

# Century-old building that collapsed in Syracuse was ice cream business, shipping hub



The building in the 400 block of Erie Boulevard West. The building partially collapsed early on March 10.

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corner of the building that collapsed (Building F) with the faded "Ice Cream Co." sign on its north side in

1960. *Onondaga Historical Association*

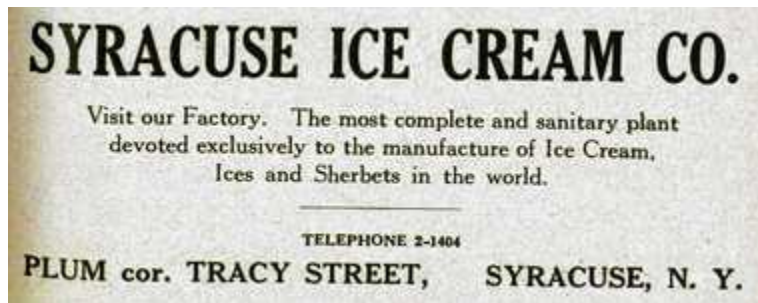
SYRACUSE, N.Y. -- A large building on Syracuse's West Side that **partially collapsed** Tuesday morning at one point manufactured ice cream and stored perishable food for local distribution.

Excavation to build the Syracuse Ice Cream Co. factory building began in 1909, said Dennis Connors, curator of history for the Onondaga Historical Association.

The west side of the complex--the part that collapsed--was where the ice cream manufacturing was located. The complex was built in sections, Connors said. The eastern side of the building, the side with small windows few and far between, was a cold storage facility used by the Syracuse Cold Storage Co.

Cold storage facilities were especially important in the days before refrigerated trucking. A railroad line ran on the north side of the building, Connors said,

while the Erie Canal, later Erie Boulevard, ran on the south side, which gave shipping companies prime access to the building.



Syracuse Ice Cream ad from 1925 *Onondaga*

*Historical Association*

Items such as eggs, meat, fish and dairy would come to the cold storage facility on railroad and held. Trucks would then pick up the items to distribute to stores around the area.

In 2011, the complex was written up as a potential site for consideration by the State Historic Preservation Office to be added to the National Register of Historic Places, but Connors said he didn't believe that request was formally processed. The site is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, according to the [register's website](#).

Unlike other warehouses, such as the [C.G. Meaker Food Co. building](#) two blocks away, the Syracuse Ice Cream building would be difficult to adapt into apartments, due to its unique interior design, particularly in the cold storage section of the complex, Connors said. The C.G. Meaker Food Co. building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The collapsed section of the building will be torn down, said Alexander Marion, Alexander Marion, a spokesman for Mayor Stephanie Miner.

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