

Tag Along

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Ruins



The industrial ruins of Upstate New York, both in size and extent, continues to astonish – particularly in Buffalo.

At once point, the Queen City was the largest supplier of grain in the world, where the grain elevator was perfected. These monoliths still stand, largely abandoned.



Buffalo's dominance was eroded by railways, the Welland Canal and eventually the St. Lawrence Seaway.

More [here](#).





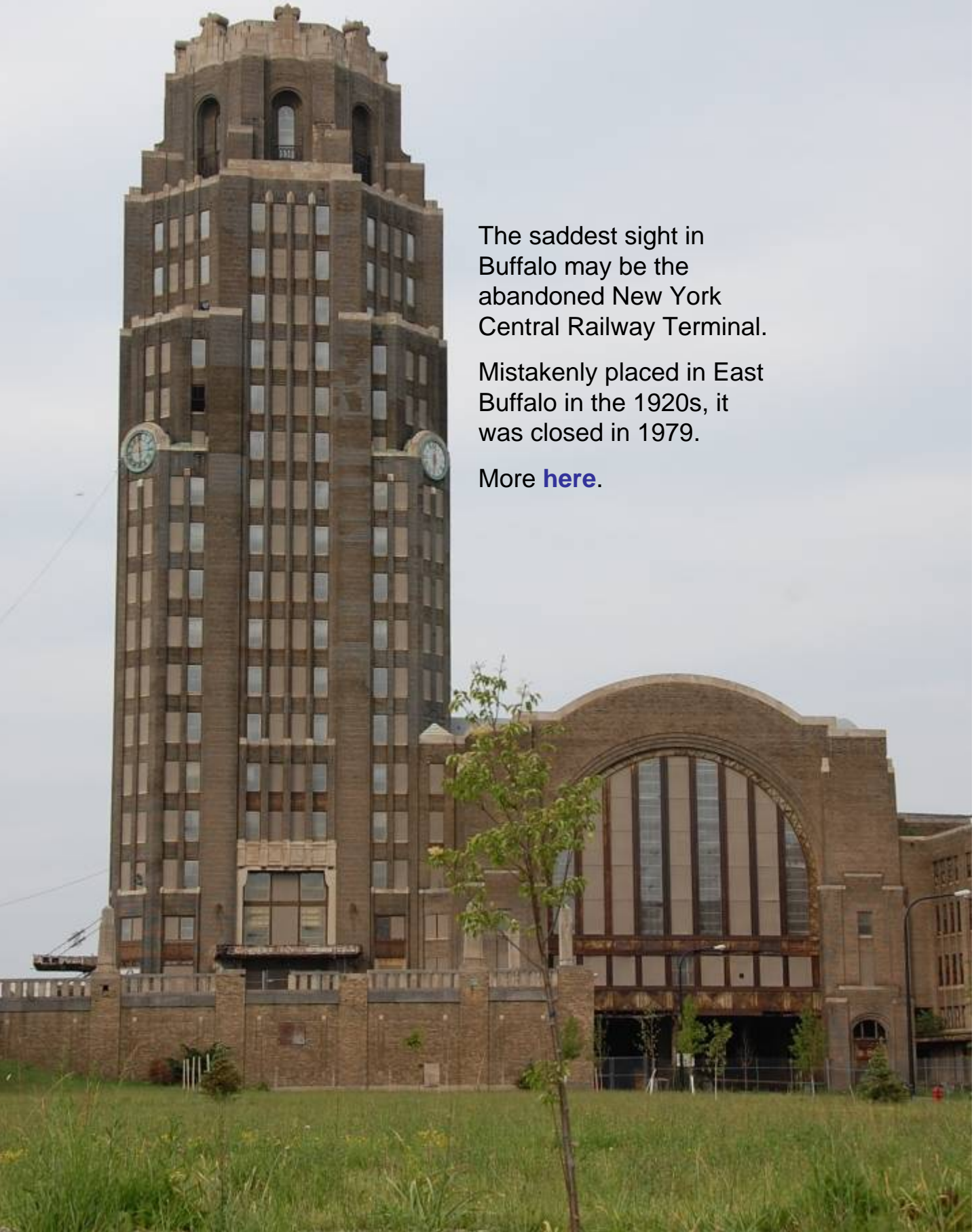
Bethlehem Steel began shutting down its operations in the 1970s, contributing to an economic decline still felt in Buffalo.

Though much of the site has been cleared, the ruins extend for miles along the shore of Lake Erie.



More [here](#).





The saddest sight in Buffalo may be the abandoned New York Central Railway Terminal.

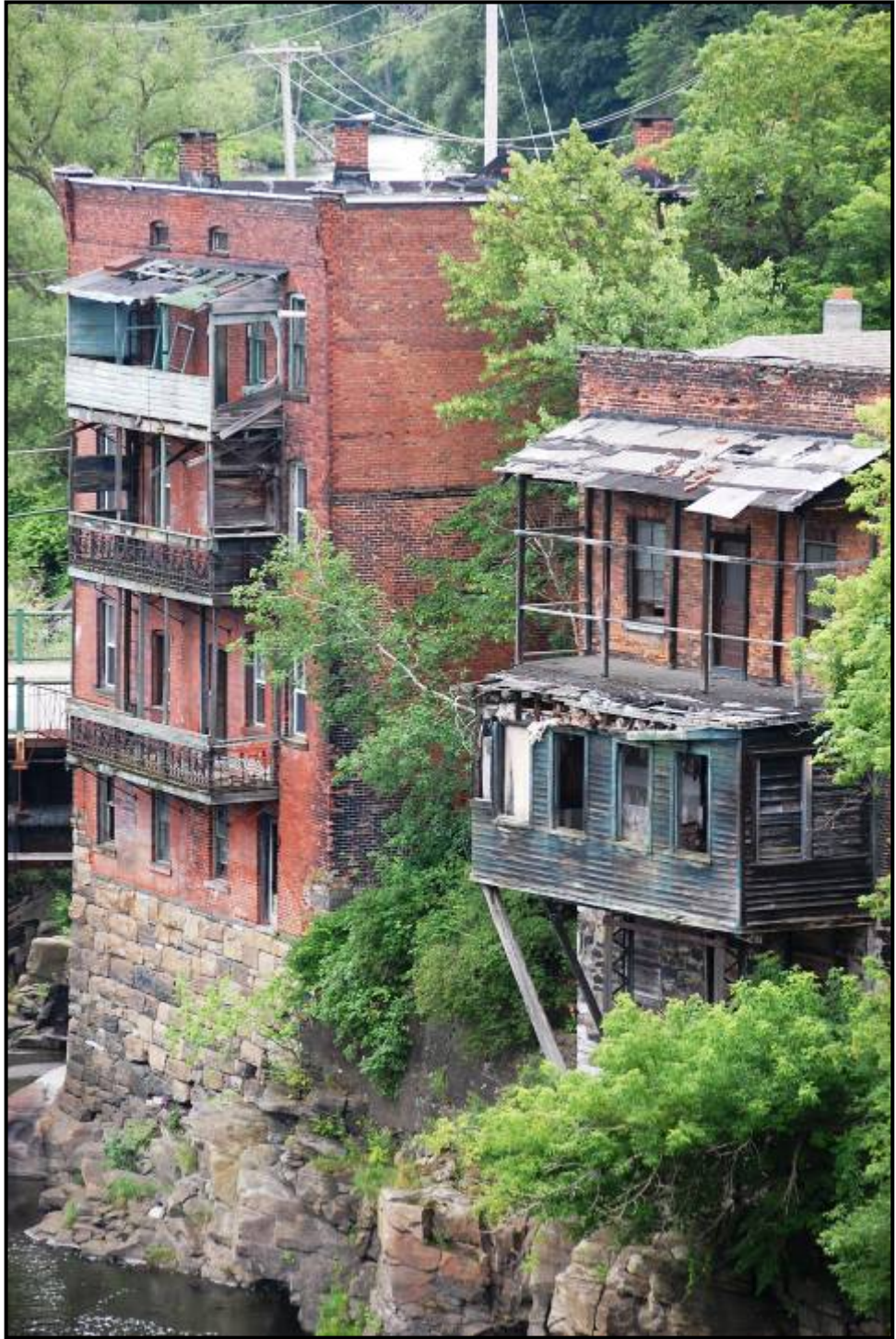
Mistakenly placed in East Buffalo in the 1920s, it was closed in 1979.

More [here](#).



The same is true of
some of the once-
prosperous small
industrial towns along
the Erie Canal.









What remains is a heritage with its own inherent beauty, even in a state of decay.

If it's true that new ideas need old buildings, then there are signs of hope and regeneration.



Newell Nussbaumer (left) of
Buffalo Rising



Young people who never experienced the collapse are attracted by the affordability, location and educational institutions of Buffalo.

Artists, musicians and entrepreneurs can see reinvention in the ruins.





In Cohoes, NY, Harmony Mills, once the largest cotton-mill complex in the world, is being renovated and turned into residential lofts.





Buffalo has just opened a new park - *Commercial Slip* – to celebrate the western start of the canal, and the beginning of new development along its waterfront.





The legacy of one of the great achievements in western history - the Erie Canal - still remains, ready for rediscovery and renewal.