

# The Nelson House, 1876-1952



**The Nelson House, 1904**

*Courtesy of Shorpy Historic Photo Archive*

The Nelson House reached the height of its Victorian architectural grandeur in the opening decade of the twentieth century, solidifying its status as a major cultural landmark.

The Nelson House continued to thrive and expand in the twentieth century. By 1915, Proprietor Horatio N. Bain was promoting the hotel to automobile tourists. The Nelson House Company opened a new 55-room annex in 1926 on the building's south side to accommodate increasing numbers of guests. The hotel hosted numerous visitors including performers at the 1869 Bardavon Opera House and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's staff. Roosevelt, a Dutchess County native, described the Nelson House as the region's best hotel. In 1952, the Nelson House celebrated 175 years of service to the community.

To your right stands the original historical marker produced by the New York State Department of Education to commemorate the Nelson House in 1935 and an original hotel hitching post to which horses would be tied.



**The New Nelson House**

*Courtesy of the Adriance Memorial Library*

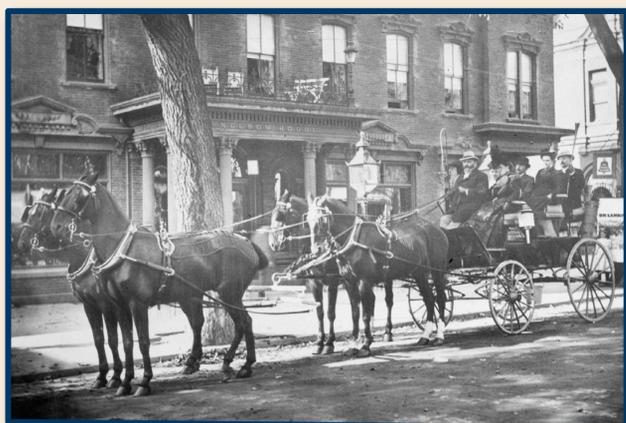
The Nelson House underwent a substantial renovation and expansion during the 1920s and 1930s. Additions included a new 5th floor, a parking garage, a 55-room annex, and a new kitchen.



**President Franklin Delano Roosevelt**

*Courtesy of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Library and Museum*

President Roosevelt frequently delivered speeches from the Nelson House marquee, including this one on November 4, 1940, the day before winning an unprecedented third term in the White House.



**Horatio N. Bain,  
Early Proprietor**

*Courtesy of the Poughkeepsie Journal*

Horatio N. Bain, seated in the carriage's rear and wearing a dark bowler, operated the Nelson House from 1884 to 1918.