

CONSTRUCTION RECORD FOR WINTER NEW MARK

Operations to Be Sustained At Great Volume AVERAGE COST IS HIGHER

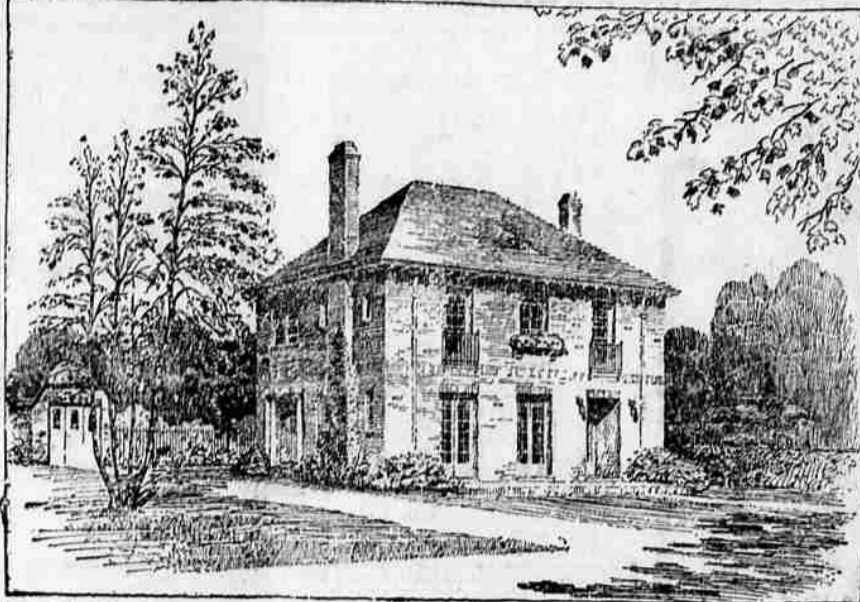
October was Eighth Consecutive Month Which Awards Set Current Month Records

WASHINGTON — Construction operations during the next three months will be sustained at a volume that is higher than that of any previous year on record, according to indications presented by

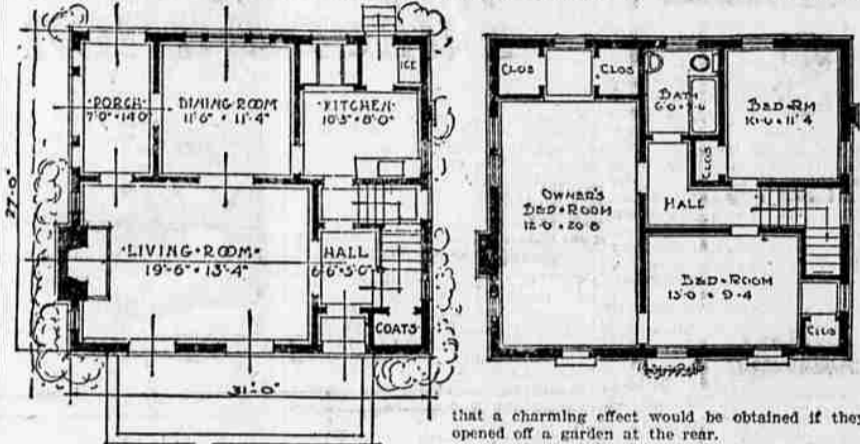
statistics compiled by the Associated General Contractors of America. It is pointed out that heretofore operations in November the mid-summer peak of 1924, and this despite decline in the number of days. Also, the fact that contracts awarded in October were for the month exceeding the activity that may be expected to develop especially receives attention. They do not meet the program performed during the first eleven months of 1925, exceeds by nine per cent the volume of building during the corresponding period in 1924. The average cost of construction in the principal building centers of the United States rose one point in November from the low mark to which it dropped in October. Since October 1924, the average cost of construction has been lower than at any time since the spring of 1922. The volume of contracts awarded

HELP FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BUILD

SIX ROOM SQUARE HOUSE OF BRICK



Copyright 1925—The Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc. Plan No. 6D2.



BRICK has been used in the design of this home, 6-D-2, in such a way as to bring out all the beauty of this material. The effect is an undefinable air of simple, quiet elegance. There is an appearance of comfort to this home that is fully carried out by the admirable arrangement of rooms and consideration for all the little conveniences of modern living. It is a square house of simple, dignified, economical design. The roof lines are well adapted to tile or slate, but could be attractively covered with any other type of shingles. Slightly projecting iron balconies, in the manner of French chateaux, are placed at the two second story windows. French doors lead from the living room to the terrace. The porch is included in the house, opening as it does from both living and dining room. It is almost a part of those rooms. It could easily be glazed and used as a sunroom. The first floor contains three rooms and in addition there is an enclosed porch, a dining alcove, kitchen, entry, and stair hall. The arrangement of the rooms is one that is especially suitable for a setting in which the principal views and lighting are to the front. However, the development of the porch and dining room is such

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What Gives a Colonial Home Distinctive Style

By the Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States

When the Pilgrims first came to New England they didn't build log cabins. Research shows that palisade-houses, sod huts and half-underground shanties were used. The first step was the single-story, one or two-roomed house of hewn and sawed lumber. In form it was a simple rectangle, with steep gabled roof of thatch, heated by a single fireplace. If there was but one room the hearth was built at one end; two rooms, with the center. Spaces between the timbers in the walls were filled with sticks and clay. On the inside this filling was covered with boards in vertical panel effect. On the outside the house was sheathed with wood. Light was supplied through sliding wooden frames covered with oiled paper.

First Ornament Appears

Then came the building of a second story and the laying out of two rooms downstairs and two above, with fireplace in the middle of the house or, in floor dwellings, one at each end. Sometimes the second story overhung the first, and the first decorative element in these buildings was a carved pendant projecting downward from this overhang. Or a plain curved or flat arch appeared over the doorway, the door itself consisting of two thicknesses of wide boards studded with nails.

More room was obtained at first simply by tacking a lean to onto the rear. This later was carried up to the second story. Gabled dormers were poked through the roof to make the upstairs rooms larger and lighter. But still there was no privacy. So the hallway gradually developed into a hall system intersecting both floors, affording seclusion to each room.

By 1650 glass windows were common in the better homes, and the common type was hinged casement each with leaded panes either diamond or oblong in shape, numbering 12, 18 or 24.

Thatch was discarded in favor of handsplit shingles. The first variation in the traditional gable was the flattening of its peak to form a gambrel or curb. Mansard, hipped and pediment-gable roof-styles followed.

Brick and stone made slow headway in New England because they were expensive and were thought unhealthful. But brick was substituted for sticks and clay as a filling between the timbers of the walls. And some houses were covered with stucco.

Plaster Replaces Paneling

As lime became more plentiful, plaster gained extensive use. Because of the coarseness of the lime and because the builders used a float instead of a metal trowel, the surface was not smooth and polished, but was textured much like the sandfloat plaster finish of today. Pure white plaster was rare, the usual color of the walls being cream or pearl grey. Wall-paper, which some folks think is the only wall-treatment typical of colonial architecture, was not generally used until 1750.

Now when the American home had reached this stage, it constituted a distinct architectural form. It had a character as simple and as defined as the character of the men who created it. That is the New England colonial style. Copyright 1925, Home Builders' Clinic

What You May Want to Know About Building

Questions addressed to the paper will be answered by the Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc., controlled by the American Institute of Architects and endorsed by the department of commerce, United States government. Enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply.

Question.—What is the best way to avoid extras in the building of my home? My friends, who built recently, found that when they had to pay the bills their house cost a great deal more than they thought it would. I want to avoid this. Please tell me how.

Answer.—The time to avoid difficulties of this kind is before the work is started. You cannot hope to avoid "extras" unless your plans and specifications are complete, and that means having them done by an architect who knows his business. If you find you must make changes during the building, have the contractor give you a figure on the cost of each change before you order the work done, and always have transactions of this kind in writing.

Question.—My specifications call for boards in the underflooring to be not more than 8 inches wide, but those furnished to the contractor are 12 inches wide—some of them even wider. Is there any objection to using the wider boards?

Answer.—As a rule, the narrower any kind of floor is the better it will be, provided good workmanship is used and the materials are all right in themselves. The reason for this is that the shrinkage across a narrow piece is less than it is for a wide one, and that the cupping of the wider piece due to drying out of the wood is greater than in the narrower piece. Consequently, if very wide boards are used for subflooring, you must expect an effect upon the finished flooring which probably will be harmful to it. We advise you to have the very wide boards sent back and the specifications followed.

Question.—The designs you show in these columns are very often colonial houses. If a great many of these houses are built will that not lessen their value? I like this

style, but I do not want to build something that will be out of style later on.

Answer.—The colonial type of architecture has been "in style" for more than 200 years. The houses we are building are very similar in appearance to those which were built in the very early period of our nation's history. The fact that they still are in style today would seem to prove that they will continue in style indefinitely. As a matter of fact, the basis for the colonial style is so pure that architects will continue to draw upon it for the designs of houses and other buildings long after the buildings which we are building today have fallen into decay.

Question.—When I let the contractor for my house, what parts of the work shall I handle myself as separate contracts?

Answer.—We advise you to let separate contracts for heating, plumbing and electric wiring. These items are sometimes let to the general contractor, thus making him responsible for the entire house, but you will save some money by letting separate contracts for the work listed.

When Battery Rins Down When the detector "B" battery is new, the tube likely will function best at nineteen and one-half volts, but the set will lose "pop" as the battery runs down. Regain lost volume by stepping up to the twenty-two and one-half volt tap.

Toroidal and other circle-shaped coils, when tuned with a .0005 variable condenser, should contain 195 turns of No. 24 DCC wire wound on 1 1/4-inch tubing nine inches long.

Add Beauty to the Home

Do something from time to time to make your home more beautiful. Do not settle down and be content to have it merely comfortable. The home is the frame for your family life and that is enhanced if placed in a beautiful setting.

It does not always cost much to add beauty to the home. It may be only a new vine started, a flower box fixed to the front porch, or a few soft pillows put in new dress, or a fresh coat of varnish to several old pieces of furniture. The woman of ingenuity can devise ways to make her home more beautiful, if she applies her brain to it, without a great expenditure of money.

But money spent in home beautification is money well invested. A thing of beauty is a joy, and the joy which family will love home more if it is attractive. And if the family does love home more, their united effort can make it still more beautiful. There is no more delightful task on which the household can expend their energy.

Cut Out Rheostat When Not in Use

A question that is continually on the tongues of a great many radio set owners: Will my tubes be affected if the rheostat is left at the proper voltage and the set is continually being shut off and on by use of a push-pull switch? No harm to the tubes will result from this practice if the voltage applied to the tubes is adjusted to a point slightly below the maximum allowable voltage, before the set

is turned off, and provided that the battery voltage does not rise appreciably between times that it is in use. However it is not a good practice to follow, as there is always a possibility of falling to adjust the rheostat, and it is suggested that the rheostat be shut down entirely when you are turning off your receiver.

Radio Calls Firemen

Radio saved lives and property at a Fullard, Fla., fire. All telephone communication out of the little town was impossible, as wires were down. Radio broadcast station WGBH was notified and sent out requests for persons hearing the station to phone for fire fighters in a neighboring town. The firemen appeared seventeen minutes after the radio communication was given.

BUILDING INDUSTRY IS ACTIVE

November Increase of 26 Per Cent in 403 Cities and Towns Is Reversal of Situation Last Year

Indications of unusual mid-winter activity in the building industry are disclosed by the national monthly building survey of S. W. Strauss & Company for November, made public today. The outstanding factors of progress in the building industry as the year closes, are: A November increase of 26 per cent in 403 cities and towns, which is a complete reversal of the situation last November, when the country as a whole showed a November loss of 13 per cent; a gain this year of 40 per cent in the twenty-five leading cities, or three-fifths of the total increase, a volume of permits in the 403 places a \$349,552,424, which is a gain of more than \$69,000,000 over last November; a New York City gain of 83 per cent, compared to a heavy loss last year; a continued boom in the south, with an increase of 52 per cent, reported in seventy-six cities in the twelve strictly Southern states; a general showing of strength in the building material market and with the labor supply equal to the demand for men in nearly all trades. Practically all of the larger cities of the country reported heavy increases for November. Philadelphia had a gain of 118 per cent; Miami, 294; Coral Gables, 167; Chicago, 12 and Detroit, 20. Others in the twenty-five city list which had gains were: Cleveland, Boston, Washington, Baltimore, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Newark, N. J.; Portland, Ore.; Indianapolis, St. Petersburg, Oakland, Calif.; Rochester, N. Y.; Yonkers, N. Y.; Cincinnati, Allentown, Pa.; and Jacksonville, Fla. Large gains were also reported from the following states: Arkansas, Arizona, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Idaho, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota and Texas.

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