

CHESTER TIMES – January 4, 1913

BUILDING AND REALTY NEWS – Greatest Year Closes With Announcement of Several Prospective Operations – City and County Activities

Chester and Delaware County have had the biggest building year in the annals of their history. Activity which was commenced early last spring to still being continued for many operations starting late in the year have not been completed as yet. The building in this city in 1912 greatly surpassed that of the preceding year, according to Building Inspector Terryl T. Williams. While no new building permits were issued in Chester during the past week, several are contemplated for this spring. A number of new operations have been announced as contemplated in the county.

Probably the newest and most important of the new operations is that of a three-story brick mill to be erected at Clifton Heights by Nelson Kenshaw, who was awarded the contractor for the structure to Thomas f. Manley. To climax its extensive building of the past year, the Lester Piano Company will build a stable and another warehouse at Lester. Other operations are planned for Haverford, Rosemont and Upper Providence, including two costly residences.

Activities continue in Chester, Oliver Brothers, contractors are tearing down the building at 313 Market Street, which will the one adjoining at 311 Market Street, will be turned into a legitimate vaudeville house. The structural steel work on the post office annex is being rapidly erected. The interiors of the Fox Building and the three-story building that H. Louis Morris is erecting at 213 Market Street are being finished. Swift and Company are making good headway with the new beef house on east Second Street.

Nearly 800 buildings have sprung up in different sections of the city and county during the past twelve months. The building operations have aggregated an expenditure of more than \$2,000,000, of which approximately a quarter of a million was invested in the Third Ward of Chester, including the operations now underway.

IN THE CITY – John W. Emery, contractor of Philadelphia, is beginning to make better headway on the post office annex, which is to cost about \$33,000. The heavy foundation walls and lower brick pile have been finished and the structural iron work is about two-thirds completed. Some of the frame has been set up to the roof. The annex is to be three stories in height about 24 by 85 feet.

The Cantrell Construction Company of Philadelphia, contractors on the \$2,350 recreation pier at the foot of Market Street, have been retarded in work because a number of sockets failed to arrive. These sockets can be set before the concrete is poured.

H. Louis Morris, a contractor, is completing the interior of the three-story store and apartment house at 21 Market Street for George F. Williams. The store front has not yet been installed. The interior of the Fox Building, opposite the Chester post office, is being finished by Nolan Brothers, the contractors.

This, together with the one at 311 Market Street, will be replaced by a modern building, 40 by 120 feet, two stories high.

The Consolidated Engineering Company of Baltimore, is making fine headway with the new \$30,000 house of Swift and Company of Chicago, Ill. at 17, 19, 21, and 23 East Second Street. The concrete foundations have been poured and are sold. The frames for the pillars to support the second floor are erected and the concrete will be poured as soon as possible.

Michael Managhan, contractor in Philadelphia, has temporarily abandoned the work on the \$20,000 addition to the plant of John J. Buckley Company. Concrete foundations have been set for the walls.

Morris W. Plumley, a Chester contractor, has started work on laying bricks for the second floor of the Good Will engine house at Fifteenth Street and Providence Avenue. The annex is greater than the size of the present headquarters of the company.

The stone residence and garage for Dir. J.P. VanKeuren at Twentieth Street and Providence Avenue is nearing completion, as the interiors of the Oliver Brothers are razing the building at 313 Market Street for a new theater. Buildings are now in process of being finished. William Provost Jr. is the contractor.

Wesley S. McDowell, a lumber merchant of the West End, has already received orders for building materials from several persons who have had plans prepared for the erection of modern dwelling houses during next spring. Mr. McDowell's patrons will build, in the aggregate, ten houses, and they expect to begin operations during the early part of spring if the weather is favorable.

Francis J. Moore's four new houses on Fourth Street, west of Palmer, are about completed. These houses each contain seven rooms and bath four of the rooms being on the first floor. Attractive porches grace the front of the houses, which are built in the twin styles.

The six new houses being built on Flower Street, above Sixth, by J. Horace Witsil, the real estate operator of 1806 West Third Street, are rapidly nearing completion. Mr. Witsil expects to have them finished and ready for occupancy next week. The dwellings are graced with spacious front porches and are of modern design.

Work is progressing on the erection of the Sunday school building of Bethany Presbyterian Church, which is in course of erection at Sixth Street and Highland Avenue. When completed this building will also be used for the church services until the auditorium of the proposed \$20,000 edifice is built.

The two-story corrugated iron building being erected on the Southwest corner of Second and Reaney Streets for the Federal Steel Foundries Company by Oliver Brothers, the contractors, is rapidly nearing completion. The East wall of the structure is finished and the frame work of the peak-shaped roof has been constructed. The building will be used for the storage of patterns.

William L. Deveney's six houses on Fourth Street, East of Palmer, are about completed. These dwellings are two stories in height and contain all the modern conveniences. Front porches and front yards add to the attractive appearance of the new dwellings.

IN THE COUNTY – A new mill for the manufacturer of Turkish toweling, which when completed and equipped will cost about \$100,000, is contemplated by Nelson Kershaw, a manufacturer of Kershaw's Banks. The contract for the building which is to be of brick and three stories high, has been awarded to Thomas F. Manley, a contractor of Clifton Heights. The structure is to be 150x61 feet.

The Lester Piano Company contemplates two buildings at its plant in Lester, one a stable and the other a warehouse. Both are to be of brick and each one story high. They will have slag roofs and electric lighting. Philadelphia contractors are bidding, the bids being due Thursday.

Alba B. Johnson, president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, is going to build a fence post and pergola at his home in Rosemont. The construction will be of stone, frame, iron and copper roof. Bids were due Thursday and Gray Brothers of Rosemont were among the bidders.

Walter Robert Furness of Wallingford expects to build a \$40,000 residence in Upper Providence Township. Plans are in progress for the building, which is to be of stone, three stories high, with a tile roof and equipped with five bath rooms.

The contract has been awarded to A.L. Fretz & Sons of Philadelphia for the \$20,000 residence of Charles R. Wentz at Haverford. The dwelling is to be of stone and frame, two and a half stories in height, 45x50 feet, with a shingle roof, electric lighting, hot water heating and hardwood floors.

Contractor H. Louis Morris of Chester is progressing nicely with the large brick school house at Woodlyn.

Work is progressing nicely on the \$2,000,000 plant of the General Chemical Company, below Marcus Hook and on the 148 houses that the American Viscose Company is erecting in Marcus Hook for their employees.

Workmen are progressing with the annex to the Media Court House, which is being enlarged at a cost of \$182,000.

A new suburb is being projected on the outskirts of Glenolden, which will be called South Wyndon. The tract which consists of eighteen acres, faces on Parker Avenue, extending from Brighton to Amosland Roads. The land is owned by Julius Nelson. The tract of twenty acres fronting on Parker Avenue, Collingdale, owned by the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, and which was on the market for sale, has been recalled. The land will be held by the Traction Company, it is said, as a probable terminal point for its L road out to Woodland Avenue from Thirty-Second Street to Darby.

William Bell of Philadelphia, is erecting two twin dwellings at the corner of Lexington and Emerson Avenues, East Lansdowne. Harry Richardson is erecting two modern dwellings for George Laughad, on Chichester Road, Upper Chichester Township. The houses are being erected on the Burnham farm property. At Marcus Hook, George F. Johnson of Linwood, has sold a brick house and lot, 40x100 feet to John J. Williams for \$1200. H. Blair Cooke of Collingdale reports the sale of lot No. 83, Darby Heights, Pusey Avenue, near Chester Pike.