

CHESTER TIMES – April 12, 1913

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS – Dull Week Experienced and But Few New Operations Reported – Work Continues – City and County Activities

City building remains quiet and while work is progressing on those operations now underway there was but little reported during the past week. While several building permits were issued by Inspector Terryl T. Williams, they were for small operations, many of them alterations. City Engineer B. D. Lodomus announced yesterday that Fifth Street Bridge would be started next week.

The county districts fared better than Chester and the United Roofing and Manufacturing Company will build a large brick factory building at its plant in Marcus Hook. Haverford College will have a new hall. The Bell Telephone Company is ready to award a contract for the new telephone exchange at Swarthmore. A large and costly residence will be erected by a Philadelphian at Wayne. Several other house building operations were also reported. A number of realty transfers were made, the largest of which was probably one at St. David's, which involved \$25,000.

Among the more important of the new operations reported for Chester are included: Five houses on the north side of Third Street between Franklin and Fulton Streets, to be built by Francis J. Moore for a German society. William E. Houdley for two story brick stable on Crosby Street; American Steel Foundries for a two story brick stable on Booth Street. Several other projects will be undertaken when the weather conditions become more settled and the season advances a little.

IN THE CITY – The brick work is about completed on the \$38,000 annex that is being built to the Chester Post office by John W. Emery of Philadelphia. The finishing touches are being put on the new \$30,000 beer house by the Consolidated Engineering Company of Baltimore, for Swift and Company at 17, 19, 21 and 23 East Second Street.

Work is progressing rapidly on the \$30,000 by products house that John J. Buckley and Company is building on West Second Street, the six houses of Simon Bruner on East Front Street at Market Street, and the seven dwellings of Albert Wunderlich's in Wunderlich Place.

The bricklayers are nearing the end of their work on the J. Irvin Taylor operation at Sixth Street and Edgmont Avenue. The Fayette Manufacturing Company is completing a brick shed at its plant. Samuel Lax is finishing a two-story brick house on Welsh Street above second. William E. Headley has the foundations laid for a two-story brick stable of generous proportions on Crosby Street below East Third.

Nolan Brothers have some fine houses for sale on Providence Avenue at Twenty-Second Street, which have been recently finished. This is a fine residential section and is bound to grow. Nolan Brothers and John H. Williams have done a great deal to develop Fifth Ward sections.

Over in Park Place, which is a beautiful residential section, and a credit to the city, much of the activity has been due to the efforts of Howard Brothers. Most of the houses here are built on the bungalow style and are artistic in their design.

WEST END OPERATIONS – The foundation walls for the seven new houses to be built by Contractor Samuel A. Hewes on the north side of west Third Street, below Townsend, are about completed and it is expected that the work of laying brick will begin next week.

The brick work of several of the eight dwellings in course of construction at Second and Wilson Streets has been started. The foundations walls for the large apartment house to be built on the corner are about completed. Contractor H. Louis Morris is building the dwellings and apartment house for John J. McGlenn.

Contractor William L. Devenney has broken ground for the erection of two modern two-story brick houses on the plot of ground at Seventh and Wilson Streets, and he recently started a force of artisan at work laying brick in the construction of two houses on West Fourth Street, near Palmer.

The basement of the Bethany Presbyterian Sunday School building, at Sixth and Highland Avenue, is about completed. Philadelphia painters were busy during the past week decorating the interior of the structure and the finishing touches are now being made to the windows and main entrance.

The four new houses being built on West Fourth Street, near Ward, by contractor Francis Moore are now under roof, and it is expected that they will be ready for occupancy within another week. Mr. Moore has also had excavations made for the cellars of four houses to be built at Fourth and Hayes Streets.

J. Horace Witsil's eight new houses on Flower Street, above Sixth, are rapidly nearing completion. One of the dwellings, in fact, was finished several days ago and is now occupied. It is expected that the others will be completed next week.

BUILDING PERMITS – Building Inspector Terry T. Williams issued the following building permits:

J. J. Williams to build an open shed in rear of 215-17 Pennell Street

John Delaney to build a bath in rear of southwest corner of Fourteenth and Providence Avenue

Charles Kelly to build a one-story steel building in rear of 923 Potter Street

William G. Nagle to build a bathroom in rear of 1603 Concord Avenue

William Whittaker to enclose shed in rear of 924 Highland Avenue

William G. Price to build frame stable covered with corrugated iron in rear of 1009 Parker Street

William E. Headley to build a two-story brick stable on east side of Crosby Street between Second and Third Streets

William Trainer to build a one-story frame building, covered with corrugated iron, on south side of Eighth Street between Barclay and Penn Streets

William L. Devenney to build two two-story brick dwellings at southwest corner Seventh and Wilson Streets

Harrison-Walker Refractories Company to build a one-story open shed, one side covered with corrugated iron on east side of Welsh Street between Front and Second Streets

C. C. Reed to build a frame kitchen in rear of 1422 Providence Avenue

George D. Hewes to build two two-story brick dwellings on northeast corner of Third and Trainer Streets

William B. Roan to build a one-story frame building covered with corrugated iron on west side of Kerlin Street between Eleventh and Twelfth streets

William J. Wiser to build two two-story brick dwellings on West Third Street between Ulrich and Pusey Streets

S. A. Hewes to build a frame kitchen in rear of 404 East Ninth Street

American Steel Foundries to build a two-story brick stable on east side of Booth Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets

Francis Moore to build a two-story brick store and dwelling on north side of Third Street between Hayes Street and Highland Avenue at \$2700

Francis Moore to build a two-story brick store and dwelling at 2712 West Third Street

IN THE COUNTY – The United Roofing and Manufacturing Company of Marcus Hook will build another factory building to its plant in that borough. The building will be of brick, one and two stories in height, 1220 by 323 feet, with electric light and steam heat. Bids were due William Provost, Jr., and William Ward and Company, both of Chester.

Bids have been received, although the contract has not been awarded, for the new telephone building that the Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania will build at Swarthmore. The building will be of brick, terra cotta, limestone trimmings, 25 by 41 feet, with slate roof, electric lighting and steam heating.

H. L. Clark of Philadelphia will build a large residence for himself at Wayne. The building will be of stone and brick, four stories high, 90 by 200 feet, limestone trimmings, marble interior, Vernon white, waterproofing, slate roof, expanded metal, concrete and hollow tile fireproofing. Bids are due next Wednesday.

Gray Brothers of Rosemont have been awarded the contract for a new hall to be built at Haverford College, Haverford. The hall is to be of stone with limestone trimmings, three stories in height, 35 by 136 feet, hollow tile and concrete fireproofing, slate roof, white marke interior, etc.

The cellars are being excavated for the fourteen modern brick dwellings that Samuel A. Hewes contemplates building at Brydstone this season. The yards have also been staked out and the fences erected.

William C. Shuster, builder and real estate operator of Lansdowne, has about completed arrangements for the erection of six fine two and one-half story houses on Steward Avenue. These houses will be modern in every way and will contain eight rooms each. The houses will be detached and will have fine lawns in front and back. These houses will cost \$4500 each. Mr. Shuster is also building two houses in Wayne, two in Overbrook, and he is remodeling the Longcope property on Windermere Avenue which was recently purchased by Francis Thron, cashier of the Ridge Avenue National Bank, Philadelphia. Mr. Thron and family will occupy this property within a few weeks. Mr. Shuster has opened a real estate and building office at Sixty-Third and Woodbine Avenue, Overbrook, and J. Howard Roberts, a practical carpenter, will superintend all of Mr. Shuster's work in Overbrook.

George Riley, also a builder of Lansdowne, has a number of houses which he is now erecting in Lansdowne and he is estimating on a number of other dwellings for Lansdowne. Building in Lansdowne in general is brisk at this time and it is estimated that about fifty new dwellings will be erected in that pretty borough during the summer months.

Harry Tarbottom of Darby, who has erected many houses in that section of Delaware County, has purchased a lot fronting on Pine Street, extending from Poplar Street to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Bridge, Darby, upon which he will erect a large operation of houses. Plans already have been drawn and the buildings will be hurried to an early completion. On Pine Street from Seventh Street to Darby Creek and extending back as far as Spruce Street, an operation of thirty-two houses will go up.

Swope and Sons, brokers of Darby, have the plans for the houses and are taking bids for same. The houses will be two stories high and will be modern in every way. It is said that negotiations are being made for the election of a row of houses on North Eleventh Street, Darby, near the new Catholic Church.

In Colwyn, four houses have been completed on Third Street below Pine by Julius Nelson. Christian Hensen is erecting four houses on Third Street above Pine. Additional houses, it is said, will be erected on Peach Street, between Spruce and Pine. There is a big demand throughout the borough for houses renting from \$12 to \$14 a month, and it is believed that an operation of this kind would pay.

There will be small realty boom in Ridley Township this summer, when forty-eight new dwellings will be erected. The site for this operation was purchased by James F. Dougherty of Leiperville, who, it is said, is backed by several Philadelphia capitalists. It is the idea of the promoters to found a model community, with four wide avenues, carrying out a complete sanitary system. The houses will have the latest conveniences and will be made attractive in more ways than by mere outside appearance.

In Collingdale Frank Rhoades is grading a large tract on Parker Avenue and his operation of twenty-six houses in that borough is well under way. Frank Benson of the same borough, has completed two fine stone residence on Pitman Avenue above Clifton. Milton L. Staley has completed his operation on ten houses in that section of the borough known as "The Orchard".

There is considerable building activity in Lansdowne. In addition to the buildings already planned for E. A. Edwards is about to erect a \$10,000 house. The dwelling will be of stone and hollow tile, two and a half stories high, with slate roof, electric lights, etc. In Glenolden three dwellings of the bungalow type are under way in Glenolden Manor, and several others are to be started within a short time.

A handsome new residence is being erected on Grays Avenue for Abner Mitchell by J. W. Meckert and Company, who are also erecting a stone house on Isabelle Avenue for James Bengé. In the same borough ground has been broken by William F. North for a large residence at Ashland and Scott Avenues.

Building activity continues at Marcus Hook. The Union Petroleum Company of that borough, will reconstruct a \$20,000 pier to replace the one destroyed by fire last summer. The wharf will be about 350 feet in length, while the approach to the pier will be about 800 feet. Several of the dwellings in the model city in this borough, which the American Viscose Company is erecting for its employees, will be completed this week. The others will be finished by the first of next month and the first of June.

Lewis N. Wood of the same borough, has purchased the old brick house on Market Street and will tear it down. Francis V. Lloyd has purchased a farm of 103 acres on Ridley Creek near Edgmont from the Lower Merion Realty Company. The farm adjoins the properties of the late James Rawle, Dr. Ashton and Samuel Riddle. The old-fashioned farm house on the property will be remodeled into a country residence.

The St. David's property sold was an attractive house on the south side of St. David's Court, the residence of George W. Chapin for a number of years. It includes the house and nearly two acres of lawn and was sold by Harbert and Clayghorn of Philadelphia to an undisclosed purchaser. The price was not made public. The property has been held at \$25,000, however.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION