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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Canfield-Morgan House

other names/site number Morgan's Farm  
Prior to 1910: Canfield House

**2. Location**

street & number 899/903 Pompton Ave. (NJ State Route 23) NA  not for publication

city or town Cedar Grove  vicinity

state New Jersey code 034 county Essex code 013 zip code 07009

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

1/28/95  
Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper  
Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

11-7-95

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Canfield-Morgan House

Essex, New Jersey

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	4	buildings
4	1	sites
2	3	structures
0	0	objects
7	8	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/ agriculture field  
agriculture outbuilding

Domestic/ single dwelling

Funerary/ cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/  
museum/ work in progress  
outdoor recreation

Landscape/ park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th century

Other: Transitional Vernacular  
Farm.

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/ Sandstone

walls Wood/ Weatherboard

roof Stone/ Slate

other Porch: Wood

Chimneys: Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture  
Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1845-1945

Significant Dates

1910

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Canfield-Morgan House

Canfield-Morgan House  
Name of Property

Essex, New Jersey  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 16.5 acres Orange Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	5 6 4 8 0 0	4 5 2 3 8 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	5 6 4 9 8 0	4 5 2 3 7 4 0

3	1 8	5 6 4 9 0 0	4 5 2 3 5 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	5 6 4 8 0 0	4 5 2 3 5 4 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

5 1 8 5 6 4 6 6 0 4 5 2 3 7 2 0

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Starlyn Brunmeier

organization Cedar Grove Historical Society date April 1995

street & number P.O. Box 461 telephone (201) 239-5414

city or town Cedar Grove state NJ zip code 07009

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Township of Cedar Grove

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

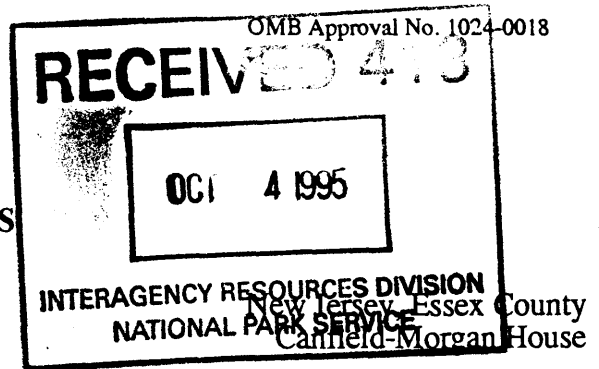
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Canfield-Morgan site consists of sixteen and one half acres of sloping land that once was used for various types of farming. There are seven contributing resources on the property. The farmhouse (c.1845), which faces south is classified as vernacular early Victorian and contains design elements from the Georgian and Federal periods. A well house stands 26 ft. south of the southwest corner of the house and seems little changed from a c.1870 photograph. One of the original pergolas constructed by the Morgans in 1911 remains 12 yards from the northeast corner of the house. There are three former agricultural fields on the property (in use c.1845-1985). A cemetery (late-18th century to early 19th century) lies east of the house. There are also eight non-contributing features on the property including a pergola which was reconstructed on its original site using plans (1911) found in the Morgan archive. A recently restored barn, carriage house and shed exist 140 feet behind the main house. A ski tow shed (c.1960) lies behind the community park that was built with Green Acres funds in 1993. A gazebo and restroom are located in the park. The property lies next to the heavily traveled NJ State Route 23 (Pompton Avenue) and is screened from local development by tree growth on the southern and eastern perimeters.

### Breakdown of resources:

#### Contributing: (7)

Buildings - The Farmhouse  
Sites - 3 Fields, The Cemetery  
Structures - The Well House and Pergola  
Objects - None

#### Non-contributing: (8)

Buildings - The Barn, Shed and Carriage House, Restroom  
Sites - The Park  
Structures - The Ski Tow Shed, Gazebo, Pergola (reconstructed)  
Objects - None

### The Farmhouse:

#### Exterior

The principal structure of the house including the main block and the dining room wing, is entirely constructed on an expertly cut, dressed and laid ashlar stone cellar wall, approximately 20" thick. This part of the structure remains in excellent condition. The kitchen, to the rear of the dining room, is built over a crawl space and a cistern; the stone foundation here has suffered a number of alterations, probably caused by need for access to the cistern and for installation of plumbing.

The walls are constructed of a light braced frame (post and beam), with intermediate studs and weatherboard siding. Exposure of the siding is narrow (4") on principal (south and west) elevations of the main block and wider (8") at the rear and around the service wing.

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The corner boards at the ends of the west elevation are graced with a heavy ovolo molding; the southeast corner of the main block has a quirk bead, while others are plain.

Porches comprise a dominant feature of the Canfield-Morgan House (see photograph #1). The main porch, flat-roofed and terne-covered, wraps around the south and west walls of the main block. At the dining room is a secondary porch, with a sloping roof; this extends around the east end, but the slope is lowered to avoid the half-story bedroom windows. Porch columns are square, with cap and base, but there are no railings except for a makeshift bar at the east end. Floors are painted wood, supported on brick piers and the space between piers is enclosed with lattice. Several of the rafters of the south and east porches were replaced in 1993. A new rubber roof was installed and the box gutters were rebuilt. These changes did not alter the appearance of the porches.

A variety of windows occurs. At the front parlor, under the porch roof, are four tall, paired, three-light, French windows. The remaining windows in the main block are two over two (vertical pane) double hung, while windows in the wing are vertically sliding, with the upper sash fixed; those at the dining room are of six over six configuration, while at the kitchen (north side) the windows have been modernized with one over one sash and at the "potting shed," the arrangement is of two over two variety. At the west gable end is a round-arched two over two window. Windows at the principal elevations were enhanced by pairs of operable louvered shutters, most of which remain, stored for restoration.

The front entrance doorway consists of a pair of two-paneled doors, with a two-light transom above, set in a deep, paneled reveal with a molded architrave surrounding the ensemble. The door panels are flat, set in place with prominent bolection moldings, but the original upper panels were removed and replaced by glass in 1910. The rear entrance door, only 6 feet high to fit under the stair landing, is six-paneled; it is hung reversed so that the face with recessed panels, trimmed with a quirked ogee molding, is on the interior, and a flush paneled face is on the exterior. The exterior dining room door, constructed as a six-paneled door with the upper and lower panels being tall and the center panels short, has had the two upper panels removed and a single glass substituted.

Three chimneys remain. A fourth, which served the cooking stove at the east end of the kitchen, was removed when the kitchen area was remodeled in the 1950s. At the west gable end of the main block are a pair of brick chimneys, both of which had been reduced in height and deprived of their original corbelled cap decoration. These chimneys were faithfully restored using historical photographs in 1992. At the east end of the wing the fireplace chimney, very narrow and wide, has been stuccoed.

The main roofs are side gabled with a 34° (8 in 12) slope and the kitchen shed roof continues down from the roof of the wing, in salt-box fashion. The roof over the main block retains patterned slate roofing, in mediocre condition, laid over the original wood shingles; over the wing, the wood shingles have been covered with black asphalt shingles. The historic molded projecting cornices and frieze boards may be deducted from early photographs and from the eave returns, but they, along with the built-in gutter they enclosed, were shorn off. They were restored in 1992.

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INTERIOR:

The house itself consists of a two-story, three-bay main block, with a three-bay dining-kitchen-utility wing at the right end, away from the road. The wing is set back from the front of the main block, but flush with its rear wall. A wide stair hall extends through the main block at its right side, connecting front and rear entrances to the main stair (see photograph #5) and providing access to front and rear parlors located at the left (west) side of the main block, as well as to the dining room in the wing. The main stair rises near the rear of this hallway, to a landing, and then returns to meet the second floor corridor. At the rear of the dining room is the kitchen, a shed-roofed area, recently divided to provide a smaller but "modern" kitchen and a first floor bathroom.

A stone-walled cellar, accessible from under the main stair and by means of a hatchway on the front porch of the wing, exists under the main block of the dining room. The kitchen floor is constructed over a crawl space. Within the crawl space, at the west end, is a 6'3" by 7'4" (north/south) brick-walled and plastered cistern which was fed by piping from the rear gutters.

A connection is provided from the kitchen to the cellar stair, under the landing, to the stair hall and thence to the rear parlor, which may conceivably have been used for more formal dining. At the east end of the kitchen the original porch was removed, perhaps considerably before 1910, and the area enclosed as a vestibule; Mrs. Morgan seems to have used it as a "potting shed." This addition, on makeshift foundations, has subsided and distorted considerably.

The dining room (see photograph #2) retains its fireplace; however, it is much smaller than the stone foundation below it, leading to the premise that the initial plan was to have a large cooking fireplace in this room, so that it would serve as a "keeping room" but again, at the time of construction, it was decided to move all cooking functions to the area at the rear of the dining room. The large fireplace was, therefore, not needed and it was reduced to the size it manifests today. There is no evidence of alteration or reconstruction of either the parlor flues or the dining room fireplace.

Interior plan and details remain little changed from their historic design, with the exception of the totally remodeled kitchen area. Historic moldings, mantels, baseboard are almost completely intact.

The interior finish scheme is simple. Floors are of wide pine boards, tongue and grooved, face-nailed with stamp-headed cut nails. In the dining room this flooring was covered by the Morgans with narrow (2" wide by 3/8" thick) maple, laid in concentric rectangles. Walls are plastered, except for a vertical, beaded board wainscot in the dining room. Ceilings are also plastered. Although much original plaster remains, the previously described structural stabilization of the second floor (1989) necessarily removed ceilings, in the first floor hall and parlors and the front bedroom on the second floor; in addition, portions of wall plaster were replaced, particularly in the entrance hall and the east walls of the parlors. During stabilization, most of the wood lath was retained. The historic wood trim was carefully removed and reinstalled in its original locations.

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In the two parlors (see photographs #3-4), the interior flues at the west wall were furred out laterally to increase their apparent width, and small mantels were installed, before which were placed cast iron parlor stoves. An indication of the transitional nature of this house is found in the large stone fireplace foundations below these flues; apparently the original concept included fireplaces, but during construction the specifications were changed to accommodate the more efficient stoves which became fashionably ubiquitous in the mid-Victorian era.

Interior doors are, for the most part, original to the house. The pair of doors formerly separating the two parlors, however, have been removed, leaving their exact nature to conjecture.

On the second floor of the main block, two principal bedrooms, with spacious closets between, lie above the first floor parlors (see photographs #6-7). The corridor serves these rooms and a smaller bedroom at the front (southeast corner), and was relocated westward, during construction, to reduce the bedrooms and to provide another, very small room at the east, along the corridor and over the stair hall. This construction change engendered problems in the support of the corridor partitions and serious deflection of the floor joists beneath them, which was stabilized in 1989 by insertion of steel framing within the floor and wall thicknesses. During the Morgans' occupancy the smallest room was remodeled into a bathroom; plumbing leaks and condensation caused further structural problems (rotting of beams and a post) which have been stabilized.

The use of the small room on the second floor at the head of the stairs on the east side has changed through the years. It may have been used by the Canfields as a secondary bedroom, although at some time they removed the partition to the small front bedroom, so that the two functioned as one room. In 1910 the Morgans closed this partition again, with studs and a covering of narrow, thin wood slats faced with glued-on paper on both sides -- an early drywall technique -- which was finished with wallpaper. The little room then became the bathroom.

During World War II, a doorway was cut between the bathroom and the "half-story" room over the dining room. This space, originally two rooms, accessible by a narrow stair from the dining room, was enlarged by removal of the center partition, to house two English boys sent to America during World War II.

In general the Canfield-Morgan House has survived in fair condition. The house has been altered minimally since its construction. The early 1900's installation of the second floor bathroom, the addition of the service entrance room and the 1950's remodeling of the kitchen were the only major modifications. The structure of the house has been stabilized and will be made handicapped accessible with the next year.



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### The Well House

The well house (see photograph #8), set 26 ft from the southwest corner of the front porch of the house, appears approximately as shown in the 1870 historic photograph and remains at the original site. It was once used to draw water for cooking and drinking and is now dry but otherwise intact. The well is covered by a small wood frame house four feet square with lattice work openings above a thirty-inch high wainscoted bulkhead. The roof is pyramidal and flared at the eaves. Inside is a device for tripping the water bucket as it reaches the top which spills the contents down a spout to fill the buckets used to carry the water to the kitchen and elsewhere. Remarkably, this structure covers a hand-dug well 100 feet deep, 4 feet in diameter and stone lined at least for a considerable depth. The fact that the well is now dry, perhaps indicates serious lowering of the water table or draining of an aquifer, by ever encroaching suburbia.

### The Pergola

The Pergolas were constructed by the Morgans in 1911 as a part of their gentrification of the farm. A receipt from Thomas H. Brady dated May 4, 1911 shows that two pergolas were constructed that spring. The Pergola closest to Route 23 was reconstructed using the original plans from the Morgan archive in 1992. The other Pergola is in a state of disrepair but remains from the Morgan era (see photograph #9). It is 7-1/2 ft wide, 24 ft long and consists of four posts on each side, making three bays; ten cross poles stabilize the structure and form an open roof. All of the poles were made from trimmed saplings. A footpath runs through its length and honeysuckle grows over the Pergola. A number of flowering bedding plants still survive along its edge including daylillies, akebia, peonies, roses and quince which were undoubtedly planted by Edith Morgan.

### The Cemetery

At the top of "Canfield Hill," northeast of the public park, lies the old Cedar Grove/Canfield Cemetery (see photograph #10). The cemetery was used from c.1765 until c.1930. It is located on two acres and contains at least 352 burial plots. Unfortunately the historic environment of the cemetery is undermined by two high voltage power lines overhead and a view of the industrial park to the north.

### Fields

There are three substantial fields remaining on the property. East of the house, the largest field consists of approximately 5.5 acres (see photographs #11-12). The field was used for apple orchards which extended up the hill (now covered in tree growth) to the park (previously the tennis courts). By 1949 the area was being used by Courtenay Morgan to grow various vegetable crops. Crops were rotated regularly and included pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, corn and many other vegetables.

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The one acre field south of the house (see photograph #13) was also an apple orchard and in later years it was either left empty or used for vegetable crops (interview with Fred Harris 4-95).

The front lawn (see photograph #14), stretching 200 feet south of the house, was used as a corn field by the Canfields. When the Morgans took over the property, they used the area for horseback riding and lawn games (interview with Myra Herder Menaugh 1994).

### Non-contributing resources

Eight non-contributing resources exist on the Canfield-Morgan property. The barn (see photograph #15) retains its original sandstone lower story and was renovated in 1994 using historical photographs. Attempts were made to salvage and use the original wood but the barn was not restored to its original height due to prohibitive costs. A one story structure on the west side of the barn was once the Canfield's carriage house. site of what was once the Canfield's carriage house. The structure was rebuilt by the Morgan s in 1911 and the siding and roof were repaired in 1994. Another one story building exists on the east side of the barn. In 1994 new masonry walls were built inside of the original foundation and a new roof and flooring on the second floor were installed. The ski tow shed (see photograph #16) was built by Courtenay Morgan during the 1960's. The pergola situated closest to Pompton Avenue (see photograph #17) was reconstructed in 1992. In 1993 a public park, including restrooms and a gazebo (see photographs #18-19), was built on two acres east of the house. Using Green Acres funds, the park was completed in accordance with the bequest of the property to the township by J. Courtenay Morgan. The project was designed to have the least visual impact on the site. Part of the project included re-establishment of original walkways around the house based on photographs.

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### SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The Canfield-Morgan farm is one of the last surviving examples of a mid-19th century northeastern New Jersey farmstead in Essex County. The site illustrates in its history the evolution of suburban agriculture in northeastern New Jersey. The farm, which supplied produce to nearby urban markets from before 1845 to 1985, was one of several located in the area of the present township of Cedar Grove. It was farmed by the Canfield family from c.1845 to 1910, at which time it was purchased by the Morgan family and operated as a truck farm and market garden. A substantial archive of letters and receipts left behind by the Morgan family (dating from the late 1800's to 1985) chronicle the Morgan family activities on the farm. The Canfield-Morgan farmhouse and surrounding land preserve a type of landscape once common, which has been virtually erased elsewhere in Essex County. The continuation of farming until 1985 with almost no diminution of the acreage (only about 5 acres), despite encroaching urban development render the property an embodiment of the agriculture history of the area. The house itself is a good example of a type of architecture uncommon in the Cedar Grove area. The property survives because it's last owner, Courtenay Morgan bequeathed the entire tract to the township which manages the property as a township park. The Cedar Grove Historical Society plans to operate the farmhouse and outbuildings as a museum and local history educational center.

### GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Essex County, established 1675, occupies a portion of the Piedmont physiographic province, historically the most intensively used region of New Jersey (Physical Geography of N.J. 1962:2). Running northeast-southwest through hilly western Essex County ("West Essex"), are the First and Second Watchung Mountains, both reaching 600 feet in elevation. Between these ridges lies a picturesque valley, historically valued for its fine sloping farmland (Folsom 1925:849). Sparsely settled prior to 1750, the geographic isolation of this valley long served as an impediment to growth (Shaw 1884:829).

The Canfield-Morgan farm lies on a hilltop in this valley, in the shadow of the Second Watchung Mountain. The area between the Peckman River west to the Second Mountain was, in particular, historically noted for limited areas of excellent farmland (Ibid).

### HISTORIC CONTEXT

#### Early Government and Industry

Cedar Grove, ten miles northwest of Newark, was originally a part of Caldwell Township (est. 1798). Verona (formerly Vernon) Township was set off from Caldwell in 1891, and Cedar Grove was set off from Verona in 1907. The name "Cedar Grove" had been used since at least 1814 (Dodd 1987:8). Prior to this, the area was commonly called "Peckmantown," the Peckman River being its primary water course (Folsom 1925:849).

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Though Newark was becoming an important city by the mid-1800's, its industry and growth did little to affect outlying agricultural areas. Essex County remained polarized; as industry and population boomed in the east, the western hills remained quiet, dusty, and rural (Cunningham 1978:107). The Pompton Branch of the Newark-Bloomfield turnpike (present-day Pompton Avenue), organized in 1806 (Jacobus 1976:13), passed directly in front of the Canfield-Morgan house. Even so, this improved means of transportation did not drastically change the region.

Historically, the industrial interests of the Cedar Grove area were modest, being sapped by adjacent urban centers. Early area industry included Van Riper's turning mill (c.1770), Sayre and Personette's tanning, currying, barn, saw, and turning mills (c.1790), the cotton mill of the Cedar Grove Mfg. Co. (1815), Bowden's cotton mill (1826), Wards Brush factory (1854), and Perry's sawmill (c.1820) which later became Marley Bros. hub and spoke-turning mill. Some of these industrial concerns underscore the early economic importance of the region's timber resources (Shaw 1884:847-848).

#### Transportation

The transformation of West Essex into a bustling commercial/agricultural, and later urban-suburban area, was effected between 1825 and 1945, by the introduction of canal, railroad, and especially, automobile access. The Morris Canal (1831), only a mile from the Canfield-Morgan house, and the Morris and Essex Railroad (1835), brought growth in nearby industrial centers, thus increasing the market for agricultural commodities; they also increased farmers' ability to transport goods out of the region. Thus, while the 1830's had been a period of recession, the 1850's were one of increasing agricultural prosperity for the region (Dodd 1987:14).

After the Morris and Essex railroad was constructed commuters began to move to areas along the railroad, creating railroad suburbs (Cunningham 1978:109). Cedar Grove became a part of this trend when it acquired a passenger station in 1891. Commuters such as J. W. Morgan generally were urban professionals or businessmen who chose to reside in the suburbs and travel to work daily. These new residents were to play a major role in the future growth of Cedar Grove, Verona, and many other suburbs.

The years prior to the Civil War were ones of prosperity and optimism for New Jersey agriculture. New modes of transportation, development of laborsaving machinery, and the growth of agricultural societies all engendered a bright economic outlook (Kull 1930:669). The good quality of the Canfields' well-built farmhouse reflects this mid-19th century prosperity, when railroad and canal access brought growth to the region. Archaeological evidence likewise indicates that the occupants of the house were of substantial, middle-class origins (Lenik 1989:54).

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### THE EVOLUTION OF SUBURBAN AGRICULTURE

#### Agriculture in the 19th Century

Among the important crops produced in Essex County in the mid-19th Century were wheat, rye, corn, buckwheat, oats and potatoes (Barber 1968:153). Other important farm products included barley, hay, Indian corn, flax, hemp, beef and wool. In this respect Essex County was much like the rest of New Jersey, where "grain and grass" were prominent crops (Myers 1945:357). The Canfields' early operations at the farm reflected this orientation.

The Civil War led to a boom in the farm market. Almost as dramatic, was the downturn in the farm economy after the war, which was worsened by the continuing continental advance of the railroads into the midwest, and the Homestead Act of 1862, which together encouraged and facilitated the development of competing western land for agriculture (Kull 1930:670).

The changing agricultural economy forced adjustments in the east and local agriculture and commerce reflected this. In 1868, Caldwell consisted of several stores, a Presbyterian Church, and thirty dwellings, while the Caldwell vicinity supported four stores, one fulling mill, three grist mills, ten saw mills, one woolen mill, one cotton mill, and a population of 3,016 (Barber 1968:157). The presence of facilities for processing wool, cereal grains, and timber indicated that general, "breadbasket" agriculture was still prevalent, and not yet superseded by specialized truck farming and market gardening, as it soon would be.

#### Agriculture in Flux: The Late 19th Century

By 1890, the town of Cedar Grove was well developed, although its environs remained rural in atmosphere (Robinson 1890). The advance of suburbia into formerly rural areas posed both challenges and opportunities for farmers. High land cost, along with rising taxes and labor costs, made farming more difficult; yet close proximity to ready markets also made it more profitable for farmers to abandon old ideas and reorient their production to intensive farming of fruits, vegetables, poultry, and other highly perishable, "direct-to-consumer" produce (Kull 1930:670).

By 1884, agricultural pundits were already predicting the demise of "legitimate" (i.e., traditional) farming in Essex County. New, suburban-oriented farms took two general forms by the late 19th Century: the truck farm, a large operation specializing in one or two particular crops which were shipped weekly to nearby urban markets by truck (or, in earlier days, wagon): secondly, the market garden, usually in immediate proximity to urban and suburban areas, which produced a wider variety of produce for sale in the immediate area. Of the two, market gardening required the more intensive use of land, and became the more common in northeastern New Jersey.

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This pattern of change occurred in all farming regions on the outskirts of major cities of the eastern United States in the late 19th and 20th Centuries. By 1889, New Jersey's ever-increasing numbers of truck farms and market gardens had become substantial producers of fruits and vegetables (Myers 1945:1889). Between 1850 and 1900, the total value of New Jersey's suburban market produce increased tenfold; by 1920, it had increased twenty-five fold (Kull 1930:692).

Popular farm products in northeastern New Jersey throughout this period included all the small berry fruits, grapes and melons and a wide variety of vegetables. Intensive farming became a necessity, and the operations of the Canfield family in this period reflected the changing trends. While they still raised such long-time staples as corn and pigs, they also grew the market produce -- tomatoes, cantelopes, melons, strawberries, apples and peaches, which they trucked to the Newark market by wagon, once or twice weekly (Dodd 1987:18). Taking over in 1911, J.W. Morgan, with the help of Benjamin Canfield until his sons were able to assist, continued the same pattern. The proximity of the large urban markets for these table goods (Newark is 10 miles away), made them more profitable than the earlier traditional crops of potatoes, feed corn or grains. Courtenay Morgan took over the farm in 1918 (his father died in 1920) and by around 1935 had changed his orientation to market gardening, making most of his sales locally.

### Suburban Growth, 1880-1910

The advent of the suburbs in West Essex, brought on by rail, trolley, and especially, automobile access, was not without problems. Such growth caused municipalities to break up into towns, which looked after their own interests. By 1910, the first housing subdivision had even made its appearance in Cedar Grove (Souvenir 1910:3), harbinger of a protracted boom though mainly delayed until after World War II.

As the region grew, some long-time families, like the Canfields, found themselves becoming "outsiders" in their own town, as new population swept in. Certain rural traditions did continue in this era, such as the harvest home and the grangers' picnic. Even so, passing years saw old farm families selling their land to newcomers, including Italian and Chinese farmers, as well as commuting gentlemen-farmers like the Morgans.

By the early 20th Century, most Cedar Grove farms were being operated by families named Scheiber, Grissing, Young, Smith and Wong, many of whom were newcomers. These changing demographics wrought changes in the local farming but did not then bring about its demise. Indeed, the Caldwell Progress reintroduced an agricultural column in 1911, a sign that agriculture in the area was still alive and well (Caldwell Progress, 24 March, 1911).

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The story of the property during the Morgan ownership after 1910 is emblematic of the changes which occur to the rural landscape as suburbia creeps nearer, and reflects the changing status of the region as a new suburban area. By 1911, local newspapers spoke frequently of the "growing pains" the region was experiencing, including the demolition of cherished old landmark buildings (Ibid). By 1907, Verona had trolleys, pavements, electricity, street lights, and gas service, as did Montclair and Caldwell. Cedar Grove did not yet have these improvements, but they would arrive in the next two decades (Norwood 1927:225). The barrier of the Watchungs was giving way, and traffic was such that by 1906 the public was demanding sidewalks for some of the busier streets (Norwood 1927:2236). By 1907, new building techniques made possible the regrading and paving of Bradford Avenue to create a good road over the mountain from Cedar Grove to Upper Montclair, another reflection of growth in the area (Jacobus 1976:15).

At first these improvements were welcome, enabling Courtenay Morgan and others like him to haul products to market in a motorized truck. After World War II, suburbanization increased rapidly, bringing many changes Courtenay did not like; however, the growing population made it possible for the Morgans to operate a roadside vegetable stand for marketing much of their produce. During this period, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, squash, gourds, pumpkins and corn were grown, the latter being abandoned around 1960. Crops were carefully rotated around the fields to avoid exhausting the land and were planted in the fields east of the clay tennis court, in the field at the foot of the wooded hill on the south boundary of the property and in the field south of the lawn. Land was also leased from neighbor Canfield on the west side of Pompton Avenue and also on the north side of Commerce Drive, both across from Morgans' farm. During much of this time, Edith and Courtenay were relying on purchasing apples, primarily from Warwick, New York, to sustain their roadside sales. Courtenay continued planting after Edith's death in 1961; in the mid Seventies he reduced the variety in his production and concentrated on planting pumpkins and tomatoes and purchasing apples in the fall, a practice he maintained until the year of his death in 1985 (interview with Fred Harris April 1995).

#### THE FARMHOUSE

##### In the Canfield Era

It is interesting to note that some controversy exists about the original structure of the Canfield-Morgan House. Local lore insists that an earlier small cabin or residence was built and used as a stopping place by travelers (interview with Violet Canfield 1994). The larger block of the structure was added on in the Victorian period according to this story. No physical evidence exists to substantiate this theory. The entire cellar and the crawl space foundation were built at one time, for the stones are keyed in from one area to another and the masonry workmanship throughout is highly consistent. There is, furthermore, nothing in the framing of the upper construction to indicate that the two parts were not erected simultaneously.

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The Canfields had owned and farmed since 1822 (Williams et al n.d.) several tracts at this northern end of the area which was to become Cedar Grove. The present 14-acre property is the residue (after two small sales made in the 1960's) of a 19.23-acre farm tract purchased in 1849 by Benjamin Canfield, plus a small triangular plot of 1.4 acres which he had previously owned (see details under "The Canfield Family").

The house standing on this farm tract was built by Benjamin Canfield, c.1845. Besides being a vernacular farmhouse suitable as a home for a large farm family, it is interesting, because it reveals in its style, not only something of the man but several elements of transitional thinking. While in many respects the house retains the size and character of a traditional farmhouse, it shows a number of features which suggest that its builder was interested in current fashion and in touch with new concepts; certain features of the house even suggest that in trying to be as up-to-date as possible, he was making changes in design during the building process, resulting in a number of unanticipated predicaments and, in one case, leading to a major problem of structural instability.

That Benjamin Canfield was a man confident of his prosperity can also be seen in many features of the house. There is an elegance in detailing which reveals a man of substance with status in his community, yet it is not the large house of a wealthy farmer-entrepreneur: the wide stair hall offers an impressive entrance; the French windows in the front parlor were modern for the period and add a distinctive and graceful charm to an otherwise simple room; the arched window at the peak of the west gable suggests the Italianate style; the complex mouldings throughout the main block of the house also add a richness. An interesting element of the design is the handling of dining facilities; the family dining room is located in the utility wing, adjacent to the kitchen, with its own door from the outside, convenient for a farming family. In the main block of the house on the west side of the hall are two parlors; steps from the kitchen provide access to the northernmost, via the small hall at the head of the cellar stairs, so that the room could be used as a formal dining room as well as serving as the morning room for the ladies of the household. The house appears, from the two small rooms on the second story of the utility wing, to have been designed to accommodate servants, supporting the suggestion that the north parlor may have been used for formal dining.

Violet Canfield, the wife of Irving, son of Benjamin the grandson of the builder, recalls some of the elaborate Canfield furnishings which had been left in the house when it was sold and retained by the Morgans for a time; heavy curtains with ornate valances at the windows, and large mirrors with decorative gilt frames, reinforce the view that the Canfields had lived as prosperous members of the community. It is probable that the house served not only as a farmer's home but as a symbol of local social status.



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### In the Morgan Era

It is easy to see why the Canfield House and its property appealed to the Morgans when they purchased in 1910. While Morgie, as she was known to the Canfields, found the "Victorian clutter" displeasing, she could see in the house the potential status symbol they were seeking. The elegance Benjamin Canfield had created served the same purpose for the newcomers as it had for the increasingly prosperous old-line family. This would be the first home in the United States that the Morgans had owned, and they had dreams of setting themselves up on a "country estate," albeit small, the farm serving to augment J.W.'s somewhat inadequate business income to support their ambitions.

The house served this function admirably; the Morgans built the clay tennis court to the east of the old barn and entertained for tennis and croquet, for tea parties and special day-long garden parties. The Canfield cornfield in front of the house became a lawn where Edith rode her horse and the children their ponies, all visible to the passer-by; the outbuildings of the Canfield Farm, by then showing their age, were razed and an extensive English-style flower garden created with rustic pergolas for climbing roses and flowering vines, and heavy plantings of exotic shrubs and trees to surround the home area and hide the working fields of the farm to the east and south. The Victorian well house, which had graced the Canfield house since at least the 1870's was treasured as part of the landscaping charm.

On the interior, Edith's "modernizing" was carried out with brighter colors, fresh wallpapers and less heavy furnishing, suitable for entertaining in the Twenties. In October 1910, the Caldwell firm of W.C. Davenport gave the Morgans an estimate for installing indoor plumbing, heating, and gutters. The work was done in early 1911 (Cedar Grove Historical Society Archives, 15,B1,C; Receipts 1911 A-J). At the same time, the Morgans had an outdoor water tank and piping installed (15,B1,K). In November 1910 the Fairfield firm of Bush & Sindle painted the exterior and interior (15,B1,B). Another early improvement to the house was the installation of a concrete floor in the cellar in October 1910 (15,B1,W).

Upper Montclair builder and carpenter E.F. Dodd was also hired by Morgan to perform various repairs including masonry and plaster work and alterations in the house in early 1911 (Receipts 1911 A-J). Telephone service was contracted for in 1914 (15,B1,T), and electricity was discussed as early as June 1915; electricity, however, did not reach the house until 1921 at which time the Morgans installed a system (15,B1,H).

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### THE CEMETERY

Associated with the property is the Cedar Grove/Canfield Cemetery, described in 1862 as "on the sand hill nigh Benj. Canfield." In use since c.1765 (William Garrison, the earliest known extant stone), it harbors the remains of a number of the valley's early, prominent families, including the Vreelands, Doremuses, Jacobuses, and other pioneering families, many of whom made their living cutting timber (Shaw 1884:847). A composite survey shows the original one-acre plot dedicated for use as a cemetery on the farm formerly belonging to the estate of Thomas Doremus; also shown are additional areas to the east and west, with plots laid out in 1871 and 1882, respectively, being the additions made by John Canfield and making a total of approximately two acres (Archives, CGHS). The nearest cemeteries in the 18th Century were those of the Presbyterian Church in Caldwell and the Fairfield Church in Fairfield. When John Canfield added this acreage to the Cemetery, it was a simple business undertaking, for he sold the lots.

Numerous headstones remain, the earliest being of red sandstone quarried locally in Little Falls and West Orange; others are of cast iron, and recent ones are of marble. It is reported that some early markers were of wood, inscribed with painted lettering. A total of 352 burials has been documented by the Cedar Grove Historical Society (Jacobus 1976:20).

### THE CANFIELD FAMILY

The Canfield family became prominent in the Newark area after Matthew Canfield, along with his wife and forty other families, moved to Newark from the New Haven colony in 1666. Matthew Canfield was respected within the new colony and was frequently chosen to fill positions of responsibility and honor. In 1667 he was appointed to a committee to adjust the land values in Newark. In that same year he signed the Bradford agreement. In 1668 Matthew signed the agreement that settled the location of the division line between Newark and Elizabethtown (Canfield 1897:86-89).

Several of the descendants of Matthew Canfield became farmers including his great grandson, Ebenezer who, as tradition states, may have introduced the cultivation of red clover and timothy to the Essex County area during the mid-1700's (Canfield 1897:43).

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The Canfield's were also early farmers in Cedar Grove. One historian and lawyer who done much research on local land holdings, refers to the "whole Sayre-Allen-Canfield farm (which) extended westward (from the Peckman River) to the top of the Second Mountain" (Dodd 1987:17). Benjamin Canfield, the builder of the dwelling, was noted as a pioneer farmer who acquired a large estate in his lifetime. He first purchased land in Cedar Grove in 1822 (Williams et al n.d.). His holdings were passed on to his sons John and William Canfield who were favorably known in the markets of Newark for the excellence of their farm produce (Shaw 1884:848). Through the 20th Century, the Canfield family played an active role in the social as well as economic life of the community in providing wagons for Township celebrations and picnics and many similar such civic involvements, and as members and trustees of the Congregational Church; the Canfields were also involved in politics and Roger Irving, great-grandson of Benjamin Canfield, was mayor of the Township from 1931 to 1935.

The tract of land comprising the bulk of the property now owned by the Township of Cedar Grove, was purchased by Benjamin Canfield in 1849. Omitted from this tract, however, at that time, was a small triangle referred to as "Benjamin Canfield's House Lot," which was, however, included in the tract in all subsequent changes of ownership. Superimposing the plot of this property over a recent contour map, prepared by aerial photography, places the present house in the center of this "house lot" segment. Intensive architectural examination of the historic fabric and building techniques of the house indicate a possible construction date of 1840 to 1850. The 1849 purchase of the larger tract by Benjamin would place the house at the end of the time slot; however, it remains possible that the house was built on the triangular plot, prior to purchase of the larger tract, suggesting a date of 1840 to 1850. From the style of the house we believe it more likely to be c.1845. No evidence has been found to date of an earlier dwelling on the property.

By 1859, widower Benjamin Canfield had moved out of the house and was leasing it to his son John, who was now raising a family (New Jersey Census: 1850). Upon his death in 1864, Benjamin Canfield, by will, left the property to John. John Canfield resided in the house until his death in 1904, when title was transferred to Benjamin Canfield, grandson of the house's builder. Benjamin Canfield and family resided at the house until he sold it to James W. Morgan on 1st June, 1910.

For the next several months, the Canfields continued to live in the house and carry on their farming operation on the property and on adjacent land they owned to the west and north. During this time, they had constructed a new home on the west side of Pompton Avenue. Following in his grandfather's steps, Benjamin chose a well-designed house of fashionable style, this time in the American Foursquare genre. A few years later, Benjamin built a similar house in the same style for himself and his family, selling the first one; eventually, Roger Irving and Violet, his wife took over this newer house.

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The Canfields continued their truck farming on their adjacent tracts until shortly after the end of World War II, and were quarrying on the land adjacent to the Canfield-Morgan tract to the northeast in the early years of Morgan occupation. This property was sold for an industrial complex built around 1950, and in the early Eighties, further farmland on the west side of Pompton Avenue was sold by the Canfields for construction of an office complex. Prior to the sale of these tracts, the Morgans had farmed them under lease agreements for some years, after which they had lain fallow until the sales were made.

This was a family, successful as farmers, with a way of life and values that made it acceptable and respected in its community, but with no claim to fame beyond its local achievements.

### THE MORGAN FAMILY

#### Genesis and Background

While the Morgans also achieved no fame beyond their community, the family left behind a considerable volume of letters, bills, clippings, receipts and other documentary information, which provides a vivid portrait of their lives prior to and after their purchase of the old Canfield farm in 1910.

Both James and Edith Morgan were English by birth. Edith was born at Ringmer, a rural village south of London. James Morgan's family came from near Sydenham, a rural southeastern suburb of London. Both came from areas that might be classified as rural and middle-class in character, not wholly unlike that of then-rural West Essex. After a brief military career, Morgan came to New York City in 1886, where he held various low-level business positions, finally entering the field of advertising in 1890. This became his career. On a trip home, Morgan met Edith Potter in 1887 and after a long romance (by mail), they were married at Ringmer in 1895; he returned to New York with his bride where they began their life together in an apartment, and after several moves, settled in Montclair, New Jersey, in 1897.

Morgan's family owned a dairy company in Sydenham, which perhaps suggested his later attraction to agriculture. Both Edith and James Morgan were attracted to the bucolic life, and gardening, a reflection of their British roots. While living in New York, Morgan expressed a desire to purchase a house in the country where he could have a "good-sized garden."

The Morgans may also have been influenced by the "back to the land movement" which was popular between 1870-1910. The autobiographical narrative "Ten Acres Enough" by Edmund Morris started the movement when it was published in 1864. In the book, Morris described how he gave up his business career in Philadelphia and established a successful small farm near Burlington. The widely circulated book led to a migration of a large number of city people from New York, Philadelphia and other areas into the rural New Jersey countryside. Unfortunately many of these "back to the landers" had no knowledge or skill to make their farms succeed. Yet, New Jersey seems to have always had a large number of these "gentleman farmers" (Woodward 1930:106) including James Morgan.

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By 1903, James Morgan had established his own advertising agency. It met with some success, and by 1908 the Morgans were contemplating buying a small farm, both from a longing to establish a quaint little country estate, which hearkened back to their homeland, and a distaste for the health problems and social life associated with the city. The Morgans were by then comfortably adjusted to the New Jersey suburbs, where they had made a pleasant life for themselves.

When the Morgans purchased the Canfield farm in 1910, they were a middle-aged couple (he 49, she 40), and their family was well-established; they had six children, of which four survived infancy: twins J. Courtenay and Montague, Edith, and Howard. Both clearly retained their English roots, yet both had been thoroughly immersed in the culture and lifestyle of suburban New Jersey. James Morgan had not been a permanent resident in England for some thirty years, and Edith not for fifteen. Both had spent a large part of their adult lives not in England, but in America.

Even so, they held their English roots dear, and their life at Cedar Grove clearly reflects a return to their love of the rural, bucolic English countryside -- or a least, as rural and bucolic as could be managed within commuting distance of Manhattan. In a broader sense, the Morgans reflected the overall anti-urban bias of late 19th Century America, when homes in the "clean, healthy" suburbs were gaining widely in popularity. Montclair had long been an upper-class commuter suburb of New York City, and as the region grew, surrounding areas likewise underwent suburban gentrification. As such, though they chose the area for its solitude and rural beauty, the Morgans in fact represented the cutting edge of the suburban wave that would sweep Cedar Grove between 1910 and 1960.

The Morgans were quite proud of their little farm-estate. They entertained friends, mostly from New York or Montclair, not locals, giving rise to the common belief that they were "putting on airs." Indeed, while neither of the Morgans was from an aristocratic background, they worked to convey a British upper class image. They were members of many social clubs.

### The Morgans at Cedar Grove, 1910-1920

The Morgan archives contain a book entitled "The Fat of the Land" by John Williams Streeter which, like "Ten Acres Enough," describes a city dweller's venture into farming. Streeter states that "The waking dream of my life had been to own and work land; to own it free of debt, and to work it with the same intelligence that has made me successful in my profession" (Streeter 1904:7).

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The Morgans at Cedar Grove 1910-1920

When the Morgans purchased the old Canfield farm in June, 1910, the area was already in the early stages of long-term suburban growth, clearly indicated by the creation of the Town of Cedar Grove in 1908. By 1916, the old Canfield farmland adjacent to Morgan's property, sloping down to the Peckman River, was being quarried away for gravel and fill, much to Morgan's consternation (15,B1,C: Morgan to Canfield, 12 May, 1916). This eastern edge of the farm, adjacent to a present-day industrial park, was quarried extensively, creating cliff-like conditions along the rear boundary. James Morgan complained that this quarry was encroaching upon his property line.

The Morgans moved to the property in late December 1910. Morgan commuted to New York daily via the railroad and though he farmed the land, he was not a traditional farmer. The changes the Morgans made to the property reflect the changes then sweeping western Essex county, away from old rural, agrarian lifestyles, and toward suburban, middle class gentrification.

In their new agricultural setting, the Morgans retained their old life-style, which included such distinctly modern, upper-middle class pastimes as hunting, fishing, boating, tennis, skiing, skating, photography, croquet, cricket, and ponies for the children. Edith Morgan was among the first women in the area to drive a car, and was highly active in civic, social, and political organizations, including the Board of Managers of Mountainside Hospital, Republican County Commission, British Women's Club, Cedar Grove Garden Club, and Montclair Women's Club, only one of the organizations being local, however (Montclair Times, 14 Dec. 1961).

The Morgan tennis court became a social gathering spot for friends and business associates, many from Montclair. When the Morgans moved, they retained their close connection with Montclair, where they sent their children to school and continued to do much of their shopping. To be sure, their life-style was far different from that of the Canfields with whom they nevertheless maintained a social relationship.

The ample quantity of the Morgan's business receipts and papers paints a clear picture of their life at the farm from 1910 to 1920. Although money always seems to have been a source of concern, the farm was a success, or at least to the Morgans told their friends (Vialie Potter to Edith Morgan, 11 Nov. 1917).

The First Decade on the Farm

Morgan soon set about pursuing a long-subdued passion: gardening. He started making plans for his "good-sized garden" in July 1911, when he hired Issac Hicks & Son to prepare a detailed landscape plan for the house and grounds, with cost estimates. Hicks & Son had discontinued landscaping as a part of their services but offered to complete the work anyway. Hicks prepared a highly detailed map of the proposed plantings for gardens and grounds, with precise notations on varieties to be used.

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While Morgan did not hire Hicks to implement the lavish, expensive plan, he followed it as he gradually made improvements. The map and accompanying estimate are preserved in the Morgan archives (15,B1,H). Among the notable garden improvements he made were the addition of two pergolas and lawn furniture, custom-built by the Artistic Rustic Construction Works of Montclair in May 1911 (15,B2,P). Morgan also planted dozens of shade trees around the house and grounds, including white and red pine and balsam fir, which he purchased from the American Forestry Co. of Boston in 1916 (15,B1,A).

In handling the farm during the first years, Morgan hired the property's previous owner, Benjamin Canfield, to do much of the farmwork. By 1911 Canfield was a regular employee of Morgan's, being paid substantial amounts. The work he performed included plowing, sowing, harrowing, making trips to the depot, cultivating, hauling cinders, gathering hay, setting trees, and other odd jobs. Canfield worked for Morgan until the boys were old enough to work the farm themselves, c.1916.

Although Morgan hired Canfield to do much of the physical labor, he clearly undertook to educate himself in modern farming methods, including learning to use numerous types of pesticides and spraying equipment. As a part of this, he maintained extensive clipping files which deal with a wide array of farm matters.

Morgan considered dairying, including the erection of a new dairy barn on the property, which he explored in 1914 (Country Gentleman to Morgan, 23 Feb. 1914). Ultimately, the Morgans' participation in dairying was confined to the ownership of a family milch cow. They owned several cows over the years, and Morgan corresponded far and wide in the search for the perfect family cow (Courtelyou to Morgan, 29 July 1911; Hunt to Morgan, 13 Nov. 1913). In addition, they kept a few pigs, one or two farm horses and chickens. Morgan's true agricultural passion proved to be orcharding -- in particular, apple trees. In 1914, he noted that he had bought "hundreds of fruit trees," planting many varieties, some now not commonly known, others still favorites on the English table.

Apples were Morgan's favorite; he also grew several named varieties of peaches and experimented with dwarf apples, plums, crab apples, pears, quinces, walnut and pecan trees, mulberries, strawberries and raspberries. Along with fruits, Morgan grew or attempted to grow a variety of vegetables and even some grains, including Chinese Cabbage (15,B1,A), tomatoes, corn, wheat, rye (15,B1,H), hay and pumpkins. Morgan kept extensive shopping and planting lists of ornamental shrubs, trees, flowers and bulbs, and was also a subscriber to "The Garden Magazine" (15,B2,S).

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Morgan's passion for small-scale farming was matched by his ability to gather the best information on the subject. By March 1912 he was ordering U.S.D.A. pamphlets on orcharding (15,B1,A). In addition to picking the brains of many nursery suppliers, he corresponded with the Rutgers University Agriculture Experiment Station at New Brunswick, bombarding them between 1911 and 1918 with questions about fruit culture, best varieties (15,B2,B), diseases, fertilization, pests, and other issues. On one occasion, a representative of the Station made an inspection visit (15,B2,F). The orchard was not a continuing success, despite some awards at shows, but remained a hobby.

The Morgans derived income from the farm in other ways as well. They sold timber off the property (15,B1,F), and also raised both guinea hens (15,B1,G) and "Mammoth Bronze" turkeys (15,B1,H), both of which found their way to the Morgan table. They frequently made presents of their farm produce to friends, including peaches, apples, turkeys, hens, jelly, peonies, corn and roses (15,B1,H). By 1916 the farm was becoming a paying proposition for the Morgans, who were ordering large quantities of corrugated paper fruit shipping boxes (15,B1,H).

During their early years in Cedar Grove, the Morgans maintained a lifestyle which some of their friends must have found curious. Mr. Morgan maintained himself and his family in a generous manner, yet their papers testify to almost perpetual financial difficulties. As newcomers replacing the, old-line farmers, struggling to learn and to survive, they were typical of the trend of the time.

Financial difficulties show up in the meticulous files kept by J.W. Morgan showing numerous disputes with tradesmen, with money playing a major role, delinquent accounts (15,B1,B), pleas for reductions in school fees for the twins (Morgan to Board of Education, 16 June 1916), the private Kinsley School having ultimately proved to be beyond their means (15,B1,K).

Financial difficulties apparently led the Morgans to consider selling the farm in the spring of 1914, and to placing an advertisement for its sale (15,B1,H). Earlier, in 1912, Morgan had transferred title to Edith. The Morgans jointly sold the property to "strawman" Andrew J. Whinery (an employee of Morgan's attorney Auguste Roche, Jr.), who then transferred title to Edith Morgan, apparently an attempt to provide protection for the farm should Morgan's business go bankrupt (15,B2,R).

Although Morgan's small agency was sporadically successful, by 1917 the situation was bleak. A friend encouragingly writes to Morgan that his agency is a "wonderfully well-equipped little machine" (Hazen to Morgan, 14 Jan. 1917); however, Morgan dolefully responds that he is "not making even a poor living at the present time," and appears near desperation (Morgan to Hazen, 20 Jan. 1917). By February 1919 Morgan was borrowing from his friends and business associates, including William H. Johns, to cover over \$1,400 of indebtedness (15,B1,I-J).

Compounding Morgan's financial difficulties were health problems, which proved ultimately fatal. Prior to March 1919 he had contracted tuberculosis, and attempted a cure at Saranac Lake, NY, a well-known tuberculosis recovery resort.



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Courtenay Morgan ran the farm after 1918. While apples were an important crop for the Morgans, they grew many other kinds of produce, including pumpkins, a profitable Halloween fruit, at an early date. In one letter, Monty (at Rutgers) tells Courtenay to plant a lot of tomatoes, as the South Jersey crop was a total loss (Monty Morgan to Courtenay Morgan, 28 April 1919).

The ailing J.W. Morgan appears to have been aware of the gravity of his condition. In a letter to an unidentified person in 1919, he discusses arrangements for Courtenay to run the farm, and requests a loan of \$100 to purchase a new draft animal for the property. His formerly robust, neatly-inked script by then had been reduced to a tired pencil scrawl -- his illness evident in his handwriting (Morgan to (?), 16 April 1919). James W. Morgan died at his home on Monday, February 23, 1920, age 59 (Montclair Times, 28 Feb. 1920). Despite his problems, Morgan had persevered and at his death his farm was surviving.

### The Successful Years, 1920 to 1985

Edith Morgan and her son Courtenay made a substantial success of the farm. Edith became known locally as "The Apple Lady," and Courtenay Morgan also became a much-loved local resident. The increasing population of Cedar Grove allowed the Morgans to open a roadside stand which was open year-round and especially popular during the autumn when apples and pumpkins were sold. During the 1950's the apple orchards on the Morgan farm were burned because of disease and old age. (Stoekert, 1989). The Morgans turned to resale of apples purchased from other farms, particularly an orchard in Warwick, NY. Several other farmers in Cedar Grove also operated roadside stands including Al Cella who remembers selling corn and tomatoes grown on his father's farm at the Patterson market. The Cella's would then purchase vegetables for resale at their roadside stand. Al Cella also remembers frequently seeing his competitor, Courtenay Morgan, at the markets buying apples. (Al Cella interview).

One reason for the success of the farm was Edith Morgan's sense of financial management and restraint. On several occasions in the 1920's and '30's, she took out loans from the Bank of Montclair, (those in the Twenties to support Montague and Howard in college), all of which were paid back in full. She also investigated some of her husband's less-than-astute investments, including stock in the then-defunct Mr. St. Helens Mining Co. (15,B1,M).

### The Canfield-Morgan Farmstead as Survivor

The demise of the farms of Essex County and, in many cases, the farmhouses along with them, is the major trend of the history of the area in the post-World War II period.

Friends of the Morgans noted the success of the farm. As early as 1928, it was also recognized as a valuable tract of land in a rapidly growing region. Writes one correspondent: "I suppose if you sell your lease (land) you will make a lot of money and become a millionairess" (Archie Turner, U.K., to Edith Morgan, 10 Dec. 1928).

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By 1925, Cedar Grove was well into its transformation into a suburban bedroom community. Commuters had greatly added to the population, by some accounts representing a majority. Construction of bungalows was changing the face of the town, yet the general atmosphere remained bucolic (Folsom 1925:849). While home-building prospered, industry and agriculture waned. Commercial interests had never been strong in Cedar Grove due to the dominance of large nearby towns, and by World War I, industry had largely vanished (Ibid).

The suburbanization of Cedar Grove was reflected by its population growth. In 1930, population was 4,793; in 1940, 5,208. By 1950 population growth had accelerated, reaching 8,022, and by 1960 it had grown 50 per cent to 12,195. Thus the post-World War II years were ones of considerable growth for Cedar Grove (Physical Geography of NJ 1962:41). For years the first Watchung Mountain had provided an effective barrier against large-scale growth. However, by 1933, the Cedar Grove area was already experiencing substantial suburban growth, including the construction of tract homes. The Franklin Co. Map (1933) indicates that there were by this time numerous properties of less than an acre (Franklin Survey Co., 1933).

By c.1940, 50 per cent of Essex County's population lived outside Newark, a marked change from the historical pattern. During this time, farm operations such as the Morgans' gradually vanished, as their acreage became more valuable for commercial, industrial, and residential development. Over the last thirty years, the Morgan farm became a distinct anachronism.

The ability of agriculture to survive in densely-populated northeastern New Jersey was surprising. Many farms, including poultry farms, market gardens, florists, greenhouses, and nursery suppliers survived along the edges of marshlands and other marginal land (Brush 1956:88). Only in areas where population reached 20,000 per square mile did it vanish entirely (Ibid). By 1950, Essex County still had 225 farms, yet these comprised a mere 7.1 per cent of its total area. Only Hudson County had a smaller percentage of land in agriculture. By 1959, agriculture in northeastern New Jersey was almost entirely horticultural (Physical Geography of NJ 1962:18).

After World War II, the Canfield-Morgan house and property became increasingly distinct as survivors of an earlier era in the region's history, the housing boom reaching Cedar Grove in the Fifties. Today, Essex County is intensely urban-suburban. In a region which once boasted many farms, the only significant surviving open space is embodied by the Essex county Park System (est. 1895), one of the first such systems to be created in the United States (Cunningham 1978:117). This land is largely mountainous, unlike the Canfield-Morgan farm, which represents one of the last significant tracts of agricultural land surviving in Essex County.

The last major agricultural presence in Essex County was the 1,100 acre Becker Farm in Roseland, which was sold for development in the late 1970's. The essentially non-existent status of agriculture in Essex County was underscored several years ago, when the County agricultural agent position and 4-H programs were both discontinued (Chance 1989).

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By c.1960, the value of the agricultural produce of Essex County had become negligible in a state-wide context. Statistics on agricultural production thereafter ignore Essex County, whose agricultural production was one-half per cent of New Jersey's total farm output. By 1964, only 5 per cent of Essex County's area was in agriculture (NJ Almanac 1967:344). By this time, New Jersey farms were the most land-intensive in the nation, having the highest per-acre gross (Physical Geography of NJ 1962:13).

Edith Morgan died in 1961. Courtenay Morgan remained on the property and continued to operate the farm, maintaining the same fruits and vegetables, although he reduced the variety considerably in later years. When he died in March of 1985, numerous flats of tomato seedlings were found, as he was already, at the age of eight-six, into planting for the new season.

Courtenay strongly resisted any temptation to sell his farm for development. Late in life he noted: "gave up a wedding to save my farm" and also recorded: "refused a million for my property" (Morgan 1983: #34). Like his father, he was an avid sportsman who enjoyed hunting and fishing. His passion was tennis; nevertheless, he turned down a proposal for an indoor tennis center on the property (Ibid, #104).

The Canfield-Morgan farmstead is perhaps the last farm in Essex County to survive with a substantial quantity of its original acreage intact. While a few small farms survive in Essex County, they are being rapidly replaced by development. Though since c.1905 the farm had been far smaller than many more rural farms, ready access to urban markets made small-scale, intensive farming viable.

At the present time, the Canfield-Morgan farm is the last surviving farm in Cedar Grove. A dozen or so farmhouses dating from the late 18th and 19th centuries survive in Cedar Grove, but development of surrounding acreage has deprived them of their original context and rural atmosphere (Jacobus 1976:31). The Canfield-Morgan farmstead, however, has lost less than five acres since Benjamin purchased the tract in 1849.

The Canfield-Morgan property thus embodies the changes that farms in western Essex County underwent from c.1845 to c.1945 from production of raw agricultural materials such as wool, grain and meat, changing c.1880 to such "truck farm" goods as fruit and vegetables and finally operating as a market garden with roadside produce stand in a gentrified suburbanized setting by c.1930.

The Canfield-Morgan farm, therefore, retains today almost completely its physical historic integrity, although some of the land is now tree-covered from Morgan plantings and natural re-growth. Furthermore, its visual integrity remains fairly good despite its being surrounded by a well-developed suburb and the loss of most of its outbuildings; only on the west side, across the busy thoroughfare, has the outlook been destroyed by construction of an office complex on earlier Canfield farmland, the remaining views being preserved or which still exists, is blocked by Morgan's line of evergreens.

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That the integrity of the property remains to this degree is directly attributable to the foresight of its last Morgan owner, Courtenay, who died in 1985. Prior to his death, he had arranged to deed his farm to the Township of Cedar Grove for preservation as a scenic and historic resource -- this in spite of his frequent disputes with town officials. He noted: "This interesting land should be kept free of extra buildings forever." (Morgan 1983:63). The Township was deeded the property on October 7, 1985.

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Canfield-Morgan property consist of Block Number 201 and Lot Numbers 151, 151.1, 301, 302.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

With the exception of approximately 5 acres sold to the Presbyterian Church in 1961, the boundaries of the nominated property have remained unchanged since 1849.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographer: Robert Jones, 77 Monroe Court, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

Negatives with Cedar Grove Historical Society, 903 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

- |     |            |   |
|-----|------------|---|
| #1  | March 1995 | House from SW; Well House in foreground.                              |
| #2  | April 1995 | Dining room, fireplace and cabinet, looking SE.                       |
| #3  | April 1995 | Rear parlor, false mantel on west wall, french window.                |
| #4  | April 1995 | Front parlor, view from rear parlor, looking south.                   |
| #5  | April 1995 | Stairway, 1st floor, looking north.                                   |
| #6  | April 1995 | Bedroom, second floor, looking west.                                  |
| #7  | April 1995 | Bedroom, second floor, looking SW.                                    |
| #8  | March 1995 | Well house, SW corner of porch, looking south.                        |
| #9  | March 1995 | Pergola, north elevation, looking SW.                                 |
| #10 | March 1995 | Cemetery, looking east.   |
| #11 | March 1995 | Field (east of house), looking north.                                 |
| #12 | March 1995 | Field (east of house), looking north.                                 |
| #13 | March 1995 | Field (south of house), looking east.                                 |
| #14 | March 1995 | Front lawn, south elevation of house, barn in background, looking NW. |
| #15 | April 1995 | Barn, carriage house, shed, looking NW.                               |
| #16 | March 1995 | Ski tow shed, looking north.  |
| #17 | March 1995 | Reconstructed pergola, looking SE.                                    |
| #18 | March 1995 | Park, gazebo, restroom, looking east.                                 |
| #19 | March 1995 | Park, gazebo, restroom, looking SE.                                   |

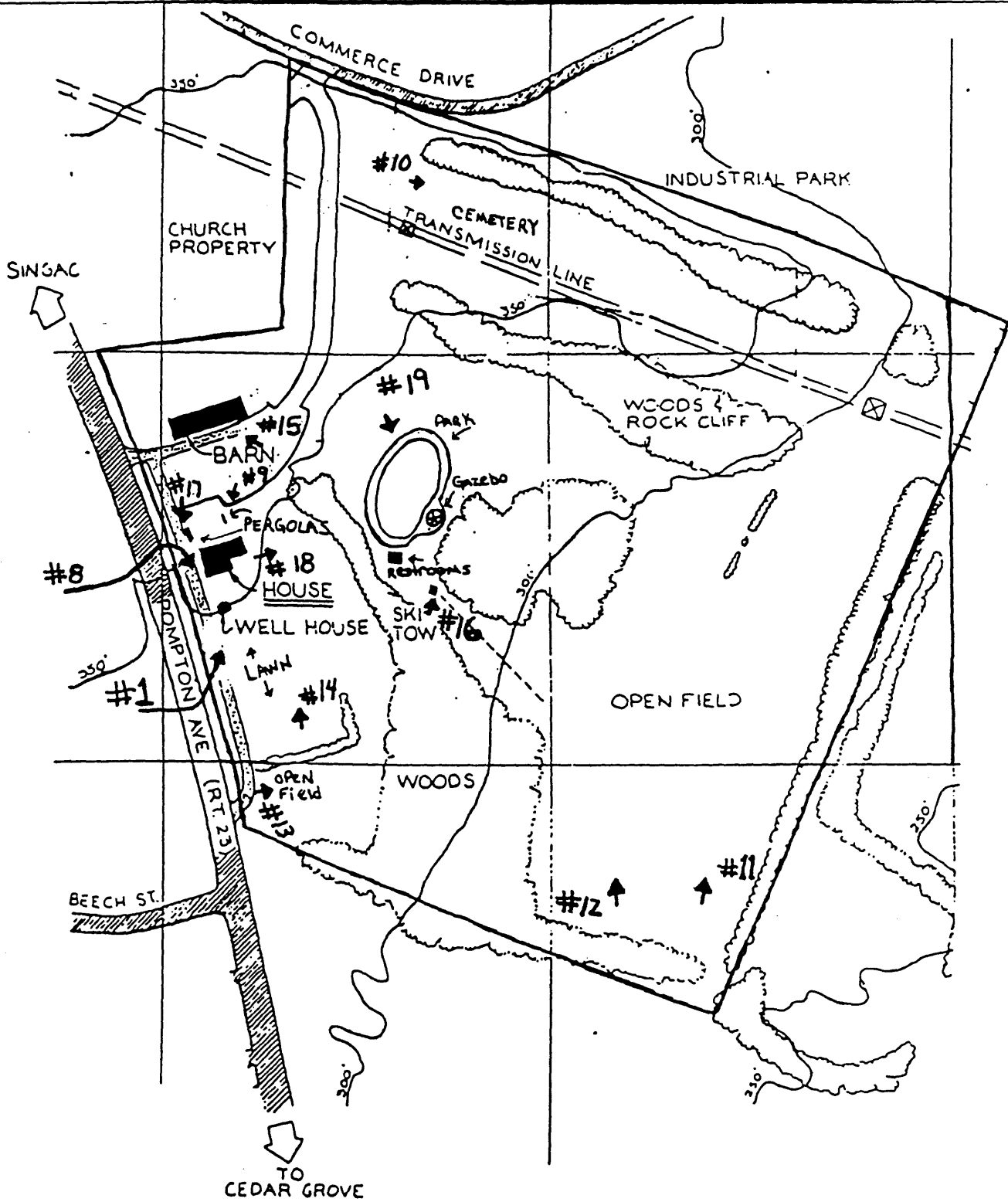


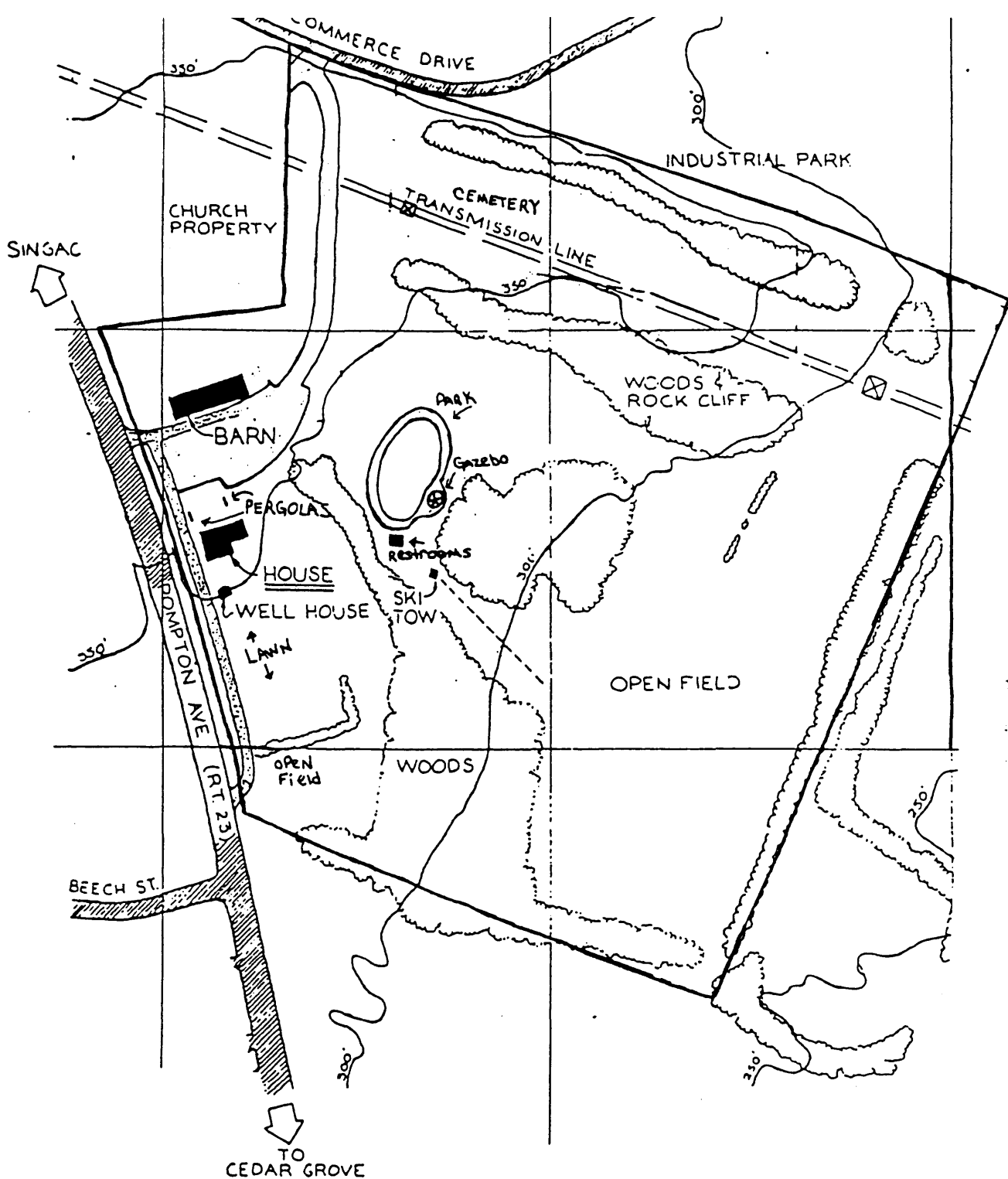
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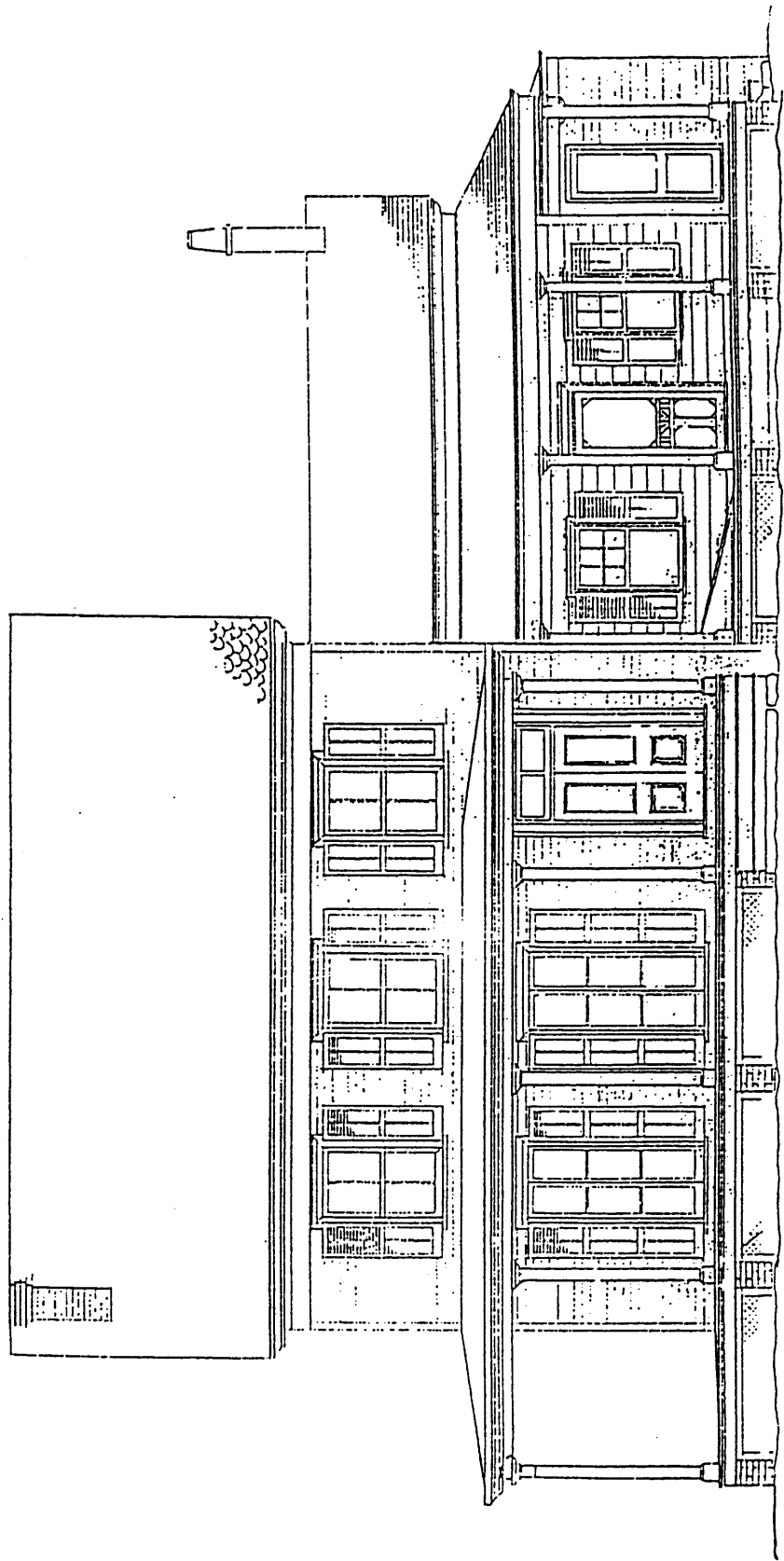
Canfield-Morgan House, Cedar Grove, Essex County, NJ

# SITE PLAN



Prepared by:  
 Starlyn Brundmeier  
 April 1995  
 From a site plan  
 Prepared by:  
 John Bruce Dodd

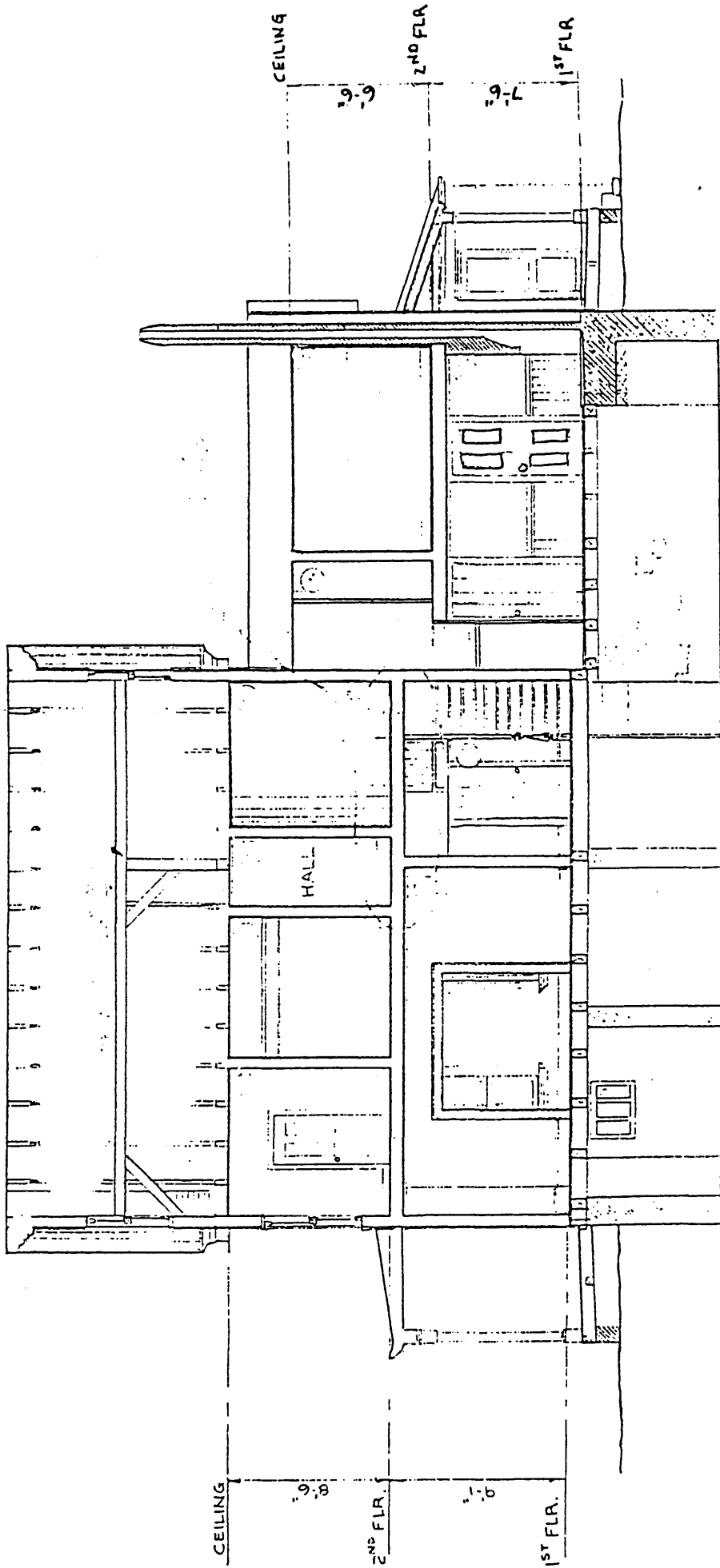
903 Pompton Avenue  
 Block Number 201  
 Lot Numbers 151, 151.1, 301, 302



SOUTH ELEVATION

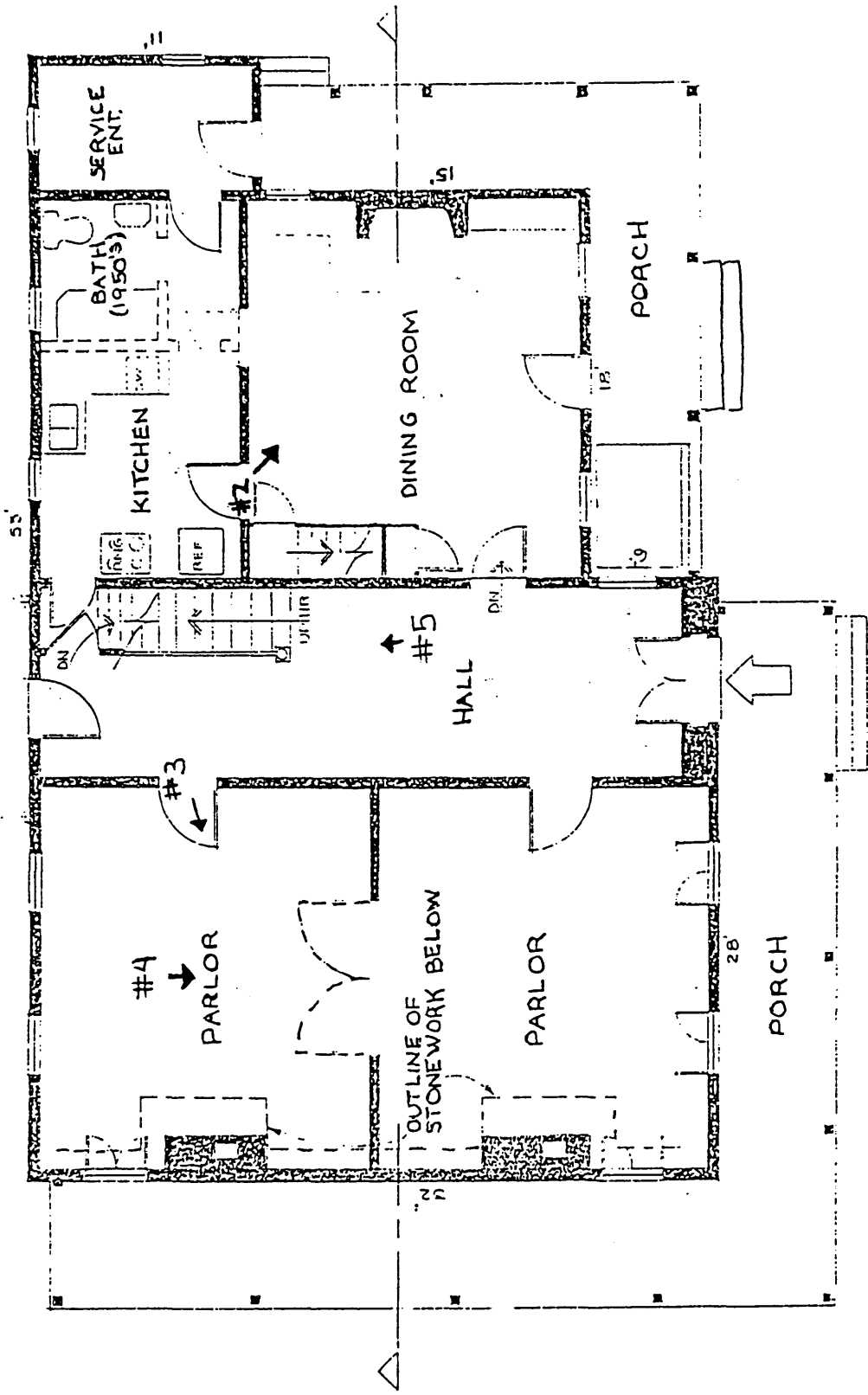


Essex County  
CANFIELD-MORGAN HOUSE  
CEDAR GROVE, NEW JERSEY



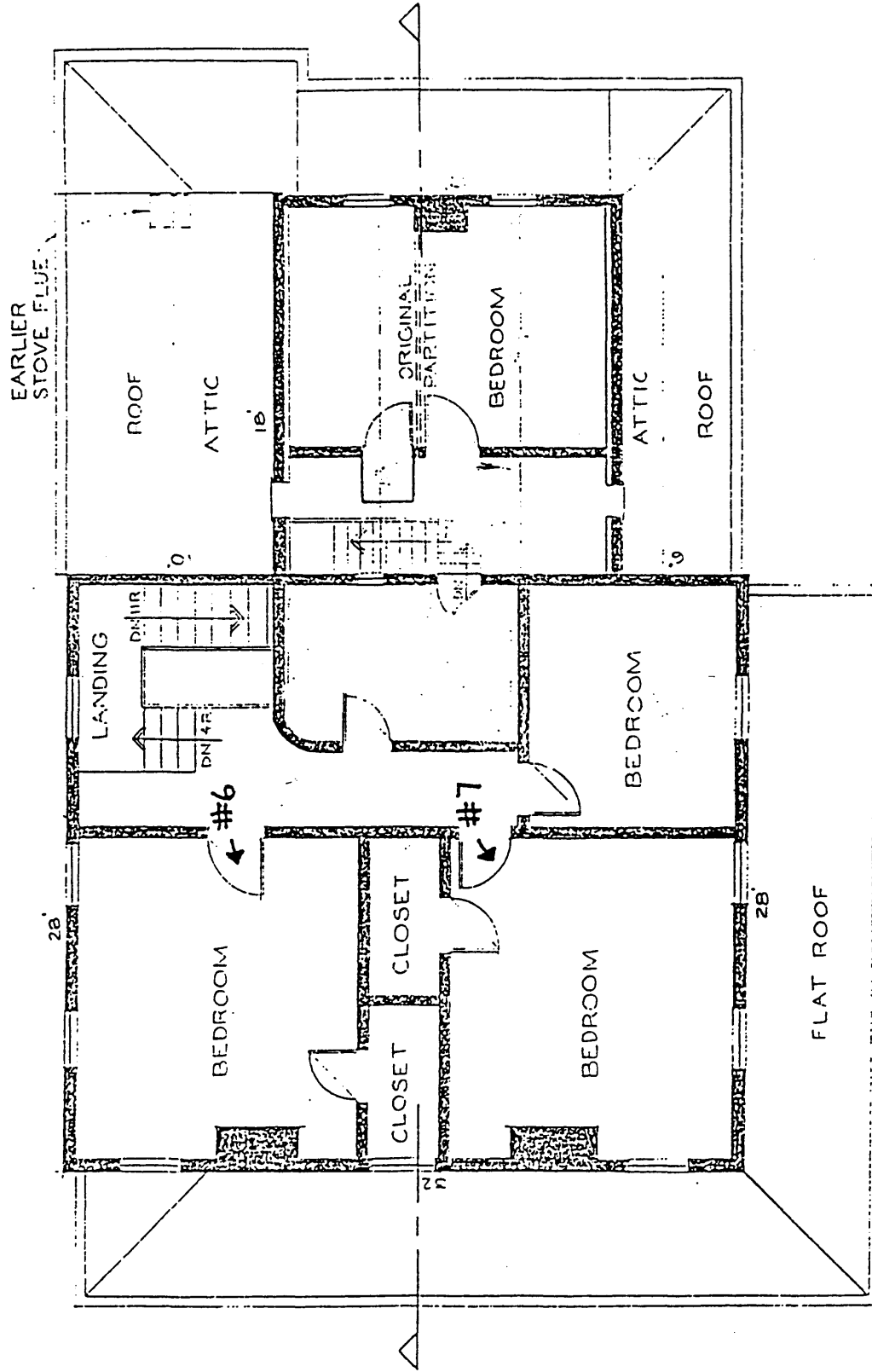
**BUILDING SECTION**  
 LOOKING NORTH

Essex County  
 CANFIELD · MORGAN HOUSE  
 CEDAR GROVE, NEW JERSEY



FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 1/8" = 1'-0"

Essex County  
 CANFIELD-MORGAN HOUSE  
 CEDAR GROVE, NEW JERSEY



Essex County  
 CANFIELD - MORGAN HOUSE  
 CEDAR GROVE, NEW JERSEY

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

1/8" = 1'-0"