

CHESTER TIMES – May 29, 1907

HISTORICAL HOUSES IN MORTON BOROUGH – Boasts Two of the Oldest Dwellings Now Standing in Delaware County

Morton claims to have the oldest house in Delaware County. This house, which is now known as the Edwards house, is said to be over two hundred years old. Situated on Morton Avenue, this old-fashioned place with its antiquated bolts and latches, belies its age, for truth of which, however, has been questioned by none.

The exact date of the erection of this building cannot be found in the annals of the county, but the records show that it was built prior to 1735. Some of the old residents of Morton, who are quite familiar with its history, say that it was the home of Benjamin West, one of the first Quaker settlers in that section.

The house is now occupied by Dr. Edwards wife has lived there for the past 58 years. Dr. Edwards is one of Morton's oldest residents, being now about 83 years old. He is well informed on the history of Morton, remembering quite well when the Morton of today, with its beautiful homes and roadways, was represented by but seven or eight houses, with no transit facilities except the stage. Dr. Edwards, in speaking about his home, said that he fully believed that it was 200 years old. The house in itself has never been renovated, but an addition of three rooms has been built to it. The original house is of brick two stories high, with a shingle roof. The bricks, which are supposed to have been brought from England, are in a good state of preservation, while the mortar used on them seems to have stood even better the weather and time. The mortar extends a fraction of an inch beyond the face of the brick and, unlike the mortar used today, resembles more closely concrete and is just as hard.

The interior of the house is interesting. Each room has its own open fireplace, which is large enough to burn a log five feet long and several feet in diameter. The doors, which are extremely heavy are adorned with quaint old latches and handles, all hand-forged, while the hinges are of such size as to go two thirds of the way across the doors. The doors, braced with these hinges, are made doubly strong. Morton at the time of the erection of this house was the seat of the Secane Indians, who roamed at will through the woods in that section.

Another of Morton's old dwellings in a log cabin, which is located not far from the Edwards house. This place, which is now occupied by a family of Negroes, was at one time known as the Gran home and was built prior to 1790. Many improvements have been made to this place, and while its logs are the original ones used when it was built, it is rapidly losing its Colonial appearance. The two homes are the stopping places of all tourists and sightseers, and Morton prides itself on its landmarks.