

OLD RESERVOIR OCCUPIED SITE OF MONUMENT

Map of 1849 Shows It Was Located in St. Mary's Circle

What the topography of St. Mary's circle used to be in the old days has been a matter for conjecture ever since it was decided to stand Christopher Columbus in the middle of it.

It was thought for a time that the drillers would strike the bed of old Yellow creek. Then there was talk that an old bog used to extend over that area. And there were recollections of a lone, giant spruce that stood for years about where the municipal Christmas tree now sprouts up annually overnight.

Now they have found something else that used to occupy the circle—before it was a circle. They have found that there used to be a reservoir right at the center of it.

On Old Map of 1849

Members of the staff of William W. Cronin, acting city engineer, are engaged in tracing the old Trowbridge map of Syracuse, drawn nearly a century ago, in 1849. The yellowed old map, it was learned yesterday, shows a circle marked "reservoir" at the middle of a triangle at East Jefferson and Onondaga streets, where St. Mary's circle has been and Columbus circle is to be.

The site where the Syracuse public library stands now is marked as public school 7, which many Syracusans well remember.

The map shows the lines of the old aqueduct—part of it built of concrete, part of wood, running thru Onondaga street, crossing over to the north side by way of Almond street, to springs in the southeastern section of the city.

For Fire Department

Acting City Engineer Cronin is of the opinion that the reservoir was one of the small ones which used to be located at intervals throught the city for use of the fire department in the days before pressure water and hydrant systems.

The reservoir must have been removed many years ago. No trace of it was found by the drillers. They drilled five holes, one of them down 50 feet, the others 15 feet each, and found below 9 or 10 feet, sand or gravel which will make a good foundation.

It had been expected that expensive piling might be necessary, if the expected remains of the old brook or bog were found. It is believed now that the bog did abut closely on the circle, but that possibly a little peninsula land projected where the circle is.

Dwight James Baum, New York city architect who is donating his services in advising and passing on the monument, conferred yesterday with Mayor Marvin and with Parks Commissioner Barry.

Available for Christmas Tree

The upshot of his conference was that it was decided it will be possible to put the municipal Christmas tree in the circle this Christmas after all. Commissioner Barry plans to start work on the monument foundations about January 3, getting the tree out of there promptly after New Years.

He conferred with Syracuse Lighting company officials a few days ago about moving a 12-inch main that runs thru the circle, and their men have been working there this week. This section is to be cut off, as well as the water main which runs under the circle, as there are other connections for both around the circle.

The base work will be out of the way in time so that the contractor can start work there early in the spring. The monument is to be complete in time for unveiling next Columbus day.