

CHESTER TIMES – August 1, 1899 – CROZER HOME FOR INCURABLES – The Handsome Building for this splendid Charity on Seminary Hill is Rapidly Being Completed

Crowning the summit of the knoll just east of the seminary, the J. Lewis Crozer Home for Incurables, rapidly nearing completion, presents an imposing and striking appearance. It can be seen from a distance at many points and has already become a notable part of the city's architecture.

The building, which is of blue marble and is being erected by J & T Oliver, the Chester contractors, is of the most substantial character, with massive walls and foundations meant to withstand the ravages of time for centuries. The plasterers are now at work, having completed the third story and it is expected that the Home will be opened by Christmas next and perhaps before that holiday.

The building is 154 feet long and 70 feet wide, three full stories high with very roomy basement. It faces Upland Avenue and has a massive veranda at the main entrance supported by tall Corinthian pillars of fluted design. The basement floor is nearly 11 feet in height and contains the kitchen, laundry, steam heating boiler, coal bins and other apartments, with the room in the northern corner for a morgue.

There are over 100 rooms in the building, all large and well lighted, so that the capacity of the Home will be great. Already Mrs. Mary Crozer has ten patients to be admitted and more will be cared for at a very early date.

The room on the right of the entrance is for reception purposes, with office adjoining, and on the south side, directly opposite is the dining room, which is flooded with light from a large triple bay window. An elevator connects with the kitchen immediately below and the food is not only conveyed to the dining room but to all floors of the building on the kitchen elevator.

Large, wide halls intersect the building, with broad roomy stairs, while an elevator for those too sick to walk up and down stairs is placed in a central shaft, easily accessible from any of the many bed rooms.

The third story not only contains rooms for the sick, but the sleeping apartments of those employed at the Home, with the large space directly above the main entrance for a store room, in which is placed a water tank with a capacity of 6,000 gallons.

The heating and ventilating of the entire edifice are most complete. Steam, direct and indirect radiation, furnishes heat, a large boiler in the basement furnishing the supply while ventilating shafts run from every room, the impure air being carried away by fans. Large windows furnish a flood of light by day and at night electricity and gas are used. Fire line hose is placed in the corridors and provision is made to quickly extinguish the flames.

Comfort for the inmates has been the great object sought by Mrs. Crozer, who has carefully watched every stage of construction and who has expressed satisfaction with thoroughness of all the work by the contractors and various subcontractors. The wide halls will form resting places for the sick and afflicted who are to form the family in the Home, while in order that no unnecessary noise may annoy or disturb, all the floors have been deadened, so as not to convey the sound of footsteps as attendants walk about or articles of furniture may be moved.

The hospital, another noble charity devised by the late J. Lewis Crozer and his wife, will occupy a position south of the Home and that institution will be one of the best-equipped establishments in the country. When work is to be begun on this building is not known, but it is said that it will be in the near future.

The subcontractors on the Crozer Home are as follows: Mills & Brother, Chester, plasterers; Taylor Burke, Chester, painting; Robert Howarth & Sons, Chester, roofing; D. S. Bunting, Chester, lumber and building material; Edwin L. Cox, Chester, mill work; Schwyer & Liess, Norristown, stone and marble; Adams & Anderson, Philadelphia; Philadelphia Steam Heating Company, steam heat; Fields & Brother,

Eddystone, bricks; Charles H. Blaine Wilmington, galvanized iron work; Edward McCarey, Chester, tin work. The architect of the building is Seymour Davis of Philadelphia.

The terrace work in front of the building is partly completed and will be finished within the next six weeks.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION