

The Nelson House, 1686-1876



This section of Market Street has been a center of county life since the late seventeenth century. The Van Den Bogart Family settled this area, deeded part of their estate for the county courthouse, and entertained visitors in their adjacent home. Starting in 1777, Stephen Hendrickson hosted dignitaries including James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and the delegates to New York's United States Constitution Ratification Convention in the summer of 1788 at his inn here. The site continued to serve as a hotel through 1861 when Mrs. Catharine E. Taylor purchased the property from her brother, Homer A. Nelson. After significant demolition and remodeling of the existing buildings, she opened a new hotel named in his honor on May 16, 1876.

The Establishment's Namesake

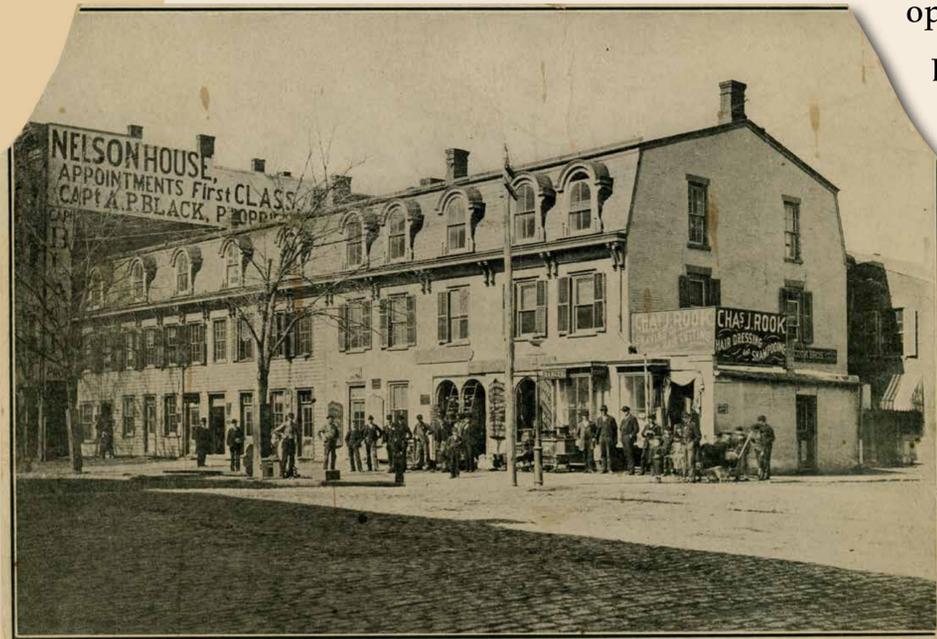
Courtesy of the Adriance Memorial Library

A Poughkeepsie native, Homer A. Nelson led a distinguished life of public service. His posts included Dutchess County Judge (1855-62), U.S. Congressman (1863-64), and New York State Senator (1882-83). He died in 1891 and is buried in the Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery.

The Nelson House, 1876

Courtesy of the Adriance Memorial Library

Captain A. P. Black operated the Nelson House for Mrs. Taylor from its opening in 1876 until 1880. Lawyers' Row, seen here in the foreground, sat on a portion of the current County Office Building's location before its demolition in 1884.



Hendrickson's Inn, 1799

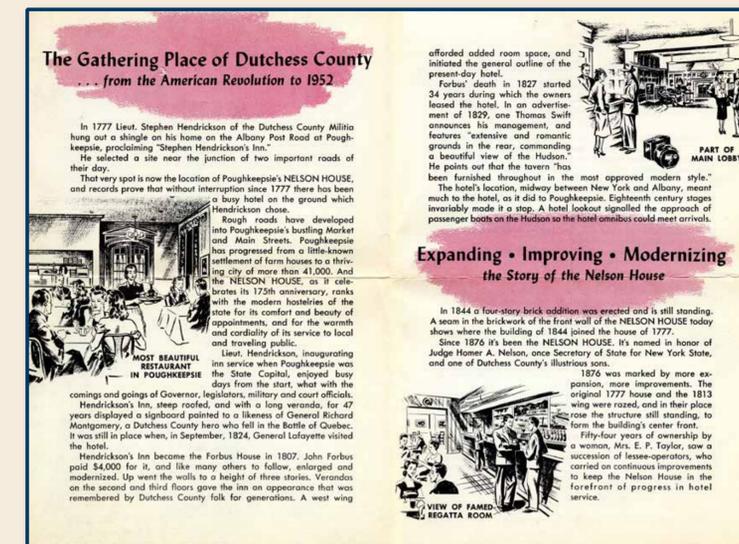
Courtesy of the Dutchess County Clerk

Henry Livingston's 1799 Poughkeepsie map marks Hendrickson's Inn on Market Street. The current county courthouse sits on the same corner of Market Street and Main Street noted on this map.

An Illustrious History

Courtesy of the Poughkeepsie Journal

In 1952, the Nelson House celebrated 175 years of service with this



brochure, which detailed the site's long history in the hospitality business.

