The elegant Yates Hotel

Each week, the Onondaga Historical Association looks back at important events:

The view of the Yates Hotel from the steps of Syracuse City Hall. The block bordered by Montgomery and East Washington streets is now a parking lot. (OHA photo)

123 Years Ago: On Sept. 17, 1892, the Yates Hotel opened opposite Syracuse's City Hall at Montgomery and East Washington Streets with a reception for 4,000 people. Built on the site of the 1891 Montgomery Flats fire, construction on the hotel took just over one year. The Romanesque Revival building was designed by Syracuse architect Archimedes Russell. Standing six stories tall, occupying almost an entire city block, and offering over 250 rooms, the Yates was called "the most elegant hotel outside Manhattan." It operated for almost 80 years, closing in March of 1971. A few months later, the final section of the building was demolished, falling into East Fayette Street. The site of the Yates Hotel is a parking lot today.

— *Dan Connors for the OHA*