

CHESTER TIMES – August 12, 1912

MUCH ACTIVITY IN BUILDING AND REALTY – Several New Although Small Operations for Chester – In City and County

In addition to the various real estate and building activity in the city and county as reported in Saturday's Times, there are numerous other smaller deals. This season continues to be a record breaker in building it is estimated that fully eight hundred new buildings will be the result of the labors of Spring and Summer in Delaware County.

The Keystone Type Foundry, which operates a factory for the manufacture of steel printers' furniture at Fifth and Engle Streets, will erect in addition to its plant. Already excavations have been begun for the work. The contract has been let to H. Louis Morris, a contractor of this city, who erected the present plant. The addition will be of brick, one story in height. The Keystone people contemplate the erecting of another larger factory building in the future.

IN THE CITY – The new operation, consisting of four houses on the West Side of Highland Avenue, North of West Eleventh Street, started by Contractor William J. Hewes of 1102 Highland Avenue, may be halted. It is understood that a dispute over the opening of the street has been raised by the Filbert Paving Company of Philadelphia. The cellars are nearly completed.

Samuel A. Hewes, a contractor of Nineteenth and Hyatt Streets, who recently started ten dwellings on West Fourth Street between Ward and Wilson Streets, is progressing nicely. The cellars on some of them have been completed.

William L. Devinney, a contractor of 2649 West Third Street, who contemplates the erection of eight dwellings on West Fourth Street between Palmer and Ward Street, has two of them up to the second story frame work. All will be completed this season.

The work on the 60 by 20 foot open frame shed that Wesley S. McDowell, coal and lumber merchant of 1915 West Second Street, is erecting at the rear of his office at that address, will probably be completed during the coming week. Building Inspector Tyrrell T. Williams visited the scene of the operation and pronounced it O.K. It will be used to house mill work.

Martin J. Dwyer, a builder of 1302 West Third Street, who is building a pair of six rooms and a bath brick house on West Second Street, West of Reaney Street has them about ready for occupancy. The cement sidewalk along the side of houses has been laid, but the front ones still remains to be done.

Otto Oscar of Highland Avenue has let the contract for improving the dwelling of 1326 West Fourth Street, which is occupied by William Sparks, to Contractor William Whittaker. A frame kitchen will be annexed. It is to be 14 by 14 feet, and one story high. Cement walks will also be laid around the house. Work of installing a new bathroom was recently completed here.

Contractor William Whittaker is at work placing a five hundred foot handrail around the wharf of the J.B. King Company at the foot of Morton Street. New caps, 12 by 22 inches for the railroad tract to rest upon will also be placed in the pier. The plant walk will also be repaired. Minor improvements will be made at the warehouse at the end of the wharf. The expenditure will approximate \$300.

The Beacon Light Company is making preparations to build a coal conveyor over the tracks of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad, permission having recently been granted by City Councils to make this overhead improvement. The American Dredging

Company is operating the dredges Pacific and Beaver in dredging the canal extending from the Delaware River between the wharves of the Consumers Ice Company and the Chester Shipping Company for the purpose of enabling the Beacon Light Company to run coal barges up to the conveyor, which will be erected upon and supported on uprights or foundations constructed on Front Street, with a clear span from one side to the other.

The Dickerson Paving and Construction Company is making rapid progress on the work of constructing a cold storage plant at the John J. Buckley Company's pork packing plant on Second Street near Edgmont Avenue. The new plant will give capacity for one hundred hives.

William E. Cross, the jeweler, expects to take possession of his new home on Twentieth Street within a short time. Extensive improvements are being made to the house he purchased on that street about a month ago. The dwelling is being fitted up in modern style and when the improvements under way are completed Mr. Cross will have one of the most attractive homes in the Northern section of the city.

Work is being pushed by Contractor Samuel Lax on the remodeling of the old Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church building at Second and Beaver Streets, which is being transformed into an abattoir for J. Jacobson, a butcher, of Second and Parker Streets. The refrigerating plant will have a capacity of fifty hives.

Nolan Brothers, contractors and builders of this city, are building a brick kitchen in the rear of the rectory of the Church of the Immaculate Heart, corner of Second and Norris Streets. It is a neat and substantial structure and will prove of great convenience to the occupants of the rectory. Repairs are also being made to the church roof and steeple which were damaged during a recent thunderstorm.

The bricklayers are progressing rapidly with the work on the new Italian Presbyterian Church at Third and Fulton Streets. The frames for the windows and doors have been placed and the sacred edifice will be provided with plenty of light and ventilation. The corner stone has been replaced and is now secure on account of the brick work that has been laid around it. The building will be a marked improvement to that section of the city.

George D. Hewes, contractor and builder, is pushing to completion his building enterprise on Pusey Street between Second and Third Streets. Four of the ten houses to be constructed have been finished and the foundations are being laid for the other six. They are two-story bricks, with front porches and provided with modern and up-to-date conveniences. All will be finished in eight weeks.

Jacob Friedkin's new corrugated iron fruit stand at Third and Penn streets is under roof and the finishing touches are being added to the building today. The proprietor has already put the building into practical use.

E.H. Benjamin is pushing along with vigor the erection of his new store front on West Third Street, near Howell, where he will locate his hardware business, transferring it from the present store two floors below. The new front will correspond in design with the adjoining store building.

Samuel R. Bell's row of new brick houses on Lloyd Street near Second, are fast nearing completion and these cozy homes are a most noticeable improvement in the street. The houses are constructed on a plan that appeals to the average small family and they will be occupied as fast as they are completed.

UNUSUALLY FINE PROPERTIES – The Chester resident who desires to purchase a home is fortunate in having at the present time an excellent number of medium priced houses from which to select. The six new houses erected at Twenty-Third and Madison Streets by John H. Williamson of 236 Market Street are considered to be among the best of the recent additions to Chester real estate.

The surroundings of these houses are pleasant and healthful and their location is convenient, being but three blocks from the Park Place and P.R.T. Media trolley lines. Roomy front porches, large grass plots in front, wide alleyways between each block of two houses which admit plenty of light and air, and cement sidewalks make the outside arrangements very desirable.

The comfort of the occupants has been carefully kept in view in the interior arrangements. On the first floor, a roomy vestibule leads into a comfortable reception hall or living room, which opens on one side into a cozy parlor and on the other side into a pleasant dining room. A heavy, wooden ornamental colonnade, taking the place of the usual plaster partitions, between the reception hall and the parlor and dining room is an unusual feature of four of these houses.

A roomy kitchen contains a solid back, white porcelain sink with the usual hot and cold water attachments and opens into a generous sized enclosed shed.

Leading from the reception hall is an open stairway opening into a wide hall on the second floor where four bed rooms furnish ample sleeping accommodations for a good sized family.

The bath room is of comfortable proportions and contains a solid back, white porcelain wash stand and mirror medicine closet as well as the usual tub and closet. A large bay window and a wardrobe with full length plate mirrors adds largely to the appearance of the second story front room.

The interiors are finished throughout in natural wood nicely varnished and the walls are decorated in a pleasing manner with a superior quality of up-to-date wall papers.

A reliable heater in the cemented cellar furnishes sufficient heat to all parts of the house. The gas fixtures are modern and present a stylish appearance.

Carefully prepared specifications, which called for the best of materials and workmanship, were carefully adhered to in the erection of these houses and resulted in well- built and substantial homes.

Mr. Williamson offers these houses for sale at a reasonable figure, which is mentioned in an advertisement in another column and will make easy terms to the purchasers, or will rent to desirable tenants.

Philip J. Downey has purchased the store and dwelling property at 2081 West Third Street from Mrs. Bessie Staus of 400 East Thirteenth Street. The transfer was made through the West End Realty Company. The building is a two-story brick one and is one of the best corners in the West End.

The Rev. Thomas M. Thomas, pastor of the Fifth Presbyterian Church, has purchased the frame dwelling house at the Northwest corner of Delaware Avenue and Morton Street. The former owner was ex-Councilman Samuel Enion of the First Ward. The consideration was \$300.

William B. Marker, broker of Chester, reports the sale of five dwellings each 18 by 91 feet on Eleventh Street near Saville Avenue, Eddystone, near the Baldwin Company's new plant for Frank B. Ellis.

Settlement has been made by Catherine Febiger Spahr, wife of Boyd Lee Spahr for a tract of two acres at Haverford recently purchased from the Haverford Development Company. The ground overlooks the new golf course of the Merion Cricket Club. It will be improved by a handsome country residence.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION