

LOCAL HISTORY

80 years after the Collins Block fire

80 years ago: On Feb. 3, 1939, a fire broke out in the Collins Block on East Genesee Street between the State Tower and Courier Buildings. The flames had been brought under control when part of the building suddenly collapsed, trapping several firemen who were on the third floor of the building under the rubble. A total of nine firemen died as a result, making it the deadliest fire in Syracuse's history.

Every year on the anniversary of the Collins Block Fire, a ceremony is held in Fayette Firefighters Memorial Park to honor all of the firemen killed in the line of duty while serving the citizens of Syracuse.

— Jon Zella, Onondaga Historical Association



Above, Firefighters Memorial Park.
At right, crowds of onlookers watch firefighters battle the Collins Block fire on Feb. 3, 1939. *Post-Standard file; OHA*

