May 1, 1939

[Post office dedication - Rapidoe, NY]

FDR Speech File

1224
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 into 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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Sig. reading 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 HIGNESSES, 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 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) 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 Palatinate.

Because through one line of my ancestry I am descended from the early Beekmans (who settled Rhinebeck)
Half a century ago -- I do not feel that I met
that land, our part of a century ago -- as well as you may.

And then as I knew other, I came to know once

Get well and to know the power of the verse.

I cannot help but wonder now, as to your

A letter to the House of the House of D conscience.

We will try to the Senate's name of every

Because stronger are the fire of necessity. I am

Generously from the only means (and saving expenditure)
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 we 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 original stone in the original Beekman house in these front walls of the new this Post Office. Soon, too, the old cornerstone 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 cornerstone 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 cornerstone 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 cornerstone has been well and truly laid and also that His Royal Highness is an honorary member of the Union, in good standing".)
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 Motber 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, was 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.
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 for sometime during the Revolution and was a member of the Dutchess County Militia, gives me a kinship to 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 served 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 fresco, 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. It 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 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 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.
P.P.F.

[Handwritten note: Mr. Douglas - have original and draft in Bann]
Brickman Arms
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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

(Signed reference to cornice to be painted in Rhinebeck post office Aug 3)
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, 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
(T hat is) one line of my ancestry I am descended from
the early Beckmans who settled Rhinebeck, and (that) 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, (gives me a) kinship (to) 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
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of one and that because Rhinebeck was twice the size of
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that if I get another chance to choose a Dutchess County
site my own townspeople’s complaint will receive symp-
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 (cornice,) 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, in-
sofar 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
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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.
Address of the President

Dedicating the new Federal Post Office
Rhinebeck, New York, May 1, 1939 (about 3/45 P.M.S.T.)

You my old friends and [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 [name], 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 [fieldstone] efforts during the past few years in Federal Buildings in the Hudson River Valley

F. so substantially built [which] it will last for all time to come.

G. 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.

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, [of hundred years (which) that] ahead of this.
(The Crown Prince used the trowel on the cornerstone 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".)
SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT
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get another chance to choose a Dutchess County site my own
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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. Suckleby (and which was rescued from the fire by

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Furthermore, within a short time, a most interesting

(frieze), painted by Mr. Olin Down, (will grace the lobby.)

painting a fire escape of 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 that our newer Post Offices do not look as though they had been turned out by the dozen.

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(Though 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.)
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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 cornerstone 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.

And address to Your Royal Highnesses
(Ladies and Gentlemen) the Crown Prince and the Crown
Princess of Denmark.

[prolonged applause]
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.

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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 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 we 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 Beckman Arms Inn, and just beyond it the old stone building on the upper corner. At times 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 older buildings and buildings are substantial enough but are 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 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 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, ...
HOLD FOR RELEASE - April 30, 1939.

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Ladies and Gentlemen, the Crown Prince and the
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