



The restored Persian Terrace. (Rick Moriarty / rmoriarty@syracuse.com)

SETTING THE TABLE FOR HOTEL SYRACUSE

SHERRILL COMPANY, AMERICA'S LAST
FLATWARE MANUFACTURER, SUPPLIES
22,000 UTENSILS FOR HISTORIC HOTEL

By Rick Moriarty
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Guests at the soon-to-reopen Hotel Syracuse will be eating with forks, spoons, knives and other utensils made by America's only remaining flatware maker.

Sherrill Manufacturing Inc., which took over the former Oneida Ltd. factory in the small Oneida County city of Sherrill in 2005, on Monday delivered 21,840 pieces of stainless steel flatware for the historic hotel.

Sherrill owners Gregory Owens and Matthew Roberts presented the pieces, packed in dozens of boxes, to hotel owner Ed Riley in the hotel's Persian Terrace

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Some of the flatware made at the Sherrill Manufacturing plant. (Dennis Nett / dnett@syracuse.com)

A spoon after it has been shaped. (Dennis Nett / dnett@syracuse.com)

A worker takes spoons through a manufacturing process. Sherrill is making the flatware that will be used at the new Marriott Syracuse Downtown. (Dennis Nett / dnett@syracuse.com)





Workers inside the Sherrill Manufacturing plant. The company is providing flatware that will be used in the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, formerly the Hotel Syracuse. (Dennis Nett / dnett@syracuse.com)

Sherrill expects to replace 10% each year

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ballroom. The delivery came in time for a gala fundraiser to be held for the Onondaga Historical Association on June 4 and the hotel's grand reopening as the Marriott Syracuse Downtown a month later.

Sherrill Manufacturing does business under the brand name Liberty Tabletop. It employs 36 people making high-quality flatware that it sells directly to the public through its website, libertytabletop.com.

The Hotel Syracuse opened on South Warren Street in downtown Syracuse in 1924 and was the grand lady of Central New York hotels for many decades until it went bankrupt and closed in 2004. Riley, a hotel developer who lives in Camillus, bought the building in 2014 and is completing a \$70 million renovation.

Riley has made an effort to hire local labor for the renovations and the permanent jobs that will be created when the hotel reopens. Owens said his company approached Riley earlier this year about making flatware for the hotel and Riley quickly agreed to



The hotel will use Sherrill's most popular design, the elegant Betsy Ross line. The Marriott Syracuse Downtown is Sherrill's biggest customer outside of the U.S. military.

buy from Sherrill.

The company is making 12 types of flatware pieces for the hotel — teaspoons, soup spoons, salad forks, dinner forks, dinner knives, serving spoons, pierced serving spoons, serving forks, sugar spoons, iced tea spoons and steak knives.

In total, the company is making 21,840 pieces of flatware for the hotel, making the hotel by far the company's largest single customer other than the U.S. military, Owens said. It's also the first hotel customer for the company, he said.

The stainless steel flatware being made for the hotel contains no special design

or crest. It is from Sherrill Manufacturing's Betsy Ross line, the company's most popular. The Liberty Tabletop website describes the line as having an elegant "teardrop shape and sleek design," a mirror-finish, and a heavy weight that "provides elegant balance and feel."

"This would be the type that a high-class restaurant or country club would have, a thicker, heavier line," said Owens.

He said his company likely will be making flatware for the hotel for years to come to replace pieces that are lost or, more likely, stolen.

"Generally, it's customers looking for a souvenir," said

Owens, who, like his business partner, Matthew Roberts, is a former Oneida Ltd. executive.

Replacement orders will probably amount to about 10 percent of the original order, or approximately 2,200 pieces, each year, he said.

Oneida Ltd. existed when the Hotel Syracuse opened, but it is not known who made the original silverware for the hotel. A 1924 newspaper advertisement said the E. W. Edwards & Son Department Store provided the silverware for the hotel, but it does not say who manufactured it.

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