

LOCAL HISTORY

134 Years Ago: After successfully running a dry goods store in Elmira, Robert Dey and his brothers opened a store on South Salina Street in downtown Syracuse in April 1883. Dey Brothers grew rapidly and the company was soon in need of more space. In 1894, construction was completed on their new building, which still stands today on the corner of South Salina and East Jefferson streets. Due to the popularity of the bicycle at that time, the top floor of the building had a track so customers could try out the bicycles before buying them. Some may remember in more recent years when the store stayed open until 9 p.m. on certain nights so people could shop downtown in the evening. Dey Brothers closed its downtown store in 1992, partially because of the rise of suburban shopping malls. Developers bought the building and renovated it, first into office space and now into luxury apartments. A number of businesses occupy the street level of the building today, including Cafe Kubal and Gannon's Ice Cream.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association



This undated photo shows the Dey Brothers building, which opened in 1894 at the corner of South Salina and East Jefferson streets. Onondaga Historical Association