Thirteenth Move

First Official Headquarters Opened Here in Broad Street Store on February 16, 1790.

Opening of the new postoffice here will mark the thirteenth time that the Newark postal headquarters has been transferred or altered since the establishment of the first official postoffice here in a Broad street store on February 16, 1790.

On that date John Burnet, a son of Dr. William Burnet, who had been one of the city's most fervent patriots during the Revolution, stepped into office as the first postmaster and established his headquarters in the heart of the community—at Broad and Market streets in a store located on the site of the present Kinney building.

Burnet had obtained his appointment from President Washington due to his father's activity during the Revolution. Thus was started from the first, as far as Newark was concerned, the practice of patronage in handing out postmasterships.

NAMED BY JEFFERSON

With a shift in political fortunes Burnet's term ended in 1804, and he was succeeded by Matthias Day, the appointment being made by President Thomas Jefferson. Day immediately set up his office on the north corner of Broad and Mechanic streets, and issued an edict in which he stated:

"No credit will be given on letter postage after this date. Letters will be received and forwarded for the southern mail every day (Sundays excepted) until half past 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and for the northern mail until 8 o'clock at night, at which hour the office will be closed during the winter months."

Postmaster Day reported his personal income from his office from 1804 to 1809 to be $492.20. He served for thirty years, and in the course of his administration moved the office to the point where Centre Market now stands.

was started on an edifice. On its completion in 1857 the postoffice was changed for the ninth time and Newark had its first government-owned postoffice building.

SEEK NEW BUILDING

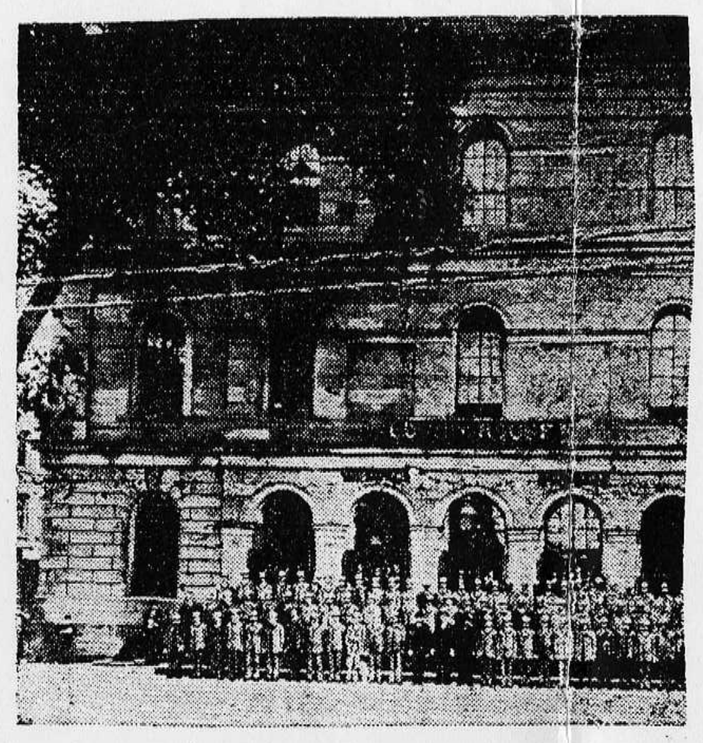
This building at Broad and Academyy streets continued in use in its original form for thirty-seven years. However, Newarkers once again maintained that postal facilities here were inadequate, in view of the growth of the city, and pressure was brought to bear for a larger building.

In 1894 the government started erection of an imposing structure of Romanesque style on the same site, the construction work being extended over four years.

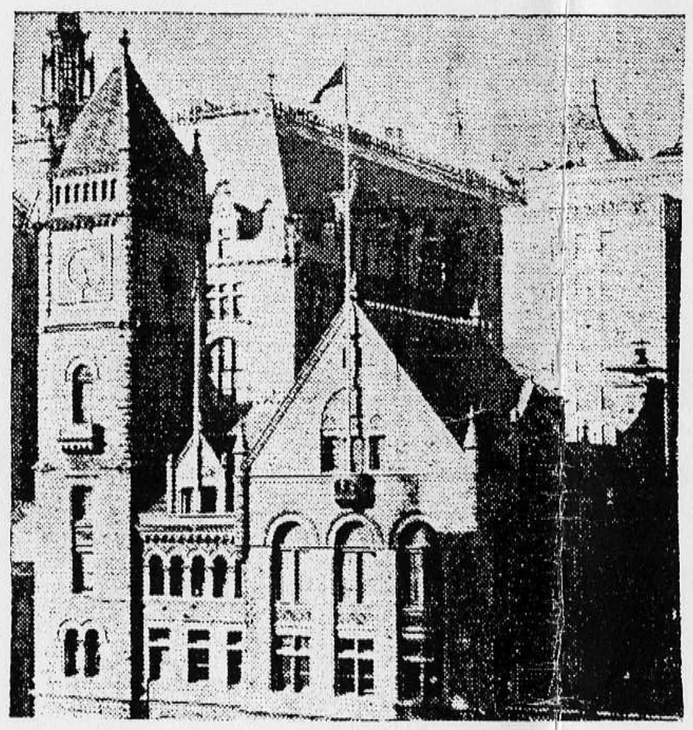
In the intervening time, Newark had its tenth postal center in the old edifice of the First Baptist Church at Academy and Halsey streets. The church building, abandoned as such after the erection of the new Peddie Memorial Church, had previously served as a postoffice annex during rush hours.

On February 1, 1898, the postoffice was moved into the new $500,000 building which still houses postal headquarters here.

Built of Indiana limestone, this structure, with its Romanesque architecture, was considered at the time to be the most imposing type of building that Newark ever could desire. It was even an inspiration to local poets.



Here is the original Newark postoffice and federal built on the site occupied by the present postoffice and opened for 1857. It was the first of the city's triumvirate of federal bui



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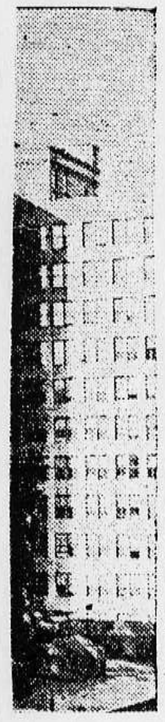

Federal Structure Expected to Be Ready Next Fall.

Strikes and construction delays have helped to prolong the erection of the new Postoffice and Federal building here, the cornerstone of which is to be laid tomorrow. It has been a year and eight months in progress of construction and is not scheduled for occupancy until next fall.

From the first, disputes seemed to hover over the growing structure. Business men's associations, city officials, congressmen all interested themselves at one time or other in trying to settle the quarrels or otherwise speed up construction.

To obtain the site made up of forty-two tracts of land across Franklin street from police headquarters, the government after a series of court hearings, paid a little less than $3,000,000. Work of wrecking the old buildings to clear the land started in September, 1931.

THREE-CORNERED STRIKE

But no sooner did Federal Judge Guy L. Fake pull a throttle on a steam shovel the morning of August 26, 1932, to break ground for the new edifice than difficulties hove in view. Within two months there was a three-cornered strike among unions over which should place the foundation caissons.

The next delay came when the contractor suspended operations, complaining the government had not furnished approved models for carved stone. The building remained in its skeleton stages for several weeks because of lack of stone models.

Three more labor disputes, two between unions and employers and the other between different unions over matters of jurisdiction, helped retard the construction.

Finally, despite the delays in construction, its exterior was finished and made ready for the cornerstone ceremony tomorrow. Into its building went 6,000 tons of steel and 110 carloads of Indiana limestone and granite.

MASS OF SCAFFOLDING

from police headquarters on Franklin street and is also bounded by Mulberry and Walnut streets.

At 9:30 tomorrow morning John L. O'Toole, chairman of the reception committee, and William H. Seely, chairman of the executive committee, will go to the Biltmore Hotel, New York, to meet Postmaster General James A. Farley, the guest of honor, and escort him to Newark.

The postmaster general is to officiate at the cornerstone laying. The party will drive through Holland tunnel to Jersey City, where it will be met by Governor A. Harry Moore. Colonel William H. Kelly, the governor's aide, Mayor Hague and the Jersey City official family.

Over the Turnpike route the party will head for Newark, passing through Harrison, over Harrison avenue to Bridge street. It is scheduled to reach Bridge street at 10:30.

There will be waiting Acting Postmaster John F. Sinnott, Mayor Meyer C. Ellenstein and Charles V. Duffy, collector of internal revenue; members of the Essex Troop and its mounted band and a police escort, led by Traffic Captain Matthew J. Bolger.

At this juncture the party will transfer into two open cars for the duration of the march. In the first car will be Postmaster General Farley, Governor Moore, Mayor Ellenstein, Acting Postmaster Sinnott and Mayor Hague of Jersey City.

Colonel Kelly, Charles V. Duffy, collector of internal revenue; Mr. O'Toole and Mr. Seely will ride in the second car.

In parade formation the procession will move down Broad street to Franklin street and to the new building. A large grandstand has been erected to accommodate 500 invited guests, among whom are expected to be United States Sen-

ROUTE OF PROCESSION

Broad street and adjoining side streets will be gay with flags and bunting put out by business houses in honor of the occasion.

John R. Hardin, as general chairman of the citizens' committee, will preside at the ceremonies. They will be opened by prayer delivered by

UNIT ARRANGES P. O. CEREMONY

General Committee Plans Details of Stone Laying.

For more than two months a citizen's general committee, under John R. Hardin as general chairman, planned details of the cornerstone laying ceremony for the new post office and federal building, to be held tomorrow.

Besides Mr. Hardin, as chairman, Robert L. Ross was vice chairman; Jerome T. Congleton, treasurer, and L. A. Chambliss was secretary. Here are the committee appointments:

Executive—William H. Seely, chairman; Henry J. Auth, Lewis B. Ballentyne, Joseph M. Byrne Jr., Mr. Chambliss, Mr. Congleton, B. J. Cummings, Eugene F. Farrell, Patrick M. Feeney, Lawerance H. Hicks, Joseph A. Hurley, David I. Kelly, William E. Lehman.

Also Clifford E. MacEvoy, M. F. McLaughlin, Frank A. Mindnich, George D. Mulligan, Joseph P. Murphy, John L. O'Toole, John Joseph Quinn, E. Allen Smith, George Oakley Totten Jr., Arthur L. Walsh, Clyde E. Winterton and Henry Young.

Plan and scope committee: Mr. Ballantyne, chairman; Junior C. Buck, Mr. Congleton, Mr. Dougan, Mr. Hurley, David I. Kelly, William H. Kelly, William E. Lehman, Frank I. Liveright, William G. Morrison, Mr. O'Toole, Mr. Quinn, Mr. Ross, Mr. Seely, P. A. Smith, John J. Toffey and Mr. Winterton.

Luncheon committee: Mr. Bryne, chairman; Mr. Chambliss, Mr. Congleton, B. J. Cummings, David I. Kelly, Samuel I. Kessler, Mr. Seely, Harry Wagman, Mr. Walsh and Edmund W. Wollmuth.