

CHESTER TIMES – June 3, 1916 – THIRD WARD IMPROVEMENT – General Price
Will Five Stores, Apartments and Hall on Fifth Street

It is expected in two weeks that work will have been started on the erection of the new block of stores, apartments, and hall at the northwest corner of Fifth Street and Edgmont Avenue. This will mark the first building operation of any size started after the organization of the Edgmont Avenue Improvement Association, although that organization will have nothing whatever to do with the transaction.

The new buildings will consist of a 3-story store, office and hall building which will stand at the corner of Fifth Street and Edgmont Avenue, while facing on Fifth Street there will be five 3-story houses and apartment houses. The buildings will be erected by the Chester Real Estate and Construction Company, of which Brigadier General William G. Price, is president. The plans for the properties have been drawn up by E. Allen Wilson, architect, and with the specifications are being offered to perspective bidders and possibly within a few days the contract for the work will be awarded.

Utmost importance is placed upon this operation as it places right in the heart of the business district of the city six new stores of fair size as well as apartments and another hall, which can be used for dances, entertainments and other social functions.

The store on the corner will be the largest in dimensions, having a frontage of 40 feet on Fifth Street, 42 feet on Edgmont Avenue and extending back from each of the highways for a depth of 46 feet. On the second floor of this corner building there will be five offices with all modern conveniences. The third floor as before stated will be occupied as a hall.

Each of the five stores which face on Fifth Street will have a frontage of 220 feet and will be fitted with plate glass bulk show windows and there will be a store depth of 79 feet, 8 inches, making a large airy salesroom, well lighted and with plenty of ventilation. The lot, on which the building will stand is irregular in shape and extends back from Fifth Street to a depth of 102 feet at the deepest point. The second and third floors of these buildings are laid out, similarly, each containing a library, two bedrooms, a dining room and kitchen, and a bath. They will also be fitted up with all modern conveniences and will make attractive homes when completed. It is the desire of General Price to have them completed at the earliest possible moment.

BANK IMPROVEMENTS – Plans are being prepared and it is a question of but possibly a few days before there will be some announcement with regard to extensive alterations and improvements which are contemplated to the building and interior arrangement of the Pennsylvania National Bank property at 408 Market Street. While the management of the institution is not ready to make any formal announcement at this time as to the nature of the changes, it is known that those under contemplation are of such a nature that it will greatly improve the appearance of the structure and the interior changes will give better accommodations for the officials, as well as for the patrons of the bank. Since its organization there has been a steady growth on the part of the Pennsylvania National Bank and it is now in a most flourishing condition and counted among the other reliable and prosperous financial institutions of the city.

Recently there have been a number of important realty deals perfected in this city through the offices of J. A. Wood, in the Law Building on Fifth Street, among them the following: Sale of the three-story dwelling at 1105 Potter Street; two-story dwelling at 1417 Esrey Street; two-story dwelling at 625 Dupont Street; stone dwelling at Brookhaven, two-story brick house at 828 McIlvaine Street; three-story brick house at 2128 West Third Street; two-story brick house at 808 Pusey Street; two-story brick house at 118 East Third Street; two acres of land at Brookhaven;

dwellings at 713, 715, 717 Green Street; three-story brick house at 1802 Edgmont Avenue ; two-story brick dwelling at 609 West Sixth Street; two and one-half story frame dwelling at Norfolk.

MILLIONS BEING EXPENDED – Millions of dollars are being spent in this county this summer in the building trades, and never before have builders been so busy and mechanics so hard to get. Wages are higher than ever they were before for this kind of work, lumber is high and it is almost impossible to get bricks, brickyards having orders away ahead of their ability to deliver for weeks to come. This condition prevails in all parts of the county, but contracts are being signed up steadily for more are being signed up steadily for more work, and contracts already let will keep mechanics busy all next winter.

One of the biggest things of the season so far is the building operation to be started shortly by General William G. Price, Jr., on a tract of ground in the Fifth Ward, between Chester and Eddystone. Here will be built 164 houses of a type to rent for eighteen or nineteen dollars a month, and costing about \$2,800 each. To accommodate these houses two new streets to be known as McDowell Street and Elsinore Place, have been laid out on the city plan. The houses will be within easy walking distance of the Baldwin and Remington plants, and other big plants at Eddystone; the new shipbuilding plant and many other big industries in Chester; and are directly upon one of the trolley lines of the city.

Just outside of the city in Chester Township, William Freihofer is building some very attractive houses, this summer. These are at Norfolk, a suburb of the city, and they are modeled after Italian and French styles, the architecture being different from anything else in the vicinity of the city. They are built to sell at about \$5,000, and have attracted very much favorable attention.

C. M. C. Lewis, a well-known business man of this city, has awarded a contract to the Arthur Machin Company for a house and garage at Twentieth and Hyatt Streets. The price is not given, but it is upward of \$12,000.

The Merion Cricket Club has awarded a contract to William D. Smedley, a Narberth contractor, for alterations and additions to the golf club house at Ardmore Avenue station of the Philadelphia and Western Railroad. Plans for the additions, which will cost \$5,100, were prepared by D. Knickerbocker Boyd of Philadelphia.

Melvin T. Ackerman, a Morton builder, is erecting a fine residence on President Avenue, Rutledge, at a cost of about \$5,000.

PERMITS GRANTED – Building permits issued during the course of the present week have been as follows:

Frederick Boye – One-story frame building covered with corrugated iron in the rear of 526 East Eleventh Street, 10 feet by 18 feet and 8 feet in height

William Wood – Two-story brick dwelling on the north side of Eighteenth Street between Melrose Avenue and Washington Avenue, 16 feet by 41 feet and 17 feet 6 inches in height

Rapid work is being accomplished on the new church being erected at Fourth and Hayes Streets for Rev. J. L. Ploszay, pastor of St. Hedwig's Polish Catholic Church. The foundations have been covered by about four feet of the church walls proper. Work on this building will not progress as quickly as if the building were going to be constructed of brick. Instead each and every block of the heavy New Hampshire granite which is used in building the edifice has to be laid and set with special care. The building when finished will be one of the finest in the city. The church itself will cost about \$50,000. About \$15,000 will be spent upon furnishing the interior of the place.

The new store house of the Suburban Gas Company at the foot of Highland Avenue has been completed as far as the building is concerned. H. Louis Morris the contractors in charge of the work, is now engaged putting up a number of new bins in the interior of the place. From all indications the work about the place should be finished by the latter part of the coming week.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS – The following transfers of real estate were yesterday recorded with recorder of Deeds McClenachan:

Chester – William J. Hewes of Chester to James H. McGlincy of same place, house and lot at 2902 Hewes Avenue, \$2000

Eddystone – H. Henry Kramer of Eddystone to Edgar Terneus of Clarksburg, W. Va., house and lot on Saville Avenue, \$4350

Glenolden – Jane McKee of Philadelphia to Emma M. Covington of Norwood, lot with buildings on Chester Avenue, \$1

Chester – Joseph L. Arment of Chester to George T. Volkhardt of same place, house and lot at Twenty-Third and Madison Streets, \$3750