

May 1, 1939

[ Post office Dedication - Rhinebeck, NY ]

FDR Speech File

1224

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
DEDICATION OF POST OFFICE AT RHINEBECK, N. Y.  
MAY 1, 1939

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YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, MR. SECRETARY, MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL,  
MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF THE TOWN OF RHINEBECK:

Half a century ago a small boy was often driven through the town of Rhinebeck by his Father and Mother to visit his great-uncle and aunt at their home south of Barrytown. On these drives up the Post Road, which, as I remember, were always either dusty or muddy, he passed a number of old stone houses, most of them with long, sloping roofs, and was told that they had been built by the early settlers nearly two centuries before.

Then, as I grew older, I came to know something of the history of these river towns of Dutchess County, and to develop a great liking for the stone architecture which was indigenous to the Hudson Valley.

We call it by the generic name of "early Dutch Colonial"  
even though some of the houses, as in this neighborhood, were  
built by German settlers from the Palatinate.

Because through one line of my ancestry I am descended  
from the early Beekmans who settled Rhinebeck, and because on  
the Roosevelt side my great-great-grandfather lived in Rhinebeck  
for sometime during the Revolution and was a member of the  
Dutchess County Militia, I have a claim to kinship with this  
town that is second only to the town of Hyde Park.

And, by the way, the Postmaster General will sustain  
me if I pin a medal on myself. Two years ago, under the  
Congressional appropriation, one Post Office was allocated  
to Dutchess County. The Postmaster General asked me if I  
did not want the new building located in the village of  
Hyde Park, where we most certainly need a Post Office  
building. But I told him that Rhinebeck was in equal need  
of one and that because Rhinebeck was twice the size of  
Hyde Park, it should be served first. I gave notice, however,  
that my unselfishness is coming to a limit, and that if I

get another chance to choose a Dutchess County site my own  
townspeople's complaint will receive sympathetic attention.  
I am hereby putting the Postmaster General and the Secretary  
of the Treasury on notice.

You all know the inspiration for the design of the  
building we dedicate today. Fortunately I am old enough to  
remember the old house on the River Road in which were  
entertained so many famous men before, during and after the  
Revolutionary War. That we have been able to copy the  
original part of it is a fortunate thing; and we are grateful,  
too, that we have been able to incorporate much of its  
original stone in these walls of the new Post Office. Soon,  
too, the old corner-stone will be on display in the lobby,  
together with the famous pane of glass which has been given  
by Mrs. Suckley and which was rescued from the fire by  
Colonel John Jacob Astor.

Furthermore, within a short time, a most interesting  
frieze, painted by Mr. Olin Dows, will grace the lobby.

It is, I think, an interesting fact that during the past few years the Federal Government, in the designing of Post Office buildings, has been getting away from the sameness of pattern which characterized the past. The Procurement Division of the Treasury has sought to diversify design so that our newer Post Offices do not look as though they had been turned out by the dozen.

We are seeking to follow the type of architecture which is good, in the sense that it does not of necessity follow the whims of the moment but seeks an artistry which will be good for all time to come. And we are trying to adapt the design to the historical background of the locality and to use, insofar as possible, the materials which are indigenous to the locality. Hence, my effort during the past few years in Federal buildings in the Hudson River Valley to use fieldstone and to copy the early Dutch architecture which was so essentially sound.

May I make a suggestion to you, my neighbors of Rhinebeck? At this crossroads of the village we now have the new Post Office, the old Beekman Arms Inn, and just beyond it the old stone building on the upper corner. As time goes on some of the other buildings on the other side of the street and on this side will be replaced by new buildings. These other buildings are substantial enough but are set too close to the street and represent a type of architecture known as Victorian, which is not exactly in keeping with what we now call "good taste."

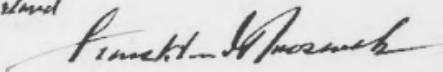
When replacements occur, as they undoubtedly will in the years to come, I hope that new buildings will be set further back from the street, that they will conform more to the Colonial type and that you in Rhinebeck will have here what in effect would be a large open Square admired for its beauty by all who pass.

A happy coincidence brings to us today a unique opportunity. The corner-stone at Rhinebeck's new Post Office is about to be laid as a part of this ceremony of dedication. The Post Office has been built by the Secretary of the Treasury, who is with us. It has been turned over to the Postmaster General, who also is with us. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark have come to us, having voyaged from Denmark through the Panama Canal to San Francisco and crossed the Continent. They have, I am glad to say, had an opportunity to see a large part of the United States and they are very welcome.

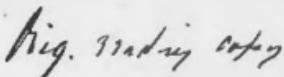
I am about to present them to you, and His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, has graciously consented to wield the trowel and formally lay the corner-stone of this building of which we are all so proud.

During all the years to come -- during the long life  
which lies ahead of our new Post Office, generations who  
live here will always remember that the corner-stone was laid  
by our distinguished guest.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Crown Prince and the Crown  
Princess of Denmark and Iceland



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King Haakon copy

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT  
Dedicating the new Federal Post Office Building  
Rhinebeck, New York  
May 1, 1939 (about 3.45 P. M., D. S. T.)

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, MR. SECRETARY, MR. POSTMASTER  
GENERAL, YOU MY OLD FRIENDS AND MY NEIGHBORS OF (THE  
TOWN OF) RHINEBECK:

Half a century ago -- I do not feel that it was  
that long, but half a century ago -- a small boy was often  
driven through the town of Rhinebeck by his Father and  
Mother to visit his great-uncle and aunt at their home  
south of Barrytown. On (these) those drives up the Post  
Road, which, as I remember, were always either dusty or  
muddy, he passed a number of old stone houses, most of them  
with long, sloping roofs, and he was told that they had  
been built by the early settlers nearly two centuries  
before.

And then, as I grew older, I came to know some-  
thing of the history of these river towns of Dutchess  
County, and to develop a great liking for the stone archi-  
tecture which was indigenous to (the Hudson) our Valley.

We call it by the generic name of "early Dutch  
Colonial" even though some of the houses, as in this  
neighborhood, were built by German settlers from the Pal-  
tinate.

Because through one line of my ancestry I am  
descended from the early Beekmans (who settled Rhinebeck)

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House's own self-authenticated  
house stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was delivered (4:30 P.M., December 1, 1941). It was  
made. Underlining indicates words  
extemporaneously added to the previously  
prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted  
when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared  
reading copy text.

:ZONGBERKING (TO KID)

SAW I just feel for ob I -- one thing a tish  
nothing saw you like a -- one thing a tish and, and this  
was perfect kind of Woodendish to most self dynamic people  
among us is that has always been kind of jinxed or madish  
fact self as saying some (asadd) no . something to do  
to keep people away from them, because I am, know  
most to do now, second chance like to remain a human a human and, when  
had you last met now of this place galore, you all  
knew me and when you saw me again you all  
smiled

-since word of whom I really worry I am, don't think  
anything to anyone never said to yourself self to your  
friends about self not until they a couple of days, known  
you well now (possibly self) of themselves and nothing untrue  
about you to anyone else and self if this all  
self as as second self to ones myself never "leaving"  
self self sort mistakes married to him now, good-looking  
self

me I professor you to only one dynamic enough  
(Woodendish between now) enough you all most beginning

and because on the Roosevelt side my great-great-grandfather lived in Rhinebeck for sometime during the period of the Revolution and was not only a member of the State Senate, as his great-great-grandson was, but also a member of the Dutchess County Militia, and so I have a claim to kinship with this town that is second only to the town of Hyde Park.

And, by the way, the Postmaster General will, I think, sustain me if I pin a medal on myself. Two years ago, under the Congressional appropriation, one Post Office was allocated to Dutchess County. The Postmaster General asked me if I did not want the new building located in the village of Hyde Park, where (we most certainly) heaven only knows, we very badly need a Post Office building. But I told him that Rhinebeck was in equal need of one and that because Rhinebeck was twice the size of Hyde Park, it should be served first. I gave notice, however, at that time that my unselfishness is coming to a limit, and that if I get another chance to choose a Dutchess County site my own townspeople's complaint will receive sympathetic attention. And so, I am hereby putting (the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury on notice) him on notice that if we are to get any more money from Congress for Dutchess County, the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury, if they want to keep their jobs, must locate it in Hyde Park.

You all know the inspiration for the design of the building that we are (dedicate) dedicating today. Fortunately I am old enough to remember the old house on the River Road in which were entertained so many famous men before, and during and after the Revolutionary War. That we have been able to copy the original part of it is a fortunate thing; and we are grateful, too, that we have been able to incorporate much of (its) the original stone in the original Beekman house in (these) the front walls of (the new) this Post Office. Soon, too, the old corner-stone will be on display in the lobby, together with the famous pane of glass most of which has been given by Mrs. Suckley, (and) the famous glass which was rescued from the fire by Colonel John Jacob Astor.

And, furthermore, within a short time, a most interesting (frieze) painting, a frieze around the inside of the lobby, painted by Mr. Olin Dows, (will grace the lobby) is going to grace this building.

And it is, I think, an interesting fact that during the past few years the (Federal) Government, in the designing of Post Office buildings, has been getting away from the sameness of pattern (which) that characterized the past. I am glad that the Secretary of the Treasury has described to you the method by which new Government Buildings are being designed. The Procurement Division of the Treasury has sought to diversify design so that

our newer Post Offices all over the country will (do) not look as they did before as though they had been turned out by the dozen.

We are seeking to follow the type of architecture which is good, first in the sense that it does not of necessity follow the whims of the moment but seeks an artistry (which will) that ought to be good, as far as we can tell, for all time to come. And we are trying to adapt the design to the historical background of the locality and to use, insofar as possible, the materials (which) that are indigenous to the locality itself. Hence, fieldstone for Dutchess County. Hence, (my) the efforts during the past few years in Federal Buildings in the Hudson River Valley to use fieldstone and to copy the early Dutch architecture which was so essentially sound besides being very attractive to the eye.

May I make a suggestion as a neighbor of yours, to you, my neighbors of Rhinebeck? At this crossroads, this very historic crossroads, of the village we now have the new Post Office, (the old) the famous, the nation-wide famous Beekman Arms Inn, and just beyond it on the northwest corner that fine (the) old stone building, so substantially built that it will last for all time to come. (on the upper corner.) And yet as time goes on some of the other buildings on the other side of the street, (and on this side will) shall we say may have to be re-

placed by new buildings. Now, these (other) buildings are substantial enough but they are set (too) rather close to the street and they represent a (type) style of architecture that is not being copied much today, a style (known as) that was followed by architects for years but one which we now rather smile at as we label it Victorian. (which is not exactly in keeping with what we now call "good taste.")

(When replacements occur, as they undoubtedly will in the years to come, I hope that new buildings will be set further back from the street, that they will conform more to the Colonial type and that you in Rhinebeck will have here what in effect would be a large open Square admired for its beauty by all who pass.)

And so, when replacements are made, I hope that the new buildings may be set back by -- what shall we say? -- not by law but by community opinion, set back so that you in Rhinebeck will have what, in effect, will be a large open square, admired for its beauty by the many thousands who pass this way.

A happy coincidence brings to us today a unique opportunity. The corner-stone at this Rhinebeck's new Post Office is about to be laid as a part of this ceremony of dedication. The Post Office has been built by the Secretary of the Treasury, who is with us. It has been turned over to the Postmaster-General, who will use it and who is also (is) with us. Their Royal Highnesses, The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark and Iceland have come to us, having voyaged from Denmark through the

Panama Canal to San Francisco and (crossed) back across the Continent. They have, I am glad to say, had an opportunity to see a large part of the United States and I need not tell them that they are very welcome.

(I am about to) In a minute I will present them to you, but in the meantime I am glad to tell you that (and) His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, has graciously consented to wield the trowel and formally lay the corner-stone of this building of which we are all so proud.

And during all the years to come -- during the long life in spite of what the Postmaster General says -- the long life, a couple of hundred years (which) that lies ahead of this, our new Post Office, generations who will live here will always remember that the corner-stone was laid by our distinguished guest.

(Ladies and Gentlemen) And so I present to you Their Royal Highnesses, the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Denmark and Iceland. (Prolonged applause)

(The Crown Prince used the trowel on the cornerstone and, upon the completion of this ceremony the President said:

"I now announce this very historic corner-stone has been well and truly laid and also that His Royal Highness is an honorary member of the Union, in good standing".)

FIRST DRAFT

DEDICATION OF POST OFFICE AT RHINEBECK, N. Y.

MAY 1, 1939.

---

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, MISTER SECRETARY, MR. POSTMASTER  
GENERAL, MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF THE TOWN OF RHINEBECK;

Half a century ago a small boy was often driven through the town of Rhinebeck by his Father and Mother to visit his great uncle and aunt at their home south of Barrytown. On these drives up the Post Road, which, as I remember them, <sup>which</sup> were always either dusty or muddy, he passed a number of old stone houses, most of them with long, sloping roofs, and was told that they had been built by the early settlers nearly two centuries before.

Then, as I grew older, I came to know something of the history of these river towns of Dutchess County, and to develop a great liking for the stone architecture which was indigenous to the Hudson Valley.

We call it by the generic name of "early Dutch Colonial" even though some of the houses, as in this neighborhood, were built by German settlers from the Palatinate.

*Began through*  
That in one line of my ancestry I am descended from  
the early Beekmans who settled Rhinebeck, and ~~that~~ <sup>because</sup> on the  
Roosevelt side my great-great-grandfather lived in Rhinebeck  
for sometime during the Revolution and was a member of the  
*I have a claim to* <sup>with</sup> Dutchess County Militia, gives me a kinship to this town  
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pathetic attention. I am hereby putting the Postmaster  
General and the Secretary of the Treasury on notice.

You all know the inspiration for the design of the building we dedicate today. Fortunately I am old enough to remember the old house on the River Road in which were entertained so many famous men before, during and after the Revolutionary War. That we have been able to copy the original part of it is a fortunate thing; and we are grateful, too, that we have been able to incorporate much of its original stone in these walls of the new Post Office. Soon, too, the old corner-stone will be on display in the lobby, together with the famous pane of glass which has been given by Mrs. Suckley and which was rescued from the fire by Colonel John Jacob Astor.

Furthermore, within a short time, a most interesting ~~feature~~<sup>title</sup>, painted by Mr. Olin Down, will grace the lobby.

It is, I think, an interesting fact that during the past few years the Federal Government, in the designing of Post Office buildings, has been getting away from the sameness of pattern which characterized the past. The Procurement Division of the Treasury has sought to diversify design so that our newer Post Offices do not look as though they had been turned out by the dozen. We are seeking to follow the type of architecture which is good, in the sense

that it does not of necessity follow the whims of the moment but seeks an artistry which will be good for all time to come. And we are trying to adapt the design to the historical background of the locality and to use, insofar as possible, the materials which are indigenous to the locality. Hence, my effort during the past few years in Federal buildings in the Hudson River Valley to use fieldstone and to copy the early Dutch architecture which was so essentially sound.

May I make a suggestion to you, my neighbors of Rhinebeck? At this crossroads of the village we now have the new Post Office, the old Beekman Arms Inn, and just beyond it the old stone building on the upper corner. As time goes on some of the other buildings on the other side of the street and on this side will be replaced by new buildings. These other buildings are substantial enough but are set too close to the street and represent a type of architecture known as Victorian, which is not exactly in keeping with what we now call "good taste".

*H*When replacements occur, as they undoubtedly will in the years to come, I hope that new buildings will be set further back from the street, that they will conform more to the Colonial type and that you in Rhinebeck will have

here what in effect would be a large open Square admired for its beauty by all who pass.

A happy coincidence brings to us today a unique opportunity. The corner-stone at Rhinebeck's new Post Office is about to be laid as a part of this ceremony of *The Post Office* dedication. ~~This~~ has been built by the Secretary of the Treasury, who is with us. It has been turned over to the Postmaster General, who also is with us. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark have come to us, having voyaged from Denmark through the Panama Canal to San Francisco and ~~then~~ across the Continent. They have, I am glad to say, had an opportunity to see a large part of the United States *and they are very well known.*

I am about to present them to you, and His Royal Highnesses, the Crown Prince, has graciously consented to wield the trowel and formally lay the corner-stone of this building of which we are all so proud.

During all the years to come -- during the long life which lies ahead of our new Post Office, generations who live here will always remember that the corner-stone was laid by our distinguished guest.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Denmark.



There  
is a draft  
in the  
original +  
there is  
an error

Brickman Arches

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

1st & second  
floors.

Cornice - horizontal  
moulded projection  
crowning a building  
etc esp. uppermost  
member of entablature  
of an order, surmounting  
frieze; ornamental  
moulding round wall  
of room just below  
ceiling.

(See reference to  
cornice to be pointed in  
Rhinebeck post office page 3)

FIRST DRAFT

DEDICATION OF POST OFFICE AT RHINEBECK, N. Y.

MAY 1, 1939.

---

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, MISTER SECRETARY, MR. POSTMASTER  
GENERAL, MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF THE TOWN OF RHINEBECK;

Half a century ago a small boy was often driven  
through the town of Rhinebeck by his Father and Mother to  
visit his great uncle and aunt at their home south of  
Barrytown. On these drives up the Post Road, which, as  
I remember them, were always either dusty or muddy, (he)  
passed a number of old stone houses, most of them with  
long, sloping roofs, and was told that they had been  
built by the early settlers nearly two centuries before.

Then, as I grew older, I came to know something  
of the history of these river towns of Dutchess County,  
and to develop a great liking for the stone architecture  
which was indigenous to the Hudson Valley.

We call it by the generic name of "early Dutch  
Colonial" even though some of the houses, as in this  
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Because through  
(That in) one line of my ancestry I am descended from  
the early Beekmans who settled Rhinebeck, and (that) on the  
Roosevelt side my great-great-grandfather lived in Rhinebeck  
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Ladies and Gentlemen, the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Denmark.

14 Addresses of the President  
Dedicating the new Federal Post Office/~~XXXXXX~~  
Rhinebeck, New York, May 1, 1939 (about 3/45 PM DST )

You my old friends and ~~met~~ my neighbors of (the town  
of) Rhinebeck:

- A. Half a century ago -- I do not feel that it was that long, but half a century ~~ago~~ --
- B. not only a member of the State Senate, as his great great grandson was ~~xxxx~~, but also
- C. him on notice that if we are to get any more money from Congress for Dutchess County, the Post master General and the Secretary of the Treasury, if they want to keep their jobs, must locate it in HYde Park.
- D. I am glad that the Secretary of the Treasury has described to you the method by which new Government Buildings are being designed.
- E. Hence, fieldstone for Dutchess County. Hence, my) the efforts during the past few years in Federal Buildings in the Hudson River Valley -----
- F. , so substantially builtx that it will last for all time to come.
- G. that is not being copied much today, a style (knownk as) that was followed by architects for years but one which we now rather smile at as we label it Victorian. ~~xxxxxx~~
- H. And so, when replacements are made, I hope that the new building may be set back by -- what shall we say? -- not by law but by community opinion, set back so that you in Rhinebeck will have what, in effect, will be a large open square, admired for its beauty by the many thousands who pass this way.
- I. in spite of what the Postmaster General says, - the long life, 666665 of hundred years (which) that ahead of this,

J.

(The Crown Prince used the trowel on the cornerstone<sup>x</sup> and, on the completion of this ceremony the President said:

" I now announce this very historic cornerstone has been well and truly laid and also that His Royal Highness is an honorary member of the Union, in good standing".)

(16)

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT  
DEDICATION OF POST OFFICE AT RHINEBECK, N. Y.  
MAY 1, 1939

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MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF THE HOME OF RHINEBECK:

Half a century ago a small boy was often driven through  
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Then, as I grew older, I came to know something of  
the history of these river towns of Dutchess County, and to  
develop a great liking for the stone architecture which  
was indigenous to ~~the Hudson~~ Valley.

---

STATEMENTS FILE  
Shorthand By Kannee

We call it by the generic name of "early Dutch Colonial" even though some of the houses, as in this neighborhood, were built by German settlers from the Palatinate.

Because through one line of my ancestry I am descended from the early Beekmans (who settled Rhinebeck) and because on the Roosevelt side my great-great-grandfather lived in Rhinebeck <sup>W. post office</sup> ~~B. ex per 1800-1810~~ for sometime during the Revolution and was a member of the <sup>1777</sup> ~~and so~~ Dutchess County Militia, I have a claim to kinship with this town that is second only to the town of Hyde Park. <sup>I think</sup>

And, by the way, the Postmaster General will sustain me if I pin a medal on myself. Two years ago, under the Congressional appropriation, one Post Office was allocated to Dutchess County. The Postmaster General asked me if I did not want the new building located in the village of <sup>New York</sup> ~~beaver only known~~ <sup>we very badly</sup> Hyde Park, where <sup>(we most certainly)</sup> need a Post Office building. But I told him that Rhinebeck was in equal need of one and that because Rhinebeck was twice the size of Hyde Park, it should be served first. I gave notice, however, that my unselfishness is coming to a limit, and that if I

get another chance to choose a Dutchess County site my own  
townspeople's complaint will receive sympathetic attention.

*(Under)*  
I am hereby putting (the Postmaster General and the Secretary  
of the Treasury on notice.)

You all know the inspiration for the design of the  
building we dedicate today. Fortunately I am old enough to  
remember the old house on the River Road in which were  
entertained so many famous men before, during and after the  
Revolutionary War. That we have been able to copy the  
original part of it is a fortunate thing; and we are grateful,  
too, that we have been able to incorporate much of (its). the  
*in the original building* original stone in these walls of (the new) Post Office. Soon,  
too, the old corner-stone will be on display in the lobby,  
together with the famous pane of glass which has been given  
by Mrs. Stuckley (and) which was rescued from the fire by  
Colonel John Jacob Astor.

Furthermore, within a short time, a most interesting  
(piece), painted by Mr. Olin Down, (will grace the lobby.)  
painting, a scene on the inside of the lobby,

It is, I think, an interesting fact that during the past few years the (federal) Government, in the designing of Post Office buildings, has been getting away from the sameness of pattern which characterized the past. The Procurement Division of the Treasury has sought to diversify design so ~~all over the country~~ <sup>allowing the country</sup> ~~so they did before~~ that our newer Post Offices do not look as though they had been turned out by the dozen.

We are seeking to follow the type of architecture which is good, in the sense that it does not of necessity follow the whims of the moment but seeks an artistry which will be good for all time to come. And we are trying to adapt the design to the historical background of the locality and to use, insofar as possible, the materials which are indigenous to the locality. Hence, my effort during the past few years in Federal buildings in the Hudson River Valley to use fieldstone and to copy the early Dutch architecture which was so essentially sound. <sup>that</sup> <sup>itself is well known</sup> <sup>besides being very attractive</sup> <sup>to the eye</sup>

May I make a suggestion to you, my neighbors of

Rhinebeck? At this crossroads of the village we now have

the new Post Office, the old Beckman Arms Inn, and just

beyond it the old stone building (on the upper corner). As

time goes on some of the other buildings on the other side

of the street (and on this side will) be replaced by new

buildings. These (other) buildings are substantial enough

but are set (too) close to the street and represent a (hyper)

of architecture known as Victorian, which is not exactly

in keeping with what we now call "good taste."

(When replacements occur, as they undoubtedly will

in the years to come, I hope that new buildings will be

set further back from the street, that they will conform

more to the Colonial type and that you in Rhinebeck will

have here what in effect would be a large open Square

admired for its beauty by all who pass.)

A happy coincidence brings to us today a unique  
opportunity. The corner-stone at Rhinebeck's new Post  
Office is about to be laid as a part of this ceremony of  
dedication. The Post Office has been built by the Secretary  
of the Treasury, who is with us. It has been turned over  
<sup>will use it & why not?</sup> <sup>U.S. His Royal Highness</sup> to the Postmaster General, who also <sup>(is)</sup> with us. The Crown  
Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark <sup>and</sup> <sup>for Ireland</sup> have come to us,  
having voyaged from Denmark through the Panama Canal to  
<sup>back again</sup> <sup>San Francisco and</sup> <sup>Latin America</sup> the Continent. They have, I  
am glad to say, had an opportunity to see a large part of  
the United States and they are very welcome.  
<sup>in a minute and a half</sup> <sup>but in the meantime</sup> <sup>own right</sup> <sup>tell you</sup>  
I am about to present them to you, <sup>(and) His Royal</sup> Highness, the Crown Prince, has graciously consented to  
wield the trowel and formally lay the corner-stone of this  
building of which we are all so proud.

*John*  
During all the years to come — during the long life  
which lies ahead of our new Post Office, generations who will  
live here will always remember that the corner-stone was laid  
by our distinguished guest.  
*John T. C. And so I present to you their*  
*(Ladies and Gentlemen,) the Royal Highnesses,*  
*(Ladies and Gentlemen,) the Crown Prince and the Crown*  
*Princess of Denmark.* *Ireland (prolonged applause)*

\*\*\*\*\*

2.00 rgs. toowell on the evenstone,  
and on the completion of this ceremony  
the

FOR THE PRESS

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HOLD FOR RELEASE - April 30, 1939.

The following address of the President, to be delivered at the Dedication of the new Post Office, Rhinebeck, New York, is for release in papers appearing on the streets not earlier than 3:45 P.M., Daylight Saving Time, Monday, May 1, 1939.

PLEASE SAFEGUARD AGAINST PREMATURE RELEASE.

William D. Hassett.

\* \* \* \* \*

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, MR. SECRETARY, MR. POSTMASTER GENERAL,  
MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS OF THE TOWN OF RHINEBECK:

Half a century ago a small boy was often driven through the town of Rhinebeck by his Father and Mother to visit his great-uncle and aunt at their home south of Barrytown. On these drives up the Post Road, which, as I remember, were always either dusty or muddy, he passed a number of old stone houses, most of them with long, sloping roofs, and was told that they had been built by the early settlers nearly two centuries before.

Then, as I grew older, I came to know something of the history of these river towns of Dutchess County, and to develop a great liking for the stone architecture which was indigenous to the Hudson Valley.

We call it by the generic name of "early Dutch Colonial" even though some of the houses, as in this neighborhood, were built by German settlers from the Palatinate.

Because through one line of my ancestry I am descended from the early Beekmans who settled Rhinebeck, and because on the Roosevelt side my great-great-grandfather lived in Rhinebeck for some time during the Revolution and was a member of the Dutchess County Militia, I have a claim to kinship with this town that is second only to the town of Hyde Park.

And, by the way, the Postmaster General will sustain me if I pin a medal on myself. Two years ago, under the Congressional appropriation, one Post Office was allocated to Dutchess County. The Postmaster General asked me if I did not want the new building located in the village of Hyde Park, where we most certainly need a Post Office building. But I told him that Rhinebeck was in equal need of one and that because Rhinebeck was twice the size of Hyde Park, it should be served first. I gave notice, however, that my unselfishness is coming to a limit, and that if I get another chance to choose a Dutchess County site my own townspeople's complaint will receive sympathetic attention. I am hereby putting the Postmaster General and the Secretary of the Treasury on notice.

You all know the inspiration for the design of the building we dedicate today. Fortunately I am old enough to remember the old house on the River Road in which were entertained so many famous men before, during and after the Revolutionary War. That we have been able to copy the original part of it is a fortunate thing; and we are grateful, too, that we have been able to incorporate much of its original stone in these walls of the new Post Office. Soon, too, the old corner-stone will be on display in the lobby, together with the famous pane of glass which has been given by Mrs. Suckley and which was rescued from the fire by Colonel John Jacob Astor.

Furthermore, within a short time, a most interesting frieze, painted by Mr. Olin Down, will grace the lobby.

It is, I think, an interesting fact that during the past few years the Federal Government, in the designing of Post Office buildings, has been getting away from the sameness of pattern which characterized the past. The Procurement Division of the Treasury has sought to diversify design so that our newer Post Offices do not look as though they had been turned out by the dozen.

We are seeking to follow the type of architecture which is good, in the sense that it does not of necessity follow the whims of the moment but seeks an artistry which will be good for all time to come. And we are trying to adapt the design to the historical background of the locality and to use, insofar as possible, the materials which are indigenous to the locality. Hence, my effort during the past few years in Federal buildings in the Hudson River Valley to use fieldstone and to copy the early Dutch architecture which was so essentially sound.

May I make a suggestion to you, my neighbors of Rhinebeck? At this crossroads of the village we now have the new Post Office, the old Beekman Arms Inn, and just beyond it the old stone building on the upper corner. As time goes on some of the other buildings on the other side of the street and on this side will be replaced by new buildings. These other buildings are substantial enough but are set too close to the street and represent a type of architecture known as Victorian, which is not exactly in keeping with what we now call "good taste."

When replacements occur, as they undoubtedly will in the years to come, I hope that new buildings will be set further back from the street, that they will conform more to the Colonial type and that you in Rhinebeck will have here what in effect would be a large open Square admired for its beauty by all who pass.

A happy coincidence brings to us today a unique opportunity. The corner-stone at Rhinebeck's new Post Office is about to be laid as a part of this ceremony of dedication. The Post Office has been built by the Secretary of the Treasury, who is with us. It has been turned over to the Postmaster General, who also is with us. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark have come to us, having voyaged from Denmark through the Panama Canal to San Francisco and crossed the Continent. They have, I am glad to say, had an opportunity to see a large part of the United States and they are very welcome.

I am about to present them to you, and His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince, has graciously consented to wield the trowel and formally lay the corner-stone of this

building of which we are all so proud.

During all the years to come -- during the long life which lies ahead of our new Post Office, generations who live here will always remember that the corner-stone was laid by our distinguished guest.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Denmark,<sup>and Iceland</sup>



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FOR THE PRESS

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