

## LOCAL HISTORY



Looking east along the Erie Canal in Clinton Square. Onondaga Historical Association photo

**197 Years Ago:** In October 1819, the section of the Erie Canal between Utica and Syracuse was completed. The canal was initially 40 feet wide and 4 feet deep, but was later enlarged. As part of the enlargement, a culvert with three stone archways was built to carry the Erie Canal over Onondaga Creek. The canal remained in operation for nearly 100 years, closing to navigation in 1917 before being filled in and then paved over in the early 1920s. The filled-in canal became Erie Boulevard and the section of the canal that passed through Clinton Square became a parking lot. A new interpretive sign was recently installed at the site of the culvert, the oldest canal structure that exists in Syracuse today. It is located two blocks west of Clinton Square, where the culvert carries Erie Boulevard over Onondaga Creek.

— Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association



After the Clinton Square section of the Erie Canal was filled in, it became a parking lot. OHA photo