

CHESTER TIMES – October 2, 1914 – MUCH BUILDING DURING YEAR – A
Number of Important Structures Will Be Completed by January 1, 1915

Although at the outset, this year did not give promise of much building in this city and vicinity, the indications are that the first of January, 1915, will disclose that much new work has been done and some of the most important structures to be built within the city and county will have been completed. There is no question but that from a monetary standpoint the city will be enriched in additional taxes from the building operations this year.

To one who has given close attention to the character of the buildings erected this year, it must be manifest that the best of architecture has not been employed in the designing of many of the buildings. There is nothing which gives a city more cause than to have it said that its buildings and houses are of the best from an architectural standpoint.

From the viewpoint of many, this is a mistake. There is nothing that goes to advertise a city so much as to have it said that its buildings and homes are attractive, both on the exterior and the interior. Close attention and some thought to the character of hardware and all the things that go to make up cozy homes are an advertisement for the place in which such homes are located. In a few years there is no doubt but what municipalities will be passing laws upon this subject, and as far as possible, control it. Frank Conteau Brown in the craftsman in quite a lengthy article, reviews this subject fully. He says:

“Beauty and utility are not necessarily things apart and neither need be obtained at the expense of the other. The architect who understands his business, who knows his materials and appreciates the possibilities of site and plan, can usually find some way of adjusting the practical elements so that the results will please the eye as well as satisfy all utilitarian requirement. And he will find, as a rule, especially in small homes, that simplicity is the factor most likely to guide him toward the attainment of home-like and appealing charm.”

The contract for the new public school in the borough of Lansdowne was the most important building project during the week. This contract involves the expenditure of \$44,000 for the building and a considerable sum for the furnishings after the school is completed.

J. Archer Turner has plans out for a new residence to be built in the borough of Swarthmore. It will be constructed of stone, concrete floors, two and one-half stories high, 61x28 feet, with a wing 25x27 feet, shingle roof. The character of heating has not been decided upon. The owner will sublet all contracts and is now taking bids on stone, mill work and tire work.

E. Karlson will shortly erect a new residence at Elkins Park, in Upper Darby Township. No price is given, but it is understood that it will be quite an imposing building. It will be built of stone and frame, 30 x 40 feet, shingle roof, hot water heating, electric lighting. The owner is taking bids for the work and a number of well-known contractors have asked for copies of the plans and specifications.

NEW \$75,000 RESIDENCE – A new \$75,000 residence is to be built in Radnor Township by Paul Denckla Mills of Bryn Mawr. It will be constructed of stone brick and plaster and will have a dimension of 138x77 feet, slate roof, hardwood floors. The contract has been awarded to Milton W. Young of Overbrook, and work will start at once.

General William G. Price is making progress on his new apartments on Seventh Street near Penn. Six dwellings are incorporated in the building, divided up into comfortable living quarters. The apartments are fronted by a double-decked porch, supported by pillars of red brick, which is a unique, but attractive design.

Just above this operation J. Harper is building three houses of two-story, flat roof design. Two of the houses are of twin construction and the third sets apart. The roofs have been set and work on the interior will be given the most attention from now on.

The dwelling of J. Edward Goff on West Eighth Street on the west side of Chester River, is almost completed. This structure, which stands by itself, is a peaked roof, brick dwelling and is a handsome residence.

One of the houses in the row recently built by Samuel R Bell on West Fifth Street, near Lloyd, has been occupied, although the dwellings have not had the finishing touches put on them. The porches will be completed in a short while and the debris cleared away. These houses, of the two story design favored by the builder in his other operations, are choice dwellings and are situated in a nice neighborhood with transportation facilities unexcelled.

WEST END OPERATIONS – Concrete foundation operations on the H. M. Wirz & Co. new collapsible tube plant at fifth and Palmer Streets are going along as rapidly as the setting of that material will permit. ON the east side of the building the deep foundations are being placed as quickly as the output of a yard rotary concrete mixer can supply the workmen. About twenty men are engaged in this operation. ON the west side of the building nearest Palmer Street, the first story brick and window frame construction is nearly completed. Contractor H. B. Hughes is in charge of the foundation work and will place the flooring of the building. The entire operation is in charge of Nolan Brothers of this city.

Plasterers are still at work on the interior of the Macon Moving Picture house on west Third Street between Hayes Street and Highland Avenue. Frank Downey is in charge of this work. The lathing is now ready for the plaster work on the longitudinal walls and the ceiling work is about one-half completed. The ceiling is of fire booth, which is about completed under forcing, with plaster base. The picture proof construction, a metal wire rein the direction of J. Leslie Taylor, the architect and contractor for the building, will be fireproof and modern in detail. The wood work on the exterior decorations, which make that structure one of the best appearing theaters in the city, is nearly finished. Concrete paving work to be done by the Dickerson Paving Company, will be started on Monday.

Contractors John Jordan and F. H. Easby, representing the Richard DeCou Company on the Tidewater operation at Front and Hayes Streets, tearing down the old buildings of the Tidewater plant, have about one-fourth of that tedious work completed. Two buildings have been entirely removed from their old sites and several others torn down but not taken away. The old small plate mill and annex and the large plate mill, the gas producing building are all taken down. The open hearth structure is about one-third down. The lack of demand for steel products has caused the contractors not to hasten the operation.

Several hundred new chairs for service in the Malta Hall Moving Picture House, 1909 West Third Street, have arrived and will be shortly installed in that building. W. L. Jacobs, a West End contractor, who has the contract for the work, as well for the proposed extension to the building will begin the work at the first opportunity.

The foundation walls are completed on the two new two-and-one-half-story brick houses being built for S. P. Pennington of 1909 West Third Street, at a property on Engle Street, between Second Street and Delaware Avenue. The work is being done by W. L. Jacobs.

Repairs and improvements are being made to the house adjoining the Lawrence Blumberg store property, 2714 West Second Street, by which a side annex and entrance of fireproof material will be added to the building. The Ward Sheet Metal Company is placing the sheet metal fireproof material.

Workmen are engaged in making repairs and painting the roof of the home of Desk Sergeant Law of the city Hall Court on 1927 West Third Street.

The improvements to the store and house property of the National Benefit association at 1819 West Third Street are moving along nicely. Contractor William J. Robinson is in charge of this work. The second-story bay window is completed and the first story front of the structure started.

BUILDING NOTES – Work on the Roder Building, at Seventh Street and Edgmont Avenue, is progressing. Wired stained glass is being set in the copper canopy.

Manson and Rickards have begun operations for a one-story addition to the rear of the property at 1006 Edgmont Avenue for J. M. Tayker, Esq. The addition will make it more convenient for the lessee of the property on account of the greater amount of floor space.

James Holden, who has had his residence at 614 Potter Street improved and made larger, is preparing to move back to the residence in a short time. The house has been enlarged and a spacious brick porch erected. Mr. Holden and his family have been residing at 118 East Broad Street while the improvements were being made.

The bungalows being erected for W. Billestein and Mrs. Julia Bullock at Park Place, have been commenced.

The residence at 112 East Broad Street recently purchased by R. C. Rhoades is being overhauled and improved by David Christy. The rooms in the house have been made larger and a bay window is being erected off the second story.

Contractor E. J. Oliver is making headway on the addition to the offices of the New Chester Water Company on East Fifth Street. Stone cutters are on the scene and are quickly cutting the granite, which will be put in the front and side of the building. The bricklayers are working on the side and rear of the building.

PERMITS GRANTED – Building Inspector Terryl Williams issued the following permits during the past week.

J. Irvin Taylor – Ten two-story brick dwellings on the west side of Butler Street between Tenth and Eleventh Streets

Andrew Johnson – Two two-story brick dwellings at Ninth and Booth Streets

Horace H. Hackson – Two-story brick addition to the Law Building on East Fifth Street

William H. Draper – Two-story brick stable at Second and Byram Streets

E. M. Miles – One-story frame and corrugated iron garage in the rear of the residence at Crozer and Wetherill Streets

Mattson and Richards – One-story brick addition to the property at 1009 Edgmont Avenue

James Babe - Two two-story brick dwellings on Birtwell Street between Crosby and Welsh Streets

Joseph McCain – Two two-story brick dwellings at Tenth and Upland Streets

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS – The following transfers of real estate were yesterday recorded with Recorder of Deeds, J. Lord Bigby:

Milbourne – Henry Charlton of Philadelphia to William J. Schaffer of same place, two lots on Milbourne Avenue, Nom

Prospect Park – Evan L. Moore of Philadelphia to Adolph J. Maretzksy of Prospect Park, lot on Thirteenth Avenue, Nom

Thornbury Township – George L. Brinton of Thornbury to Joseph Thompson of Philadelphia, lot on road from Mill Road to Concord Road, \$50

Lansdowne – Hattie F. Kean of Elmer, N. J. to Robert G. Maguire of Lansdowne, lot on Sixth Avenue, \$100

Lansdowne – Francis B. Matthews of Philadelphia to Joseph A. Meyer of same place, lot with buildings on Windemere Avenue, Nom

Upper Darby – Samuel Crothers of Philadelphia to Harry A. Oishi of same place, lot on Bliss Avenue, Drexel Heights, \$175

Chester – William T. Booth of Chester to Thomas M. Thomas of same place, lot on Third Street east of Tilghman Street, \$600

Chester – Watson B. Stockman of Chester to James McArdle of Chester, house and lot at 919 Upland Street, \$1100

Chester – Caroline J. Moore of Chester to Matthew Johnson of same place, house and lot on Ninth Street between Norris and Tilghman streets, \$1600

Lower Chichester – Cambridge Trust Company to Louis South of Trainer, lot on Ward Street, Linwood Heights, \$250

Chester – Abraham Reider of Chester to Michael Kallsiewicg of Chester, house and lot on Eighth street, west of Hinkson street, \$1200

Darby Township – John M. Kennedy, Jr. of Philadelphia to Rebecca Clark of same place, house and lot on Linden Street, Nom

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION