VFW Post to Vacate 1869 Building
Tomorrow for Modern New Quarters

TEANECK—Members of Capt. Stephen T. Schoonmaker Post 1429 and its ladies' auxiliary will be moving tomorrow into a new one-story stucco building located at 209 The Plaza. The new headquarters of the Capt. Stephen T. Schoonmaker Post will be the first building in Teaneck to be dedicated as a war memorial, according to Commander Fritz Zahlmann.

The unit's old headquarters at 33 Bedford Ave., a building erected in 1869 and used at various times as a school, police headquarters and town hall, will be returned to the Township.

Members themselves built most of the new modern structure which is to feature a 50 by 125-foot auditorium when completed. Masonry work at the site was donated by the Bricklayers and Plasterers Union.

The L-shaped clubhouse also provides a 30 by 60-foot section which is finished and will serve as an entrance to the auditorium. It also houses a small meeting room, kitchen, cloak room and storage space.

Interiors, said Commander Zahlmann, will be modern. A dominant note, he said, will be a memorial wall displaying a list of all departed members of Post 1429.

Fronting the property will be a tablet honoring the Post namesake, Capt. Schoonmaker. Although the War Memorial Building will be used primarily for Post functions, it will be available to other local organizations.

William Guthrie Sr., a boyhood friend of Capt. Schoonmaker, organized the unit in 1920. Its ladies' auxiliary was added in May, 1926.

Post headquarters at 33 Bedford Ave., was obtained four years later.

The building, originally located at Forest Avenue and Teaneck Road, was the site in 1891 of the formation of Teaneck as a municipality and served as the area's only polling place from 1869 to 1909.

Capt. Schoonmaker, who came to Teaneck from his native California in 1869, received the silver star and a personal citation from his division commander in World War I. He died in Paris Sept. 24, 1919, during the Verdun offensive and is buried in Bois De La Reine, Montfaucon.

TEANECK'S OLDEST—From the files of the VFW comes this view of the oldest continuously-in-use public building in the Township. Since its erection in 1869, it has been moved twice and has served as a town hall, police headquarters, a school, and finally as clubhouse for Capt. Stephen T. Schoonmaker Post 1429, VFW. Tomorrow VFW men move into a new building at 209 The Plaza; old faithful will be returned to the Township.