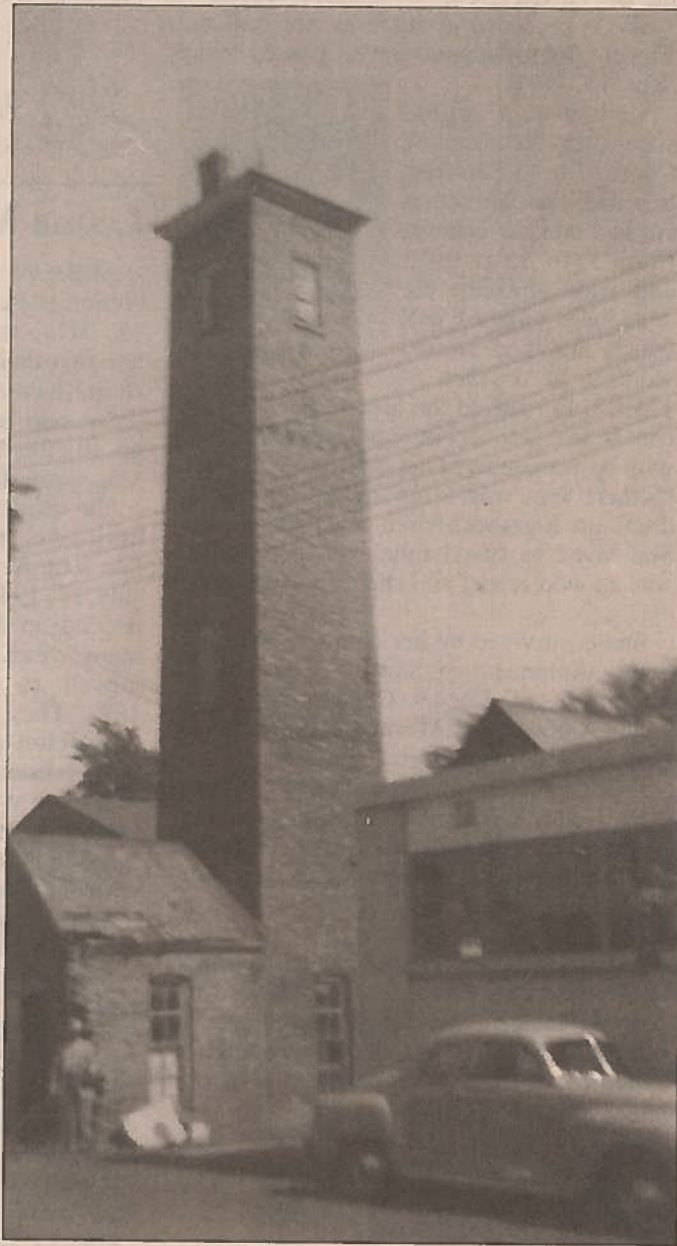
It is not uncommon to find a hose tower in connection with a firehouse. But the Albion Firemen's hose tower was unique, standing as a completely separate building not being connected in any way to the fire house.

It was built in 1880 at a cost of \$900 for the purpose of drying out wet hoses following a fire. One end of the wet hose was attached to a pulley and hoisted up to the top of the tower.

All excess water was drained from the stretched out hose through a large grate located in the floor directly underneath. You will notice a chimney on the roof. A stove with around 50 feet of stove pipe extending upward was used for heating the tower and drying hoses in colder weather. Once dry, the hose could then be rolled up on its reel for use again.

Built of light red brick, this landmark stood on the east side of Platt Street in back of business blocks off East Bank Street.

In 1959, the tower had served its usefulness and rather than spend money for upkeep or restoration, which might be considered now, it was demolished. The site where it stood remains vacant.



Albion Firemen's hose tower