

## LOCAL HISTORY



**112 Years Ago:** On March 23, 1905, the Carnegie Library opened at the corner of Montgomery and East Jefferson streets. Andrew Carnegie, who had made his fortune in the steel industry, donated \$200,000 (roughly \$5 million today) for the library's construction. The architect for the project was James Randall, who designed numerous schools in Syracuse including Blodgett, Delaware, Frazer, and Grant, as well as the Solvay Public Library, to which Carnegie also gave money. The Carnegie building downtown housed the Syracuse Public Library and became the

central library for the Onondaga County Public Library System in 1976. Part of the building also served as the home of the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts in the 1920s and 1930s. The library was closed in 1988 when a new central library opened in the Galleries of Syracuse. Except for a few years of use by the Syracuse City School District, the building has remained vacant.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association