

CHESTER TIMES – October 17, 1914 – BIG OPERATION IN SPRINGFIELD –
Farms Containing Several Hundred Acres Have Been Purchased for Development

A large building and real estate deal in Springfield Township, which will eventually mean the passing away of farms for a pretty settlement in that township, is now in progress. The location for the new development is between Springfield and Saxer Avenue trolley stations on the Media Short Line of the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company. The new development embraces several farms which are among the finest situated in the county.

The plan is to cut these farms into building lots upon which at least 20 houses will be erected under the direction of the Springfield Real Estate Company, with offices in Philadelphia. This company will invest as far as can be learned, in developing the place and in the erection of houses at least \$250,000.

This big improvement, which will greatly enhance the value of all property in Springfield Township, is already being met with opposition on the part of the supervisors. The company proposes to construct a curb on the south side of Springfield Avenue from the trolley station to Saxer Avenue. This will alone cost \$4,000. Just why this improvement is being opposed by the supervisors could not be learned.

The company will immediately lay sidewalks along Springfield Avenue from the trolley station to Saxer Avenue. This in itself will be a big improvement.

LARGE ACREAGE INVOLVED – The land embraces several hundred acres. It will be cut into building lots. Streets will be cut through and sidewalks constructed, and efforts made to have such conveniences as gas and electricity for the new town.

As stated before, the work of building at least 20 houses will probably be started this fall. William Saunders, who developed the Statzell Tract, and a portion of Drexel Hill for George W. Statzell, will be in charge of the building operations. Houses costing \$5,000 and upwards will be erected. The lots will all have a big frontage and a good depth.

The new town will have the advantage of a five-cent fare to Sixty-Ninth Street, and a 10-cent fare to the heart of the city of Philadelphia. The land is high and the settlement will be conveniently located between the two trolley stations.

No name has been given it, but it is expected to develop as rapidly as did Drexel Hill, the Statzell Tract, and other new towns, which have sprung up along the lines of the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS – When the Collingdale Division of the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction company was put in operation a few years ago by President A. Merritt Taylor, few people at that time could see the future rapid development of what is now Drexel Hill, and the Statzell Tract, in Upper Darby Township. It did not take long, however, before Samuel Crothers, of Philadelphia, one of the leading real estate operators of that city, came to Upper Darby and purchased all the farms possible north of the trolley track. These he opened and in a few months their growth was surprising. He started Drexel Hill, which is one of the prettiest places in the county. Directly south Mr. Crothers opened the George W. Statzell Tract, and this has also been well developed, as has the Statzell Tract at Lansdowne station.

All along the trolley lines land developed and improved, through efficient trolley service which the Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Company has been giving the public.

THE LAW BUILDING – Contractor Horace H. Jackson is making rapid headway on the erection of the addition to the Law Building on East Fifth Street. Stonemasons will begin their end of the work the latter part of next week, providing the weather permits. The addition will be made very attractive and will have four offices on the second floor and four on the first floor. They will be finished similar to the present offices in the building.

Mercadante & Sons have commenced to tear away the first floor of the old Ayres Building at Eighth Street and Edgmont Avenue, which was recently purchased by the Lincoln Beneficial Society. The first floor will be made into an attractive store, and the second and third stories will be used for offices.

It will only be a short time before the new home of Upland Lodge of Odd Fellows, at Eighth and New Market Streets, will be ready for the interior finish.

Contractor William Ward is making a number of improvements to the frame residence at 508 East Seventh Street, owned by George J. Diggins, the plumber. New floors are being placed on the first story and many repairs are being made.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith is having her property at 505 East Seventh Street improved and the interior of the store remodeled. The work will be finished up the latter part of next week.

Rapid headway is being made on the Rhoads property, at 412 East Broad Street which is being improved by David Christy. The interior of the residence is about completed and the front porch, which is a very attractive one, will be finished as soon as the weather permits.

The residence being erected at Twenty-Fourth and Lindsay Streets for Frederick Fairlamb is first story high and carpenters are setting the second-story joists in position. The first story, being of stone, the work consumed some little time, but with pleasant weather conditions it is expected that the house will be ready for the lathers the early part of next week.

ADDITION TO BOILER HOUSE – William Provost, Jr. of this city, has been awarded the contract for an addition to the boiler house at the mills of the Aberfoyle Manufacturing Company, at Sixth Street and Morton Avenue. It will be constructed of brick and steel, one story high 35 x 35 feet, with a slag roof.

D. P. Gotshall of Darby, has been awarded the contract to make an addition to the store of N. L. Jackson, in that borough. It will be constructed of brick one story high, 20 x 25 feet, slag roof, hot water heating and electric light.

Contractor Edward Oliver, who is building the addition to the office of the New Chester Water Company, at Fifth and Welsh Streets, has been delayed in the work by the arrival of the carved stone columns, but they are expected to be here on Monday.

The work on the two additions to the properties of Joseph McCain, on East Tenth Street, is rounding into shape, and the plasterers will finish their work the latter part of next week. The additions allow much greater floor space.

The Howard Machine Company, which is erecting six houses on Twenty-Second Street, will have them completed in a few weeks.

THE TAYLOR HOUSES – The most recent large operation, the work on which
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run well into winter, is the ten houses being built by J. Irvin Taylor on Concord Avenue and Butler Street and Tenth.

These will be two-story, modest sized, but not cramped and will be located in a section where plenty of fresh air is available and also offers a wide area of playground for the children which will be attended with no danger from trolley cars and the like.

J. Edward Goff is nearing completion his handsome dwelling at the eastern end of West Eighth Street, approaching the Chester River. The house, which is of red brick construction, has two full stories and also a somewhat smaller third floor, caused by the peaked top of the dwelling. The peak is a story in height and gives a unique design. The house can be seen for some distance because of its location.

THE PRICE IMPROVEMENT – The plasterers and tinmiths have about completed their work on the apartments of Gen. William G. Price at Seventh and Penn Streets. The front of the apartments is of a continuous design with no open spaces, but the rear is divided into three twin houses. The apartments will soon be ready for occupancy.

R. R. Wilgus is erecting an addition to his home at 21 Howell Street.

The two houses being erected by Bert Lee on Third Street, near Norris are almost completed and will be ready for occupancy in a short time. They are of brick construction and two stories in height.

Building Inspector Terry Williams, issued the following permits for buildings during the past week:

Mercadante and Sons – Two story addition to the building on the northwest corner of Eighth Street and Edgmont Avenue

Ransom Wilgus – One story brick addition in the rear of the residence at 215 Howell Street

Mercadante and Sons – Two story brick dwelling on West Ninth Street between Barclay and Fulton Streets

Martin G. Dwyer – Two two-story brick dwellings on Ninth Street between Palmer and Ward Streets

M. W. Howard – Remodeling the front of the store and building at 321 Market Street

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Lansdowne – Claude A. Simpier of Lansdowne to Richard Mayer of Philadelphia, lot with buildings on Lansdowne Avenue, Nom

Springfield Township – Townsend E. Levis of Media to Queenie V. Miller of Media, one hundred and twenty acres on Darby Road, Nom

Collingdale – Frank B. Rhodes of Media to Wilhelmina W. Seal of Media, lot with buildings on Parker Avenue, Nom

Collingdale – Joseph C. Seal of Media to Madeline Cune of Philadelphia, house and lot on Parker Avenue, Nom