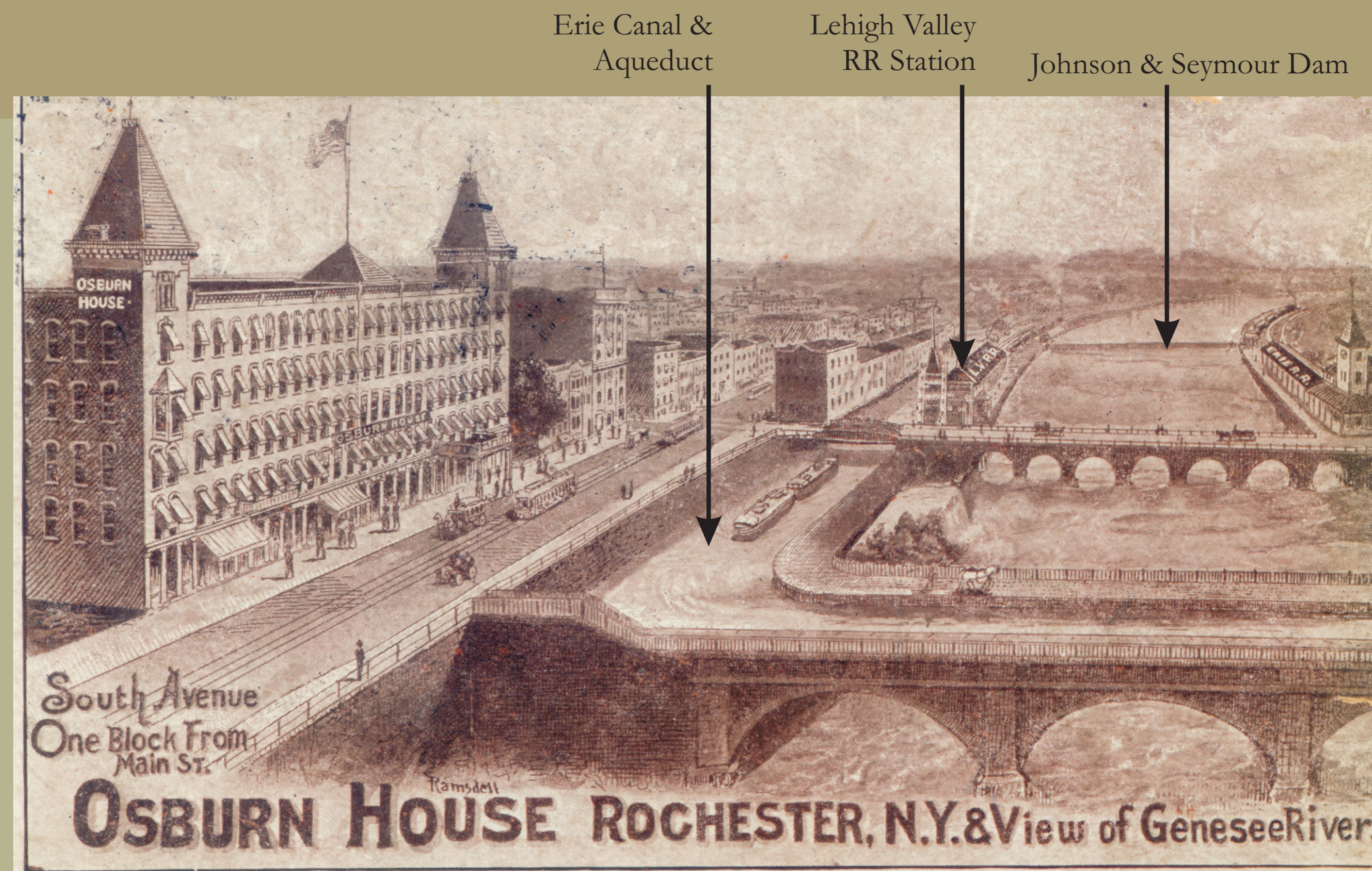


Transportation and Commerce

From Seneca fording place to aqueduct and bridge – a perpetual crossing place

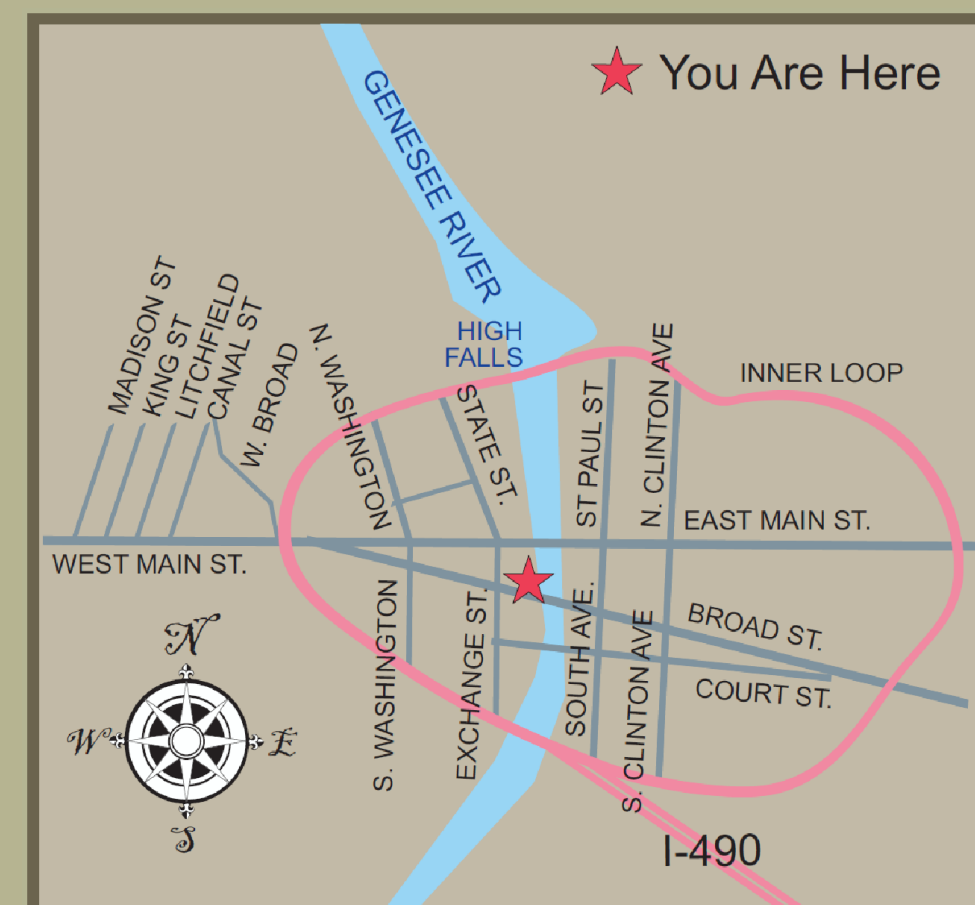


Above: 1902 Postcard Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division

Erie Canal Rerouted South of the City and out of Downtown

The last canal boat passed through the Erie Canal in downtown Rochester in 1919. The city had grown because of the canal to a point where horse, trolley, automobile, bicycle and pedestrian traffic had become dangerous and congested. Because of these dangers in 1912, Main Street won the title "Aisle of Death." The canal was re-routed out of the city leaving behind a right-of-way through the city.

Right: 1920s Postcard showing the Erie Canal aqueduct converted to accommodate subway system and capped with Broad Street, a second tier to handle vehicular traffic. Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division

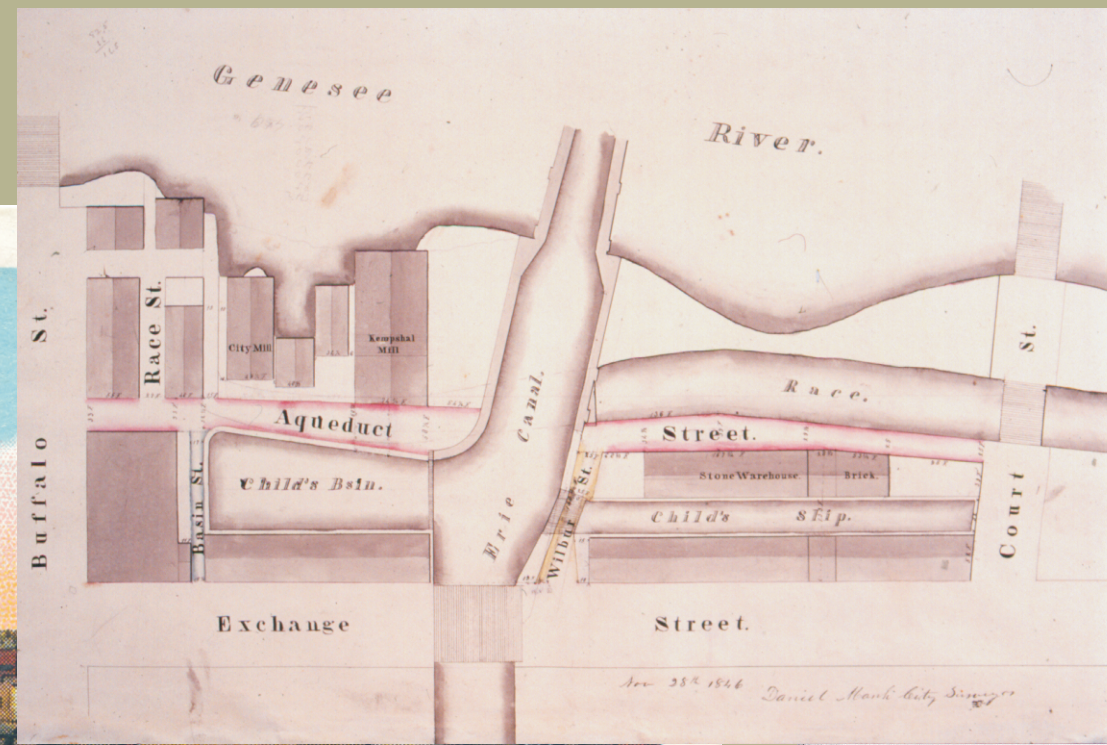


The Subway System

In 1921 the City began to build a subway in the bed of the old Erie canal. It was completed in 1927. In order to accommodate automobiles and the subway-a second level was built over the canal aqueduct and named Broad Street. The subway operated from 1927 to 1956. Remnants of the subway can be seen behind the Lehigh Valley Railroad station.

Osburn House Postcard View

Looking south in this early 20th century post card South Avenue, the aqueduct, Erie Canal, Johnson & Seymour Race and Genesee River are visible. The Public Library was built near the right angle turn in the canal. The subway ran through the canal bed under the library from 1927-1956. The Osburn House hotel was demolished in 1959 to make way for the Broad Street extension. The expanded public library was built on the site in the 1990s.



Left: Detail of map showing Child's Basin & Child's Slip. From private collection

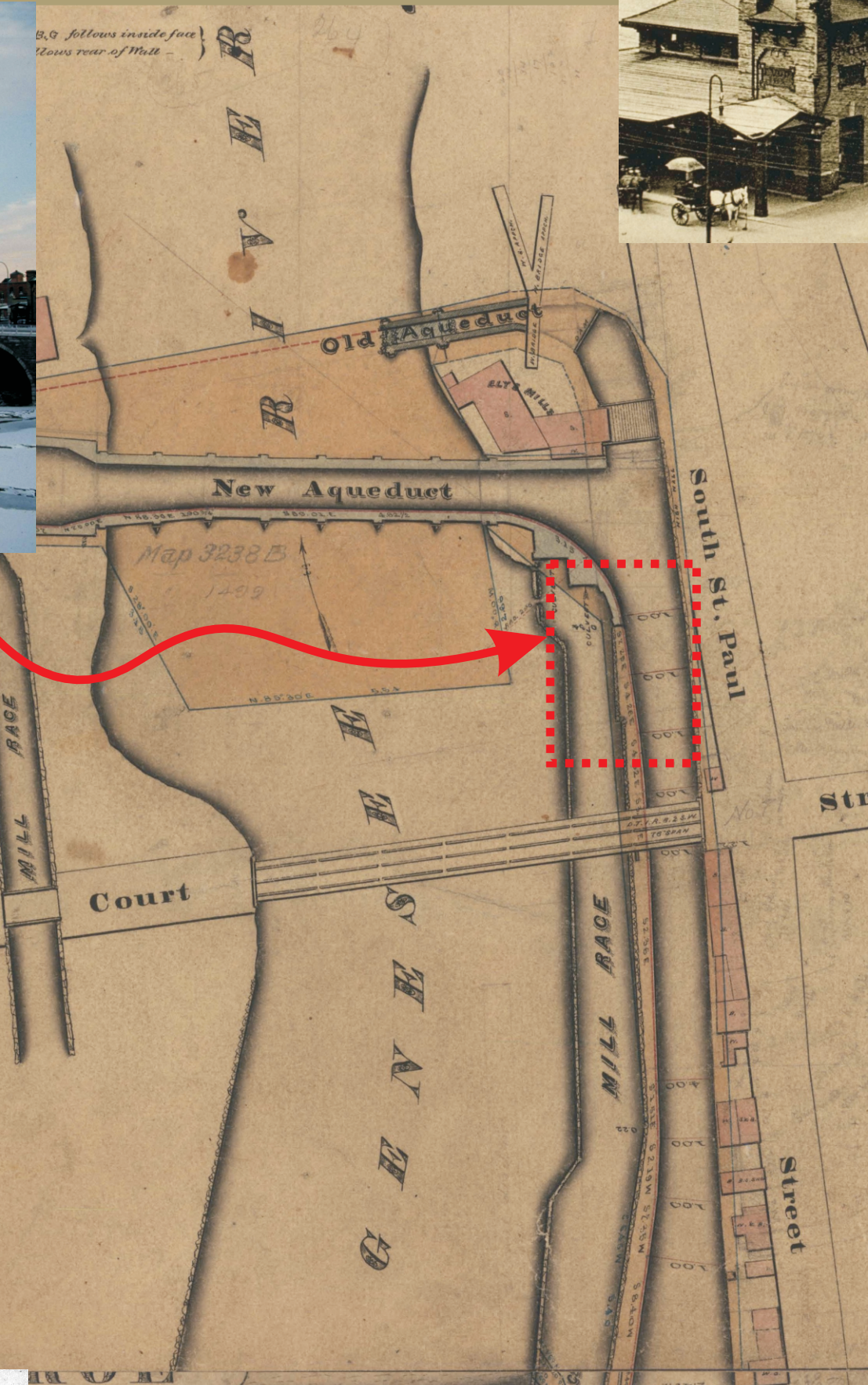
Below: From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center



Above: 1923 Construction of second level over the old Erie Canal aqueduct. Note the Osburn House hotel in the background. From the Albert R. Stone Negative Collection, Rochester Museum & Science Center



Above 1989 view of Rochester Public Library - Note the arched tail races below the building and the arches of the aqueduct to the left of the building. Site of library shown by dotted box on map. Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester City Hall Photo Lab



Right: Court Street Bridge Postcard Rochester Images: From the Collection of the Rochester City Hall Photo Lab



Above: Court Street Bridge Postcard Circa 1905-1910 shows the Lehigh Railroad station (lower left) wagons, cars and a trolley on the bridge over the Genesee River. On the far side of the river is the Erie Railroad station.

Genesee River Feeder

Originally intended to feed water from the Genesee River into the Erie Canal, the feeder became a by-pass for boats to enter the canal from the river. The junction of the feeder and canal are shown inside the blue circle at left.



Weigh Lock and Warehouse

Photo above shows a canal boat in the weigh lock in 1915. (Shown on the map at the right inside red square). The weigh lock building on the Erie Canal determined the toll boats would pay based on the difference between their registered empty weight and loaded weight. The warehouse, inside the blue circle, was once Cheney Stove Works, which canal boat Captains said, was haunted because the wind whistled through broken windows.



Castletown

The pioneer settlement, Castletown, was built where rapids in the river prevented boats from going further north. (Across the river from where the University of Rochester is currently located.) Boats had to transfer their cargo to wagons that would take the cargo to the Erie and Genesee Valley canals or to Lake Ontario to be shipped around the world. As river boats entered the Erie Canal feeder, bypassing Castletown, the settlement lost its profitable transfer business and today is part of the City's 19th Ward.