

CHESTER TIMES – March 1, 1913

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS – Eleven New Dwellings for West End –  
borough Folk Contemplate Operations – City and County Activities

Eleven new dwelling houses were reported during the past week and all of them are to be confined to the West End. Francis J. Moore will build eight on Fourth Street near Palmer. Former Councilman John Devinney will build two more on Fourth Street near Palmer, a half square from the Moore operation. Lawrence Murray will build one at Sixth Street and Central Avenue for his own use.

Builders of this county, especially those of the city, heard with deep regret yesterday, of the death of George Wiegand, for several years a prominent contractor and builder, in this city. Wiegand built a dozen brick residences on West Third Street between Ulrich and Pusey Streets within the past couple of years. He also built two on Pusey Street below Third. As a brick-laying contractor he also helped to erect many other buildings in Chester.

Several new operations have been reported in the county during the past week. An office building will be erected at Marcus Hook by the General Chemical Company. The contract was let for a \$7000 residence at Swarthmore. A concrete grand stand will be built at Haverford by Haverford College and a residence greenhouse and garage are planned for Upper Providence. Other operations are contemplated in Eddystone, Leiperville and Upland.

Work on the post office annex is progressing slowly because of the delay occasioned in the securing of material to replace that condemned by T. R. Maul, the federal inspector. The brick work is only up to the first floor sills and not all of the structural steel work has been set as yet.

The new recreation pier being built at the front of Market Street by the Cantrell Construction Company, of Philadelphia, is nearing completion. Workmen are now putting the railing around the top and this with the ornamental lamp posts will complete the work.

Foundations of the stone and concrete has been laid for the new by-products house of the John J. Buckley Company on West Second Street near Market. Forms are now being placed preparatory to the pouring of the concrete first floor. All of the structural steel work has been erected up to the second floor, including the second floor "I" beam.

Practically all the concrete and brick work on the new beef house of Swift and Company at 17, 19, 21 and 23 East Second street, near Market has been completed. The second floor front is yet to be filled in with brick work. The Consolidated Engineering Company of Baltimore is the contractor. Mercandante and Son of this city are the bricklayers.

Samuel Lax, a local contractor, is nearly up to the roof with the brickwork on the two-story brick dwelling that he is building on Welsh Street near Second.

During the week a massive double "I" beam arrived to be used in the construction of the new motion picture theater of Greenberg Brothers at 311-313 Market Street. The work is nearing completion. Oliver Brothers are the contractors.

Practically all of the concrete bases have been set in the new wharf that the Beacon Light Company is building on West Front Street near Market, at the head of the inlet there.

Simon Bruner, proprietor of the Steamboat Hotel recently broke ground in the rear of his hostelry, at Front and Market Streets, for the erection of six modern dwelling houses which will be built on the site of the old bowling alley. Samuel Seivard, the contractor and

builder of Twelfth Street and Edgemont Avenue, will construct the houses for Mr. Bruner. The contract for the plumbing work has been awarded to J.C. Dankleman.

J. Irvin Taylor, contractor, and builder, who purchased the plot of ground from the Beale Estate at Edgmont Avenue and the P. B. and W. Railroad, yesterday broke ground for the erection of an office building on the site. The contract for grading and excavating has been awarded to the firm of John Hanna and Sons. The building will be used as a real estate office.

J. H. Phipps, the contractor who is to erect seven houses on east Graham Street for Albert Wunderlich of the Third Ward, has broken ground for the cellars and the work will be pushed as rapidly as possible toward ultimate completion.

WEST END OPERATIONS – Francis J. Moore, who recently constructed six modern two-story brick dwelling houses on Fourth Street, West of Palmer, has started work on the foundation walls for the erection of four additional houses of the same design on the lot adjacent to his properties. Next week Mr. Moore will break ground for the erection of four houses at Fourth and Hayes Streets. The houses, which will be two stories high and contain all the modern conveniences, will front on Fourth Street.

Ground has been broken for the erection of two modern dwelling houses on Fourth Street, East of Palmer, by former Common Councilman L. Deveney of the Eleventh Ward, who recently built six houses in the same locality. The new houses will be of the same design as those previously built by Mr. Deveney.

The basement of the new Bethany Presbyterian Sunday School Building at Sixth Street and Highland Avenue is now under roof. The concrete floor is being laid preparatory for the laying of the wood floor. It is expected that the building will be ready for the holding of the regular services there on Easter Sunday. The edifice is constructed of stone.

J. Horace Witsill's eight modern two-story dwelling houses on Flower Street above Sixth, will be in the hands of a force of painters next week, the decorating contract having been awarded to George B. Brown of 421 West Fifth Street. The houses, which are graced with spacious front porches, were white coated this week.

Plans and specifications have been prepared for the erection of a bungalow at Sixth Street and Central Avenue for Lawrence Murray, who was formerly engaged in the coal business in the western section of the city. Several months ago he retired from the coal business to give his entire attention to the management of the Green Lawn Cemetery, a colored burial ground at Felton.

James A. Shropshire, a well-known local contractor, has finished the cellars of two new houses at Fifth and Lloyd Street. Mr. Shropshire recently completed several houses at that point. They are built on the two story improved type and have all modern conveniences.

James A. Sutton, a contractor, is making rapid progress in the erection of three concrete houses in the rear of Pennell Street between Second and Third. The structures are under roof at present and work will shortly be commenced upon the interior work.

Work on the new Franklin School, Franklin Street above Third Street is rapidly progressing. Contractor H. Louis Morris has all his available men on the job and the walls of the second story are going up with rapidity. The carpenters also are making headway with their part of the work and continued mild weather will bring the building to a speedy completion.

IN THE COUNTY – J. W. Meckert of Glenolden has been awarded the contract to build a \$7,000 residence for James Bacon Douglas at Swarthmore. The building will be of frame, two and a half stories high, 42 by 27 feet with single roof, hot water heating and two bath rooms.

Robert Banes of Wallingford will build a stone garage at that place. The structure will be two stories in height and will be 40 by 35 feet.

The General Chemical Company will build a three story office building at Marcus Hook. The structure will be 50 by 78 feet, with electric light, steam heating and a slate roof.

Haverford College will build a grand stand of concrete and wood, with a seating capacity of 900 at the college in Haverford. It will be 31 by 87 feet and will have an asbestos roof.

Walter R. Furness of Wallingford is contemplating a fine home in Upper Providence. He will build a residence, garage and greenhouse. The residence will be of stone, two stories high, 50 by 130 feet with tile roofing, electric lighting, hot water heating, hardwood floors, and five bath rooms. Among the Delaware County contractors bidding are: Baker Brothers of Media; Nolan Brothers of Chester; and Ploungers Brothers of Media. Bids were due yesterday.

Eddystone is to get a good share of the building to be done in the county during the coming summer. Samuel A. Hewes, who has already built a number of houses in the borough, will erect several more, and it is stated that William Provost, Jr., another Chester contractor, will also do some building work. A Philadelphia contractor, whose name has not been learned has purchased ground on Thirteenth Street, and will add a few houses to that section of the borough.

Work has already been begun in Leiperville. Mike Drill, an Italian, has had ground broken for two houses on Holland Street, the work being done by Mercadante Brothers of this city. Solomon Hoffman, who has extensive property interests in Leiperville will build eight more houses during the summer, while there will be many smaller operations. At Folsom the building of industrial establishments has caused an advance in the price of real estate, and many houses will be erected during the summer. The new school house in Ridley Township, the contract for which was awarded to H. Louis Morris of Chester, has been completed and is about ready for occupancy.

Several houses will be erected in Upland during the summer and plans for these have been prepared. Two of the first to be erected will be those for Mrs. Derbyshire and for David Lord, the tax collector. These will be on adjoining lots on Woodside Avenue and it is understood that there will be other houses built on this street and on Tenth Street. The new Athletic Association hall is nearly completed, and will probably be ready for occupancy in time for the opening of the baseball season. Two houses being built for John P. Crozer on Eighth Street are about completed, and a few more weeks will see the Ward house ready for occupancy.

A large tract of land at Clifton Heights, fronting on Springfield Avenue, known as Cherry Grove, owned by the Fisher Estate, is to be thrown open for development as a site for new homes. The store of Samuel D. Wolf of Clifton Heights is being remodeled by L. E. Talley of Garrettsford.

Although it has been practically assured that the necessary appropriation would be given by Congress, that body has just passed the bill for \$60,000 for the erection of a new

post office in Media. The sum of \$10,000 was passed several months ago for the site, which has been purchased. A \$75,000 high school will probably be erected in Media, which with the remodeling of the County Court House, will make more building operations going on than ever before in the borough at one time.

The new school house at Fairview, Ridley Township, is almost completed, but despite the fact that it is not yet finished, the school board is planning to open two rooms. In East Lansdowne, the contract for the erection of the new fire house has been awarded to Edward J. Sharr of that borough. The house will be 32 by 60 feet, and will cost \$5000. Jacob Buchanan of Crum Lynne has obtained the contract for the erection of a \$6000 house on Amosland Avenue, Norwood, for Samuel Hayes. Work on the building will be started at once.

Realty owners in Prospect Park expect a big boom in land values as the result of many new industries that are about to locate nearby. Michael Del Vecchia of Leiperville, has awarded the contract for the erection of two dwellings in Leiperville to Vencesalo Mercadante for \$3300. Work will be started at once. John H. Barr of Rockdale will erect a frame dwelling on a piece of ground, he recently purchased at that place.

The work on the new school building at Winona and Mohawk Avenues, is now progressing very favorable. The building having been under roof for several days, is now protected from the bad weather, which enables the mechanics to proceed uninterruptedly. The plasterers are now doing their part of the work.

A tract of four acres, fronting on Glyn Wynn, Haverford, the rear portion of By-the-Wood, the handsome summer residence of Frederick Sylvester at Haverford, has been sold for him by Hirst and McMullin of Philadelphia, to Frank H. Mahan, who will develop the land by opening a road through the center of it from Glyn Wynne Avenue to Gray's Lane and dividing it into half-acre tracts.

While the consideration was not disclosed, this property is in the highest priced section of Haverford, land in the neighborhood having sold at from \$18,000 to \$20,000 an acre, for improvement, while as a matter of fact, Charles G. Dobson paid \$65,000 for two acres adjoining, and Thomas P. Hunter paid \$25,000 an acre about four years ago, for the John Wallace property to the west of the land sold yesterday.

Mr. Sylvester retains the residence and stable and 2 ½ acres, front on Booth Lane. The property sold adjoins or is near the handsome properties of Jacob Wain, Dr. H. C. Register, Frank H. Mahan, Paul Clayton, George Philler, Thomas P. Hunter, Mrs. W. H. Eisenbrey, the estate of the late Colonel A. Loudon Snowden, R. M. Newlin, Henry B. Robb and others, and is within a few minutes' walk of the Merion Cricket Club and Haverford Station.