

SYRACUSE

Long-vacant Gothic Cottage is demolished



The Gothic Cottage at 1631 S. Salina St. in Syracuse

(2002 photo, Jim Commentucci / The Post-Standard)

For more than 30 years, the house known as the Gothic Cottage on South Salina Street sat vacant, waiting for someone to restore it to its former glory. No one ever did and now it's gone.

Wednesday, contractors for the Greater Syracuse Land Bank demolished the once-distinctive house. The loss of a landmark was mourned on Facebook, while neighbors cheered the end of an eyesore.

"It really didn't have any real historical value as far as the interior. That had all been taken out. It was time for it to go," said Will Morgan, who owns Morgan & Morgan Home Inspections / Building Consultants. His office is across the street from the cottage. **A-8**

— Charley Hannagan



The Gothic Cottage at 1631 S. Salina St. was demolished Wednesday. (David Lassman / dlassman@syracuse.com)

Gothic Cottage finally falls to ruin

By Allie Healy
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While there was hope that the Gothic Cottage at 1631 S. Salina St. would be salvaged, the historic home met its fate on Wednesday.

The building, one of the last of its style of architecture in Syracuse, had been falling down for years. Dick Case reported for The Post-Standard that in 2012, the Common Council approved an application by Syracuse Model Neighborhood Corp. to apply for a state Urban Initiative Grant of \$200,000 to renovate the house as a one-family dwelling.

As of 2012, the house was owned by the New Jerusalem Church of God in Christ. The church bought it about 30 years ago with intentions to turn it into a center for the congregation, but these plans were never fulfilled. In 2004, Case spoke to the Rev. James T. Jones, who suggested the city ought to demolish the house.

The plan, in 2012, was that the city would seize the house for back taxes, as the church owed about \$179,000. The property would then be sold to Model Neighborhood.

In 2002, Model Neighborhood attempted to remodel the home, but couldn't come up with the money. In a second try in 2012, Model Neighborhood said it had its own crew of carpenters to cut back on the costs.

Syracuse historians date the house to 1850 to 1855. It was built in a part of the city known as the village of Danforth, named for Asa Danforth, a city pioneer from 1874 to 1887.

In 2005, Dennis Connors, curator of history at Onondaga Historical Association, and Case wrote about the cottage and the Lynch family, who lived in the home when it was part of a "doctor's row" on South Salina Street.

"It was such a pretty place," Irene Lynch said of her former home. "It breaks my heart to see it now."

This feature is a part of CNY Nostalgia at syracuse.com/vintage. Send your ideas and curiosities to Allie Healy at ahealy@syracuse.com or at 766-6725.



The 1850s gothic cottage at 1631 S. Salina St. has been vacant for 30 years. The church next door also will be demolished. (2004 photo, Michelle Gabel)



The Gothic Cottage in the 1940s. (Onondaga Historical Association)