

CHESTER TIMES – March 15, 1913

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS – Permits Issued This Year for New Work
Aggregate More Than \$150,000 – City and county Activities

Building permits for work aggregating \$150,000 have been issued thus far this year by Building Inspector Terryl T. Williams of this city. This amount of work to be begun so early in the year is unusual and is conceded by builders to be the forerunner of a big building year that will establish a precedent for old Chester. Many other operations in Chester at this time, the permits for which were taken out last year, are now under way. Among the largest of these are included: Post office annex, Buckley's by-products house, Swift's beef house, Franklin Street public school and the Good Will Fire Company annex.

Among the large operations commenced in this city during the past week was that of eight houses and one store and dwelling at Second and Wilson Streets, and that of ten dwellings on Crosby street between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets. Several building permits were issued. Sixteen big homes will be built in Park Place.

In the county things are prosperous and promising. The Alston Saw and Steel Company of Philadelphia contemplates building a plant at Folcroft. Milton L. Staley will build twenty-six two-story dwellings for Frank Rhoades in Collingdale. A large office building is planned by the Kents at Clifton Heights. The United Roofing Company will build an addition to its Marcus Hook plant. H. Louis Morris of this city, has staked out the new sub-station that the Beacon Light Company will build at Marcus Hook and ground will be broken Monday. The rain of the past few days held up this, as well as other operations. The Bell Telephone Company will build at Swarthmore.

IN THE CITY – The concrete foundations have been laid for six two-story brick houses that Simon Bruner, proprietor of the Steamboat Hotel, is building on Front Street at the rear of the hostelry.

The recreation pier at the foot of Market Street is about completed. One ornamental lighting post is to be placed as yet.

The American Dredging Company is filling in the new wharf of the Beacon Light Company and the contractors are beginning to extend the overhead tramway out onto the dock.

The construction work of the new \$30,000 beef house that the Consolidated Engineering Company of Baltimore is building for Swift and Company at 17, 19, 21 and 23 East Second Street has been completed. The interior work is being rushed to completion.

The studding has been set in the two-story brick dwelling that Samuel Lax is building on Welsh Street above Second Street and the lathes are being put in.

All of the structural steel work of the \$30,000 by-products house of John J. Buckley and Company on Second Street near Market has been erected up to the second and three-fourths of that above to the second floor to the roof. The concrete work has been commenced.

Oliver Brothers are rushing the work on the new motion picture theater of Greenberg Brothers at 311-13 Market Street. The operation, which will total \$50,000 will be completed by the first of the coming month.

Albert Wunderlich has the foundations laid for seven two-story brick dwellings that he is building in Wunderlich place.

Six bricklayers are pushing the work on the new \$38,000 annex to the Chester post office. Bricks are laid as high as the top of the first story frames in some parts of the wall.

The foundation has been completed for the store and dwelling building that J. Irvin Taylor is erecting on Edgmont Avenue just south of the P. B. and W. R. R.

Nathaniel Thompson, who has had plans prepared by Architect James Farnan for the erection of sixteen fine residences at Park Place, in the First Ward, is securing bids from the different contractors and the work will be given out in a few days, it is understood. This will be one of the most desirable building operations in the upper section of the city for some time and the class of houses to be erected will meet the requirements of those who can afford to lease or purchase homes of that well-appointed character.

Contractor Harry M. Connelly of the First Ward, has completed the concrete stairway and elevator for the use of the Nelson Spinning Company, which has leased part of the Arasapha Manufacturing Company's plant at Eleventh and Walnut Streets. The improvement will prove of much convenience to the employees of the new concern, which is about to commence operations.

The new bay window booth for the motion picture apparatus in the balcony of the Washburn Theater on Seventh Street has been completed and is now in use. The work was done by Contractor and Builder William Ward.

The three new dwelling houses of George N. Pike on Upland Street near Twelfth are all under roof and ready for the plasterers. They are being pushed forward to completion as rapidly as possible by the contractor, Robert H. Jagger and are a noticeable improvement in that neighborhood, occupying the only available ground on that side of the street.

The excavations for J. Irvin Taylor's ten proposed houses at Thirteenth and Crosby Streets are nearly finished and the foundation walls will be started immediately. These houses will be ready for occupancy this summer and a number of persons are watching the progress of the work with a view of securing them as a place of residence.

WEST END OPERATIONS. One of the biggest building operations in this city was recently started at Second and Wilson Streets, where ground has been broken and foundation walls are now being constructed for the erection of eight modern dwellings and an ornate and commodious apartment building for John McGlenn, proprietor of the Franklin House, at 2517 West Second street. The plans and specifications were drawn by Architect James J. Farnan of the First Ward. The new dwellings will be two stories high and constructed of brick. The apartment house will be three stories in height and will be one of the most commodious and up-to-date structures of its kind in Chester. H. Louis Morris is the contractor.

Manager E. F. Callahan, who recently opened the West End Theater on Third Street below Reaney, is having plans and specifications prepared for the extension of the Malta Hall building in the rear with the view of doubling the seating capacity of the playhouse. During the past week an asbestos room was constructed for the moving picture apparatus in conformity with the State law, and the ticket office was moved to a more convenient location in the front part of the lobby.

Two of the four new two-story brick dwellings being erected on West Fourth Street, below Palmer, by Contractor Francis Moore, have reached the second story and work is also rapidly progressing on the other two structures. Mr. Moore is also getting ready to build four houses of the same design at Fourth and Hayes Streets.

Former Councilman Willian L. Deveney of the Eleventh ward is building two more dwelling houses on West Fourth Street near Palmer. He recently completed the erection of six modern two-story brick houses in the same locality.

J. Horace Witsil is pushing the work on the eight houses he is building on Flower Street, above Sixth. During the past week the dwellings have been in the hands of a force of painters under the supervision of George H. Brown who has the decorating contract. Mr. Witsil is also having plans and specifications prepared for the erection of two modern dwellings on Third Street between Harwick and Booth Streets.

The foundation walls for the seven new houses to be built on West Third Street below Townsend, will soon be completed. The dwellings are to be constructed by Contractor Samuel A. Hewes. The houses will be two stories high graced with spacious front porches.

The lot on West Third Street between Hayes Street and Highland Avenue, has been purchased by Captain James C. McMaster, William F. Ryan, a barber and Harry J. Bamberger and each purchaser has let the contract to build a two-story store front residence.

Seven concrete houses which are being erected in the rear of Pennell Street are rapidly nearing completion. The carpentry work on the inside has been commenced and will be carried rapidly to completion.

Six modern two story houses are being constructed by S. R. Bell at Fifth and Lloyd Streets. The bricklayers are progressing rapidly with the work. James A. Shropshire is also building several houses at that location.

Richard Lindsey, the Sixth Ward contractor who recently purchased two frame houses abutting on the Franklin school grounds. Franklin Street above Third are being torn down. Mr. Lindsey will use the material in the construction of other houses.

The third story of the Franklin school building was commenced Thursday. The window frames are in position and the bricklayers are at work today having been compelled to lay off yesterday owing to the weather. Contractor A. Louis Morris can complete the brick work in ten days the weather permitting.

The Duplex Metals Company at Front and Lloyd Streets are making rapid headway with the several buildings which have been commenced. The new structural and corrugated iron laboratory is under roof and the machinery and two new heating furnaces for copper have been installed. The iron and brick building which, when completed will serve as an office is also being rushed. The building will be two stories in height and practically fireproof. In addition, the company is erecting an all steel building of small dimensions which will be used as an experimental laboratory and drafting room.

BUILDING PERMITS – The following building permits were issued during the week by Building Inspector Terry T. Williams:

H. L. Morris to build eight two-story houses of brick on South side of Second between Mill and Wilson Streets

H. L. Morris to build one three-story store and dwelling on south side of Second Street between Mill and Wilson Streets

W. Wehnus to build a frame garage covered with corrugated iron on south side of Twenty-Fourth Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets

Robert Howarth to build a portable iron garage on West side of Walnut Street between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets

IN THE COUNTY – The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania plan a new telephone exchange at Swarthmore, which will serve the needs of the people of that borough and Morton. The projected exchange will cost approximately \$31,000

H. Louis Morris of Chester has completed the Woodlyn public school at a cost of \$45,000 excepting the installation of some little hardware. School sessions were begun in the building Monday last.

The same contractor will break ground Monday for the new sub-station of the Beacon Light Company at Marcus Hook. The building will be of brick, one story high, 30 by 92 feet, with slag roof, steam heating and electric lighting.

A large operation was started at Collingdale by Milton L. Staley, who broke ground for the erection of twenty-six two-story houses for Frank Rhoades on the Rhoades tract, east of Parker Avenue at Rhoades and Staley Avenues.

The same builder has just completed ten houses on Pusey Avenue in the same borough. Eight new houses will be erected in Morton by S. G. Humphreys.

A contract has been awarded by the Thomas Kent Manufacturing Company of Clifton Heights for a two-story stone office building to L. E. Talley. The new structure will be forty to fifty feet.

The Alston Saw and Steel Company of Philadelphia will locate in Folcroft giving employment to a number of men, and as these new industrial establishments always bring new families to the community. It is believed that it is the forerunner of a building boom that will cause the little hamlet to grow more rapidly within the next year than it has in all its existence.

At Marcus Hook another large plant is to be erected by the United Roofing Company on ground owned by the company. The chief engineer of the company arrived from New York for the purpose of laying out the plans for the new improvement.

The contract to bulkhead Crum Creek on the Leiperville side has been awarded and work on this improvement will commence in April. The work is being done for the Baldwin Locomotive Works, which owns the ground on both sides.

The land reclaimed by means of the bulk heading will be considerable. J. Harry Richardson of Marcus Hook is about to erect two additional houses on Market Street, that borough.

The work on the new houses for the Collingdale Fire Company is progressing rapidly in East Lansdowne. Tyas & Company of East Lansdowne have obtained the contract for the erection of a brick and frame dwelling on Pembroke Avenue in the same borough.

J. W. Meckert & Company of Ridley Park have started work on the erection of a hollow tile residence at Swarthmore for John Douglas. The same firm also has a contract for the erection of one house in Yeadon and one in Glenolden.

Howard Carlisle of Prospect Park has plans drawn for two dwellings which he contemplates erecting in that place within a short time.

Work on the various building operations at the plant of the General Chemical Company near Marcus Hook is about completed and seventy-five Italian laborers were laid off yesterday. Practically every line of work is finished except the building of the boilers and tanks and a large force of men is now engaged in doing this work.