

CHESTER TIMES – March 5, 1918 – BIG CHANGES AT CLIFTON – Real Estate Deal Includes the Proposed Erection of a Pretty Theatre

A real estate deal has been consummated in the borough which involves thousands of dollars and several properties. It will greatly change the neighborhood of Baltimore Avenue and Penn Avenue. The change in ownership of the properties will mean that the borough is going to get a first-class theater. The deal was consummated by Arthur F. Blake, a local real estate broker, who sold the properties to John E. Dougherty, the Sixty-Ninth Street real estate broker and developer.

The properties sold are the old Vahle bakery store and a private residence on the southeast corner of Baltimore and Penn Avenues as well as a lot on the west side of Penn Avenue, which was purchased from Anna and Elizabeth Annan; and the J. Walter Jones property on Baltimore Avenue, adjoining the store of the Annan sisters, better known as the "Barn Row." The consideration for the properties is said to be approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Dougherty stated that he hopes to give this particular location a greatly changed condition. He proposes to move the two-story brick dwelling from Baltimore and Penn Avenue to the lot purchased from the Annans. The old brick stable in the rear of the Vahle Bakery will be raised and the site made vacant by the tearing down of the stable and the removal of the brick house will be used for the building of a theater, 40 by 120 feet, which will have a capacity of 700 persons.

The Vahle bakery and two stores will also undergo changes. The basement will be fitted up as a pool and billiard parlor. This will mean the tearing out of the bake ovens and other machinery in the basement.

The lot in the rear of the Vahle property has on it a building used now as a garage. This will be torn down and a garage build of brick, 40 by 120 feet.

The Jones property will be remodeled. In front of this property will be erected three one-story stores. These will be so built as to obscure as much as possible the old buildings which will be used as dwellings.

The improvements to be made will cost about \$28,000. Mr. Dougherty hopes to get the work underway as speedily as possible under present conditions. The two-story house will be the first to be moved to the other side of the street to make room for the new theater. The theater will be ready by September first.

The improvement will be welcomed by everyone in the borough. It will be the beginning of the end of many unsightly buildings along Baltimore Avenue.