

## CHESTER TIMES – June 12, 1913 – ANCIENT HOTEL TO BE RESTORED

The growing desire to obtain one of the quaint, old pre-Revolutionary homesteads as a home in the restoration and remodeling of Fox Chase Inn at Newtown Square. This historic old tavern, now known as Hurlton, has become the residence of P. J. Hurley and with the exception of a few necessary changes the house today stands as it did when it was built, more than a century and a half ago.

The tavern originally comprised a group of several buildings, the inn building proper, stables, carriage houses and a large stone building used as a smithy.

An aged resident of Springfield Township related an interesting anecdote of this smithy. He said that while serving his apprenticeship in the smithy at the Fox Chase, he shod the horse of Benedict Arnold, conversed a long while with him, and that the General was accommodated over night at the Fox Chase Inn, this being on the night preceding Arnold's journey to West Point, where his treason was to be detected and he was forced to flee to a British warship.

The inn appears in history as early as 1741, when it was a popular stopping place. It had many proprietors. Alexander Bartram, a Scottish merchant living in Philadelphia, was the owner previous to the war of the Revolution, the ground comprising at that time about 60 acres. He took sides with the British, was declared a traitor to the United States colonies and his estate confiscated.

After the advent of railroads the patronage of the Fox Chase Inn gradually died away, and it was eventually purchased by the present owner, Henry B. Ward was the architect under whose direction the work of renovation and remodeling was carried out.

A BEAUTIFUL VIEW – The old house has a splendid setting standing as it does among fine trees and overlooking the beautiful valley. Although the scheme of landscape development being carried out by the owner will take several years to mature, the present Hurlton is now one of the most admired country homes in Delaware County.

With its long room line, ample porches and gleaming white woodwork, the remodeled public house has a very hospital and comfortable appearance. This is attractive.

The plans now show the first floor of the tavern as it was originally and as it is now. The taproom has been made into a comfortable dining room. The drinking room has become the kitchen and the old office and parlor have been thrown into one and become the living room. A new stair hall, with a fine, open Colonial stairway, has taken the place of the old storage room. The former kitchen, which was a one-story wing in the rear, has been demolished and the rear porch extended to take its place.

The woodwork and interior trim through the house is beautifully carved and executed in the severe classic demanded by the Colonial. Photographs show two exterior views which give an illustration of the excellence of outline and design.