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Consider this: Keepers of the past

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By **The Post-Standard Editorial Board**

Stop by 321 Montgomery St. in downtown Syracuse for a peek into Onondaga County's attic.

The Onondaga Historical Association Museum reopens to the public today after a renovation that includes reopening eight large windows on the front of the 1906 building, which originally housed Bell Telephone Co. The association is debuting its expanded store and renovated exhibit spaces after a three-year, \$500,000 project.

The face lift updates the 148-year-old OHA, which is promoting its new mission as an active participant in the community's cultural scene. The association began in 1862 as "an institution for the preservation and care for the curiosities and relics of the county." The collection today includes more than 1 million items.

Visitors can view a refurbished "Heart of New York" display, the Underground Railroad exhibit, and the original Franklin car. Also on view are items never displayed before, including an Easy washing machine, a Melville Clark Irish harp, a stained-glass window from Keck Studios and a chair from the Wieting Opera House. New, temporary exhibits include "Our Sporting Life" and a display commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, "Shadows of the Storm."

Stop next door for a snack at Parisa Restaurant, in the space once filled by Brick Alley Cafe. Although Parisa has no ties to the OHA, it features OHA paintings and other documents on the walls. Parking is a breeze; at the city parking garage at Montgomery and East Fayette streets, \$2 will cover parking for the first two hours.

The OHA is making good on its mission of safeguarding artifacts of Onondaga County's past so people can enjoy them well into the future.

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