

CHESTER TIMES – August 24, 1922 – OUTLOOK FOR DARBY BRIGHT – New Bank Building and Post Office Construction Progressing

The long heralded rejuvenation of Darby's retail business district seems to about to be realized. Of course, the largest construction operation now underway is the new home of the First National Bank, the building of which is being energetically pushed.

This building is located in the very center of Darby's business activities, the confluence of Main Street, Ninth Street and Chester Pike. The ground plot has a frontage of 55 feet on Main Street, running along Ninth Street to a depth of 156 feet. The post office is to occupy the rear portion of this bank building proper. The floor space to be used for postal purposes is 57 by 57 feet, separated from the financial quarters by a retaining wall only. This part of the construction is to be of two stories, with a commodious basement providing for two stores. The second story is to be divided into eight offices for rental.

While the rear part is of two stories, the Main Street frontage is to be only one story. The material is of tapestried brick throughout, with a limestone front on Main Street and limestone trimmings on the Ninth Street side. Two limestone columns, after the Colonial style, flank the Main Street entrance into the banking institution. This interior is to be of ornamental plaster. The doors are to be of heavy bronze. Bronze and marble or marble and mahogany are to obtain in the interior fittings.

There are to be three vaults, one in the basement, one on the first floor and another in the mezzanine floor. The first floor vaults are for safe deposit, with 10-inch round door.

The mezzanine floor runs out over the first floor about 30 feet. Here the director's room and bookkeeping are to be located. The tellers' cages, officers' quarters, safe deposit vaults and customers' booths are on the first floor.

The foundation is of granite and the roof is flat and of concrete.

The post office quarters are to be completed by October 1, but it is not expected the First National Bank will move into its part of this new home until December 1. According to the permit, the construction will run in the neighborhood of \$100,000. This does not include plumbing, heating, nor electrification, nor the interior fittings. It is approximated the building, when completed, will represent an outlay of \$225,000.

The architects are Bunting & Shrigley, while F. L. Hoover & Son are the contractors. W. F. Schlemmi is superintendent of construction.

A RECENT PURCHASE – Almost directly across Main Street from the First National Bank operation Philadelphia parties have purchased two parcels, the Harry Green and Harrison buildings and ground. The Green parcel has a Main Street frontage of 55 feet and runs back to Darby Creek to a depth of 130 feet. A store and barber shop occupies this plot. The Harrison parcel, 22 by 85 feet adjoins the Green property on the west. It is said the consideration in the Green deal was \$25,000. The Harrison property changed hands for \$10,000. It is understood titles have been taken.

There are many rumors going about Darby as to the identity of the purchaser and as to the disposition that is to be made of the property. A West Philadelphia real estate broker put this deal through and refused to divulge the name of the purchaser.

The store and barber shop structure in the Green property are old frame structure, dating back thirty years. There is a three-story brick store and loft building in the Harrison parcel. It is said all three buildings are to be torn down and a three-story brick store and loft building in the Harrison parcel. It is said all three buildings are to be torn down and a three-story brick building is to be erected on the full frontage of 77 feet along Main Street. This building is to contain four stores, with apartments on the second and third floors. Another story has it that a department store concern has arranged to take the entire building, with the exception of one store, which is to be occupied by a butter and egg concern.