

CHESTER TIMES – August 10, 1912

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS OF THE WEEK – New Operations Progress, and Real Estate Transfers of Interest – In City and County

A few new operations in building have been reported in city and county during the past week. The realty market has been quiet, but nevertheless several transfers have been recorded. On the operations underway throughout the city and county, the work is being pushed and much is being accomplished. The operation on four houses of William J. Hewes on Highland Avenue above West Eleventh Street may be retarded through a dispute raised by the Filbert Paving Company, about the opening of the street.

Francis J. Moore, a builder of Marcus Hook, who has just completed a pair of houses on West Fourth Street East of Ward Street, expects to start four more adjoining the completed ones on Monday. George D. Hewes, a West End contractor, is starting additional two story brick dwellers on Pusey Street South of West Third Street. Robert Wetherill has awarded the contract for a \$20,000 residence and garage to William Provost, Jr. The contract has been awarded for the Chester Post Office annex.

Plans are being prepared for a \$36,000 two-story stone schoolhouse at Llanerch. The H.K. Mulford Company will erect a boiler house at Glenolden. Bids have been asked for the erection of 65 of the 300 dwellings that the American Viscose Company contemplates erecting at Marcus Hook. The United Roofing and Construction Company of Philadelphia is taking his for two factory buildings to be erected at Marcus Hook. The contract for the erection of an annex to the Delaware County Court House at a cost totaling nearly \$200,000 has been awarded.

IN THE CITY – The contract for the new annex for the Chester Post Office was awarded during the past week to Contractor John W. Emery of Philadelphia. The improvements are to cost \$36,570 according to Emery's bid, which was the lowest. There is a reserve clause in the contract, which allows the Treasury Department the privilege of alternate bids up until the time the second story frames are set. The new part will be built in conformity to the present building and will give a floor space twice as large as under present condition. The building operation must be completed September 1, 1915.

William Provost, Jr., contractor, has been awarded the work of building a \$20,000 residence and garage at Twenty-First Street and Providence Avenue. The contract was let by Robert Wetherill of Twentieth Street and Providence Avenue. It is to be a wedding gift from Mr. Wetherill to Dr. and Mrs. J.P. Vanburen the letter being the donor's daughter. The building is to be of stone, three stories high; 58 by 43 feet, have three bathrooms, a Mohawk slate roof, oak doors, hot water, heating and electric light. Bavery Scheetz and Bavery of Philadelphia were the architects.

It has been announced that Francis J. Moore, a builder of Marcus Hook will commence four more two-story brick dwellings on West Fourth Street, West of Palmer Street, during the coming week. The houses will be situated just west of the pair which he has just completed. There will have seven rooms and baths and porch fronts.

Wesley S. McDowell, former President of the Chester School Board has awarded the contract for extensive alterations and an addition to his residence at 2112 West Third Street to Contractor William Whittaker of 1815 West Third Street. The dwelling will be widened 14 feet, and will contain a spacious reception hall, fine open stairway, etc. The house will be converted into a three story one. The entire front will be rebuilt and beautified.

Homebuilding at Park Place was exceedingly brisk this summer and a number of beautiful dwellings have sprung up. For the most part the houses erected are built along the attractive bungalow design, the ideal style of home in many people's exclamation. Park Place has become the beauty spot of Chester during the past several years and visitors invariably comment favorably upon its attractiveness. Recently prospective builders of homes have been clamoring for choice building lots and a bright future is predicted for that section. Edward Miles of Harley and Miles furniture dealers has completed his new home there and will remove his family and household effects from his present place of residence at 223 East Fifth Street, in several days. A bungalow of a new and artistic design is being constructed on the bungalow section, along Twenty-Third Street for Mr. Duff of Ridley Park. Mr. Bateman Duff of Ridley Park. Mr. Bateman who is connected with the Provident Life Insurance Company, moved into his new bungalow last week.

The contract for enlarging the Delaware County Court House at Media, which was awarded to J.E. and A.L. Pennock for \$188,497 is stated to include absolutely everything to complete the building except a small amount of new furniture and such parking and walks as may later be desired to give the building the proper setting and to adapt the architecture to the site. The specifications require all the work to be executed in the very best and most substantial manner to minimize repairs, similar to that used in the United States Government work.

The old building will be entirely surrounded by the new work, which will be faced with a very pure and hard white marble from East Grove, Pa., only about thirty-five miles away. The photograph previously published in this paper was made from a drawing by the architects, Brazer and Robb of New York, showing a building in the pure ionic Greco-Roman style, expressing the dignity of the courts and the refined intelligence of the people inhabiting the first settled section of Pennsylvania. The present Court House is situated among a grove of beautiful trees in the center of two large blocks and on the top of the highest hill of the surrounding country. The center portion of the old building was built in 1857, when Delaware County was divided from Chester County, which originally contained the area of both. The original work was very substantially built of fireproof construction and with the aid of new marble floors and wainscoting will be readily made modern in appearance.

The contract includes the replacing with reinforced concrete, the wood on floors in the old section occupied by the Commissioners offices and all of the new building will be of fireproof construction, thereby making the entire building a safe receptacle for the valuable records, without which the title of all property in the county would be jeopardized. The new building will contain a large ornamental lobby, from which stairways ascend at either end to the courts on the second floor.

On the right, directly opposite the entrance, will be located the Sheriff's office, adjoining the cell room which is so arranged that the prisoners may be taken there directly from the nearby jail through a gate into an interior courtyard, assuring privacy and safety.

To the left of the entrance is a short corridor leading to the County Commissioners offices, which will occupy the Southwest corner and West wing of the new building. On either side of the center portion of the present building will be a large open court yard on which are located the large record site rooms. Similarly situated to the right and east are the Prothonotary's office. The departments of the Register of Wills and of the Recorder of

Deeds, will remain where at present located in the rear of the building, but each department has been extended, thereby giving about three times the present floor area.

On the second floor, directly over the main entrance and in front of the present large court room, is to be located a large Grand Jury room with men and women witness rooms adjoining. Offices are also provided for the Superintendent of Public Schools near the front of the second floor. At each end of the front corridor in each corner of the building are located two smaller court rooms, one of which may be used as an Orphans' Court and the other as a Civil Court. The present large court room remaining the main and Criminal Court, in which all business of the other courts will be centralized. This arrangement of the three court rooms and Grand Jury room will keep the general public in the front of the smaller court rooms in a Judge's retiring room, lawyers' consultation rooms and jury rooms.

Provision has also been made for accommodating in large rooms juries, which may have to remain locked up overnight. Four extra jury rooms have also been provided for the main Criminal Court. All of these and the following rooms are semi-privately arranged about the corridors in the rear and side of the second floor, so that there will be no necessity for the general public entering this portion of the building. Quiet is thus obtained for the large law library to be located directly in the center at the rear of the second floor and adjoining which are the rooms of the Bar Association on one side and the Judges' offices on the other side. Offices for the County Prosecutor are also arranged near the Law Library.

The entrance lobby, corridors, and stairs will have marble floors, columns and wainscoting and the old building will be altered in all portions as to appear like new. All interior floors and partitions will be of fireproof construction. The floors of all corridors will be of Terrazzo marble and that of the offices and court rooms, as well as all the interior wood work, will be of oak. A much needed new system of ventilation has been provided to supply fresh air to the present and new court rooms.

When completed Delaware County will possess a modern and monumental Court House that the architects say could not be duplicated for \$500,000; requisite for all needs of many years. Such accommodations are necessary because of the overflowing of Philadelphia inhabitants into this county, and the increased court business. The architecture of the building is not elaborate or extravagant but plain, substantial refined and in good taste, expressive of the locality of Media.

There are several other operations going on in Media, at this time. Work is progressing rapidly on the moving picture theatre on West State Street. The houses which are being built by Thomas Sloam on the property formerly owned by the late Thomas V. Cooper are being put up fast. Albert Moore will soon occupy his store and dwelling on West State Street. The bungalow which Mrs. Carolus M. Broomall is having erected on West Front Street will be ready for occupancy at an early date.