

The Architecture of Culver & Rogers in Tredyffrin and Easttown

Greg Prichard

Newton H. Culver and Thomas Mellon Rogers made an enormous impact on the Victorian-era Main Line, both as individuals and as partners in the short-lived firm Culver & Rogers. Despite a prolific architectural catalog, their influence has been overlooked by history. Proponents of exuberant Queen Anne design and pioneers of the Colonial Revival movement, Culver & Rogers' visual legacy is immediately recognizable to anyone interested in the historic homes of the western Main Line, even if their name is not.

The early lives of these men give insights into their later work. Newton H. Culver was born in 1855 in New York State (though sources disagree on which town), and his parents relocated their family to Williamsport, Pennsylvania about a year later. Newton's father, Eber Culver (1824-1911), became a prominent architect in Williamsport by designing several local landmarks and a multitude of residences. His work followed a standard interpretation of the fast-changing Victorian styles, from the grand Italianate design of the so-called Million Dollar Mansion of 1866 to the Queen Anne masterpiece E.A. Rowley House of 1888 (which is today a beautifully restored house museum). Thanks to these landmarks of Williamsport's "Millionaire's Row" as well as some of the most monumental public buildings downtown, Eber Culver's name still resonates in the Lycoming County seat.

Newton worked in his father's office for a time before spending a year surveying coal lands in northern Pennsylvania. He spent another year in Denver, Colorado as a draughtsman in the city engineer's office, then came back east in 1880 to work in Philadelphia as an independent architect.

Philadelphia native Thomas Mellon Rogers (1857-1928) was more the consummate architect than his partner,

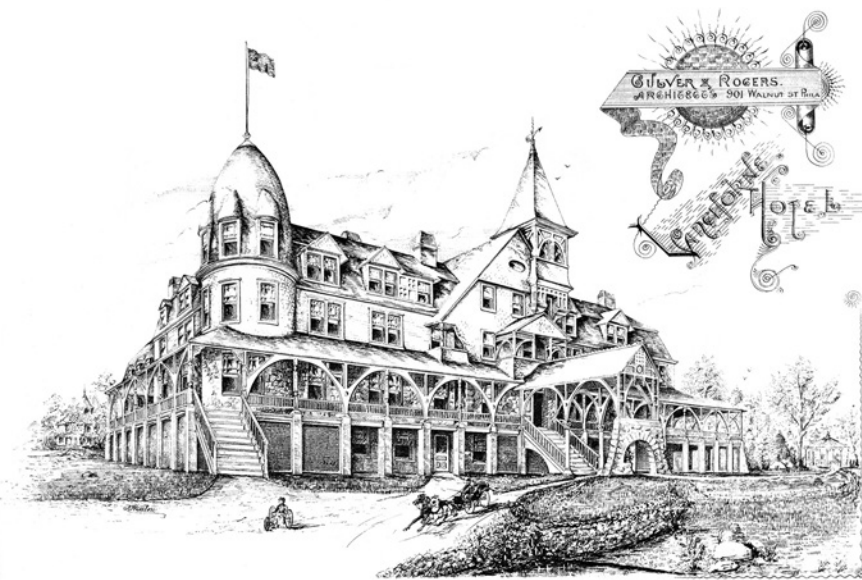
having attended the Franklin Institute Drawing School in the late 1860s and early 1870s. He found jobs as a mechanical engineer, and then became a draughtsman for the Philadelphia Water Department in the mid-1880s, shortly before forming his partnership with Culver.

The firm Culver & Rogers began operations around 1886 with an office located at 901 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. Among their many projects were large suburban developments in Wayne and Wynburne (an area between Devon and Berwyn). Elsewhere, they designed a huge hotel for the Langhorne Improvement Co., as well as structures in Eagles Mere, Norristown, and Long Branch, NJ.

When the partnership dissolved effective September 28, 1888, T. Mellon Rogers went into business with the established firm

of Constable Bros., previously of New York City. Their new office at 902 Walnut Street was designed to consist of three large rooms, "one of which will be fitted up as a museum of building construction containing all kinds of materials used in building and especially the latest improvements in sanitary apparatus." (*Builder and Decorator*, 10/1888)

Newton Culver, meanwhile, succeeded the pair's firm on his own, albeit briefly, at its old office at 901 Walnut Street. His commissions listed in the November, 1888 *Builder and Decorator* included continued work for George Fallon of Wayne, as well as a "block of eight room houses" at his hometown of Williamsport.



Logo and Langhorne Hotel rendering: *Supplement, Builder and Decorator*, 1/1888.

Shortly before the firm's dissolution, Culver & Rogers had been referenced as proponents of Adamant Plaster, a modern alternative to traditional hair and lime building plasters. A year later, Newton Culver abandoned his architectural practice and moved to Detroit to act as the general manager of the Michigan Adamant Plaster Co., a new enterprise specializing in the material. Culver's shift in focus from designing buildings to selling building materials was to be permanent. A few years later he joined his father in a similar venture in Williamsport, which they called the Diamond Wall Cement Company. This firm was incorporated in 1894 with Newton Culver as general manager and his father Eber as treasurer. At one point the company was actually called "The N.H. Culver Diamond Wall Cement" company, suggesting that the Culver name was recognizable enough in the Williamsport area to be attached to the company masthead.

Although Newton Culver faded from the architectural scene shortly after Culver & Rogers dissolved, T. Mellon Rogers remained in practice for many years to come. The firm Constable Bros. & Rogers existed barely a year before Rogers broke off to form his own private practice, making a name for himself working on historic structures as well as a multitude of original creations.

Evidence of Colonial influence, or at least a Victorian interpretation of the Colonial aesthetic, had been present in the work of Culver & Rogers since the firm's beginnings. Some of their buildings, such as the public school at Wayne, incorporated ornate exterior details including dimensional shapes made to look like ribbons tied in bows, balustrades with overly detailed turnings, and window surrounds with finely carved aprons and bonnets resembling highboy wardrobes.

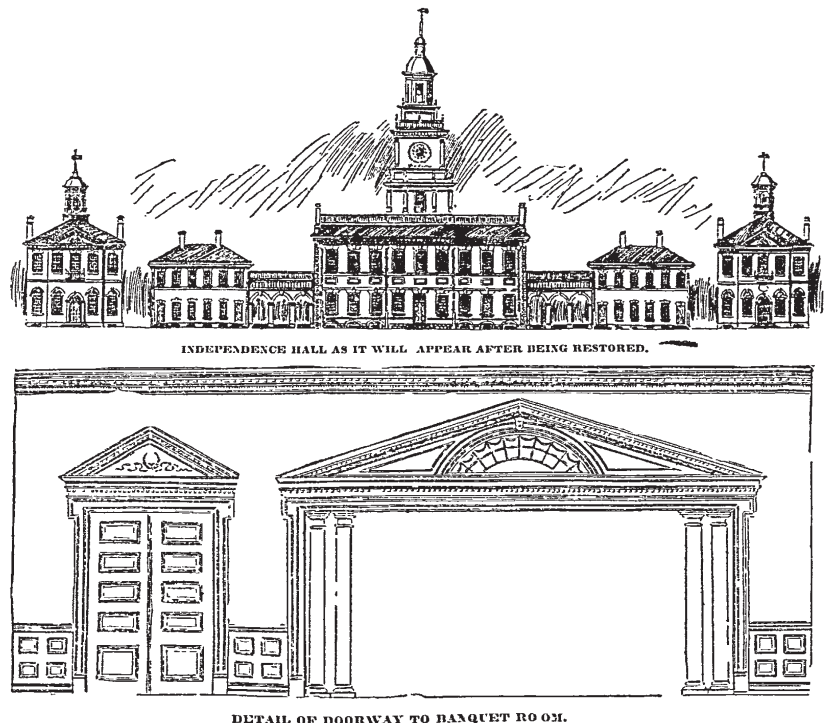
Of course, such detail is anything but authentic to 18th century architecture. The architects may have taken influence from more subdued architectural details and period furniture and blown them out of proportion. Such was their right when creating new projects; applying that interpretation and aesthetic in a "restoration" sense is another thing.

During this era, there were no Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation or any academic recommendations for how to properly restore historic structures. Questions such as what materials should be retained and how to properly reconstruct missing architectural elements were seldom considered.

T. Mellon Rogers was a vestryman at Old St. David's Episcopal Church in 1893 when he began alterations to its historic 1715 chapel, one of the most notable landmarks of the Main Line area and the most popular local tourist destination of the Victorian period. Rogers added raised panel wainscoting and Georgian Revival lampposts to the interior to evoke an earlier time. He also designed the lichgate (covered gateway) that is part of the south wall of the churchyard. Modifications would persist in the following years: another vestryman and noted architect, R. Brognard Okie, is said to have designed a new Georgian style pulpit around 1912.

In 1896, upon the relocation of the Philadelphia city government from Independence Square to the new City Hall, T. Mellon Rogers was commissioned by the Daughters of the American Revolution to "restore" Independence Hall, with the intention being reconstruction in the appearance of originality. The hall's side wings and arcades were replaced to better resemble the known attributes of the original structures that stood there, and various changes, interior and exterior, were made to "restore" the original appearance of the complex.

A write-up in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of June 24, 1896 described the thorough research conducted using the original plans of the complex and physical evidence of past details. The article stressed the care being done to preserve original elements and reproduce them according to the best sources available. When complete, however, the architectural community disagreed strongly with the result. In fact, the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects spent the next few decades un-doing much of the work Rogers supervised in the 1890s. The result of these AIA changes of the early 20th century are largely what is visible at Independence National Historical Park today.



Rogers' Independence Hall plans, exterior and interior. Exterior elevation: Philadelphia Inquirer, 6/24/1896; Interior detail: Philadelphia Inquirer, 9/13/1896.

Despite the derision he received from his own professional community, T. Mellon Rogers remained in practice for many years after the changes to Independence Hall. He even continued his focus on historic Colonial-era structures, including modifications to the Tarleton mansion in Devon and Waynesborough, the Paoli home of General Anthony Wayne. At Waynesborough, Rogers' revivalist flourishes installed around 1902 have since been removed.

While other local revivalist architects such as R. Brognard Okie have earned acclaim in posterity, Thomas Mellon Rogers is largely remembered for what he did incorrectly by modern preservation standards. While it is not difficult to find condemnable examples of Rogers' heavyhanded approach to renovation, much of his original work along the Main Line deserves recognition and respect.

Newton Culver and T. Mellon Rogers should be remembered best for their brief but lasting influence on the western Main Line. They arrived and took residence in a place that was at the cusp of a great boom; the towns of Wayne, Devon and Berwyn saw huge growth in the 1880s and '90s. Although most of Culver & Rogers' grandest statements in the area – their schools and hotels – have fallen for the sake of progress, many of the residences they designed still stand as some of the most notable and intact examples of Victorian Queen Anne architecture remaining on the Main Line.

(A corresponding article about Culver & Rogers, covering their work in Wayne, can be found in the 2014 issue of the Radnor Historical Society Bulletin. Contact info@radnorhistory.org to obtain a copy.)

Bibliography – Biographical Portion

“Detroit Illustrated: The Commercial Metropolis of Michigan.” Harry H. Hook, Publisher, 1891, p. 150.

Francis James Dallett. “National Register of Historic Places nomination: St. David’s Protestant Episcopal Church.” 1977.

Moss, Roger W. “Historic Houses of Philadelphia.” University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998, 211.

Meckley, Thad Stephen. “Williamsport’s Millionaires’ Row.” Arcadia Publishing, 2005.

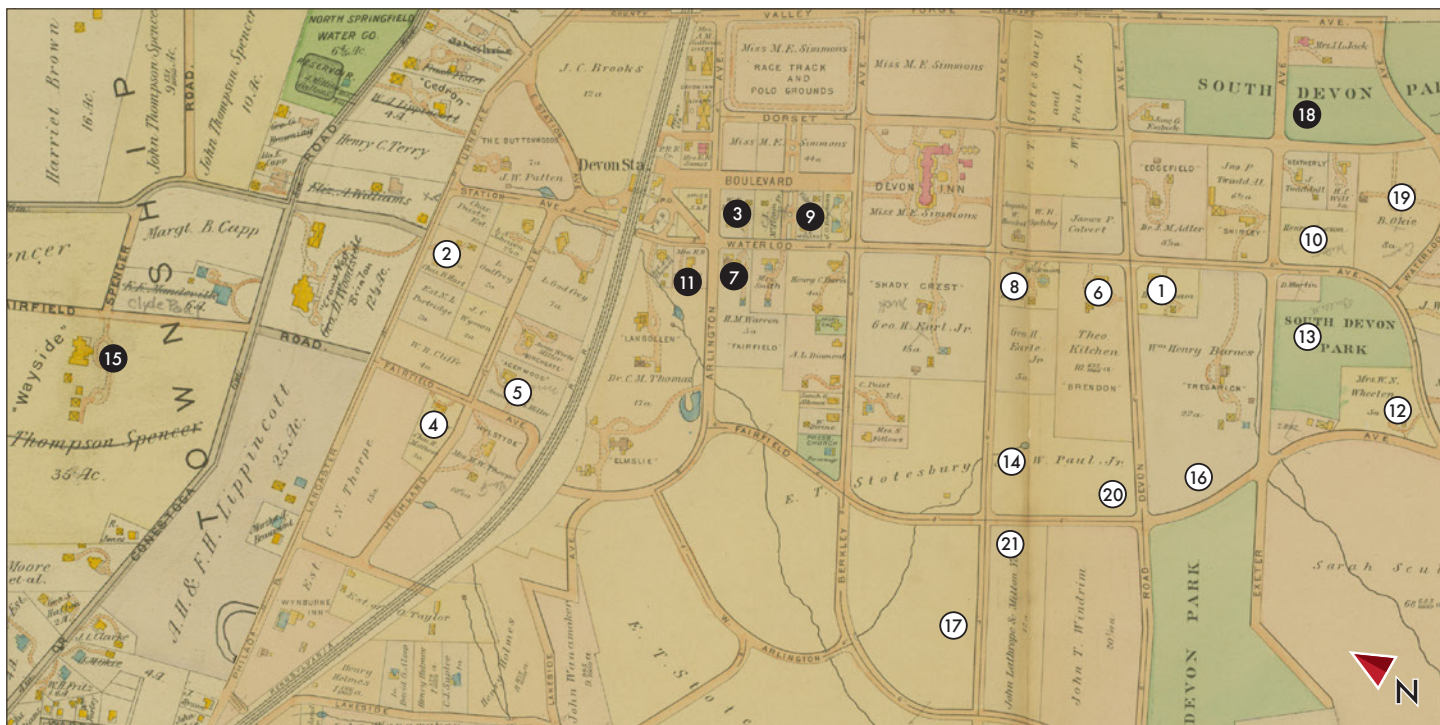
In addition to these sources, this article would not have been possible without original copies of two remarkable publications: The *Builder and Real Estate Advocate* (also known as the *Builder and Decorator*) is archived at the Free Library of Philadelphia. The *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders’ Guide* is archived at the Athenæum of Philadelphia.

Culver & Rogers in Devon *(see map and photos on following pages)*

Devon began as a resort community; in the early 1880s the new Devon train station was gateway to the huge Devon Inn, the two being linked by Devon Boulevard. It took only a few years for wealthy individuals to purchase properties along the Boulevard and elsewhere in the vicinity. Landowners Coffin & Altemus laid out a plan of roads and subdivisions in 1884, and within a few years Culver & Rogers were commissioned for projects north and south of the railroad.

T. Mellon Rogers himself purchased one of the Coffin & Altemus lots on Waterloo Road and built a home for his family there around 1886. Rogers' design work within Devon would accumulate long into the 20th century, nearly thirty years after the firm's first designs were constructed there.

There are several unknowns surrounding references to the pair's work in Devon, particularly in terms of public buildings. The firm was credited with designs for a “large building for Town Hall, Kindergarten and school... 60 x 120 feet, two stories, to cost \$10,000” in 1886, though it is unknown if such a structure was built. Also an unknown, a “casino” design was attributed to the firm in 1888. In the early 1890s, T. Mellon Rogers had supposedly designed a Protestant Episcopal church for Devon called “All Saints Church.” Said to have been intended for a lot on Devon Boulevard based upon the appearance of a historic church in Devon, England, this design was apparently never executed. It is possible that residential construction was not initiated on the east side of Devon Boulevard in anticipation of public buildings such as this; it was the 1920s when the first structures (a row of small cottages) were built on this side of the boulevard. Photographic and physical evidence shows that other residences in the area, both extant and lost, exhibited features resembling the work of Culver & Rogers, though no references are known to exist to link these buildings with the firm or any other architect.



*Atlas Pages: Overbrook to Paoli 1908, plate 26 (left of Lancaster Turnpike);
Overbrook to Malvern 1900, plate 30 (right of Lancaster Turnpike)*

PROJECTS IN DEVON

⊙ = Extant ● = Not Extant ⊗ = Questionable Sources or Unproduced Project

Culver & Rogers

- 1886 ⊗ Residence - Dr. D.D. Smith
 ⊙ Residence - H. Wickham
 ⊗ City hall and school
- 1887 ⊙ Residence - C.B. Hart
 ● Carriage house & stable - William B. Paxton
 Residence - J.M. Matthews
 ⊙ Residence - Charles H. Matthews; "Aelwyd"
 Untitled cottage (plate)
- 1888 ⊙ Residence - W. Bigler Miller; "Agerwood"
 ⊗ Casino

Newton H. Culver

- 1888 ⊙ Stable - W. Bigler Miller

Constable Brothers & T. Mellon Rogers

- 1888 ⊙ Residence - Thomas Kitchen; "Brendon"
- 1889 ⊗ School house
- 1890 ● Residence - Henry M. Warren (alterations)

Thomas Mellon Rogers

- 1886 ⊙ Residence - T. Mellon Rogers
- 1891 ● Residence - V. Clad; "Le Moliau"
 ⊗ All Saints Episcopal Church
- 1892 ⊙ Residence - Henry Howson ⊗
 ⊙ Residence - C.B. Hart
- 1893 ● Stable - Dr. James
- 1896 ⊙ Residence - Mrs. Katherine N. Wheelen
- 1901 ⊙ Residence - W.C. Bullitt; "Oxmoor"
 ⊙ Residence - William S. Clark; "Elmcroft"
 ● Residence & stable - John Thompson Spencer; "Wayside"
- 1902 ⊙ Residence - J. Hampton Barnes; "Westacres"
- 1903 ⊙ Residence - H.C. McCook ⊗
- 1904 ● Residence - Mrs. Clarke Merchant; "The Terraces"
- 1906 ⊙ Residence (alts. & additions) - Powell Evans; "Errollton"
- 1907 ⊙ Residence - R.R. Benedict Esq.
- 1912 ⊙ Residence - J.E. Cope Morton



① **Residence - H. Wickham**

Perhaps the best remaining and most intact example of Culver & Rogers' Victorian exuberance is the Wickham house, at the intersection of Sugartown Road and S. Waterloo Road. It is a wonderful example of the firm's ornamental aesthetic, particularly the use of patterned shingles, geometric details, and even decorative roof ridges. The oversized pediment of the front gable dormer is mindful of the 1888 E.A. Rowley House in Williamsport, the most famous house designed by Newton Culver's father, Eber.



② **Residence - C.B. Hart**

Residences for C.B. Hart are referenced in both 1887 and 1892; this house is the only one known to have belonged to Hart, according to period atlas plates.



④ **Residence - Charles H. Matthews; "Aelwyd"**

While many of its details have been obscured or lost, Aelwyd, now an apartment building, still exhibits interesting features such as deep brows at the peaks of its gables.



Unidentified Cottage at Devon

This rendering plate appeared in the July, 1887 *Builder and Decorator* magazine. Other than "Cottage to be erected at Devon, Chester Co., Pa.," it reveals nothing about its exact location, client name, nor if it was ever actually built.



⑤ Residence - W. Bigler Miller; “Agerwood”



⑥ Residence - Thomas Kitchen; “Brendon”



⑧ Residence - T. Mellon Rogers

The home that Rogers designed for himself, and where he resided for many years to come, predates his partnership with Culver by mere months.



⑫ Residence - Mrs. Katherine N. Wheelen

The massive Wheelen house remains well-kept and stands as prominently as when it was built in 1896, a powerful example of Rogers’ solo architecture.



⑭ Residence - William S. Clark; “Elmcroft”



⑯ Residence - J. Hampton Barnes; “Westacres”



⑲ Residence (alts. & additions) - Powell Evans



⑳ Residence - R.R. Benedict, Esq.



㉑ Residence - J.E. Cope Morton
Rogers' daughter, Leila Mellon Rogers, married J.E. Cope Morton ca. 1906. The couple's home, designed by Rogers, was built six years later. It stands facing the corner at a surprising 45° angle.

Culver & Rogers in Berwyn

(see map and photos on following pages)

Excepting only the Fallon tract of Wayne, Culver & Rogers' largest single project was a community envisioned by Charles N. Thorpe. Thorpe, president of the Keystone Watch Case Company, called his development "Wynburne" (a mix-up of the name "Berwyn"), for which he planned a hotel and several residences. In the journal *Builder and Decorator*, Wynburne is referred to as its own town rather than part of Devon or Berwyn. As the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* put it in 1886: "Mr. Thorp [sic] has lately purchased considerable property on the North side of the Pennsylvania Railroad, between Berwin [sic] and Denver [sic], on the Lancaster pike, which he is putting out in lots and will shortly erect cottages on them. Already some very fine roads have been cut through them. This estate has attached to it a very valuable spring from which the cottages will be supplied with water. In the centre of the lots the bed of a handsome lake will be excavated for which a fine stone bridge has already been erected to bridge it. Mr. Thorp [sic] is a gentlemen [sic] of considerable taste, and he is sparing no time and trouble to perfect this enterprise. The whole of the property stands on an elevation and commands a splendid view over the Chester Valley, and connects with Mr. Coffin Altmus [sic] estate at Devon."

The resulting development consisted of Thorpe's own residence, a hotel called the Wynburne Inn, and the homes of Warren Avenue. The Inn, which stood on what was then the Lancaster Turnpike (relocated south of the railroad some time later), remained in operation for nearly half a century. Among the houses designed for Warren Avenue was one for Newton Culver himself. It is not known if the lake described in the article was ever realized, nor if the final execution of the development matched the scope of the original plan.

Culver & Rogers had an influence on central Berwyn as well, having designed the Berwyn National Bank and at least one storefront on the same block. Although it fits within their general architectural style, it is not known if the Berwyn Post Office was among their commissions.

There are several other Berwyn residences of the era that exhibit Culver & Rogers-like features, though no currently known references link them to these homes: the J.G. Francis residence, "Rhydlyn," for example, and the Bishop residence, later named "La Carne," on Cassatt Avenue. The latter has details similar to other projects, particularly the expansive, sweeping porch brackets which closely match details of a Fallon brothers house Culver & Rogers designed for Wayne. There is no known reference identifying the architects of either of these residences.



Atlas Page: Overbrook to Malvern 1900, plate 30

PROJECTS IN BERWYN

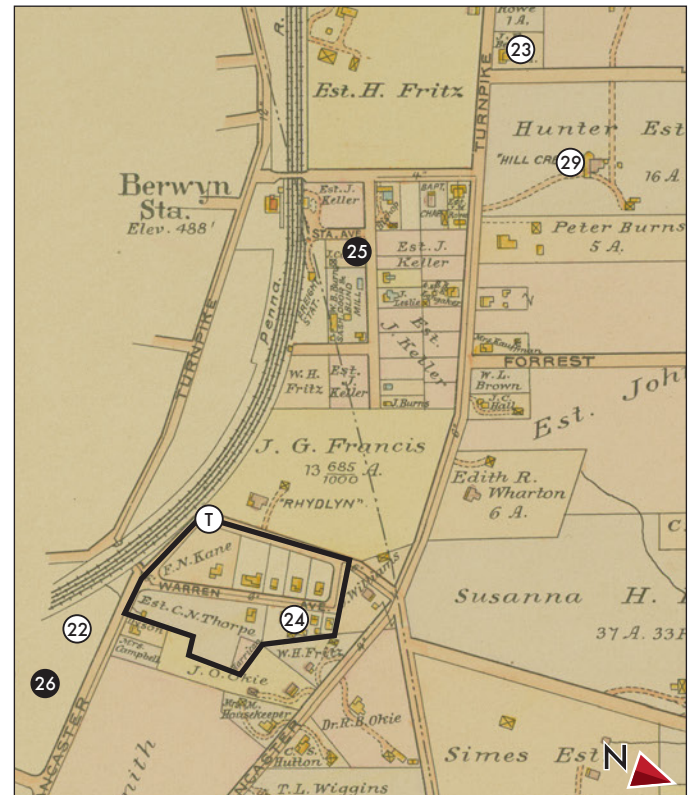
Culver & Rogers

⊙ = Extant ● = Not Extant ⊕ = Questionable Sources or Unproduced

- 1886 ⊕ Residence & barn - Charles N. Thorpe
 ⊕ Two cottages - C.N. Thorpe
- 1887 ⊕ Residence - James Beale
 ⊕ Two cottages - C.N. Thorpe
 ⊕ Five buildings at Wynburne
 ⊕ Residence - N.H. Culver
 ● Residence - Samuel Kromer
- 1888 ● Wynburne Inn
 ● School - for School Board of Chester County
 ⊕ Store
 ● Berwyn National Bank
 Residence - J.A. Wheeler
 Two frame cottages - I.A. Cleaver

Thomas Mellon Rogers

- 1889 ⊕ House - C.N. Thorpe (Constable Bros. & Rogers)
- 1893 ⊕ Residence - E.A. Hunter; "Hill Crest"
- 1896 Residence - Joseph Scott
 ⊕ Renovation of Tarleton mansion (J.H. Coates, owner)
- 1904 ⊕ First Baptist Church of Berwyn
 ● Residence - Dr. Charles B. Penrose



Atlas Page: Overbrook to Malvern 1900, plate 31



② Residence - Charles N. Thorpe

Thorpe's vision of a community called "Wynburne," with his own residence overlooking it all, was realized with the help of Culver & Rogers. Standing just west of the Wynburne Inn, the Thorpe residence is a relatively staid design for a Culver & Rogers project of 1886. It is short on Victorian details, resembling an older structure (it seems possible that the house might even be a modified older building, perhaps an early Turnpike inn). In 1887 its design was described as "local stone, rock-face dressing, pointed with cement, and frame. It will be surmounted with a red slate roof. The stairway will be of oak. Hardwood finish throughout."

① Homes of Wynburne

The Thorpe tract's western end was subdivided with a secluded street (Warren Ave.) placed through the middle. Several residences with C.N. Thorpe as the client are credited to Culver & Rogers (and Constable Brothers & Rogers) between 1886 and 1889, all of which likely refer to the homes on Warren Ave. Though some have been heavily altered or replaced, a number of original Warren Ave. homes remain in good states of preservation (four of which are shown here), including the house Newton H. Culver designed for himself (as pictured on the next page). The homes were said to have each initially sold for \$5,000.



227 Warren Avenue



215 Warren Avenue



212 Warren Avenue



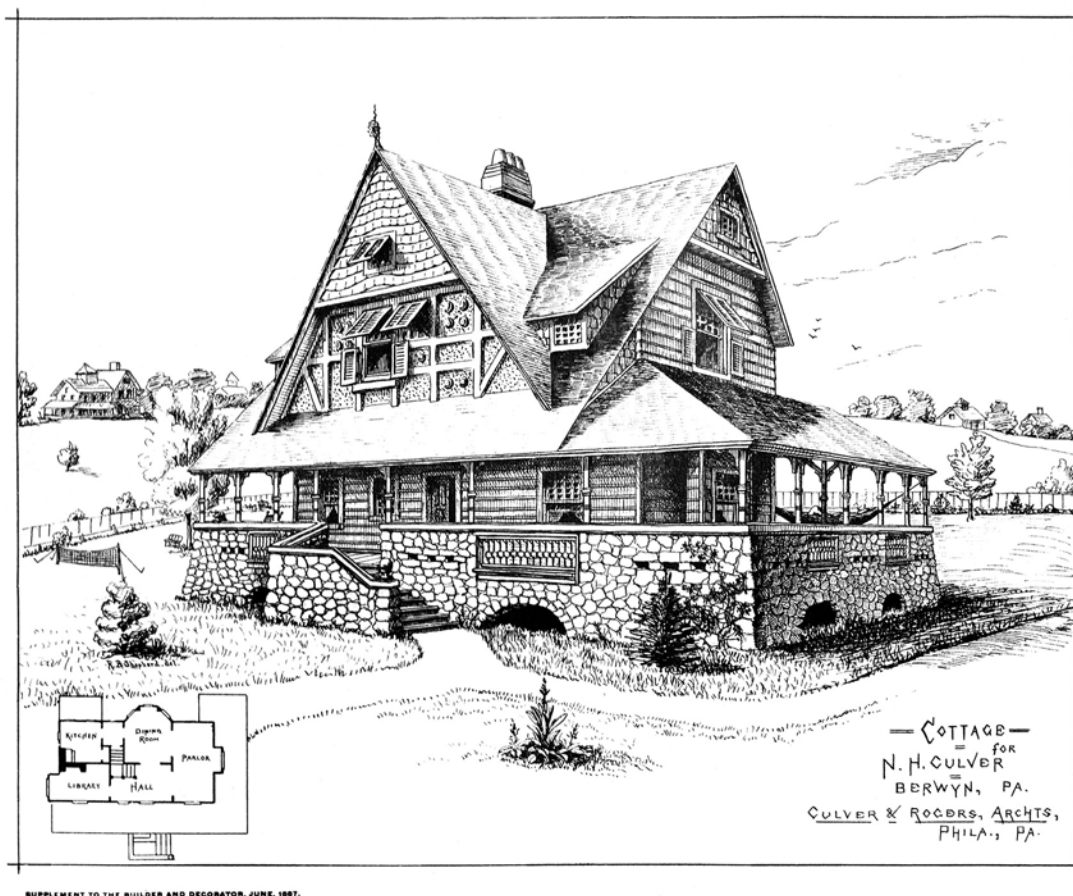
206 Warren Avenue



②③ Residence - James Beale



Detail

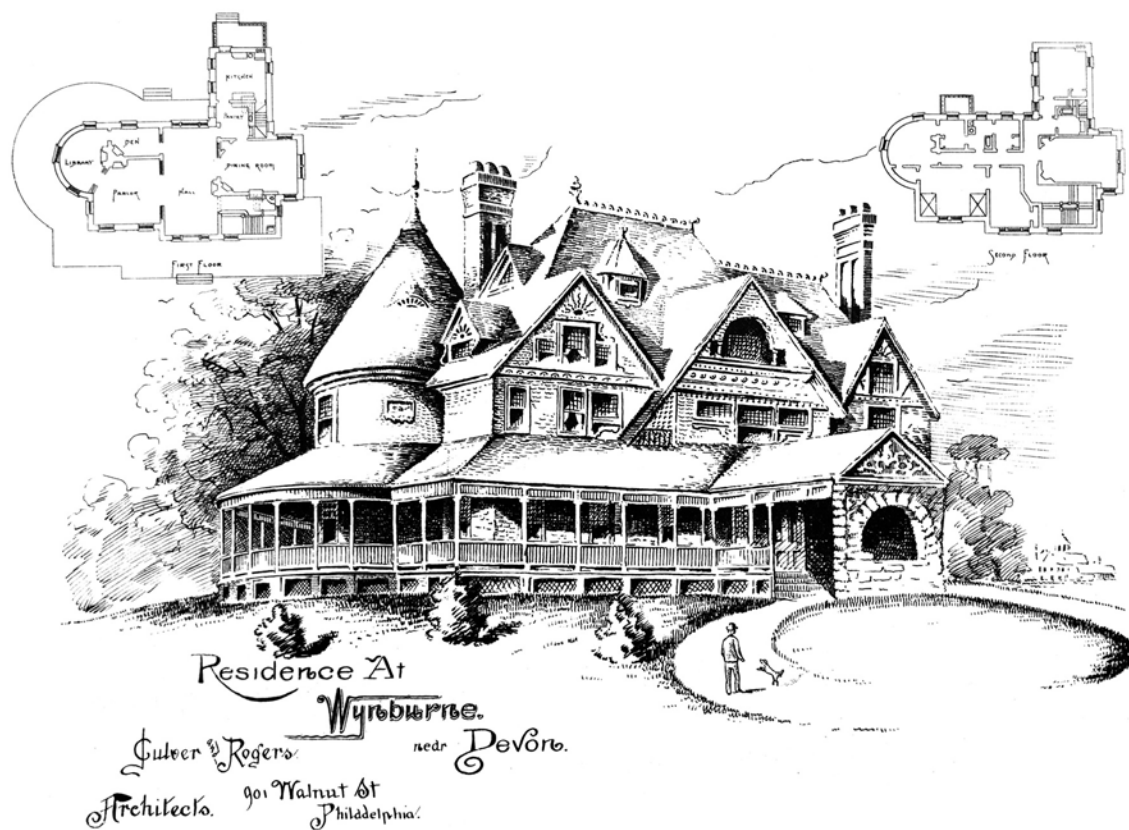


SUPPLEMENT TO THE BUILDER AND DECORATOR, JUNE, 1887.

②④ Residence - N.H. Culver 221 Warren Avenue

It is the dream of most architects to live in a house of their own design, and both Culver and Rogers were able to fulfill that ambition. For himself, Newton Culver designed this home on Warren Avenue. It remains largely the same as Culver's sketch in the June, 1887 *Builder and Decorator* magazine plate reproduced above.





Supplement to the Builder and Decorator, April, 1887.

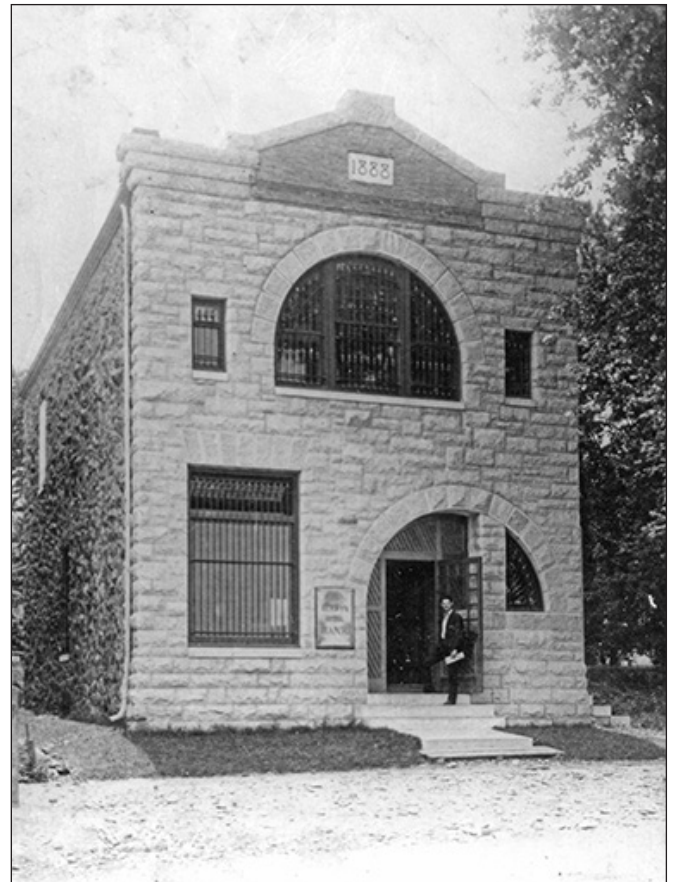
Unidentified Wynburne Residence

This mysterious plate from the *Builder and Decorator* depicts a massive home that Culver & Rogers designed for Wynburne, one which was apparently never built. It does share its scale and some design features, such as the detail on the highest roof peak and its hipped roof dormer, with “Hill Crest;” could this have been an early prototype for the Hunter mansion?



26 Wynburne Inn

The most important contribution to the Thorpe tract by Culver & Rogers was the Wynburne Inn, a hotel which stood along what was then the busy Lancaster Turnpike. It was supposedly constructed by prominent Berwyn builder W.H. Burns. The hotel remained in operation through the 1930s, its closure roughly coinciding with the re-routing of the Turnpike to the opposite side of the railroad tracks.



27 Berwyn School & Berwyn National Bank

28 Culver & Rogers designed two of Victorian Berwyn's most identifiable structures: the public school (above) and the Berwyn National Bank (right). Both of these buildings utilized one of the firm's favorite features: the circular arch, used twice on the bank's front facade and as the main entryway for the school (visible under the front porch roof). Both structures dated from 1888, as did the Wynburne Inn, which looks like a not-so-distant cousin of the school. The school was actually initially just the first (stone) story, expanded upward in 1894 from a design by T. Mellon Rogers. The bank was described as "built of stone, two stories high, part to be of Port Deposit Stone, with cut stone arches, and trimmings of Perth Amboy Pompeian Brick." Neither building remains standing today.



1908

2014

29 Residence - E.A. Hunter; "Hill Crest"

A monumental work for Rogers, the Hunter residence represents a culmination of the architect's knowledge and eccentricities. Originally featuring a prominent egg-shaped dome (capped with a finial painted in stripes) which, along with the two floors of balconies supporting it, was removed at some point. Despite this loss, the home remains largely intact, including the detailed balustrades and brackets of the front porch. Falsely attributed to Frank Furness by the Chester County Historic Sites Survey of the 1980s, a *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder's Guide* reference from 1893 confirms that "Hill Crest" is a Rogers design.



③① Renovation of Tarleton mansion

In 1896, as T. Mellon Rogers honed his Colonial renovation skills and became known in the region thanks to his work on Independence Hall, a commission came from much closer to home. The so-called Tarleton mansion, then owned by J.H. Coates, is an important landmark that may have played a part in the Revolution. The “Tarleton Oak,” a sentry tree, was found across Sugartown Road. According to the *Inquirer*, Rogers “prepared plans for the restoration of the old Tarleton mansion, at Devon, to its original condition in Colonial days.” Rogers evidently expanded on the home’s original stone center section with plastered wings, as well as a large new porch and balcony with columns. As with many of Rogers’ “restorations,” these changes resulted in making the house stand out rather than retain the understated dignity of its Colonial-era period of significance. It should be noted that Rogers is also credited with designing a building for Coates in 1890, though it is not known to which building in Coates’ expansive property this refers.



③① First Baptist Church of Berwyn

One of Rogers’ only known church designs is this small edifice on Waterloo Avenue. While still standing, it has since been converted into a commercial building, and was thus altered significantly.



Atlas Page: Rosemont to West Chester 1897, plate 5

PROJECTS IN STRAFFORD (EAGLE STATION)

⊙ = Extant ● = Not Extant ⊗ = Questionable Sources or Unproduced

Culver & Rogers

- 1886 ● Residence - H.D. Hughes
- 1888 ⊗ Three cottages - Robert Smith ⊗
- ⊗ Residence - C.E.L. Hatch

Constable Brothers & T. Mellon Rogers

- 1889 ⊗ Houses for Mr. Hecksher near Strafford

Thomas Mellon Rogers

- 1891 ● Residence - A.A. Parker
- ⊗ Residence & stable - R.P. Hecksher

Culver & Rogers in Strafford/Eagle Station

While reporting on building activity in the suburbs in 1886, the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* stated that Eagle would soon “rival Merion in the number of its handsome new residences.” It was an appropriate comparison; the Pennsylvania Railroad stations serving both towns were situated within primarily residential areas, unlike Berwyn and Wayne, where stations stood as the centerpieces of downtown hubs. Large plots around Eagle Station were owned by a handful of families, including Wentworth (whose influence was great enough to compel the railroad to officially rename the station “Strafford” in 1887), Parker, and Hughes. The Newhall family’s residence north of the station, called “Cramond,” was designed by famed New York firm McKim, Mead and White and built around 1886. The National Register-listed home is therefore contemporaneous with many of the nearby works of Culver & Rogers.



③④ **Three Cottages - Robert Smith**

② These homes are a bit of a mystery. An 1888 reference states that Culver & Rogers were contracted to design three cottages for Robert Smith. These three homes, in a perfect row on Old Eagle School Road, date from that year or slightly later, and are all shown as the property of Robert Smith in atlases. However, two of the homes (of identical design) are copies of an F.L. & W.L. Price plan for South Wayne. The third home is a bit more unique. Mr. Smith may have originally contracted Culver & Rogers for these cottages, and perhaps chose other designs in the end.



③⑤ **Residence - C.E.L. Hatch**

A good example of a largely intact Culver & Rogers house, complete with ornamentation and other features. Located just east of Strafford Station, its west and north sides are clearly visible in the background of one of the earliest known images of Strafford Station, ca. 1890 (above right). The front gable's gambrel roof is something of an illusion; the tall shed dormers on the sides of the gable allow the front of the third story to contain a room of full height.



Residence, 1980, as photographed by the Suburban & Wayne Times

③ Residence & stable - R.P. Hecksher

The property immediately to the east of McKim, Mead & White's "Cramond" is the Hecksher residence, built in 1891. Here Thomas Mellon Rogers applied many of his Colonial Revival touches: delicate balustrades around stacked balconies; triangular pediments over selected windows; a miniscule fan light over the second story center doors; and dentil patterns lining cornices. Though asymmetrical in massing, the inclusion of stacked porches on the west elevation (resembling the side porches on other projects such as the Thorpe residence at Wynburne) makes the overall front elevation basically symmetrical. The home remains intact despite the loss of some details and the enclosure of the side porches.



Residence, 2014



Stable (converted for residential use), 2014

Bibliography – Architectural Survey Portion

- Devon Residence - Dr. D.D. Smith – *Builder and Real Estate Advocate*, v. 4, n. 2, p. 8 (10/1886)
 Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, v. 1, n. 43, p. 528 (11/1/1886)
- ① Residence - H. Wickham – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 1 (3/29/1886)
 City hall and school – *Builder and Real Estate Advocate*, v. 4, n. 2, p. 8 (10/1886)
 Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, v. 1, n. 43, p. 528 (11/1/1886)
- ② Residence - C.B. Hart – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 4, n. 9 (5/1887)
- ③ Carriage house & stable - William B. Paxton – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 4, n. 9 (5/1887)
- Residence - J.M. Matthews – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 2, n. 43, p. 509 (10/31/1887)
- ④ Residence - Charles H. Matthews; “Aelwyd” – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 5, n. 3 (11/1887)
- Untitled cottage in Devon – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 4, n. 11, plate (7/1887)
- ⑤ Residence - W. Bigler Miller; “Agerwood” – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 3, n. 26, p. 308 (7/2/1888)
- Casino – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 3, n. 37, p. 440 (9/17/1888)
- ⑤ Stable - W. Bigler Miller – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 3, n. 41, p. 485 (10/15/1888)
- ⑥ Residence - Thomas Kitchen; “Brendon” – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 7, n. 3 (11/1888)
- School house – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 12, n. 3 (5/1889)
- ⑦ Residence - Henry M. Warren (alterations) - Constable 1890 Devon – “Activity Among Builders.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, v. 122, n. 45, p. 6 (2/14/1890)
- ⑧ Residence - T. Mellon Rogers – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 1, n. 1, p. 4 (1/4/1886)
- ⑨ Residence - V. Clad; “Le Moliau” – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 6, n. 7, p. 97 (2/18/1891)
- Residence - C.N. Thorpe – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 6, n. 7, p. 98 (2/18/1891)
- All Saints Episcopal Church – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 6, n. 47, p. i (11/25/1891);
 v. 7, n. 13, p. i (3/30/1892); v. 7, n. 38, p. 1464 (9/21/1892)
- ⑩ Residence - Henry Howson – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 7, n. 13, p. i (3/30/1892)
- ② Residence - C.B. Hart – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 7, n. 49, p. 1652 (12/7/1892)
- ⑪ Stable - Dr. James – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 8, n. 29, p. i (7/19/1893)
- ⑫ Residence - Mrs. Katherine N. Wheelen – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 24, n. 31, p. 489 (8/2/1899)
- ⑬ Residence - W.C. Bullitt; “Oxmoor” - TM Rogers 1901 Devon – “The Latest News in Real Estate.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, v. 144, n. 133, p. 11 (5/13/1901)
- ⑭ Residence - William S. Clark; “Elmcroft” – “The Latest News in Real Estate.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, v. 145, n. 115, p. 12 (10/23/1901)
- ⑮ Residence & stable - John Thompson Spencer; “Wayside” – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 16, n. 29, p. 461 (7/17/1901)
- ⑯ Residence - J. Hampton Barnes; “Westacres” – “The Latest News in Real Estate.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, v. 147, n. 51, p. 9 (8/20/1902)
- ⑰ Residence - H.C. McCook – *Philadelphia Inquirer*, v. 148, n. 8, p. 15 (1/8/1903)
- ⑱ Residence - Mrs. Clarke Merchant; “The Terraces” – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 19, n. 44, p. 703 (11/2/1904)
- ⑲ Residence (alts. & additions) - Powell Evans; “Errollton” – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 21, n. 36, p. 574 (9/5/1906)
- ⑳ Residence - R.R. Benedict Esq. – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 21, n. 45, p. 720 (11/7/1906); v. 22, n. 1, p. 3 (1/2/1907)
- ㉑ Residence - J.E. Cope Morton – “Sale at Devon.” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, v. 166, n. 89, p. 11 (3/29/1912)
- Berwyn ㉒ Residence & barn - Charles N. Thorpe – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 1, n. 38, p. 455 (9/27/1886); v. 1, n. 43, p. 528 (11/1/1886)
- ① Residences at Wynburne (various)- C.N. Thorpe – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 2, n. 19, p. 219 (5/16/1887);
 v. 2, n. 50, p. 600 (12/19/1887); v. 3, n. 8, p. 90 (2/27/1888)
 Builder and Real Estate Advocate, v. 4, n. 2, p. 8 (10/1886); v. 4, n. 9 (5/1887); v. 5, n. 1 (9/1887)
- ⑦ Untitled cottage in Wynburne – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 4, n. 8, plate (4/1887)
- ⑲ Residence - James Beale – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 4, n. 9 (5/1887)
- ⑳ Residence - N.H. Culver – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 4, n. 10, plate (6/1887)
- ㉑ Residence - Samuel Kromer – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 2, n. 46, p. 552 (11/21/1887)
- ㉒ Wynburne Inn – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 2, n. 11, p. 124 (3/21/1887)
- ㉓ School - for School Board of Chester County – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 3 (3/12/1888); v. 3, n. 10, p. 113 (3/12/1888)
 1894 Addition: Fisher, Mildred F. “Secondary education in Tredyffrin-Easttown: the Tredyffrin-Easttown High School,
 first joint high school in Pennsylvania.” *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*, v. 8, n. 4, p. 82 (10/1955)
- Store in Berwyn – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 6, n. 3 (5/1888)
- ㉔ Berwyn National Bank – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 6, No. 6 (8/1888)
 Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, v. 3, n. 37, p. 440 (9/17/1888)
- Residence - J.A. Wheeler – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 3, n. 37, p. 440 (9/17/1888)
- Two frame cottages - I.A. Cleaver – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 6, No. 6 (8/1888)
- ⑦ House - C.N. Thorpe (Constable Bros. & Rogers) – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 13, No. 2 (10/1889)
- ㉑ Residence - E.A. Hunter; “Hill Crest” – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 8, n. 29, p. i (7/19/1893)
- Residence - Joseph Scott – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 11, n. 28, p. 547 (7/8/1896)
- ③① Renovation of Tarleton mansion (J.H. Coates, owner) – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 11, n. 27, p. 525 (7/1/1896);
 “Real Estate News,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, v. 134, n. 176, p. 10 (6/24/1896)
- ③① First Baptist Church of Berwyn – Pyott, Sarah M. “Twenty More Years of the First Baptist Church of Berwyn.” *Tredyffrin Easttown History Quarterly*,
 v. 3, n. 1, p. 12 (4/1964)
- ③② Residence - Dr. Charles B. Penrose – “The Latest News in Real Estate,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, v. 151, n. 40, p. 12 (8/9/1904)
- Strafford ③③ Residence - H.D. Hughes – *Builder and Real Estate Advocate*, v. 4, n. 2, p. 8 (10/1886)
 Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, p. 208 (5/10/1886); v. 1 (5/19/1886);
 v. 1, n. 43, p. 528 (11/1/1886); v. 3, n. 23, p. 270 (6/11/1888)
- ③④ Three cottages - Robert Smith – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 6, n. 3 (5/1888)
 Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, v. 3, n. 18, p. 212 (5/7/1888)
- ③⑤ Residence - C.E.L. Hatch – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 6, No. 6 (8/1888)
- Houses for Mr. Hecksher near Strafford – *Builder and Decorator*, v. 12, n. 3 (5/1889)
- ③⑥ Residence - A.A. Parker – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 6, n. 7, p. 97 (2/18/1891)
- ③⑦ Residence & stable - R.P. Hecksher – *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 6, n. 23, p. iii (6/10/1891)