

CHESTER TIMES – February 14, 1914 - MANY HOUSES TO BE BUILT –
Some Contracts Have Been Let, While Others are Under way for Modern Working Men's Homes

Contracts have been let, or are in course of completion, for the erection of more than one hundred houses in this city during the early spring. Most of them will be the up-to-date two-story brick dwellings, but some few will cost sums ranging from \$20,000 down to \$1600. The lumber and supply men of all kinds feel much encouraged over the prospects for the spring and summer trade. A large number of houses are projected for the Seventh Ward while many are proposed for the western part of the city.

There will also be much building in the Third Ward according to reports. On a plot of ground on Crosby Street extending back some distance, owned by Albert Wunderlich of Fourth Street, there will be erected sixteen two-story brick houses of the most modern interior. Mr. Wunderlich will have associated with him in the building of these modern homes for working men, Contractor Joel H. Phipps. Most of the contracts for the work to be done on these houses have been let and at the first sign of the blue bird the work of excavation for the foundations will be started.

One of the large building enterprises which will be hurried along in this city is that of the Philadelphia Suburban Gas and Electric Company at Front and Tilghman Streets. A large sum of money will be expended for three new buildings at this plant, the contracts having already been let and everything in readiness for the structural work on the largest structure of the three which will be put up to accommodate the contemplated improvements on the part of the local gas company.

WHARF NEARING COMPLETION – The contractor in charge of the work of erecting the new wharf for the Consumers' Ice and Coal Company hopes to complete his part of the work in about six weeks. The Consumer Company is anxious to have the wharf completed before the summer trade in ice begins. This company does a large business with the bouts on the river and if the work is not in shape for the boats to land when spring opens it will handicap the local ice company very much. The new wharf is a wooden one and will replace the concrete bulkhead erected two years ago and which proved a failure.

During the week the Baldwin Locomotive Works sold to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company a right of way over some land owned by the engine builders at Eddystone. Just what the railroad company intends to do with the property is not known, but it is intimated that it will be used in connection with the electrifying of the road in the near future between this city and Philadelphia. The price paid for the strip of land was \$5860.

THE BAIRD ESTATE – In Darby, it is believed that settlement will be made within a few days for that portion of the Baird estate on Main street between Fourth and Fifth, which has been negotiated for by a syndicate of Philadelphia business men who propose to erect a moving picture playhouse on the corner of Fifth and Main Streets. It is said that the syndicate is negotiating for other Darby realty. In addition to erecting a moving picture playhouse on the corner, the syndicate, it is said, will erect several stores and many dwellings. Surveyors were busy this week staking out the ground.

The Baird estate, a small part of which ground is being negotiated for by the syndicate holds the most valuable part of Darby and all efforts made to buy heretofore have been fruitless. With the coming of the Darby L., however, it is believed that this valuable holding will be cut up into building sites and thrown on the market, which will mean the most extensive building operation Darby has ever seen.

CHESTER LODGE IMPROVEMENTS – Contractor Horace H. Jackson has completed the erection of the annex to Odd Fellows' Hall at Broad and Crosby Streets, and the finishing touches are now being made by painting and paper hanging artisans. There are three rooms on the first floor. The front apartment is the reception parlor and the pool room is in the center. The rear room has been fitted up in modern style as a kitchen. A cloak room and modern toilet are up-to-date adjuncts of the kitchen. The woodwork is of chestnut with a mission finish and the spacious windows are made of double-hung plate glass. The second floor contains two large rooms, a spacious parlor and game room. The parlor leads to the balcony, the roof of the handsome front porch having been utilized as an outdoor resting place. The roof is substantially covered with a thick canvas, and is enclosed with a substantial railing of ornamental design. The third floor, which leads to the large meeting room of Chester Lodge, No. 263, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is comprised of the lodge ante-room, a large room which is equipped with handsome cabinets for the safe keeping of the paraphernalia of the various fraternal organizations which meet in the Hall, and a toilet room. The cabinet cases extend from the floor to the top of the ceiling. The entrance to the building is on Broad Street. The annex is built of brick, and the extensive improvement to the property adds greatly to the architectural appearance of the locality.

NEARING COMPLETION – William Lukens of Woodlyn, expects to have his new apartment house at Broad and Potter streets completed in about three weeks. The building, which was formerly the old Chester Academy property, has been extensively remodeled the work being done by George T. Hardy, a contractor and builder of Woodlyn. The building contains 27 rooms and nine baths. The structure, which is three stories high, has been divided into three sections. The first floor of the east section contains four rooms and bath; the second floor, five rooms and bath; the west section contains four rooms and bath. The first floor of the middle section contains five rooms and bath; the second floor, four rooms and bath; third floor, four rooms and bath; the first floor of the west section comprises four rooms and bath; the second floor, four rooms and bath; the third floor, three rooms and bath. Benjamin D. Wright has the paperhanging contract. A large force of interior decorators are now at work on the building.

Ivan Faut of Philadelphia has been awarded the contract for the erection of a two and one-half story residence in the borough of Media for Dr. M. Jacobs. Work will be started on this house just as soon as the weather will permit. It will have a dimension of 32 by 39 feet.

BIG DEAL IN HAVERFORD – Settlement has been made by G. C. C. Flinterman for a brick residence of 18 rooms on a lot of about one-half acre on Montgomery Avenue in the township of Haverford. The land is located directly opposite to the entrance of the Merion Cricket Club grounds. The land and house were recently sold by Joseph R. Connell for the consideration of \$25,000. The lot has a frontage of 90 feet on Montgomery Avenue and a depth of 277 feet.

Charles P. Grim has purchased through Koehler, Smith & Company, real estate brokers from Sidney L. Kraus, a three-story colonial house on Yale Avenue near Swarthmore Avenue in the borough of Swarthmore. The consideration was not made public but the property has been held for sale at \$10,000. The property occupies a lot 233 by 514 feet.

Harry Tarbottom, builder, of Poplar Street, Darby, has plans and specifications in course of preparation for fourteen two-story brick houses to be erected on Mill Street, near Lawrence Street in the borough of Darby. The total cost of this operation will be about \$30,000.

James B. Flounders of Media, contractor, is estimating on plans and specifications for a two and one-half story residence, 36 by 22 feet to be erected at Lima in Middletown Township. The house is to be built out of hollow tile and stucco.

Two of the recently-constructed houses on West Third Street, near Trainer Street, are ready for occupancy. Yesterday the plumbers put the finishing touches on these buildings. Work is being pushed rapidly on the remaining six houses and they should be ready for occupancy in a few days. The row was built by George Hewes, the contractor.

\$50,000 CHURCH AT EDDYSTONE – The members of St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Eddystone have found it necessary to erect their church as soon as the weather permits. The building will be erected on the tract of land recently acquired by them which fronts on Saville Avenue, Eddystone. It is said that the edifice will cost approximately \$50,000. Plans and specifications are being drawn up by architects in Philadelphia.

It is again rumored that the Baldwin Locomotive Company will build twenty-five houses on the Denis property, adjoining their plant on Chester Pike, but the report could not be verified. According to reports from the local contractor, the township of Ridley and the borough of Eddystone will have a great building boom in the early spring.

In Lester, a Philadelphia syndicate has purchased a large tract of land, and will turn it into one of the finest residential sections along the Island Road. The houses will be two-story houses with face brick of a golden hue, and terra cotta trimmings.

The house on Wanamaker Avenue, Elmsington, being erected for John Hoffman, will be completed in the course of a few weeks and will be one of the most attractive residences in the township. The house is two and a half stories high of brick with an ornamental stone base and large granite pillars supporting the front veranda.

A number of houses in Ridley and Tinicum Townships have had a number of improvements made in the past few weeks.

URBAN TRANSACTIONS – Bids are being received for the erection of a garage, stone, one and one-half stories high, in the township of Radnor for Oswald Chew of Philadelphia.

The architects will be ready in a few days to receive bids for the construction of a new church for the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church at Twelfth and Chestnut Streets in the borough of Darby. This will be of stone, two and one-half stories high, 50 by 80 feet. It will have both slate and slag roof, electric lights, hot water heat. The basement and first floor will be erected first, and the other story some time later, according to present plans.

Plans are in progress for the erection of dormitory buildings in the borough of Morton for the Dermady Sanitarium. They will be of frame and will have dimensions of 45 by 62 feet. They will be constructed of frame and will be two and one-half stories high.

Bids are being asked for alterations and additions to an apartment house in the township of Haverford. The property is owned by the Warner estate. The buildings will be of stone and plaster and will contain all modern improvements.