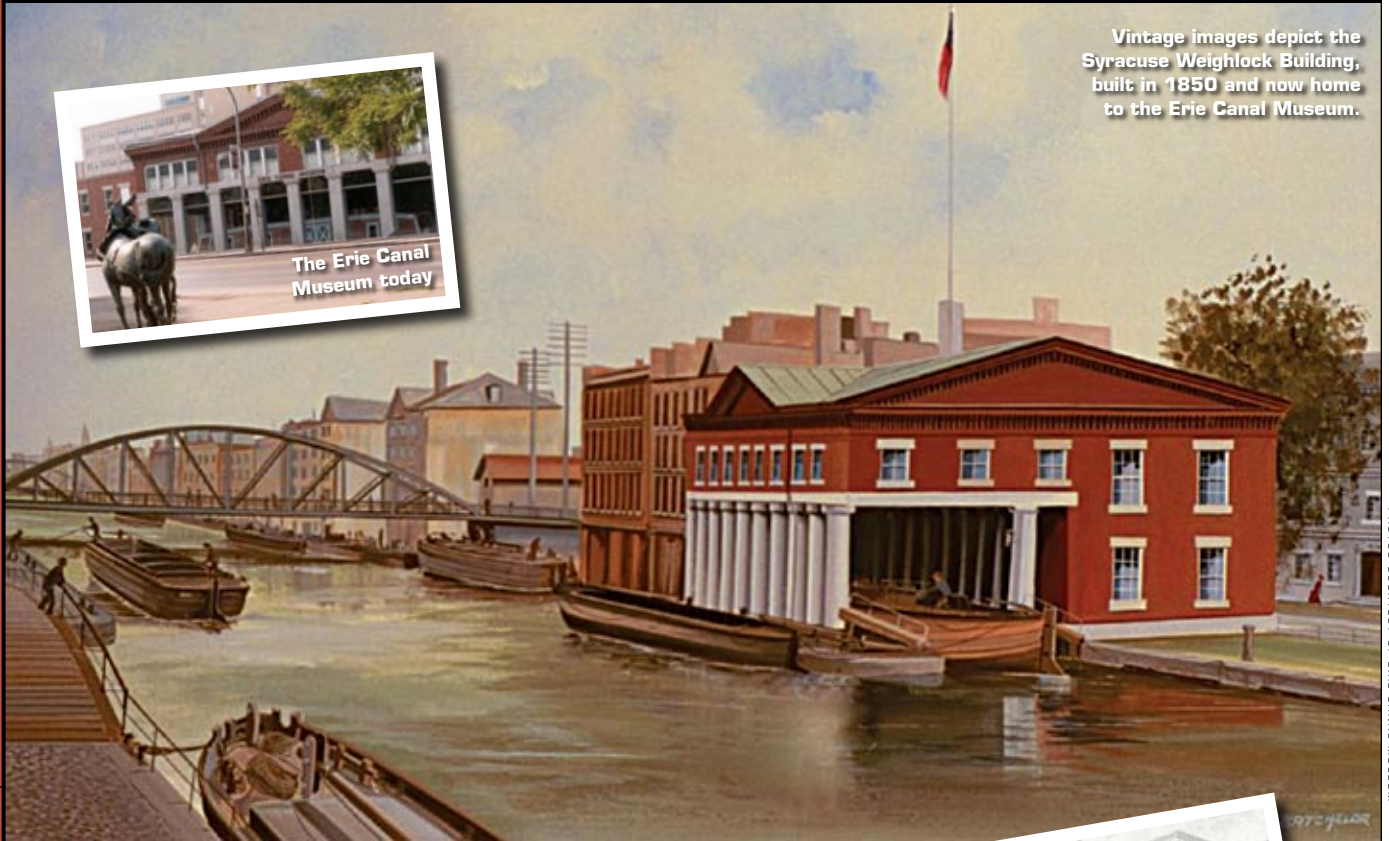


# LAST LOOK

Vintage images depict the Syracuse Weighlock Building, built in 1850 and now home to the Erie Canal Museum.



The Erie Canal Museum today



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIE CANAL MUSEUM

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## Hub of Early Superhighway

Syracuse's proximity to the Erie Canal helped the city prosper, positioning Syracuse as a transportation hub and luring warehouses and businesses to open along the canal.

The Syracuse Weighlock Building was used to weigh cargo-carrying boats and collect tolls from canal travelers. The Greek Revival building dates back to 1850 and is the last remaining weighlock in the US.

The last boat traveled down the canal in 1922; dirt and black-top soon filled the former waterway. The Erie Canal Museum ([eriecanalmuseum.org](http://eriecanalmuseum.org)) opened in the former weighlock building in 1962 to offer visitors a glimpse of life on the canal. Exhibits include a full-size replica of a canal boat, a postcard arcade depicting scenes of life in 19th- and 20th-century Syracuse, and a replica of a canal-side tavern where travelers stopped for drinks and food. — *Martha-Page Ransdell*

