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"It's significant to American history, not just Springfield, not just Ohio history," Rose said.

Congress created the National Road in 1806, the first interstate highway. Many questioned if the federal government even had the power to do so.

"It was new ... It's really a breakthrough in American history that the federal government did do a project like this," Rose said.

The road also spurred on the Western migration, he said, as pioneers traveled it. It made it to Springfield around 1836 and west of town by 1838, which is when construction started on the Pennsylvania House.

The inn sat at the junction of the National Road and Dayton-Springfield Turnpike. The pike tried to lure travelers on a southern offshoot through Dayton, even using markers and signs similar to those on the National Road.

It was dubbed the counterfeit pike.

"They were quite upset that the federal government did not select the National Road to go through their town," Rose said. "It was a major, major thing to have it go through your town."

That story adds to the lore of the Pennsylvania House.

"You couldn't pick a better location," Rose said.

To mark the bicentennial of the National Road legislation, the Ohio Historical Society will place three markers on the road, including at the Pennsylvania House.

The state has more than 1,000 markers at historical sites. The Pennsylvania House marker will be dedicated at 1 p.m. Saturday.

"The Pennsylvania House is being recognized as a valued resource in understanding and interpreting the history of the National Road in Ohio," said Cyndie Gerken, a DAR member who submitted the marker application.

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