

CHESTER TIMES – May 11, 1912

REALTY AND BUILDING NEWS OF THE COUNTY – Indications That More Than 800 Dwellings Will Be Erected – In City and In County

Principal among the developments in realty transactions and building of the past week, was the announcement of Thursday by the Times that the American Viscose Company contemplated the enlargement of its Marcus Hook plant. The size of the plant will be doubled. One \$100,000 and one \$10,000 buildings are planned. The contract for the smaller building has been awarded William Provost, Jr., contractor of this city. A stipulation was filed in the office of the Prothonotary at Media which specified: “the erection of an addition to Department No. 4 of the manufactory of the American Viscose Company, at the intersection of Philadelphia and Wilmington Post road and Penn Avenue, Marcus Hook.”

There is more or less property in building throughout the entire county. The operations are confined mostly to the erection dwellings. Plans for the proposed erection of three hundred dwellings to be built in Marcus Hook are now in the hands of the architects. These dwellings will be constructed at the expense of and for the employees of the American Viscose Company.

In addition to the three hundred and two buildings that the Marcus Hook Company contemplates erecting, few other new operations have been reported this week. Work on the many other operations throughout the city and county is progressing nicely. Up to this week it had been estimated that at least five hundred new homes would be built in Delaware County during this spring and summer. Now indications are that this number will exceed eight hundred dwellings. Contractors in general concede that this is the greatest building boom that this county has experienced in a great many years.

IN THE CITY – James D. Rostron, master mechanic at the plant of the American Dyewood Extract Company at the foot of Howell Street, has had plans prepared for the erection of three two story brick houses on Mary Street in the rear of his resident at 1221 West Third Street. The houses will have a number of conveniences and meet the requirements of small families of moderate means. Mr. Rostron is procuring estimates and will award the contract in a short time.

The old Valentine mansion at Third and Parker Streets, has been completely demolished and the work of erecting the four new stores at that point will be commenced at once by W. C. Phillips, owner of the property. Before this is done, however, several fine shade trees will have to be removed from the lawn which they have graced for years. Contractor Howes has been awarded the contract.

The excavations have been made for the proposed new store and residence of T. Brooks McBride on the Northwest corner of Third and Lloyd Streets and the foundation walls will be commenced next week. The new buildings will be a marked improvement to that section of the city which is gradually being built up.

Contractor and Builder George Wiegand, who is erecting two new dwelling houses at Third and Pusey Streets, has the foundation walls well advanced and the carpenters and bricklayers will soon get busy on the improvement. Mr. Wiegand has increased the substantiality of the stone foundations with a concrete base.

The building at the northeast corner of Third and Market Streets and which is being remodeled for the McGolrich estate by Nolan brothers, the contractors, is being plastered in an up-to-date manner by Frank Sheppard, one of Chester's busiest contractors in this

line of work. Two large windows have been placed in the building which was formerly occupied by the New Chester Water Company.

The work of enlarging the Gallagher Garage West Seventh Street, which has been in progress for several weeks past, has been completed. The new structure is a modern fireproof building, and provides additional accommodations for about twenty-five more large cars. It is of brick with an iron framework, and represents a large investment necessitated by the increase in the business.

Bricklayers have started operations on the addition to the McNichols Building, Second and Howell Streets. Contractor Louis H. Morris of Seventh and Barclay Streets, being in charge of the work.

Bricklayers have started work on the addition to the front of the Franklin House near the Third Street Bridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Allan N. Peoples of this city who have purchased the Charles Kelley Farm on Edgmont Avenue, near Chester Park, have decided to make a number of improvements to the place and convert it into a fine country residence. The improvements are expected to be completed early in the fall for their own private use. The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Peoples at 801 Barclay Street, will be rented after the first of June, as they have a cottage of Chester Heights Campmeeting Ground, which they will occupy during the summer months.

IN THE COUNTY – Among the recent important real estate deals in the county was the purchase of a farm of forty-nine acres near Folsom station on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. This farm adjoins the Trainer estate and was purchased by Sellers and Company of Philadelphia, pattern makers and smelters, who now have a place at Sixteenth and Spring Garden Streets. It is said that this company intends, following the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, to Delaware County, and by locating at Folsom it will be in the same township. The residents of the county will be glad to see such a plant locate here, as the plant will give employment to many men. At the present time a number of small houses are being erected in Folsom not far from the farm which has been purchased.

Another real estate transfer in Ridley Township has been consummated in the purchase of the Richard C. Boyle property in Morton to the Rev. Edmond T. Prendergast, archbishop of this diocese in the Roman Catholic Church. This lot lies on Twelfth Street, Morton and has been purchased by the church in that borough for a site for a parochial residence for the Rev. J.A. Wilson, pastor of the church in that place. The lot is seventy-five feet by one hundred and fifty-five feet. Following the custom of the church, the property is transferred to the archbishop.

Masons are at work building an addition to the home of John Laskinski, of Leiperville who will use the front of his house for a store. Contractor John Maag is doing the work. This contractor is also building a house and barn for G. Pritchard on Fairroad and has been awarded the contract to build a house in Ridley Park. He has just completed the building of a one-story brick building on Chester Pike, Leiperville, The ten houses being erected in Leiperville for Soloman are being pushed rapidly, and in the near future the first pair will be ready for occupancy, while others are in various stages of progress.

George D. Howes, the Chester contractor, is building a store at Twelfth and Leiper Streets, Eddystone, and is pushing to completion several other houses. Samuel A. Howes has several houses, which are nearing completion on Ninth Street, Eddystone, and the bricklayers are at work on the houses being erected on Saville Avenue for W.W. Johnson.

The excavation for the new club house in Upland is very nearly completed, and the masons have begun work on one side of the foundation. Ground has been broken for a new house at Ninth and Church Streets for Henry Crothers, and rumor says that several other houses will be started on Church Streets in the near future, now that the work of building a culvert and opening that street to the public is under way.

Announcement is made by A.J. Drexel Riddle of the completion of arrangements for providing a summer home for the Drexel Biddle Bible classes. This will be known as the Drexel Biddle Bible Class Home, and will be for the members. At the present time the classes have a membership of 3-400, 200 of whom are women.

The home will be on the A.J. Drexel, Jr. estate of Lansdowne. The estate has seventeen acres, eight acres of lawn, and nine of woodland. Tennis courts and a baseball field will be provided. The buildings are on the property and one of them will be converted into a dormitory and the other will be used for a dining hall.

The dormitory building arrangements will be made for accommodating fifty men and ten women. The men will occupy the first floor, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hawksley, directors of the entertainment bureau of the classes, will be in charge of the home and if Frederick Wilson, managing director, will supervise the project.

Ten cents a night will be charged for lodging and the meals will be fifteen cents for breakfast and 20 cents each for dinner and supper. No person will be permitted to sleep in the house more than two nights in any week. Arrangements will be made for the accommodation of classes for a night or two nights. A Collingdale car from the Sixty-ninth Street terminal of the Market Street elevated leads directly to the grounds.

Within the past few years new towns have sprung up along the lines of the Philadelphia & West Chester, Philadelphia & Garrettford and Philadelphia & Western railroads, and the population of those suburban settlements has increased. Millbourne was the first town to spring into existence and it grew up from infancy to manhood within a year. Many other towns have since been established such as Highland Park and Drexel Hill and the boom continues.

Many announcements have been made of late of new buildings in other parts of the county. The latest borough to feel the effects of the movement is the staid old town of Morton, along the P.B. & W. Railroad. Several years ago a large number of stores and houses were built near the station, on the old Faraday estate. That building operation was a big benefit to the borough and gives the main portion of the place a much more attractive appearance.

William H. Munch of Morton, now plans more extensive operations there. He is planning to erect seventeen buildings on another portion of the Faraday estate, on Morton and Kedron Avenues. Stores will be built on the former avenue and residences on the latter. The buildings will be entirely modern and two and one half stories in height. The entire operation will not be done at once, but it is expected that a number of the buildings will soon be erected. The contract for the work has not yet been awarded. When communicated with last evening Mr. Much confirmed the report of the building project and stated that he believes that Morton has a bright future and that there is a demand for just the kind of up-to-date structures that he plans to erect.

Ground was recently broken for a new engine house for the Highland Park Fire Company at Highland Park. The building will be located at the corner of Park Avenue and

Cedar Lane. The building will be of stone, and one story high, a second story can be added later if desired. The cost of the building will be about \$4,000.

Two new moving picture houses have been planned for Media, one to be located near the Charter House and the other on a lot on the South side of State Street, not far from the post office.

It is said that the proposition to have a joint High School for the boroughs of Glenolden, Norwood and Prospect Park has been ended by the defeat of a \$15,000 loan bill in Glenolden, Prospect Park and Norwood both voted for a loan for the purpose, but Glenolden defeated the loan proposition by a vote of 88 to 42.

The congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Llanerch plans the erection of an edifice at an early date. The church will be located at the corner of Park Road and Lansdowne Avenue, that place.

AT THE COUNTY SEAT – A building agreement was filed in the office of the Prothonotary for the erection of a tile and plaster residence for John W. Graham of his property on the North side of Baltimore Pike, Springfield Township, at the junction of Swarthmore Avenue. The house will be of tile and plaster and will be located near his large residence. The contractors are Mowrer Brothers of Merion. The price is \$6,000. Price & McLanahan are the architects. The work is to be completed by July 1.

A building agreement was filed in the office of the Prothonotary for the construction of a two and a half story stone house on the West side of Conestoga Road, opposite Louella Avenue, Wayne for Catherine M. Watson, William J. Watson, Mary E. Watson, Katherine M. Watson and Elizabeth M. Watson of Wayne. The contractor is J. Morris Rossiter of Tredyffrin, Chester County, and the price named is \$5,500. Plans were drawn by Francis H. Gutgert, architect. The work is to be completed by October 1.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION