

[Link to Article](#)

See inside Syracuse area's newest hotel

Updated on June 12, 2017 at 9:45 AM Posted on June 12, 2017 at 8:44 AM

By [Rick Moriarty](#)
rmoriarty@syracuse.com

Salina, N.Y. -- A new Hampton Inn has opened in Salina, and an old one just down the road has closed and will reopen next year under a Hilton flag.

A 124-room [Hampton Inn & Suites](#) opened three weeks ago at 1305 Buckley Road, where a 150-room Ramada Inn stood for 48 years until it was demolished at the end of 2015.

With the opening of the new, \$14 million hotel, a 105-room Hampton Inn built in 1994 a block away on 7th North Street has closed and is to reopen in May 2018 as a [Tru by Hilton](#) after a major renovation and reconstruction.

Tru is a mid-market brand launched by Hilton at the end of last year. One is also planned for the [Township 5 shopping plaza](#) in Camillus. It was expected to be the first Tru in Upstate New York, but the one in Salina could take that honor.

The moves are part of a plan by the Emmi and Mangano families, who own four hotels in the area and two others in Watertown, to redevelop the corner of Buckley and 7th North Street.

Their company, Prima Terra Properties, plans to develop up to three other building sites near the new Hampton Inn. Company principals Anthony Mangano and Carmen Emmi Jr. said they are seeking businesses that would complement the new Hampton Inn, such as restaurants.

Though just 23 years old, the two-story Hampton Inn on 7th North Street no longer met the hotel chain's current specifications, Emmi said.

The new one is five stories tall and features a large lobby, an indoor swimming pool, a fitness room and a small conference room.

The pool was the only part of the old Ramada Inn that was saved. It was built just 10 years ago and is rather large for a hotel pool, so Mangano and Emmi said they decided to keep it and simply build a new building to enclose it.

To convert the old Hampton Inn to a Tru by Hilton, they plan to demolish the front 30 percent of the hotel and rebuild it with a new lobby and other features. The remaining portion of the building will be completely renovated, with refurbished rooms, and new electrical, plumbing,

heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. It will be the first existing hotel converted to a Tru by Hilton instead of built from scratch.

"It's not going to look anything like it does today," Mangano said.

Mangano's and Emmi's grandfather, Antonio Emmi, an Italian immigrant, bought the land at the northwest corner of Buckley and 7th North Street in the late 1940s, well before the construction of the Thruway and Interstate 81, and began farming it. In 1968, with the highways now passing nearby, he leased a portion of his land to a hotel development company, which built the Ramada Inn. The family bought the hotel in 1982 after the development company went bankrupt.

Since then, the Mangano and Emmi families have expanded their hotel holdings, with their first Hampton Inn, a 99-room Super 8 next to it, a 102-room Homewood Suites by Hilton farther west on 7th North Street, and a Hampton Inn and a Comfort Inn & Suites in Watertown. With a total of 430 hotel rooms in Salina, the families are among the biggest hoteliers in Central New York.

All the while, the families have continued to farm, operating Emmi & Sons farm in Lysander, as well as a farm stand and Antonio's Ice Cream shop on Buckley Road.

With their major investments in hotels on Buckley and 7th North, Mangano and Emmi are closely following plans for the replacement of Interstate 81 through downtown Syracuse.

The state Department of Transportation is studying whether to rebuild the elevated highway through downtown, or replace it with a tunnel or ground-level boulevard and direct through traffic around the city using Interstate 481.

Mangano and Emmi said they are opposed to any plan that would direct through traffic to I-481 because that would mean fewer potential customers passing by their hotels.

Though the Thruway, Lockheed Martin and the Destiny USA shopping mall also help drive business to their hotels, motorists passing through the area on I-81 are their biggest source of customers, they said.