

# *The Taintor House*

*Established in 1890*





## ***The Architecture: The Victorian Era***

*This era dates from 1840 to 1900 in the US.*

*The introduction of the railroad coupled with the onset of the Industrial Revolution rapidly changed Morris Township's landscape during this time.*

*The ease of travel brought wealthy businessmen and their families to the area to vacation and enjoy the fresh air. Many of these visitors purchased acres of land and built impressive mansions for the summer and fall months. The Township's real estate became more and more valuable as farms made way for fine residences.*



## *The Shingle Style*

*The Shingle style architecture was in the fashion from about 1880-1900. Although this style of architecture was most used in seaside resorts of the northeast, it made its way to the countryside as well. The style's informality was a clear expression of American individualism. Architects took inspiration from America's renewed interest in Colonial American architecture brought on from the American Centennial celebrated in 1876. It also was an escape from other ornate styles of architecture popular during the Victorian Era such as Gothic Revival and Italianate. This style can be found in all regions of the United States, but it never really gained wide popularity, except in coastal New England.*





### *Unique Design*

*The Taintor House has a moderate pitched roof with irregular design, gabled dormers, and wall surface patterns. The original exterior was cedar shingles, long since painted for a more contemporary look, contrasting with locally found pudding stone columns and accents. The original exterior of the Taintor House was designed to blend into the landscape. The house is a massive design with a rustic, relaxed feeling of simplicity and informality, but it is not humble. Inside, a rambling floor plan with oversized rooms elegantly enhanced by wood floors, soaring ceilings and extensive molding detail convey a sense of power and wealth.*



## ***The Timeline***

*1844*

William Whitney purchased over a 100 acres of land for \$10,000. Mr. Whitney was a gentleman farmer with long roots in Morris Township. Some of the wooded property was cleared for grazing.

*1889 – May 15*

After the deal of her husband, Mary S. Whitney sold 57 acres of the original farmland to Giles Trainor of New York City for \$11,700

*Giles E. Taintor*

Mr. Taintor (1838-1919) was born in Buffalo. At age 20 he moved to NYC where for over 40 years he was a member of Taintor & Holt, Bankers in Wall Street. The firm was involved with many public and railroad enterprises which brought great wealth to Taintor who also owned coal mines in Denver and Pittsburgh. Married Augusta Hoply Behm in 1867 and had five children.

*Fall of 1889*

Mtr Taintor hired a local contractor, Thomas Malley to build his summer retreat on his newly acquired land. Malley was a partner in the Morristown firm of Malley, Dempsey & Cooney masons and builders. He erected some of the finest residences and buildings in the area.

*Summer 1890*

The mansion, sitting on a high hill just sould of Morristown with views for miles of the surrounding countryside, was completed. Every modern amenity was available to the Taintor family and their guests. They also employed a large staff to accommodate their every need.

*1903- April 18*

Mr. Taintor sold the 57 acre state to another wealthy New Yorker, Eben Briggs Thomas.

*Eben B Thomas*

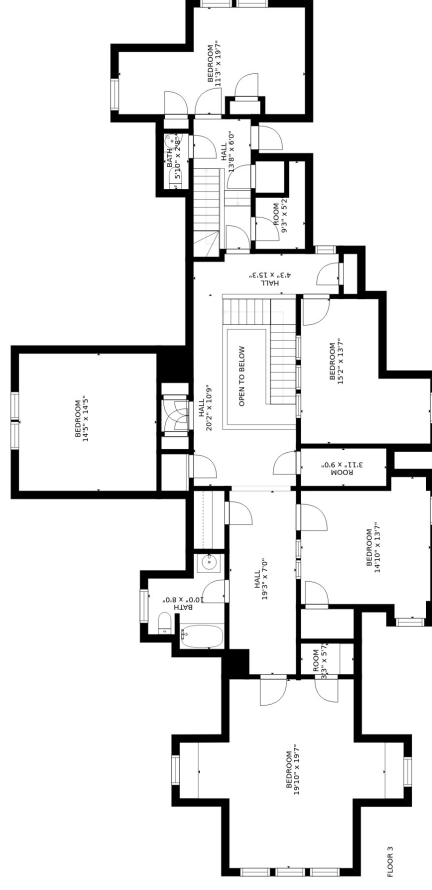
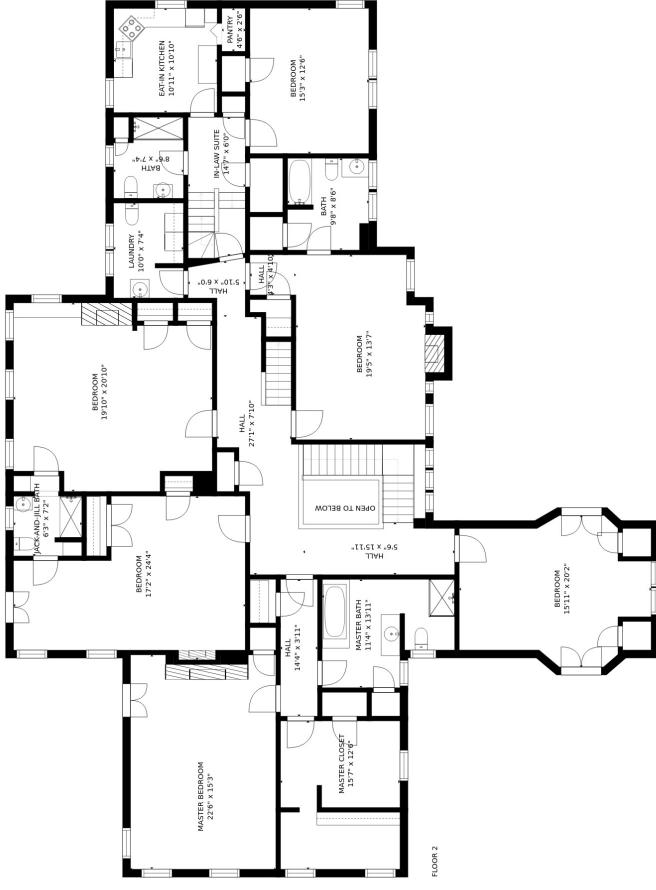
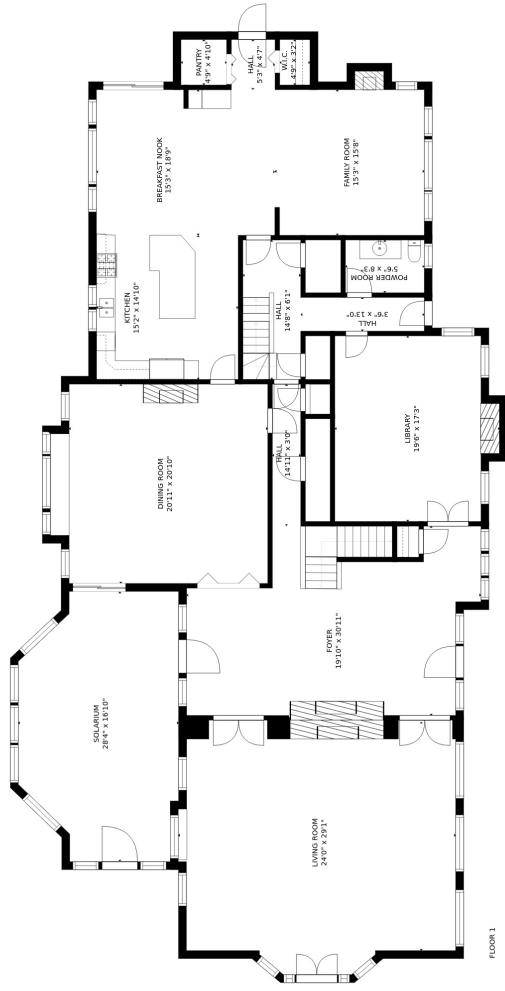
Mr. Thomas (1842-1919) was married to Gertrude Streator, their family included two daughters and one son. He was a railroad man his entire career including being the president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. Highly respected for the knowledge and expertise of the railroad, he was considered the finest railroad man of his time. Mr. Thomas also amassed a fortune during his career and was well suited for the Gilded Age of Millionaires.

*Fall of 1903*

Mt. Thomas made extensive renovations to his new estate. He hired a New York architect to plan the work including a stone porch enclosed for a conservatory. The plans also included enlarging the main rooms and adding five bathrooms.

*Spring of 1904*

The inside work was magnificent, but the home would not be complete with a landscaping upgrade. Mr. Thomas employed a force of men to grade the property, transplant trees aadd manicured shrubbery, make new driveways and roads and generally beautify the estate.



SIZES AND DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE, ACTUAL MAY VARY.

# WEST END

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