

An Outstanding Feat in Engineering

Philadelphia is in the process of transformation from an old fashioned quadrangular city to a great metropolitan community. The Parkway, crowned by the great Art Museum, is an accomplished fact, and flanked by the Free Library with the Rodin Museum and with other buildings in contemplation will in time be a monumental boulevard. Already in the view down the great avenue toward City Hall from the Art Museum, or from the roof garden of the Free Library looking over Logan Circle, one sees the substantial beginnings of a truly beautiful city and envisions a still more beautiful one. The Pennsylvania Boulevard, paralleling Arch Street to the south, is in process of construction and when completed will be a notable concourse joining the centre of the city to the great Pennsylvania Station to be erected at Thirty-second and Market Streets. The Parkway, together with the Boulevard and the improved and beautified banks of the Schuylkill, will make a municipal improvement that will rank among the greatest in the country.

St. Clement's Church stands in the very centre of this transformation, one part of which is the widening of Twentieth Street from fifty feet to ninety feet, so that in a short time it too will be an imposing thoroughfare.

The widening of Twentieth Street presented a serious problem to the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of the Parish. Here was a historic Church, known among Churchmen throughout the length and breadth of the land, a shrine for Anglo-Catholics for those from abroad as well as from home, face to face with possible destruction or removal. What could be done? After a careful study of the problem with the Vestry's Committee (Messrs. Sheldon P. Ritter, George Lewis Mayer and Clinton Rogers Wood-

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Before moving

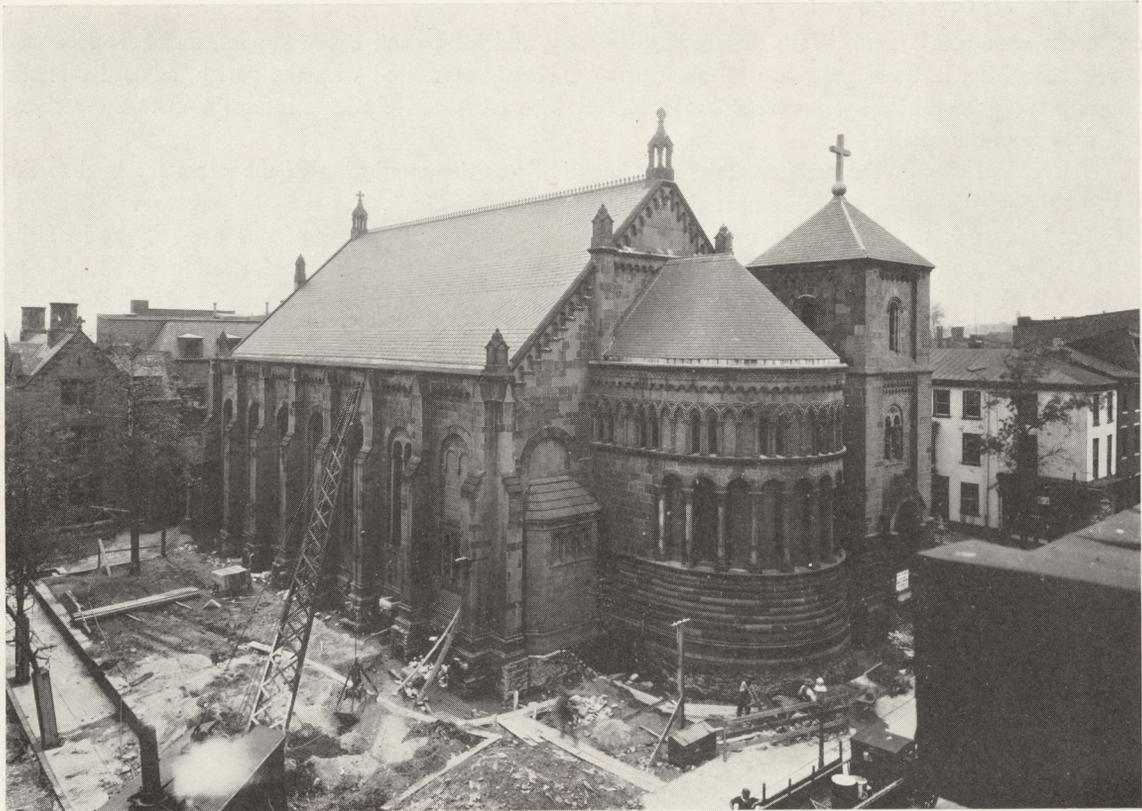
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ruff), our architects, Horace Wells Sellers of the Vestry, and John Penn Brock Sinkler, members of whose family have been in times past, as well as at present, closely associated with the parish, advised that the building could be physically moved back the 40 feet with comparatively little interruption to the services and the life of the parish.

Assured of this by the architects, the next question was the acquisition of the necessary land to the west of the present group of buildings: the Church, the Parish House and the Clergy House. This was no easy task to face. Those who owned the needed two properties knew of our necessity and of the increased values of real estate that would result from the neighborhood's transformation and sought to realize for themselves the benefits accruing from the improvements. The properties, 2028 and 2030 Cherry Street, each 18 feet by 114 feet, running through to Appletree Street, were finally purchased for \$35,000 apiece, thus making it possible to move the plant back the required distance.

The ordinance opening Twentieth Street was passed and approved by the Mayor and the Church received the formal legal notice to move back. The Architects prepared the necessary specifications for the work to be done and a contract was let to H. H. Burrell & Company, of Philadelphia, for the sum of \$141,800. The various fees, the insurance premiums and other incidental expenses brought the total needed for the completion of the work to nearly \$265,000.

This action of the city gave to the corporation of St. Clement's a claim for damages which was represented by Glenn C. Mead, Esq. (a classmate at Harvard of Bishop Rhinelander), and was prosecuted speedily and effectively, resulting in an award by the Jury of View of \$270,484. The city's suggestion of a reduction of \$5,000 from this amount was refused because the plan of financing had made it possible for us to wait two years at least, if necessary, for a final and satisfactory settlement of the claim. After a short delay the city withdrew its appeal and agreed to pay the amount awarded by the Jury of View. This claim against the city was for the depreciation of the property resulting from the taking of a piece of ground 114 feet on Twentieth Street and 40 feet on Cherry and Appletree Streets, a total of 4560 square feet.



Foundation exposed, before laying tracks

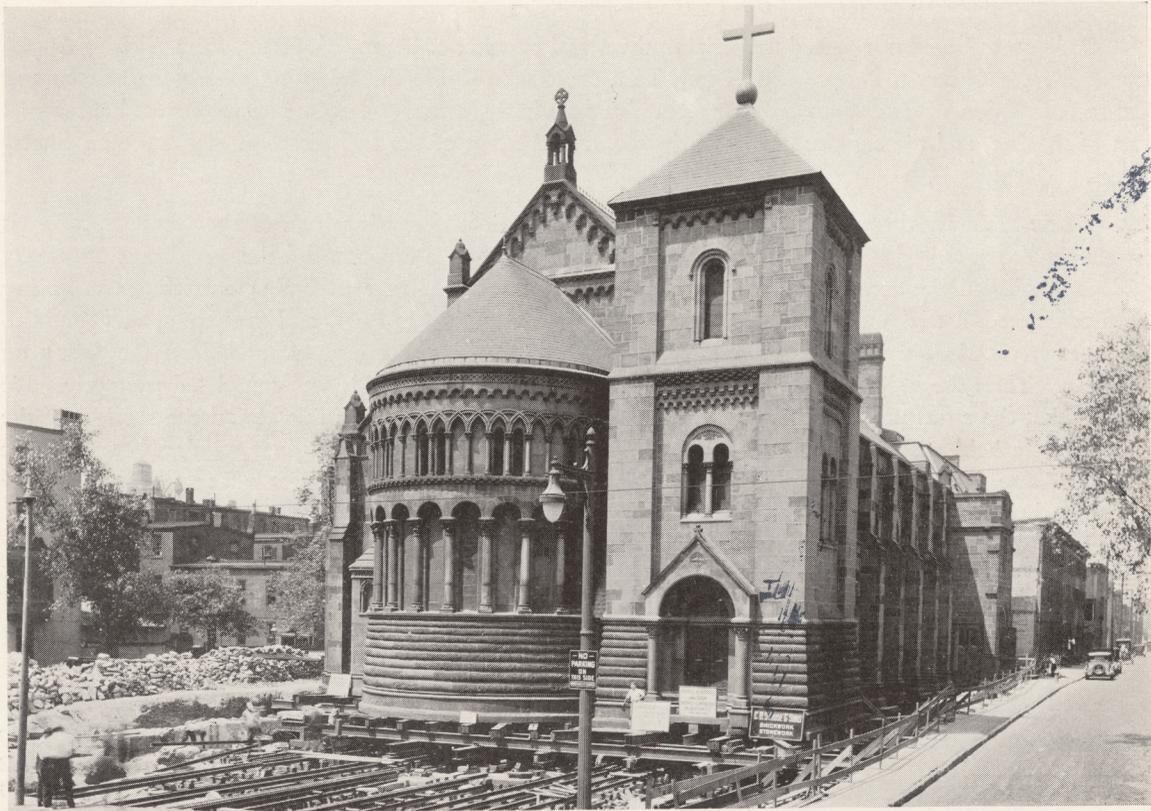
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Ordinances have been passed authorizing the actual opening of Twentieth Street, from Arch to Apple-tree and from Cherry to Race. It will only be a short time before the widening will be completed and the reconstruction of Twentieth Street, south of the Parkway, completed. Our award covered the actual cost of moving, and the expenses incident thereto, and the cost of the two pieces of real estate on Cherry Street.

While naturally there was considerable inconvenience in the moving back of the Church proper, it was slight compared with the magnitude of the undertaking. The builders did the work most effectively and accomplished the actual physical moving in record time. All the preliminary preparations having been completed, a trial was made on Wednesday afternoon, July 11, 1929, and everything was found to be in such excellent working order that moving was proceeded with and completed on the following Monday. Then the builder proceeded to put in the foundations and this was completed promptly. He advises that the structure has never been in better physical shape. During this period the services of the Church were held without interruption, although it was necessary to provide quarters elsewhere than the Clergy House for the Rector and Curates, inasmuch as it was necessary to cut off some of the Clergy House and of the Parish House to fit them into the reduced space.

One of the pleasant features of the transaction was the ability of the Committee to present to the Board of View a history of the parish and its activities. This part of the testimony is reproduced here so that our parishioners and friends may have some idea of the work carried on during the course of a year.

1925.....1319 Masses.11883	Communions	OTHER SERVICES	
1926.....1333 Masses.11561	Communions	1925	1406
1927.....1341 Masses.12401	Communions	1926	1580
1928.....1359 Masses.11723	Communions	1927	1612
1929.....1218 Masses.10877	Communions	1928	1554
		1929	1529



After removal, showing tracks

While the removal of the plant was in progress the Vestry felt it was an appropriate time to make the changes in St. John's Chapel that had been discussed for some time past. Accordingly, the architect was asked to prepare plans for removing the altar from its old position to the west end, and making an opening immediately from the main corridor, and to make such other alterations as would make the Chapel available for the daily services. This has been carried out and the parish now has a Chapel for daily use that will prove of the utmost helpfulness and blessing.

We now have a renewed St. Clement's in a strategic position, prepared to do an even greater work for the glory of God and the service of man. All of this work, and it has been truly monumental, and one might say truly remarkable, has been accomplished without asking the parish to contribute a single cent towards the expense. The Vestry feel, however, that it would be most appropriate if the parish were to raise a *Thank Offering* for passing through this trying period, and accordingly are asking our architect, Mr. Sellers, to prepare plans not only for a series of Stations of the Cross, but for reconstruction of the walls of the Nave and new memorial windows. It is hoped that plans for this will be ready in a few months for presentation in concrete form so that those desiring to join in the *Thank Offering* may be guided in their beneficence.

It has been suggested that there should be a memorial to the Cowley Fathers; to Father Quin, who was associated with the Church as Curate for 28 years, and to our benefactor, Ellis Horner Yarnall.

It is a pleasure to be able to report that the Stations of the Cross have nearly all been provided for through the generosity of grateful parishioners, so that now it is only a question of time before their actual construction. It is highly desirable, however, before work on them is begun, that the Vestry should know to what extent they can depend upon the funds for the new walls and windows.

Your Committee is grateful for the co-operation given them by all who helped in bringing about this satisfactory result.

Laus Deo.

COMMITTEE SHELDON POTTER RITTER
 GEORGE LEWIS MAYER
 CLINTON ROGERS WOODRUFF, *Chairman*

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St. Clements Church
202 + Cherry Sts.
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Interior, unaffected by removal