

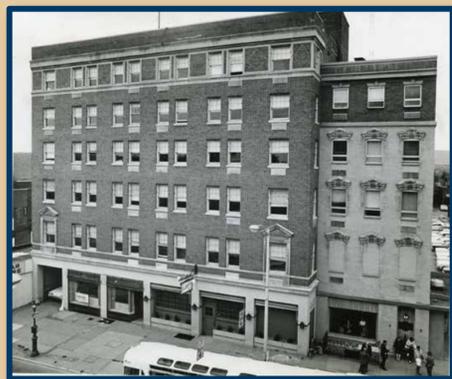
# The Nelson House, 1952-1970



## Market Street in the 1950s

*Courtesy of the Dutchess County Historian*

This view of Market Street in the 1950s shows the Nelson House in the foreground and the 1902 county courthouse that still stands today. The Regatta Room was established in 1947 as a tribute to the Intercollegiate Rowing Association's annual Hudson River race. It became the Pickwick Pub in 1958.



## The Nelson House's last day in operation

*Courtesy of the Poughkeepsie Journal*  
The Nelson House opened its doors for the last time as a private establishment on September 13, 1969.

A combination of competition from new motels and county government's need for additional office space shaped the Nelson House's final decades. Dutchess County purchased half of the Nelson House in 1963 to make way for the new County Office Building. The remaining portion, largely the 1920s annex, continued to operate as the Nelson House Motor Inn until 1969, when the county purchased the building. County personnel occupied the annex in early 1970 and would use the building until the 1990s. This park occupies the Nelson House Annex's former location and commemorates the Nelson House's importance to Dutchess County.



## The Regatta Room

*Courtesy of Robert Rolison*

The Dutchess Rotary Club was one of many local organizations to hold events in the Regatta Room. This late 1950s gathering included, from left to right, William Sedore, George Reid, Jay Rolison, Robert Watson Pomeroy, Beatrice (Betty) Zimmer, and Joe Burnett.



## The Pickwick Coffee Club

*Courtesy of the Poughkeepsie Journal*

Established in the 1940s by hotel owner Walter Averill II, the Pickwick Coffee Club brought businessmen and elected officials together for breakfast at the Nelson House with "a free cup of coffee on the house."

