

CHESTER TIMES – October 25, 1913 – IMPORTANT DEALS IN REALTY – Sale of the Milbourne Mills One of the Largest Transactions of the Week

The largest real estate deal consummated in Delaware County this week, which has been made public, was the sale of the Milbourne Mills at Sixty-Third and Market Streets, in the township of Upper Darby. The price was not disclosed, but it is said that the purchaser gave over \$200,000 for the property and the machinery. The property was to have been sold at auction under bankruptcy proceedings, but a few hours before the time set for the sale it passed ownership at private sale that was satisfactory to the party in interest. Shane Brothers & Wilson, who have been operating the plant on lease during the last six years were the purchasers.

The Milbourne Mills property comprises nearly forty-four acres of ground, partly in Upper Darby Township, Delaware County and partly in the city of Philadelphia. On this property is a large stone flour mill, a stone stable, twelve radial hollow tile storage tanks, having a capacity of 450,000 bushels, together with a railroad siding connecting with the Pennsylvania Railroad. The property has a great deal of valuable machinery and equipment and certain water rights. For many years the property was in the possession of the Sellers family, well-known citizens of this county.

According to a historical sketch of the mills they stand on a part of a large tract of land purchased in 1690 by Samuel Sellers from William Penn. In 1757 John Sellers, the eldest grandson of Samuel Sellers built the original mill on the very ground upon which the plant is still located. The capacity of this first grist and flour mill, was four barrels a day. In 1814, the second mill was built by John Sellers, 2nd, the great grandson of Samuel Sellers. This mill which was operated by water power, was conducted for more than fifty years by its builder and his son, John Sellers, 3rd. The capacity of the plant was from 20 to 40 barrels a day. In 1869 the mill was greatly enlarged and improved. Steam power was used and new machinery installed, increasing the capacity to 50 barrels a day. Further developments were made until 1888 the mill turned out 250 barrels of flour a day. Today the plant has a capacity of over 1,000 barrels of flour a day.

DEAL AT DARBY – It is reported that a deal is pending for the purchase of an unimproved tract of land in Darby on which will be erected one hundred dwellings to cost from \$2500 to \$4500 each. So far the location has been carefully kept secret, but it is believed that the site in the tract of land between Tenth and Eleventh and Summit and Cedar Streets. Another rumor is that the houses will be built on the Baird Estate on Main Street from Third to Fifth and extending back for several hundred feet. The Baird Estate has valuable holdings almost in the heart of Darby, which as yet, have remained unimproved, although several attempts, it is said, have been made by builders to buy for the purpose of development.

Harry Tarbottom is planning the erection of several houses on Mill Street, and on Lawrence Avenue in Darby. The Borough Council has been considering the matter of extending the sewer to take in these contemplated houses.

At Marcus Hook the United States authorities are making an effort to obtain the Burton property for the use of the physicians at the State Quarantine Station. It was reported a few weeks ago that the property was sold for manufacturing purposes, but one of the executors has declared that while an offer was considered, the deal was not closed.

J. M. Fronefield, a real estate broker of Wayne, has sold for the heirs of Richard Ashbridge their farms in the Chester Valley to Richard M. Newlin. The property consists of 85 acres of ground with a 20-room Colonial house, built one hundred years ago, which has many unusual features, among them a bathroom, equipped when the house was built with an

arrangement for heating water built in the wall, similar to the Dutch bake ovens of that period. The entire cellar and the outside courtyard are flagstone paved, and the house is adorned with many old marble mantles and fireplaces, with cranes, pot hooks and other things of antique design. The property was held at \$25,000. The purchaser will remodel it with modern improvements and occupy it as a home.

Several Philadelphia contractors are estimating on plans and specification is for a two 1-2 story frame and stone house and a garage to be erected at Haverford for Mrs. J. Rawle. The architects are Baily and Bassett of Philadelphia.

Heacock & Hokanson of Philadelphia are preparing revised plans and specifications for a two 1-2 story hollow tile residence to be erected at Ridley Park for M. J. Comerford. Plans will be ready for bids in the near future.

Henry Parker of Philadelphia is preparing plans for a row of two-story brick houses to be erected in this city for William S. Blakeley, Jr. Plans will be ready for bids in about two weeks.

Plans and specifications are being prepared by A. B. Gill for a two-and-a-half-story stone residence to be erected at Newtown Square. Plans will be ready for bids in about a month.

D. K. Boyd, a Philadelphia architect, has prepared plans and specifications for the erection of a residence, stable and garage at a total cost of \$40,000 at Haverford for William M. McCawley. The buildings will be constructed of stone and hollow tile and plaster. The dwelling will be two-and-a-half stories high. The architect is taking revised bids until October 28.

BUILDING NOTES – The parsonage of the Greek Ruthenian Church at Third and Harwick Streets, being built by William L. Deveney, is progressing rapidly. The brick work will be started next week.

The four houses at Third and Thurlow Streets have been repaired and painted and present an attractive appearance.

The two houses at 2827 and 2829 West Third Street have been painted, and a few minor repairs made.

The six houses being built for John J. Ryan at Third and Edwards Streets will be ready for inspection next week.

The remodeling of the Catholic Literary Institute social rooms is completed. Contractor Stratton of the West End had charge of the work.

Contractor Dempster is progressing rapidly on the five houses he is erecting at Second and Palmer Streets

The houses are 2312, 2314, and 2316 West Third Street have been completed, and one of them is occupied

The hotel at Eighth Street and Morton Avenue is receiving a coat of paint and minor repairs

H. Louis Morris, who is building an addition to the Keystone Type Foundry at Sixth and Townsend Streets is progressing rapidly and the brick work will be completed sometime this week.

The four houses at Sixth and Wilson Streets are nearing completion and will be open for public inspection in several days.