

● Hyde Park Post Office: 1939-1940 = Subject File - PSF

Box 154



*file
Hyde Park
Post Office*

BF

Office of the Postmaster General
Washington, D. C.

New York, New York.
July 25, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

Confirming my recent conversation with you concerning the Federal building project for Hyde Park, I have inquired into this and find that the Joint Departmental Committee on June 23, 1939, allotted \$88,000 for the acquisition of a site and the erection of a building to provide space for the Hyde Park post office and for activities of the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Purdum informs me that funds have been definitely allotted for this project. There has been no press release for the reason that the committee felt it would be better not to advertise until after the adjournment of Congress.

Respectfully yours,

James A. Farley

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

I am so busy that I have no
good photograph of the William Stoutenburgh
house at Union Corners -
Wm. Walter Graeme Eliot

With all good wishes -
520 East Eighty-seventh Street

WSE.

PSK
H.P.P.O.

This was attached to a photograph
of the Stoutenburgh house on Rt. 9
that stands opposite the Rogers
gate. Photograph placed in photo file.

Wm

10/12/49

BSF
H.P.P.O.



12
13
2



413686
REGISTERED

To His Excellency
Franklin Delano Roosevelt,
President of The United States
Hyde Park - on - Hudson -
New York -

Personal - kindly deliver
to the President's
House

Photograph
sent Hyde Park -
M. S. Elliot
520 E 87 - NYC -

FRANK E. PIE
AUG
1939
REGISTERED

NEW YORK N.Y.
8-10
1939
REGY. DN.

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The Old House that stood on The Hill -

PSF
H.P.P.O.

For President Franklin Delano Roosevelt-

Notes by Maud Stoutenburgh Eliot

Maud Stoutenburgh Eliot

My father John Albert Stoutenburgh's Description of the
Jacobus Stoutenburgh House at Hyde Park, Dutchess County.

He spoke of tremendously thick outer walls probably built to withstand Indian attack- of the thick wooden shutters, very heavy with a crescent cut out on each and painted white - of a cherry tree driveway that led to the house. A very heavy oak door, back and front in the middle of the house. These were half doors with a door knocker on the village side.

The hall was especially fine with wide planks in the floor and a green wooden bench on either side. These my father in my lifetime sought to trace.

Jacobus went twice to Holland for Dutch tiles and bricks, etc. When a child, my father had revered the tiles set in the mantel pieces in dining-room and bedrooms. He and the other boys in the family were taught Bible lessons from the Scripture tiles. After the house was torn down, he bought two or three mantel-pieces.

Jacobus' office was one of the four rooms on the left side near the village. A tall desk on either side and a Kas, I think it was called, that used to hold his archives. This, although Jacobus had long since been dead, remained in my father's youth.

He spoke of the doors in the house with very small door-knobs and interesting latches.

The most interesting thing in the house according to my father, was the fireplace in the basement which was made by the slope of the hill. It was a tremendous fireplace in which he could stand upright. A Dutch oven was built next to it. Smith in 1877, in his "History of Dutchess" tells that the chimney could not be dismantled except by pulling down. In this fireplace a fire burned all through the year. My father said that the last of August or the first of September a great back log of hickory was dragged by oxen to the house and then rolled into the fireplace. Two other large tree trunks were then placed next the great back log. There was a meeting of the clans of Stoutenburgh and Teller families when the back log was placed. The back log lasted throughout the year. On either side of the fireplace were benches without backs.

The Old House That stood on The Hill -
for President -2- Roosevelt - Notes by
Maud Stoutenburgh Eliot.

Miss Elsie Pritchard was born in the William Stoutenburgh Stone House at Union Corners, then belonging to Isaac. She moved to one of the better houses in the village so she might keep house for her brother who was a physician (who never married) and a brother Isaac whom I preferred, who had white hair and beautiful blue Stoutenburgh eyes. I recall him as walking through the village with great white boards on his shoulders, for he was a carpenter. None of these three had married.

In 1902 and 3, I spent the summers at Hyde Park and saw Miss Elsie daily. Col. Eliot and I were deeply interested in getting reliable data as to the background of the family and its affairs and the old house. Miss Elsie, a silent, tall woman who made no friends in the village, seemed to be a fit custodian of the past. I, after many visits, gained her affection. She always spoke of the family and especially of Jacobus. Miss Elsie had during her life lived in only two houses, both those in Hyde Park. She was baptized in the Dutch Church in 1832. She lived in the past and we used to write down facts as she gave them. These when checked, were always found reliable.

She had seen the house as a young girl. Her mother, Eleanor Stoutenburgh, had stayed there with her cousins, and old Isaac in whose house she lived had told her how he had as a boy crawled to "The Mansion" during the Revolution to find a fishing rod. The family had abandoned the mansion and had buried their silver and had gone to stay at Isaac's father's house, this because the mansion had become a target. It was fired upon when the British went up the River to burn Kingston. (Note by M.S.E. - The British war map shows "Stoutenburgh" plainly marked.)

Miss Pritchard said that Washington had spent several days in the house built by John Stoutenburgh.

She thought the fact that the sons of Jacobus were in service at the time might have been responsible for the attack upon the house. Namely, Col. Tobias, Col. 4th Dutchess

Capt. Peter
Capt. John. Ensign -
Capt. Luke
Private William.

She showed me a great Cannon-ball which she used as a door-stop. It had stuck in the thick walls of the house. I have her letter giving me this cannon-ball.

She spoke with pain of the destruction of the house and took me out to the spot showing me where the slave or servant quarters were (in Mr. Wales place, where four houses were set aside for this purpose. The slaves or servants never occupied rooms or quarters in the house but daily came to the house for orders and service.)

(Miss Elsie gave me the original deed to the Core. - note by M.S.E.)

For President Roosevelt - Notes on the old House that stood of the Hill
-3-
Maud Stouvenburgh Eliot -

She showed me the last cherry tree, also where some of the stones from the house had been used in the gutter before the entrance of the Wales place.

"Imperial Caesar, dead and turned to clay,
Might stop a chink to keep the wind away."

The Old House That stood on the Hill.

-4-

To every generation of my family, there came members of families who trace back to the Great Nine Partners Patent. These families came yearly to my mother's, to talk of Hyde Park. Amongst these, the Johnsons who had lived several generations in Hyde Park. Most, if not all, are dead now. The Rev. Allen Johnson later came to see me. They spoke of Gov. Johnson's home at Amsterdam as being copied from the Jacobus house. They had seen both, and were, I believe, unrelated to the Gov. Johnson family. In other times, their name was spelled in two ways. They went back to Sir Caleb Heathcote, owner, I believe, of the 8th Water Lot.

The Nine Partners Book said "Mrs. Johnson had the Indian Deed" to the Great Nine Partners Patent. Unfortunately, then I had not read the book, so I could not ask him about it.

The Roosevelts married into this family. They, Lew Johnson, Miss Euphemia and others spoke of the "Stoutenburgh Mansion". The N. P. Rogers with Bard background spoke often of the old house and other matters of interest to Hyde Park in its beginning.

Now to return to the present and its needs. My family are all absent so yesterday I sat with photographs of the Stoutenburgh House and the drawing of the architect.

I came to the conclusion first, that it would seem advisable if you thought best, to copy the John Stoutenburgh House almost exactly as it now stands opposite the entrance of Mrs. Archibald Rogers, with a few minor alterations and calling it the Jacobus Stoutenburgh House. These alterations I offer for your consideration.

The front door should be level with the street as it would be an impossibility to use it in bad weather with steps. The new shutters that have been put on should be replaced with the heavy wooden shutters with a crescent moon.

I studied for many hours the various pictures that I have of William and John Stoutenburgh's houses, and the architectural drawings and noted that on the first floor of all three houses, the door was directly in the middle with two windows on either side. I have also come to the conclusion that any house built at that time of two stories was called a mansion. Note the VanCortlandt Mansion and others. Mrs. John King Van Rensselaer, who although a generation older than I, conferred with me frequently about old time ways and customs, etc. She asked me why I thought Gracie House was called Gracie Mansion. I am now absolutely convinced in looking over houses of the past that this odious title "mansion" was given to houses of two stories.

* The roof may be not
the original roof.

The Old House that stood on the Hill -

-5-

The Dutch houses of one story or one story and a half were to my way of thinking much more attractive. I feel that this house could indeed be a fitting monument to Jacobus and would be enjoyed by the people of Hyde Park as a Post Office.

That you, dear President Roosevelt, as President of the United States, should have selected this house to which to do honor should make each and every descendant of my family deeply grateful and ever sensible of your kindness.

Most sincerely your old neighbor
Maud Stoutenburg Eliot.

August 10, 1929 -

Mrs. Walter Graeme Eliot
520 East 87th Street
New York City

I enclose a survey by Jacob Smith
of the village -
It tells the names of the family
to whom it was left, the 3rd generation -
It also shows that lots no. 14 +
21 containing mansion + Barn
remains undivided

This card was attached to a map of
Hyde Park Village - The map is being
put in a large folder to preserve it
from deterioration -

2/22/84

Hyde Park Village

Inhabited only by Stoutenburgs

1st generation

Jacobus Stoutenburg
to 1772

2nd generation

Luke Stoutenburg
to 1792

3rd generation

heirs of Luke Stoutenburg

as shown on map -

Dr Lee's house - was Dr John

Allen Lee - mer. a Stoutenburg

DeCantelina " " "

... some one of
file for preservation — Ask
the archivist on duty if you
wish to see the map.

... signatures
... 1820



Reference Table

Lots, the Share of

a Church

i. Clothier Shop

James Stoutenburgh's

M... House

k. Bridge

John



A Map
of the FARM of the
Late
Luke Stoutenburgh Esq
Situate in
Clinton Town Dutchess County
as Divided Among His Heirs
Laid down
From Actual Survey
by
Jacob Smith

	Reference Table	Lots the Share of each Heir viz
a. Church	i. Clerkier Skap	James Stoutenburgh's No 2, 10, 25, 29, 38
b. Mansion House	k. Bridge	John 1, 4, 26, 27, 42
c. Dr. Lee's House	l. Mill Pond	Luke 7, 13, 19, 34, 39
d. Barn	m. School House	Tobias 6, 16, 28, 30, 34, 40 Minor
e. Mansion House Barn	n.	William 8, 17, 18, 33, 37
f. Dequemes House	o. Burial Ground	Peter 5, 9, 20, 32, 41
g. Fulling Mill House	Lots No. 14 & 21 containing Mansion House & Barn remains Undivided	Margaret 3, 11, 23, 28, 36
h. Fulling Mill		Elinor 4, 12, 22, 31, 35

A Scale
of Four Chains to an Inch



RF Paul - 11/11
August 25, 1939.

Dear Helen:-

As you know, there is a possibility that I may get a new Post Office for Hyde Park village next Spring and the type of building becomes important.

You will remember the article by Colonel Eliot claiming that the old Stutenburgh house at the top of the river hill was practically identical with the Sir William Johnston house in the Mohawk Valley -- a full two story and attic house. Apparently Mrs. Eliot does not make this claim and suggests it was more like the Stutenburgh house opposite the Rogers' north gate -- a house with a hip roof.

Have you any thought as to what type of design we should follow? It is possible (don't tell anybody about it) that we may need a bigger building than Rhinebeck because of housing the federal agricultural activities for Dutchess County.

If this dreadful war business does not definitely break out, I hope to be at Hyde Park the better part of September -- and if you are back be sure to let me know and come up to tea with us.

As ever yours,

Miss Helen W. Reynolds,
56 Grand Avenue,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

PSK
Hyde Park -
P.O.

August 28, 1939.

Dear Mrs. Eliot:-

Ever so many thanks for those interesting notes. We are not sure yet that there is enough money for the new Post Office but I hope much that we can get one started next Spring.

I told Helen Reynolds about your unrecorded deeds and she is thrilled at the thought and wants to publish abstracts of them in the Dutchess County Historical Society 1940 Year Book.

I do hope that you will be able to get to Hyde Park one of these days and if you do come that you will let me know and also let me show you my new stone cottage on the top of Dutchess Hill, three miles east of Mama's house.

Always sincerely,

Mrs. Walter Graeme Eliot,
220 East 67th Street,
New York City,
New York.

510 E. 87th St.
New York,
N.Y.

Dear kind President Roosevelt

May these notes be a
little helpful to you in
bringing back the Past.

I am greatly heartened at
the thought that you wish
the old Jacobus House as

a Post office - The old Beekman
House at Peekskill is a
dream and it is deeply
appreciated by every one -
I am going to keep your

letter for three young grandsons,
children of Amory Eliot, my son
who is a major in the signal
Corps of the Army - I hope one
of them may later turn into a Hyde Parkers!

Please do try and get a
little rest for us all love
you, and are so proud of you -

Most sincerely yours
Maud Stoutenburgh Clark -

August 10 - 1939 -

a photograph follows -

August 29, 1939
Letter to the President
From Helen Reynolds

Attaches two memorandums

1. On new Post Office for Hyde Park
2. Hyde Park Library

Pres. ack of Sept 12, 1939 attached.

See: Helen Reynolds folder-Drawer--2-1939

PST *Hyde Pk Post Office*

1 -
Attached is plan of the Property of
W.W. Woodworth, Esq--Hyde Pk.



Office of the Postmaster General
Washington, D. C.

11 Pk. Post Office
PSK

*File
Hyde Park*

October 13, 1939.

My dear Mr. President:

Attached hereto is a photostatic copy of the Synopsis of Bids for the new Federal building site at Hyde Park, New York; also a marked blue print showing the locations of the sites offered.

During the investigation by site agents A. J. Leamy and W. Plath it came to their attention that the Union Free School Building, located at the southwest corner of Albany Post Road and Albertson Street, with dimensions of 101'2" on the Albany Post Road, 198' on Albertson Street, and 154' on the south line, is to be abandoned upon the completion of the new Central School building about January 1940.

In view of the fact that the Union Free School Building is to be abandoned the site agents wrote Mr. Ralph R. Smith, Sr., President of the Central School Board, Hyde Park, New York, concerning the matter, and transmitted to him a blank proposal form for his use in the event the school board desires to submit a formal bid on the property. The site agents are withholding their report until some definite word is received from the Central School Board.

I thought you would like to have the above-mentioned Synopsis of Bids and the blue print showing the locations.

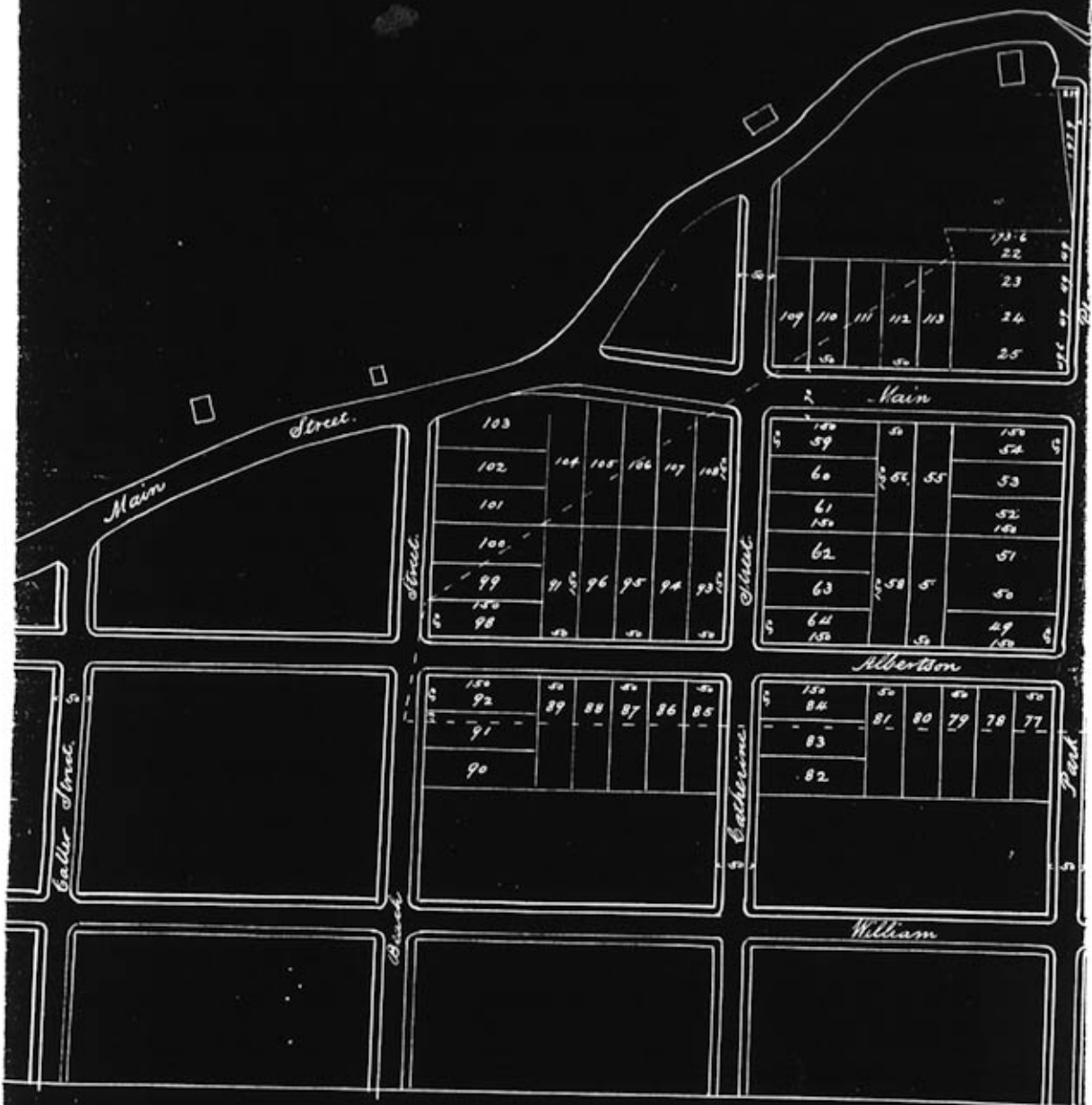
I shall be glad to discuss the matter with you when I see you next week.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Farley

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

A Plan of the Property of
 W. W. Woodworth Esq.
 Hyde Park.



City of
Park
Park.

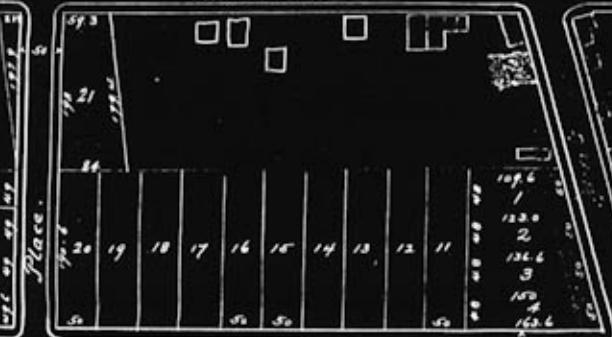


Dutch R. Church

Hyde

Park

Market Street

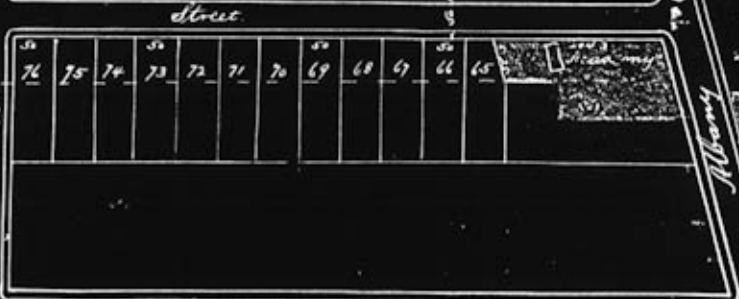


Street



N. C. Church

Church St



Street

Henry Mansfield,
Civil Engineer
Poughkeepsie April 1835

Hyde Park, New York 1835

Hyde Park, New York.

ABSTRACT OF BIDS

<u>Bid No.</u>	<u>Owner or agent</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dimensions</u>	<u>Bidding price</u>
1	George J. Lamb, agent	SW cor. Albany Post Rd. & Har- vey Street	155' on Post Rd., by 247' on Harvey	\$8,800 12B
2	Do	Do	110' on Albany Post Rd., by 170' on Harvey	5,500 12B
3	G.E. & W.I. Falmatour owners	NW cor. Albany Post Rd. & Al- bertson St.	115.5' on Post Rd., by 134' on Albert- son	8,500 12B
4	Henry Myers, owner	W/S Albany Post Rd., bet 214' north of East Market St.	100' by 212'	11,000 12B
5	Fred S. Hover, owner	E/S Albany Post Rd. bet East Mar- ket & Church Sts	143.22' by irreg. depth.	16,000 L. only
6	G.C. & Julia E. Stocking, owners Parker, owners	E/S Albany Post Rd. 200' south of Church St.	135' by 170'	1,950 L. only
7	M.F. Brophy, owner	NE cor. Albany Post Rd. & East Market St.	54' on Post Rd., by 72' on E. Market	5,800 12B

J. A. Kigg
Postmaster
Mildred Wilson
Witness.

Rec'd
10/3/39 J.M.P.

BF
Hyde Park
Post Office
2

October 14, 1939

MEMORANDUM FOR S. D. R.

Would you ask the Librarian at Hyde Park to lend you a picture she has there of the original house of Dr. John Bard which stood on the East side of the Post Road just North of St. James Church.

I would like to see it next Saturday morning as we might want to copy it for the new Hyde Park post-office.

F. D. R.

fdr/tmb

October 14, 1939

Dear Helen:

I am having Mama get a picture of the John Bard house from the library at Hyde Park and I will see it next week end.

I entirely approve the announcement of Volume VII of the Collections.

Will you thank Dr. Foucher and tell him I shall be delighted to have him do as he did before and take care of the distribution. I do hope he is better. Give him my very warm regards.

As ever yours,

Miss Helen W. Reynolds,
56 Grand Avenue,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

MISS HELEN WILKINSON REYNOLDS
25. GRAND AVENUE
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

October 12th,
1939

Dear Mr. President,

Would you be willing that your book should be announced in the 1939 Year Book (which will get in the mail in December) and, if so, would you approve the wording of the enclosed draft of an Announcement ?

Henry Hackett and I are much interested in our findings about Dr. John Bard's house as a possible design for the post office at Hyde Park !

And, oh !, if a new school is named "Val Kill" do have the children taught to give "Val" the Dutch pronunciation , - which rhymes with "fol" not with valley.

Yours,

H. W. R.

PSF

H. Ph. Post Office
2

October 25, 1939.

Dear Al:-

I talked with the Post Office and Treasury people about your property and while it is an ideal corner, they feel it is not big enough. Furthermore, you have made so many improvements and made such a success of the businesses that you would very properly have to ask a fairly high price in order to come out square. I hope to get some further news from the officials before I get back over Election weekend and I will see you then.

Very sincerely yours,

Mr. A. E. Zopf,
Hyde Park,
Dutchess County,
New York.

Hyde Park, N.Y.
October 20, 1939

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Hyde Park, N.Y.

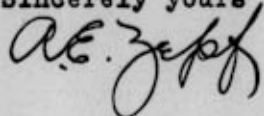
Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

Representatives of the United States Government have called upon me relative to purchasing my property as a site for the new Post Office, together with the property on the corner of Main Street and Albany Post Road which is owned by Mrs. Sarah Bayles Seddon.

I want you to know that I am perfectly willing to sell my property at a fair and reasonable price either given by myself or by authorized appraisers.

I feel that the Post Office should be in the center of our Village and that the building itself with the grounds surrounding it will be an improvement. I have done my very best to make my buildings attractive for Hyde Park and for the traveling public, but as you and I know this was a terrible looking place when I took it over, and I am now willing to vacate because it is what the Village needs.

Sincerely yours



A.E. Zepf

PSF
Hyde Park Post Office folder
2

November 14, 1939.

My dear Lawson:

I come to you in the hope that your memory goes back to the time when you were an infant in arms at Hyde Park.

We are about to put up a new post office building in Hyde Park village and it has been suggested that we copy the plan of "The Red House" built by Dr. John Bard about 1765 and torn down by Mr. Langdon in 1875.

There is a sketch of it in a manuscript book kept by Mr. Ed Braman -- a tiny pen and ink sketch showing a square center, two stories high and one-story wings on the north and south.

We would much like to find the original site of this house and perhaps dig down to get its original dimensions.

Some people describe it as having been in the field east of the Post Road and just north of St. James' Church and what was then the church rectory. Other people say it was north of the road into the Langdon or Vanderbilt farm buildings i.e. where Mr. Langdon built his superintendent's house. The farm entrance lies, as you know, immediately north of the field which, in turn, is north of the church property.

- 2 -

I wonder much whether you have any recollection of "The Red House" -- or its location. Evidently, it had red clapboards but the design would readily reproduce in the fieldstone we like so much and which would enable us to have a fireproof building.

I hope all goes well with you and that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you soon.

As ever yours,

Honorable Lawson Purdy,
640 West 158th Street,
New York City, N.Y.

FDR/dj

HENRY T. HACKETT
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW
226 UNION STREET
POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

Nov. 10th, 1939.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

It has just occurred to me that Mr. Lawson Purdy, whose father, the Rev. James S. Purdy, was the Rector of St. James from 1860 to 1876 and resided in the rectory just north of the Church, ought to know something about "The Red House" of Dr. John Bard. At the time of the centennial of the Church he spoke of his boyhood days and of the grain field of John A. DeGroff just north of the Church.

Mr. Langdon purchased the land including "The Red House" east of the Post Road from John A. DeGroff on April 20th, 1872, four years before Dr. Purdy left Hyde Park and is said to have torn down "The Red House".

I think that Mr. Purdy's address is
105 E. 22nd St., New York City.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett

*Checked & find out latest address is:
640 W. 158th St.*

Nov. 14

HJ

*file
personal*

*RSF
Noble Dr Post
Office - 2*

HENRY T. HACKETT
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW
226 UNION STREET
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

Nov. 22nd, 1939.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Franklin:

Replying to your letter of Nov. 20th, in reference to the home of Dr. John Bard known as the "Red House", I interviewed Mrs. James A. DeGroff, the mother of Arthur DeGroff, and whose husband was the farmer on the Nathaniel P. Rogers place for a number of years. She told me that she remembered the Red House when John A. DeGroff lived in it and that it stood in a small group of maple trees in the open lot south of the lane leading into the farm from the Post Road. Some of the maple trees are still standing in the open lot south of the lane running into the Vanderbilt farm.

I am enclosing herewith a print of a part of the map of the Town of Hyde Park enlarged to twice the size as it appears in the "Atlas of New York and vicinity - N. Y. 1867". On this map the house of John A. DeGroff appears to be north and east of the church yard. The farm buildings appear to be near the Post Road. There was also another house standing on the east side of the Post Road about half way down the Sexton Hill. When the new concrete road was built a few years ago the last trace of this house, which consisted of an old stone wall, was removed. I believe that this house was once occupied by the Gillispie family, who were related to Dr. John Bard. The Gillispie lot in which I think this house stood was mentioned in the deed from Alexander E. Hosack to John A. DeGroff dated May 1st, 1841.

The location of Dr. John Bard's "Red House" is further established by the following reference taken from a book entitled "Pierre Fauconnier and His Descendants" by Abraham Ernest Helffenstein, M. D., Philadelphia 1911 at page 84:

"The building in 1772, I suppose, was the residence of Dr. John Bard on the Post Road, built just far enough back to miss the fine view of the river, but escaping the full force of the winter winds."

I think Mr. Edward Bramen stated in his article on Hyde Park that John A. DeGroff lived in the Red House until he sold it to Mr. Langdon in 1872.

HENRY T. HACKETT
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW
226 UNION STREET
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

Nov. 22nd, 1939.

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
#2--

I am returning enclosed herewith the letter
from Mr. Lawson Purdy to you dated Nov. 16th.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Henry T. Hackett

November 20, 1939

Dear Henry:

The enclosed has just come from Lawson Purdy. From it I gather that the old Bard house was about where Mr. Shears' house now stands -- in other words, north of the farm lane.

Will you send this back to me at your convenience?

As ever,

Henry T. Hackett, Esq.,
226 Union Street,
Poughkeepsie,
New York.

Enclosure

fdr/tmb

Let to the President 11/16/39 from Lawson Purdy, 640 West 158th St.
New York, New York

u.

640 WEST 158TH STREET

Nov 16/39

Dear Mr. President,

About sixty five
 years ago Mrs. Augustus
 Cowman lived in the house
 you describe. Her husband
 had been long dead. He had
 much to do with designing and
 building the Church. He lived
 on what we knew as the Kirkpatrick
 place or Drayton Place opposite
 the Church. He died and his estate
 shrank and the widow went to live

in the house on the East side
of the road. Who owned it
I do not know. The house
I think stood East of the road
about as far as the old Rectory,
perhaps 150 feet. A lane
led from the road south of
the house to Mr. de Goff's house
which stood perhaps 600 ft
from the road. The "Red"
house stood about 100 ft
north of the lane.

I think the so called

"Red" horse was brown when I knew
it, about the color of the old Rectory -
I shall ask my sister who may
remember better than I as she is several
years older - My father was twice married.
My sister's mother was Susan Board
Johnson - She was related and I think
a descendant of Dr. John Board - for
that reason she might know about
this house - It's a great pleasure

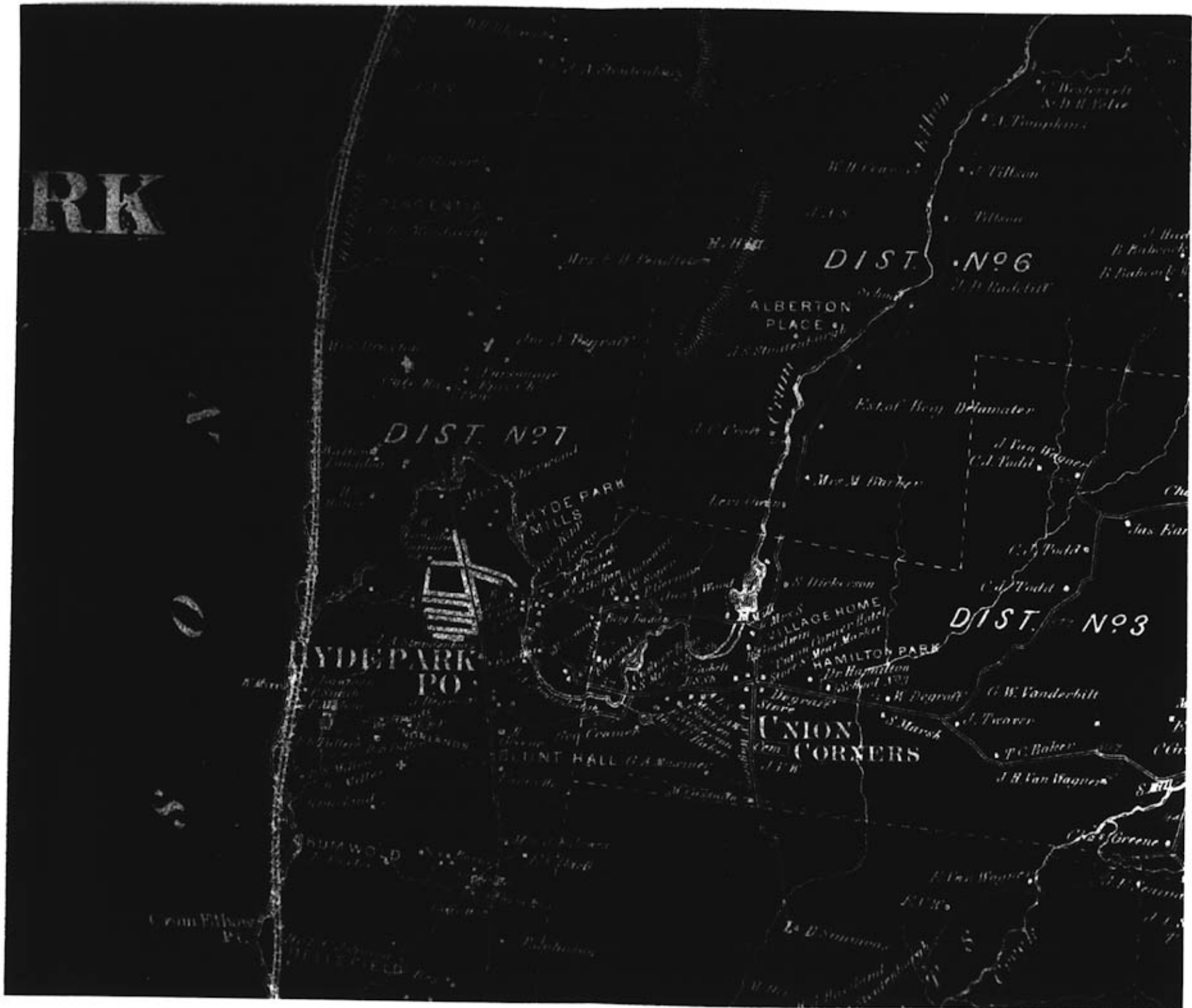
to have a letter from you,

Sincerely yours

Lawson Pinky

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

RK



Grace:

The President may want to keep the attached in his basket to remind him to write Mr. Simon about the offer.

Paula

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

BF
Hyde Park Post Office

December 21, 1939.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. LOUIS A. SIMON

When you come to the building of the new Hyde Park Post Office please make a memorandum that Mrs. Walter Graeme Eliot, 520 East 87th Street, New York City, has offered, free of charge, the stone walls on the hundred acre farm owned by her at the entrance to the Mill Road, just east of Hyde Park village.

If we adopt the Samuel Bard house plan for the Post Office it would be appropriate to use this stone, as the farm in question used to be owned by Dr. Samuel Bard. Mrs. Eliot specifically reserves, of course, the stone walls which form the boundaries of this farm but she says there are two or three walls in the interior of the place.

F. D. R.

December 19, 1939.

My dear Mrs. Eliot:-

I have not had a chance to thank you before this for your very generous offer of the use of some of the stone wall on the one hundred acre farm at the entrance of the Hill Road at Hyde Park. I will tell the Procurement Division about it.

Negotiations are still going on for a Post Office site in the village and I hope to get the matter settled in a few weeks.

The Town Board has, I believe, not yet acted on accepting "The Pines" as a town park but I hope that too will go through.

My very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Walter Graeme Eliot,
520 East 87th Street,
New York City,
New York.

C O P Y

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH
Hyde Park, N.Y.

October 24th, 1939

Coudert Brothers
2 Reepor Street
New York, New York

Att: Mr. Moran

Gentlemen: In re: Eliot Estate

At a recent meeting of the Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of St. James' Church I broached the subject which we discussed in my office. As I recall it was your desire to obtain some sort of an instrument in writing executed by the proper authorities of the various churches whereby they would indicate their acceptance of "The Pines" for the uses and purposes set forth in Mr. Eliot's will.

After discussing the matter from various angles the Vestry took the view that by executing this acceptance we would then become vested of a title or an interest in the premises. Having once acquired any such title the only way for the Church to divest itself would be through an action or proceeding in the Supreme Court. Such an action or proceeding would require a great deal of legal research and compliance with technical requirements of the law in order that any subsequent title might be good and marketable.

It was suggested by Mr. Roosevelt that we communicate with you further and give the matter further thought with the view of adopting a resolution at this time renouncing our right to accept under the terms of the will which renunciation would be upon the expressed condition that the proposed legatee under Subdivision Four of the codicil would also renounce and all the distributees would join in a conveyance of the property to the Town of Hyde Park.

Such a conveyance could and would be with a provision that the property would be used for the uses and purposes set forth in Mr. Eliot's will and should be given a title in accordance with his desires as expressed.

We are holding another meeting on November fifth at which time the matter will be discussed at more length. If you have any suggestions to make, please try to let me hear from you in the meantime.

Very truly yours,
(sgd) A. S. HALPIN

H:M

this and note with pleasure your suggestion that I mark upon this copy of the letter so that the property may be used for the purposes set forth in Col. Eliot's will.

Should the Village through you take over this property, please remember that Mike and Kittie Keogen be allowed the use of the gardener's cottage during their lifetime.

With kindest regards to you, dear President Roosevelt, I am ever sincerely

Your friend,

Maud Stoughtonburgh Eliot

Mrs. Walter Greene Eliot

520 EAST 87TH STREET

November 1st, 1929

My dear President Roosevelt:

In my last letter to you concerning the post office, I neglected to say that it would afford me great pleasure if you could take some of the stone wall on the hundred acre farm (Shun Pike Farm) at the entrance of the Hill Road in Hyde Park, once known as the Shun Pike Road, and formerly owned by my father and mother and more remotely by Dr. Samuel Bard and Dr. David Hosack. I do not allude to the stone walls forming the boundaries, but as I recall it there were two or three walls in the interior of the place and should you care for these either for your historic library or possibly later on for a possible Jacobus Stoughtonburgh Post Office, I would be delighted.

I see that you are to hold a meeting of the various church boards in Hyde Park on November fifth and I am hoping that you can come to a conclusion in the matter of the rites. I am attaching Mr. Halpin's letter to

File Hyde Park PSF

HYDE PARK, NEW YORK
POST OFFICE BUILDING (NEW)

*Hyde Park Office
3*

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT
IN REPLYING, QUOTE THE ABOVE SUB-
JECT, BUILDING, AND THESE LETTERS SA-AIM

WASHINGTON

March 18, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

SUBJECT: POST OFFICE BUILDING, HYDE PARK

The design for the new Post Office building has been prepared for further discussion with the President; or if he prefers it, the sketch will be sent to the White House for such comments as he may wish to make.

The question of moving the old Freer House to the back of the Post Office lot and renting it to Mrs. Freer has been investigated at great length. There appears to be no legal authority by which this can be accomplished. An excerpt of the Comptroller's decision and some further circumstances in connection with this matter are given on the attached sheet.

Following a recent visit to Hyde Park to look into the local situation, Mr. Stanley Brown of this office expressed the opinion that a close examination of the various details of the Freer House led him to believe that it might date from the period between 1840 and 1850; and while some of the interior trim and the front entrance is interesting, "none of the work is outstanding as an example of work done at the close of the Greek Revival period."

J. S. Brown
Supervising Architect

The President,
The White House.

WASHINGTON
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EXCERPT OF COMPTROLLER'S DECISION
AND SOME FURTHER CIRCUMSTANCES IN
CONNECTION WITH THE OLD FREER
HOUSE NOW LOCATED ON THE SITE OF
THE NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING AT
HYDE PARK, N.Y.

* * * * it appears that in the absence of specific statutory authority therefor, Government officers and heads of departments may not legally rent Government-owned property, buildings, or parts of buildings, to private parties or private enterprises."

Later legislation which permits rental "until their removal becomes necessary" is held to furnish no authority to rent the property to Mrs. Freer. To avoid demolishing the house would require the Government to eliminate the house and the rear portion of the Freer lot from the purchase, and permit the old house to be moved back, leaving a right-of-way by which the house could be approached in its new location on ground which would be left in Mrs. Freer's ownership, if she would reduce the price of the property.

It is estimated that the moving might readily cost from \$2,500 to \$3,000 or more, and would require the destruction of two large pine trees which it is very desirable to retain.

COPIES NOT FURNISHED ON THIS SIDE OF
COMMUNICATION WITH THE UNITED STATES
AND SOME BUSINESS CONCERNS. THESE
RECORDS OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

HYDE PARK, NEW YORK
POST OFFICE BUILDING (NEW)

ADM

March 18, 1940

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SUBJECT: POST OFFICE BUILDING, HYDE PARK

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Supervising Architect

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Monday 10th 19

MORE ON
HARRIS' RE

VIM

EXCERPT OF COMPTROLLER'S DECISION
AND SOME FURTHER CIRCUMSTANCES IN
CONNECTION WITH THE OLD FREER
HOUSE NOW LOCATED ON THE SITE OF
THE NEW POST OFFICE BUILDING AT
HYDE PARK, N.Y.

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Later legislation which permits rental "until their removal becomes necessary" is held to furnish no authority to rent the property to Mrs. Frear. To avoid demolishing the house would require the Government to eliminate the house and the rear portion of the Frear lot from the purchase, and permit the old house to be moved back, leaving a right-of-way by which the house could be approached in its new location on ground which would be left in Mrs. Frear's ownership, *if she would reduce the price of the property*

It is estimated that the moving might readily cost from \$2,800 to \$3,000 or more, and would require the destruction of two large pine trees which it is very desirable to retain.

BF
file
H.P. Post Office
3

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
PUBLIC BUILDINGS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

IN REPLYING QUOTE THE ABOVE SUBJECT, BUILDING, AND THESE LETTERS SA-ADM

May 7, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR MISS TULLY:

My dear Miss Tully:

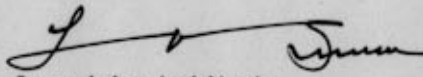
In accordance with our telephone conversation these are the facts in connection with the proposed new Post Office and Agricultural Building at Hyde Park:

The drawings are completed and the specifications are being made. It is the intention to place the work on the market for bids by the twenty-fifth of May.

The ordinary thirty days for the work to remain on the market has been shortened to twenty days which means that the bids are to be opened on June 14 and if the low bidder is found to be qualified and there are no complications, this should permit the contract to be in force by the twentieth of June.

Every possible effort will be made to have the contractor start operations at once with the hope of completing the building by the middle of December.

The President might be interested to know that we made an effort to have the present old Freer House removed from the site, but information I received from Hyde Park shows that there are no bidders. It looks very much as if the old House would have to come down.


Supervising Architect.

PSF
520 EAST 87TH STREET

Dear President Roosevelt:

The old house is to live again as the Hyde Park Postoffice and I cannot tell you how happy your vision has made me.

It is a blessed thought that there is one who is preserving and restoring the ancient landmarks and who is ever calm and helpful in a frenzied world.

With kindest regards. Ever your sincere friend.

Maud Stoutenburg Eliot

May 31st 1940

Mrs. Walter Graeme Eliot
To His Excellency
Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The picture of the Post Office of Hyde Park
is in the *New York Times* of Today!