

LOCAL HISTORY



Above, working in the typewriter factory on Washington Street. Right, the building, known then as Midtown Plaza, is imploded on March 7, 1999.

Onondaga Historical Association and Post-Standard photos



114 Years Ago: On March 4, 1903, the L.C. Smith & Brothers Typewriter Co. broke ground on its new factory at Washington and Almond streets. Timothy L. Woodruff was the first president of the company. Woodruff had previously served as lieutenant governor of New York under three different governors (the only person in New York state history to do so), including during the time Theodore Roosevelt held the position. The company manufactured typewriter machines on this site until 1960, except during World War II when the factory was converted to wartime production. In 1962, the former factory was turned into an office building called Midtown Plaza, which housed Onondaga Community College for a decade. The location is now the site of the Center of Excellence building.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association