

Parsell.doc compiled 2009

Information on George K. Parsell, architect and first occupant of 100 South First Ave, Highland Park NJ - to accompany the book Images of New Brunswick.

Information from New Brunswick Daily Times articles

08/06/1884 New Brunswick from a Steeple.

The views, taken by George K Parsell, the architect, from the steeple of the first Reformed Church, are on exhibition today at Kilmer's drug store in the Masonic Hall. The views are very well taken and are seven in number, one looking straight down Hiram Street, one looking up Bayard, two (at different angles) looking up Paterson, one looking down Neilson, one up, and another looking down the river. Besides these seven pictures, another is taken of the Reformed Church. All are fine views, especially the ones looking through Neilson and Hiram Streets, and we heard many of those who looked at them remark that they never knew we had so handsome a town. The streets, of course, look clean, as it is impossible photograph the slime and dirt. One would hardly suppose that some of our citizens are afraid that the extreme filthiness of the streets will breed cholera. The enterprise of Mr. Parsell should be rewarded and no doubt it will be. Any who wish to obtain pictures can buy them at the photograph gallery of Frank P Dunn, 11 Peace Street.

(LHP note - these pictures are in the New Brunswick Book)

08/13/1886 No 4's New house (LHP note -see my picture)

To-night the Fire Committee of the Board of Aldermen will meet in City Attorney Weigel's office to consider the plan of No. 4's new engine house, which has been drawn by Mr. Geo. K. Parsells, the architect. The plan as drawn represents a building 24 x 55, two stories high, with a one story wing on the rear 15 x 24. The lower floor will be 12 feet high, and the upper floor 13 or 14 feet high. The building will be a rough brick, with red and buff trimming, something like the Fourth Reformed Church. (LHP note - where is that - did he design that also) On the first floor the engine and hose carriage will be stored and on the second will be a room 40 feet in length, which will be used for meetings, a smaller room for committee meetings and two closets. The walls of the upper rooms will be hard finished, and the lower room will be finished in hard wood. A tower 50 feet high will be on the Suydam street side, in which the hose can be stretched at full length for the purpose of drying them. There will be two large entrance doors, instead of one double door, and the engine and hose carriage can pass out of the building at one time. The building will front on Remsen Avenue. There will also be small doors for the use of the members of the company. No tracks will be laid in the house. As the proposed plans will more than exhaust the appropriation, it is probable that the upper rooms will not be entirely finished nor the tower erected this year. The building, however, will be finished so that it can be used by the company, and will be finished next year. These are about all the alterations that will be made with the plans, as drawn by Mr. Parsells, and are done simply because the appropriation is not sufficient to finish the building according to the plans drawn. The building will be a plain, substantial structure and as inexpensive as possible.

The floors will be of yellow pine and the walls sand finished. The cost is estimated at \$4,000 and there is by \$5,000 on hand, part of which must be used to pay the running expenses for the year. At present 70 scholars attend the school. The new building will be a very handsome one and will be conveniently fitted up. The lot on which it will be erected is near the road leading Fresh Ponds. It must be completed by Sept 1.

LHP note – again note the resemblance to our house.

10/06/1894 Architect Injured – Mr. George K Parsell struck by a falling tile. George K Parsell, the well known architect of this city, met with a serious accident this morning. He was standing at the foot of a ladder leading to the second story of the new People's Bank building, at George and Church Streets, of which he is supervising and constructing architect. As he was talking to a workman named Costello he was struck on the head with a Pompeian tile which fell from the hod of a workman on the second floor. The tile was a very heavy one, weighing about twice as much as an ordinary brick. Mr Parsell sustained a fearful scalp wound. Dr. Long had to take several stitches to close it. It will be some time before he will be able to leave his bed. Costello was also badly hurt, the tile rebounding from Parsell's head and striking him in the right arm.

LHP note – I believe this building still exists.

05/02/1895 The Janeway Property – to be remodeled for a business building. Architect Parsell announces that the contracts for the changes to be made to the Janeway residence, on George street, next to the Baptist Church, converting the lower part of it into a store. . . . As a residence the Janeway property on George Street has been considered one of the finest in town. . . It is estimated that the property is worth fully \$30,000. The house originally cost about \$8000, and to this Dr. Janeway added \$5000, , improvements. . . .

01/27/1896 Waldron Factory, New Buildings to be erected in Highland Park  
The Messrs. Waldron, proprietors of the big machine works located on Dennis Street, accompanied by Architect George K. Parsell, went to Highland Park on Saturday where the site of the new factory to be placed there on the ground recently sold by Thomas Murray, was staked out. The new buildings will be of great size but only one story in height.

01/08/1897 Will not Leave Town – Architect George K Parsell will establish a branch office in New York.  
The rumor that New Brunswick was to lose one of its architects, George K Parsell and that he was to establish his office elsewhere and with his family moved out of town, has proven untrue. The rumor grew out of the fact that Mr. Parsell was making arrangements to enlarge his business by securing an office in New York City. Mr Parsell is one of the leading architects in this city and is probably the best that this city has ever had. Evidences of his skill can be seen in many private and public buildings on many of the streets in town, and in many other places. His business has increased to such an extent that he has from two to four draughtsmen working for him continually as well as a stenographer. . . .

LHP Note: I regularly passed this building on my way home from work at Cook College, traveling down Suydam from Nichol and turning on Remsen. The building as I have known it never had its tower. It is no longer a fire house – on the couple of times I have seen it open, it appeared to be used as some sort of storage building. Still there as of 08/2009

03/08/1887 New City Hall – What kind of a building and its probable cost it is proposed to erect.

The talk of building a City Hall in this city assumed some shape last night at the meeting of Common Council, when Alderman Van Nortwick presented a plan of a proposed building which has been drawn by Mr. Parcels, the architect. The proposed location is on the corner of George and Shureman Streets. The plans represent a three story building which will cost about \$20,000. If another story is added, \$5000 more will be required.

Note –much more to the article – I don't know of the existence of this building or whether in its proposed form, it was ever built. Certainly there are no signs of it at Monument Square where George and Schureman Streets intersect. Nor is it mentioned in the Historic New Brunswick book.

07/20/1887 Improvements (LHP note – see my picture of possible house)

The contracts have been signed and ground will be broken next week for the erection, by Mr. John Weigel, Jr. of three new modern style frame cottage residences on what is know as the “Old Bartley Ice Cream Garden” property on Paterson street. These cottages are to be built after very neat and tasteful designs furnished by Mr. Geo. K. Parsell architect, and their external appearance will be quite ornamental and an addition to the architectural beauties of our city. Each cottage will be 22 feet front by 40 feet deep, and two stories high, with a finished attic. They will be furnished with the electric light, range, hot and cold water, bath and all modern conveniences. The carpenter work will be done by D&R Whitlock; the masonry by WH Van sickle and Son, plumbing by McFadden and Dooley, and painting by W H Pette.

LHP note: I wonder how these relate to our house – they sound very similar

05/11/1888 The trustees of the Experiment Station have accepted the plans for the new laboratory, which have been prepared by Mr. Geo. K. Parsells. The building will be a brick, three stories high, 100x50 feet.

LHP note: This is the current NJ Hall on Hamilton Street which was the first Experimental Station Building. – see my picture

04/19/1889 Milltown's School House

Plans for the new school house at Milltown have been drawn by Mr. Parsells and specifications have been placed in the hands of carpenters for the bids. The house will be of the Queen Anne style, 40x82, two stories high, with a bell tower. The upper story will be shingled and the roof will be of tin. There will be four rooms, each to accommodate 50 scholars. Only two of these, those on the lower floor, will be finished at present as the district has not sufficient funds on hand.

03/04/1897 Handsome Front – Edward Hinger to join his stores with a hundred foot front

The plans have been drawn by Architect George K Parsell for extensive improvements in the furniture store of E Hingher on Neilson Street. . . .

12/09/1897 Parish Building – The magnificent structure being erected for Christ Episcopal Church ,

Architect George K Parsell – almost full page article.

LHP notes: This building as still there and is used as a Sunday School, administration building etc. I have been in the building many times. See my picture

03/25/1889 Architect Parsell's plans – for the new Metuchen Club house accepted by the Club.

And 03/29/1889 - Plans Completed

11/06/1900 Perth Amboy's Proposed Hospital – Plans drawn by GKP

04/04/1902 What new jail will be like – a Picture and description of the building – It will be well appointed – and will have every modern safeguard and equipment – a detailed description

Architect GKP ~ Kirkpatrick and Paterson . . county jail

06/30/1902 Geo K Parsell is library architect

On Livingston Ave – the library was called the Carnegie library because Andrew Carnegie gave considerable money for its construction.

And 08/19/1902

And 07/24/1903 – exterior completed

(LHP note: this library had substantial modernizations done by John Fisher in 1993 – see my picture)

08/15/1902 New Ceramic building – Local contractors to do the work, which will begin tomorrow. Architect GKP. Building to be off College Ave at the rear of the annex to the Preparatory School building.. . It will contain potters' benches, clay-working machinery necessary for students' use, desks and experimenting tables.

05/10/1906 G K Parsell to move out of town – will live at Glenside Park, but will continue in business here.

GKP, the well known architect will not be a resident of this city after next Saturday, when he will move to his future home at Glenside Park, near Scotch Plains. Mr. Parsell will continue in business here and commute. The fact that Mr Parsell is going to move out of town led to his not accepting the presidency of the board of health at the meeting last night. . .

06/28/1906 \$16,000 Building for College Farm – contracts awarded for structure to be used for short agricultural courses. Architect GKP . To be on Nichol Ave front of College farm, facing near the College Farm entrance. This is now Waller Hall at Nichol and Lipman Drive. See my picture

04/12/1907 Store and office building to be erected at southwest corner of George and Paterson Streets for New Brunswick fire Insurance Company and Middlesex Title Guarantee and Trust Co. Architect GKP – picture of drawing. . . of reinforced concrete. . and of absolutely fire proof construction. It will have no wood or other combustible material in it . . steel and concrete. See my picture of current structure there which appears to be updated but on the footprint of the original – and fireproof.

04/08/1907 New home for Prof Wilson at Baldwin and Livingston. Plans by Blish and Parsell. See my picture – which is a guess as to which corner.

10/02/190 South river Baptists to lay corner stone . . architect GKP

11/20/1911 G K Parsell retires.

Architect George K Parsell has leased his office at 363 George Street to Architect Merchant, who will take possession at once, and also complete the un-finished work on hand. J Arthur Blish, who has been associated with Parsell for the past 25 years, will remain with Mr. Merchant. The auto injuries Mr Parsell received last September have proved of such serious nature, that he is compelled to give up, and he will spend the coming winter in southern California.

LHP Note – this is the last info I have of him – at his age 62.