

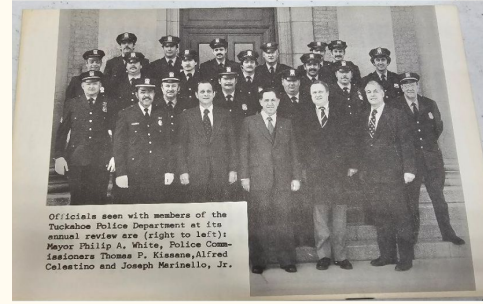
Local Landmark Nomination

1 Generoso Pope Place

a/k/a “Historic Village Hall” & “The Generoso Pope Building”

Tuckahoe Historic Preservation Commission

February 28, 2024



Officials seen with members of the Tuckahoe Police Department at its annual review are (right to left): Mayor Philip A. White, Police Commissioners Thomas P. Kissane, Alfred Celestino and Joseph Marinello, Jr.



Historic Tuckahoe Village Hall

Constructed from 1911 to 1913 (at a cost of \$36,000), the Generoso Pope Building was originally built to serve as the Village of Tuckahoe's first Village Hall, and it housed the Village's municipal services offices, library, and police department for the next 65+ years when these services were relocated around the corner on Main Street to the present location at the former Main Street School/Assumption School.

When the building was opened as Tuckahoe Village Hall, it was home to:

1. **Tuckahoe Post Office:** Was located immediately to the right on the first floor.
2. **Large room for rental:** Was located to the left side of the building, with a side entrance.
3. **Tax Receiver's Office:** Was located in the rear of the first floor.
4. **Court Room:** Was located in the rear on the first floor and connected to the Police Station.
5. **Police Station:** Was located in the rear on the first floor and connected to the Court Room.
6. **Tuckahoe Public Library:** Was located on the second floor to the left. At the end of the Library was the Librarian's Room and Storage Room for books and papers.
7. **Village Trustees' Room:** Was located on the second floor to the right side of the rotunda.
8. **Town Board Room:** Was located on the second floor adjacent to the Village Trustees' Room.
9. **Town Clerk's Office:** Was located on the second floor in the rear of the building.

Competitive plans were submitted by 13 different architects. The winning plans were drawn by Edgar A. Josselyn and Edwin F. Hayner of New York City. Edgar A. Josselyn's best known works are the Charlton and Speyer Schools at Columbia University and Clarkson School of Technology at Potsdam, NY.



Historic Tuckahoe Village Hall

Site of many Village of Tuckahoe and Town of Eastchester events and gatherings, celebrations, holiday celebrations, and parades.

Memorial Service for “Washington’s Unknown” on February 22, 1923

- Tuckahoe was an important location during the fighting of the American Revolutionary War. Then a part of Historic Eastchester and what is referred to as the “Neutral Zone,” this area witnessed significant skirmishes.
- A particularly deadly clash took place on Nov. 18, 1777 at the top of Winter Hill Road (then known as Tuckahoe Road) at the intersection of White Plains Road in the area at and immediately surrounding the home of Patriot leader Stephen Ward (known as “The Ward House”, a Tuckahoe local landmark). Bodies of those who perished in the fighting were soon afterwards moved to a hastily constructed “burying pit” at the bottom of Tuckahoe Hill/Winter Hill at the site of the present-day World War I Memorial.
- In 1922, human remains were found at this location when the area was being excavated during construction. Out of these, three were exhumed and of these at least one placed in a chestnut coffin for a memorial funeral service, which was held on Feb. 22, 1923.
- The service honored the memory of the Continental Army as represented by these bones.
- The event was shared with not just the local community but was also of national interest.



WASHINGTON'S HEROES.—In Tuckahoe Town Hall yesterday James O'Shaughnessy (right), chairman of the honor committee, and Major A. W. Gullion (left), representing Gen. Pershing, placed wreaths on coffin containing bones of Revolutionary heroes.

According to the *New York Times*, townspeople filed by the coffin and children lay flowers on bodies of Revolutionary Dead. “The harshness of their life and the dismal difficulties under which they fought were evident to those who discovered them. They lay with their feet to the east and their arms straight beside them instead of being folded on their breasts, as soldiers sleep after the last “taps” and there was nothing else, not even a button. They had been stripped before they were buried so desperate was the need of Washington’s men for clothes and uniforms.” (Feb. 23, 1923).

Historic Tuckahoe Village Hall

On October 23, 1972, President Richard Nixon visited the Historic Tuckahoe Village Hall during a motorcade tour through Westchester County. According to a *New York Times* article from the next day, "The President met with mostly friendly crowds, but demonstrators with signs opposing the war in Vietnam appeared at various points... The President, who was accompanied by Mrs. Nixon, got out of his limousine six times during the motorcade to shake hands with onlookers. But, he spoke only once, when he was persuaded to go to the steps of the Tuckahoe Village Hall to receive the key to the village from Mayor Robert D'Agostino."



Photo by Diane S. Zeeman
President and Mrs. Nixon greet Tuckahoe well wishers as their motorcade enters Village.



Generoso Pope Building

- With a number of different owners and tenants between 1980 and 2003, since 2003, Historic Village Hall has been owned by the Generoso Pope Foundation, which opened its doors to the public in September 2007. The Generoso Pope Foundation maintained and took great pride in this elegant structure over the last twenty years, and often honored its deep roots with events and ceremonies. The Foundation has sponsored many community events in partnership with the Village of Tuckahoe, continually bringing residents together to celebrate Tuckahoe's rich history.
- The Generoso Pope Building facilities also house the Westchester Italian Cultural Center. In addition to providing cultural programs such as language and cooking classes, the foundation and center have hosted concerts, provided funding for Fourth of July fireworks celebrations, opened its doors for Tuckahoe school events and holiday celebrations, and supported Tuckahoe Village activities.
- In Tuckahoe's Comprehensive Master Plan of 2008, amended in 2014, the Generoso Pope Building is discussed in Section 3.1, Historical Perspectives.

p.12 "The rail line and the quarrying business brought hundreds of workers to the area. This primarily included Irish men and Scottish men, along with Italians, who remained in Tuckahoe more so than the others. Roughly two thirds of the residents in Tuckahoe today are of Italian ancestry. In addition, **the Generoso Pope Foundation, a charitable foundation founded by Generoso Pope in 1947, is headquartered in Tuckahoe's old Village Hall. This foundation contributes to the Tuckahoe community in a variety of ways.**"

- The clock that stands in the center of Depot Square and has become a symbol for the Village was donated to the Village by the Generoso Pope Foundation.



Generoso Pope Building: History of Italian Immigrants in Tuckahoe & Eastchester



People of Italian American ancestry make up a 1/3 of the population of the Town of Eastchester according to the 2010 census.

[8 Articles on Italian Immigrants in Eastchester & Tuckahoe](#)

By Richard Forliano,
Eastchester Town Historian

Referring to the criteria set forth in the *Tuckahoe Historic Preservation Law*, list those that apply and explain how the property meets those criteria.

- A. Possesses special character or aesthetic value as part of the cultural, architectural, social, or economic history of the Village; or
- B. Is identified with persons or events significant in local, state, or national history; or
- C. Is the birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance; or
- D. Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or design style, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship; or
- E. Is representative of the work of a designer, architect, or builder; or
- F. Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the community by virtue of its unique location or singular physical characteristic; or
- G. Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important to the study of the prehistory or history of the region, state, or nation.

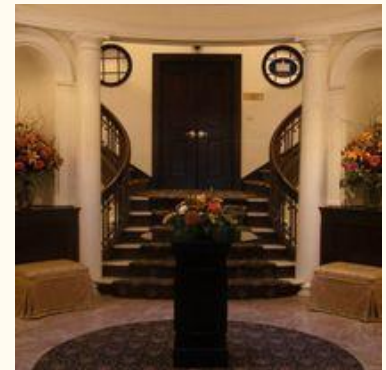
Landmark Criteria: Historic Village Hall/Generoso Pope Building

- **Criteria A: Possesses special character or aesthetic value as part of the cultural, architectural, social, or economic history of the Village**

The Generoso Pope Building/Original Tuckahoe Village Hall is directly linked to the cultural, architectural, social, and economic history of Tuckahoe because of the role it has played in the Village for over 110 years as a municipal services center as well as a cultural heritage center.

Its distinct Neoclassical architectural style serves as a visual reminder of the period design popular at the time when Tuckahoe experienced a population boom not long after it incorporated as a Village within the Town of Eastchester (1901). The building has become one of Tuckahoe's most recognizable and distinguishable buildings, and its location next to the Tuckahoe Metro-North Railroad Station that was opened in 1847 makes it one of Tuckahoe's most observed structures.

Its owners for the past 20 years, the Generoso Pope Foundation, have contributed significantly to the social and economic growth of the local Tuckahoe and extended Italian-American communities and well beyond.



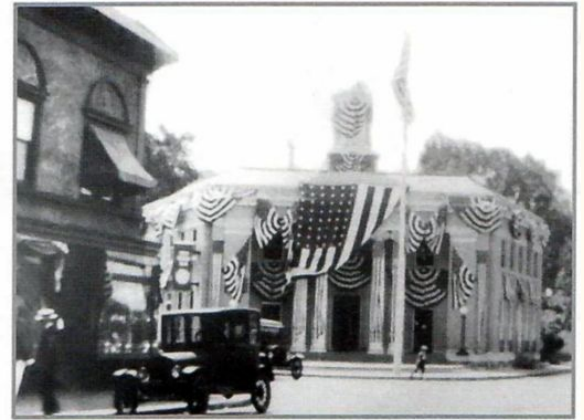
Landmark Criteria: Historic Village Hall/Generoso Pope Building

- **Criteria B: Is identified with persons or events significant in local, state, or national history**

The skeleton of "Washington's Unknown Soldier," likely that of a young militia boy who fought in the skirmish that took place at the Ward House at the intersection of Winter Hill Road and White Plains Road in Tuckahoe on November 18, 1777 during the fighting of the American Revolutionary War, was found at the bottom of Winter Hill/Tuckahoe Hill at Midland Place and Main Street in the summer of 1922, along with at least two other deceased.

On George Washington's birthday in 1923, the casket carrying at least one of the bodies was laid "in state" at Tuckahoe Village Hall (current Generoso Pope Building) and a tribute attended by the "whole Westchester community" (New York Tribune, February 23, 1923), numbering in the thousands according to reports and including representatives from various military organizations and Tuckahoe's churches, was held to honor their lives and service to their country. Wreaths adorned the Tuckahoe Village Hall building next to Tuckahoe's train station in the center of the village. The chestnut casket's coffin plate read: "Washington's Unknown, Tuckahoe, NY, 1776."

Almost 50 years later, on October 23, 1972, President Richard Nixon visited Westchester County and during a motorcade tour that made six stops, he spoke only on the steps of Tuckahoe Village Hall (present Generoso Pope Building) to receive keys to the village from Tuckahoe's mayor.



Landmark Criteria: Historic Village Hall/Generoso Pope Building

- **Criteria D: Embodies the distinguishing characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or design style, or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship**

The Generoso Pope Building/Original Tuckahoe Village Hall embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Neoclassical architectural style popular at the time of its construction in 1911–1913. The cornices and copings are made of marble from Tuckahoe’s very own marble quarries and provide valuable examples of the use of indigenous materials and craftsmanship.

- **Criteria E: Is representative of the work of a designer, architect, or builder**

The plans for the Tuckahoe Village Hall/Generoso Pope Foundation building were drawn by Edgar A. Josselyn and Edwin F. Hayner of New York City. Edgar A. Josselyn was an American architect. His best known works are the Charlton and Speyer Schools at Columbia University and Clarkson School of Technology at Potsdam, N. Y.

- **Criteria F: Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the community by virtue of its unique location or singular physical characteristic**

The Generoso Pope Building/Historic Tuckahoe Village Hall has been standing in the exact same spot with very little exterior alteration for over 110 years. Its location in the heart of Tuckahoe, right next to the Tuckahoe Metro-North Railroad Station, has made it a very recognizable and identifiable symbol of downtown Tuckahoe.

- **CRITERIA G: Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important to the study of the prehistory or history of the region, state, or nation**

At least two reports claim that the casket containing “Washington’s Unknown Soldier” that was honored “in state” at a grand ceremony held at Tuckahoe Village Hall on February 23, 1923 was then lowered into a crypt below Tuckahoe Village Hall (Eastchester Citizen Bulletin, February 7, 1923; New York Tribune February 2023). This has not been investigated by the Tuckahoe Historic Preservation Commission.

Local landmarking → Process (step-by-step)

Process initiated

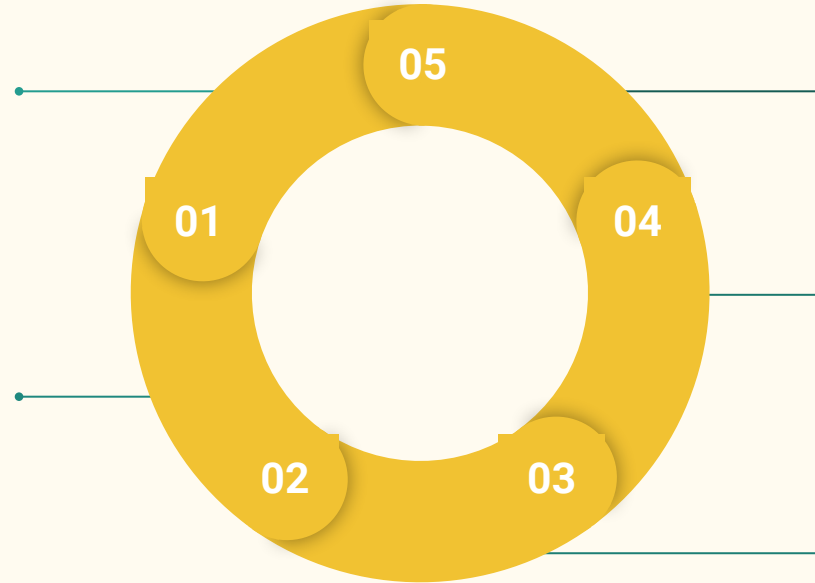
Landmark nomination form is filled out and as much historical information as possible provided to/by THPC (form at tuckahoe.com). THPC reviews. Emphasis must be placed on criteria justification.

THPC accepts or does not accept nomination form

If the THPC determines that the nomination appears to meet the required criteria, the THPC accepts the nomination and schedules a public meeting.** If nomination not accepted, process stops. All parties involved are notified.

**Once the THPC has accepted a landmark nomination, no building permits may be issued for the site or structure under consideration.

Note: There is an appeals process.



BoT public hearing

BoT holds a public hearing (as many as needed) to acknowledge the THPC's process and consideration, and prepare to vote to either approve or disapprove the local landmark.

THPC makes a recommendation to BoT

If THPC determines that the nominated local landmark meets the required criteria, they recommend to the BoT that BoT holds a public hearing, and vote, to approve the local landmark.

THPC holds public meeting

THPC holds a public hearing (as many as needed) to discuss the local landmark nomination and if it meets the criteria necessary to justify the landmarking.