

TOUR OF MORRISON HISTORICAL SITES

MORRISON HISTORICAL GUIDE

research by

Lorene Horton, 1975

Morrison contains houses and businesses of pioneers who were solid, and hard working middle class people, who lived and worked and played in close association with each other.

The houses were built in most part by the people themselves, their neighbors and relatives, from 1870 to 1926. The area provides a homogeneous impression and atmosphere with remarkable intact. We still have a number of families that are the fifth generation of our pioneers and still live in the original houses of their forefathers.

- 1. OLD STANDARD SERVICE STATION - 103 Bear Creek Ave.** Built in 1926. This was Morrison's first fancy service station. The first operator was Dan Schneider, who was born in Morrison.
- 2. LIBRARY - 113 Bear Creek Ave.** Built in 1946 by Mr. Carl Peinze, with no cost to the town. It was a vagabond library for many years, until it moved into this "doll house".
- 3. AMOS HOUSE - 120 Bear Creek Ave.** Built in ca. 1873. The house was moved further back when the highway came through Morrison in 1926. This gentleman, his first name was Kinston, was the Father to Vinton Amos, a blacksmith in Morrison for many years.
- 4. PEINZE HOUSE - 117 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1873. Vinton Amos, a blacksmith in Morrison lived here ca. 1880. Mr. and Mrs. Peinze ran a grocery store and market and real estate office for years. Mercy Peinze has lived there since 1923.
- 5. JAMEISON HOME - 110 Market Street.** Built ca. 1873. They have lived there since 1931. Mr. Jameison was the distributor for Conoco Oil for many years. Pete Morrison, the town founder's grandson lived here when he was a young man working on the railroad and rodeoing with Clyde Hocking, Edgar Knolls, Joe Schrock and other old timers.
- 6. ANDREW JOHNSON HOME - 118 Market St.** Built in 1873. It was the Methodist Church's first parsonage. Andy, under pressure, accompanied his wife when she wanted to "move uptown." Mr. Johnson worked for the Morrison Post Office from about 1910 to 1950. Mrs. Beatta Johnson lived 97 years.
- 7. PILLAR OF FIRE CHURCH.** Built ca. 1885. The Pillar of Fire bought the church from the town, also the house next door in 1932, as a memorial to Alma White.
- 8. CHARLEY PIKE HOME - 105 Market St.** Built ca. 1880. Pike was a nephew of Zebulon Pike (Pike's Peak Fame). The Pike's were merchants in Morrison.
- 9. MORRISON COUNTRY STORE - 201 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1880. Occupied by Judge Babcock as a dwelling. Also, was a meat market run by Tom Morrison, son of the founder of the town of Morrison. It was the Morrison Post Office after the Morrison fire of 1919. It was the birth place of Harry Gates (as Mother didn't make it to Denver). On Harry's first birthday, everyone in Morrison was invited to his party. It was quite a large party!
- 10. TOM LEWIS HOME - 205 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1879 of native brick. Lewis ran a livery stable in Morrison. His son was killed by John Brisben Walker's horse. His daughter died as a young woman (Mrs. Ammy Abbo.) Tom and his wife, son and daughter, are all buried in the Morrison cemetery.
- 11. JOHN ROSS HARDWARE AND LUMBER CO. - 209 and 211 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1876, of native stone, still owned by his daughter, Mary Quintance, of Golden, Colo.
- 12. DEAN'S GROCERY STORE - 215 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1890, by John Ross. Dance hall upstairs, on Sunday was the Episcopal Sunday School taught by Mrs. Mary Chattie Ross, John's wife. Later it was Mr. Peinze's grocery store
- 13. JOHN ROSS HOME - 106 Stone St.** Built ca. 1878. It was a restaurant and a passenger pick-up for the stage coach going further into the mountains. After Mr. Ross's home burned he used it as his home.
- 14. TOWN HALL - 110 Stone St.** Built ca. 1880 for the Woodman of the World. Later acquired by the Woodcraft ladies (insurance group and wives.) Finally donated to the town by the Booster Club.
- 15. MELISSA PEARSON HOUSE - 112 Stone St.** Built ca. 1879 for a rental and still is.
- 16. NEWLAND HOUSE - 116 Stone St.** Built ca. 1875. Mrs. Newland ran a boarding house there. Many of the railroad workers ate there.
- 17. DURHAM HOUSE - 307 Mt. Vernon Ave.** Built ca. 1880. Mr. Fillmore Durham was the railroad station master, and his wife was the telegraph operator. He was killed on Bear Creek Ave. by a car in 1936, age 84.

- a fine rock mason and worked on many of the fine vacation homes in the mountains, he also rodeoed with "the gang." He worked at the Rooney coalmine. He served on the Morrison Town Board for many years, and was highly regarded in the Morrison community.
- 19. LOG CABIN - 313 Mt. Vernon Ave.** Built ca. 1918, by Ted and Joe Schrock for Olinger (mortuary) as a real estate office to promote selling Indian Hills property. It was moved from Bear Creek Ave. to present hill location. It was used as a Girl Scout cabin for awhile.
 - 20. JAKE SCHNEIDER HOME - 107 Stone St.** Built ca. 1875. Thomas C. Bergen, founder of Bergen Park in 1859, occupied this dwelling in 1887. In 1892, his daughter, Sara, Bergen Post, lived there. Aug. 6, 1904, Jake and Nellie Schneider, lived here until 1948. His son, Bill S., is still living in Morrison and is known by all for his many years in the drug store.
 - 21. PIKE AND PERRY MERCANTILE CO. - 301 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1880. Burnt out in 1919, and had to be repaired. Mazie and David O. Gage had a dance hall in 1919. After flood in 1938, the Schneider's moved into this building and continued the drug store business until 1973, making total of 35 years in this building. Schneider started in business in Morrison before 1898.
 - 22. HENRY F. WOLF'S POOL HALL, TOBACCO & BARBER SHOP - 303 & 305 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1880. 1892 Levi H. McGill had a mercantile, 1906 it was Pike & Perry Mercantile. It also was the first filling station having one hand pump on the sidewalk to fill cars with gas. This was about 1916.
 - 23. PETE CHRISTENSON'S SHOP - 307 Bear Creek Ave.** Built 1876 by Pete, name and date still on building above door. Later, Pete Schneider had a shoe shop there. Pete Schneider and Jake were brothers.
 - 24. SITE - SCHNEIDER'S GROCERIES, RESTAURANT & ROOMS.** 311 Bear Creek Ave. It was a 2 story frame building, with stairs outside like you see in all western movies. Maggie and Harry Hines ran the hotel in 1899. It burned down in 1931, and was replaced by present brick building.
 - 25. SITE - BAKER AND SMITH GARAGE. - 317 Bear Creek Ave.** Rebuilt 1931. (Same fire as above). It was called Mt. Morrison Garage "Auto Stage and Livery". It was a story and a half frame building, and James Abbo built the first building about 1887. It has been a garage most of the time.
 - 26. SITE-RAILROAD STATION.** 315 Bear Creek Ave. Built in 1873. It was the station for the Denver South Park & Pacific Railroad. Freight transported consisted of: Building stone, some marble, lime, fence posts and lumber from sawmills along Bear Creek; hauled down by wagons to the train in Morrison. Also, providing transportation to and from Denver. The train made its last scheduled run in 1925 and was abandoned after 1933 flood. It played an important part in the history of Morrison.
 - 27. CLIFF HOUSE - 122 Mill St.** Built 1873 by George P. Morrison for his home, when he moved from Mt. Vernon. George died in 1895 in this house. John Swanson, a Swedish family, bought the house and ran a well known hotel, called the Cliff House. Known for its fine food, good rooms and lovely garden with a bandstand for Saturday concerts. Morrison had its own band. Mrs. Swanson lost her mind, and died in a sanatorium. Mr. Swanson hung himself from grief over her death.
 - 28. WILLIAM SAWYER HOME - 109 Mill St.** Built ca. 1880. His wife, Mary B. and daughter Minnie, still live there. He was a Justice of Peace, drove a stage coach, and worked in the Rooney coalmine. Mary worked at Morrison Post Office and at J.B. Walker's Pavilion. Mrs. Sawyer has lived here since 1908, having moved in as a bride.
 - 29. MORRISON BANK - 401 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1880 of native brick. 403 Bear Creek Ave. was a dentist office. The banker was MacClain. A beauty shop has occupied the east side for 30 years. Mr. Ed Drab operated it, and was in his 80's when he retired.
 - 30. WILLIAM BECKETT HOME - 116 Beckett Lane.** Built ca. 1882. William and Lucy Beckett came from London, England with their two daughters, Florence and Lucy. He was a cobbler and she a trained nurse. He worked in John Ross Hardware and Lumber Co., also as a carpenter. Lucy maintained her English white uniform, while performing her duties as a nurse whenever she was called.
 - 31. DODE REEDY HOUSE - 120 Beckett Lane.** Built ca. 1883. Built by William Beckett, rented to the families of workers for the rock quarries, the railroad and construction jobs in the mountain area. Joe Schrock, son of a pioneer, and his wife Irma, lived there when they were married, ca. 1920. Their first child was born there, Betty Jo Schrock McDonald who still lives in Morrison.
 - 32. HELEN HANSON HOUSE - 140 Beckett Lane.** Built ca. 1884. Built by William Beckett for workers for quarry, Rooney coal mine.

- road, and other occupations common to a small western town. It became known as the Hanson House during this century, when she lived there for many years.
- 33. JAIL HOUSE - 119 Beckett Lane.** Built ca. 1884. Built by William Beckett, aided by Mr. Cresser. The jail is completely enclosed, and is now just a room in Mr. Palmer's house. Mr. Palmer is in his late 70's and has spent 30 years building it from reclaimed material. All inside and outside walls are solid wood and are insulated with from 6 to 24" of spun glass taken from old refrigerators and stoves. All floors are made with hard oak. It is today an ingenious example of recycling, economy and practicality, which is typical of our Morrison pioneer ancestors.
 - 34. MORRISON NEWSPAPERS SITE - 408 Bear Creek Avenue.** The first newspaper was "The Bud," in existence from 1889 to 1899. Second newspaper was "Jefferson," from 1900 to 1906 (full title: "Jefferson County Graphic"). Third newspaper: "Morrison Independent," from 1912 to 1914. Fourth newspaper: "Morrison Monitor," 1914-1917. This was Morrison's last newspaper. Dan Schneider, son of a pioneer, was a typesetter, as a teenager.
 - 35. GOTCHALK BAKERY (also Quarry site) - 503 & 505 Bear Creek Ave.** Built ca. 1885. The site of the Morrison Stone, Lime and Town Company, the kiln (built ca. 1878) made the mortar that was used in many of the houses that still stand today. Jonas Henry Schrock was believed to have had a saloon in this building. The Gotchalks started their bakery downstairs and lived in the 1 1/2 storey rear apartment in 1889. Later this building was used as the Morrison Post Office.
 - 36. STAGECOACH BUILDING - 101 South Park Ave.** Built ca. 1870. Built of natural sandstone. Believed to have been built by George Morrison, the founder of Morrison. The stage run was from Morrison to Leadville and Fairplay. Tom Morrison, Andy Jordan, William Sawyer and Pete Morrison (Tom's son) were all stagecoach drivers over the years. 1887 James Abbo bought it and continued the action.
 - 37. ABBO'S LIVERY AND CARRIAGE HOUSE - 107 S. Park Ave.** Built ca. 1870. Abbo & Lewis were partners. Tom Lewis was Mr. Abbo's father-in-law. Oscar, Tom Lewis' son, took care of John Brisbee Walker's horse and fine carriage. He would pick him up at his home at the foot of Mt. Falcon, take him to the train in Morrison for his "commute" to Denver where he attended to his business ventures. Then Oscar would pick him up at the train stop in the evening. Oscar had several customers of his nature. John B. Walker's horse killed Oscar.
 - 38. AMOS' BLACKSMITH SHOP - 104 South Park Ave.** Built ca. 1880. Vinton Amos was a smithy. He had been in business in Evergreen before coming to Morrison. He continued to run a blacksmith shop until the advent of the automobile, when this building became Pete Foster's garage, ca. 1920.
 - 39. ABBO'S DWELLING - 119 South Park Avenue.** Built ca. 1870. Occupied as dwelling and blacksmith shop by Godfrey Krause, Dec. 27, 1875 (date of deed in Abstract). Adam S. Shrock bought the whole block, which was a stagecoach house, the livery and carriage house, and the dwelling, for \$4,750, in 1882. James Abbo acquired the property in 1887. After Abbo's death in 1922, Dr. Frank L. Luce bought it. Dr. Luce had lived in Morrison since 1890, when he came from Denver. He brought into the world many of the remaining descendants who are still living in Morrison. From 1945 to 1973 it was a popular Mexican restaurant called El Gallo Tuerto run by Lorene Horton and Mildred Goodrich.
 - 40. WILLIAM SCHNEIDER HOUSE - 207 South Park Ave.** Built 1926. Dan and the present owner, Bill, were sons of Jake Schneider, a pioneer. Alma Schneider, who was Dan's wife, was a Kittredge, whose father promoted the town of Kittredge, and built the Kittredge building in Denver. Alma was the director of the Denver Mint during the Eisenhower era. Bill's wife Ruth is a descendant of the Matthew family, earliest pioneers of Mt. Vernon and Morrison. Both Bill and Ruth were born in Morrison.
 - 41. ROBERT SMITH HOUSE (BOB) - 211 South Park Ave.** Built ca. 1915 by Dr. Frank Luce from lumber taken when part of Abbo's livery stables was torn down so they could enlarge Abbo's house. Dr. Luce did all the labor. He lived there till ca. 1922. Bob Smith is a grandson of Jeremiah Smith, early pioneer of Indian Hills. His mother was Lucy Beckett who came with her parents from London, England. Quite a number of descendants of Smiths and Becketts still live in Morrison.
 - 42. KNOLL'S HOUSE - 215 South Park Ave.** Built ca. 1888. Dr. Luce lived here when he came from Denver in 1890. Around 1915 he moved into the house next door, which he built himself. Mrs. Effie Knolls lived here after she married James Knolls. Effie May's parents were Nancy Jane and James Groom. They came from Kentucky in a

covered wagon. They had 12 children. Effie was the eldest. Effie occupied the house until her death ca. 1961. Her son Edgar Knolls ("Eggs Knolls") drove the stagecoach in Morrison, worked in the rock quarries, and other jobs. James Knolls, her husband, was a rock mason. He and Effie had 14 children. Lee Knolls ("Ollie") worked for Gov. Evans' son as a gardner for many years.

43. **PEARL PEARMAN HOUSE - 212 South Park Ave.** Built ca. 1888. The Pearmans lived here from 1919 till about 1939. Pearl was the daughter of Jonas Schrock, a pioneer of Morrison who homesteaded on Mt. Falcon. Their two boys Charlie P. and Jack Wilson lived here and went to the Morrison School. Pearl, at the age of 87 (1975) is still riding horseback two and three times a week, where she lives in Boulder. Prior to Pearl a Mr. Bishop, who was a carpenter, lived here. Marie Taylor, the present owner, has lived there since ca. 1950.

44. **COCKRAN HOUSE - 109 Spring Street.** Ca. 1885. Lizzie C. Kirby was the first on Abstract records. Charles Cockran, ca. 1919 (Abstract) followed. His wife Daisy Beachman was from an old family of pioneers from Evergreen. Lizzie Kirby's husband Jack disappeared and was never heard from again. All the children called Lizzie "Aunt Babe." She had one daughter, Marie Kirby, who was very popular in the Morrison School.

45. **FLORENCE BECKETT McLAIN HOUSE - 115 Spring Street.** Built ca. 1889. Florence Beckett came to Morrison to live from London, England with her parents and her sister Lucy. She lived here after she got married. She had four children, two still living. Maxine Davis lives in Brighton and John McLain close to the Morrison Girl's School.

46. **RAILROAD CREW HOUSE - 127 Spring Street,** Ca. 1872. Built for the men building the railroad, moved to present location from 315 Spring St. on Bear Creek, it was close to the tracks. Mr. Peinze had it moved to its present location 1926 and sold it for a residence.

47. **SWISS COTTAGE - 132 Spring Street,** 1874. Built for Gov. Evans of native sandstone by Geo. Morrison, a Quebec Stone Mason, who came to Colorado in 1850 with his family and settled in Mt. Vernon, moving to Morrison in 1873. It has been billed as Swiss Cottage, the Evergreen House at Morrison, Morrison House, Loreli Park, Sacred Heart College, Mt. Morrison Hotel and Casino, Hillcrest Inn, St. Elizabeth Retreat & Pine Haven Manor.

48. **MORRISON SCHOOL HOUSE - 226 Spring Street.** Built 1875 by George Morrison of native sandstone. It was in continuous academic use till 1955. It is now a private residence.

49. **GROVER DENBOW HOUSE - 307 Spring Street,** ca. 1875. This house was also used as a railroad crew house, later as a rental. Denbow rented it when he came to Morrison with his famiy in 1912. Grover Denbow was a trapper among other jobs. It was also called Orchard Place.

50. **BAKER HOUSE - 311 Spring Street,** ca. 1872. Julie Ann Baker was a Groom, one of the oldest families around Morrison. She was born in 1880. The house hasn't been changed a great deal from its beginning. It also was close to the railroad tracks.

51. **SCHROCK HOUSE - 314 Spring Street** ca. 1872. Jonas Schrock came from Germany, his wife Elnora came from England. Mr. Shrock had a saloon in Morrison 307 Bear Creek Ave. Later he homesteaded on Mt. Falcon where John Brisban Walker later built his home and planned the Castle which was to be The Colorado White House. There have been 5 generations of Schrocks living in Morrison.

52. **FLORENCE SMITH WILSON HOUSE - 320 4th St.** This was Lucy Beckett Smith and Robert Smith's home, built ca. 1899. Robert was a son of Jeremiah and Margret Smith who homesteaded in Indian Hills, Colorado. There are 5 generations of Smiths still living in and around Morrison. This house was moved from Spring Street, to its present location about 1905.

53. **JOHN BRISBEN WALKER HOUSE - End of Red Rock Vista Lane,** ca. 1900. John lived there while he built his home up on top of Mt. Falcon. His wife is buried a little ways from the house on a spot where she loved to sit and look over to the Red Rocks Park.

54. **KATE GROOM FULLER HOUSE - 231 Hi-Way 8 in Morrison.** Ca. 1880. Kate was a groom, one of the oldest families around Morrison. She was a sister to Effie Mae Knolls and Julia Ann Baker. She was one of 12 children. The house was moved to this location from Market St. in 1926.

55. **DR. GEORGE PALMER HOUSE - 229 Hi-Way 8 in Morrison.** Ca. 1900. It is believed to be an older house that was moved in and added to about 1910. Frank Baker bought it ca. 1930 and raised 2 children. Frank Bakers mother was a Groom. Julia Ann Groom B.

56. **ART JOHNSON HOUSE - 225 Hi-Way 8 in Morrison.** Ca. 1910. This

house was built for the parsonage of the Methodist Church in Morrison on Market St. (Pillar of Fire now).

57. **BERTHA MARIE HEBREW HOME - 804 Bear Creek Ave. Ca. 1887.** It was moved to this location in 1891 by Sam Hebrew. He came to Colorado to hunt buffalo with Buffalo Bill who had a contract to furnish meat for railroad crews. Sam married Nora Smith, daughter of Jeremiah and Margaret Smith who homesteaded in Indian Hills. Colo. Bertha still lives here (1976).

58. **LAWRENCE ED LaGROW HOUSE - 207 Bear Creek Lane. Ca. 1870.** The LaGrow family occupied until 1975. The house was added to as the family grew. Mr. LaGrow came from Gillsberg, Ill. 1868, Mr. Andy Jordan (his brother-in-law) also lived in a small house on this same property, it burned down. Andy was a stage coach driver in Morrison for many years. Mr. LaGrow's wife's parents also lived with them. Her father was Flavious Jordan, a Civil War veteran.

59. **CURT LAGROW HOUSE - 201 Bear Creek Lane, ca. 1913.** Built by Jennie Cowan and a little girl neighbor who was 13 years old, she was Bertha Marie Hebrew. Mary LaGrow (next door) bought it for her son Curt when he got married about 1920. His daughter now owns it.

60. **MAGGIE CROW HOUSE - 109 Bear Creek Lane. Ca. 1872.** She carried mail on horseback from Morrison into the surrounding mountains. There were lots of stories about this woman. She had two sons Vernon and Floyd. Mr. W.L. Crow came to Colorado in 1872 (her husband).

61. **TUTTLE HOUSE OR ALMA WHITE HOUSE - 107 Bear Creek Lane. Ca. 1872.** Alma White (the founder of the Pillar of Fire Church)

lived here after her second son, Ray, was born in 1892 (picture of house in "Some White Family History" by Auther Kent White) also Mr. and Mrs. Hopper lived here in 1916. He was the town barber. It was remodeled in August, 1975.

62. **MARY SMITH HOME - 105 Bear Creek Lane, ca. 1872.** Mary Tuttle's home, mother of Seldon Tuttle No. 61 in 1880. Mary and Henry Smith traded a 1928 Ford with a rumble seat and \$150 in cash for this property a year after they were married. Mary still lives there. Henry owned the Morrison garage ca. 1922. Mary is a Schrock, one of the oldest families in Morrison. She was born in Morrison No. 51 house.

63. **JOEL HOCKING - 601 Bear Creek Ave. Ca. 1872.** Albert and Eva Rogers lived there. They had 10 or 11 children, who all went to the Morrison School about 1899 (Census List of school children). Peter Christenson, who built No. 23, lived there also. It was rented to Grover and Nell Denbow about 1915, furnished for \$5.00 a month. (Mrs. Rogers owned it at that time.) Hocking was the town marshal, a homesteader on top of Mt. Falcon, and a popular participant in rodeos.

64. **JASPER TRACY HOUSE - 199 Garden Ave. ca. 1880.** Annie Ewan Tracy came from a large family southeast of Morrison. Their home was called the Cotton-Wood Ranch, presently the John Pallaro ranch.

65. **JUDGE STROUP HOUSE - 201 Garden Ave. ca. 1922.**

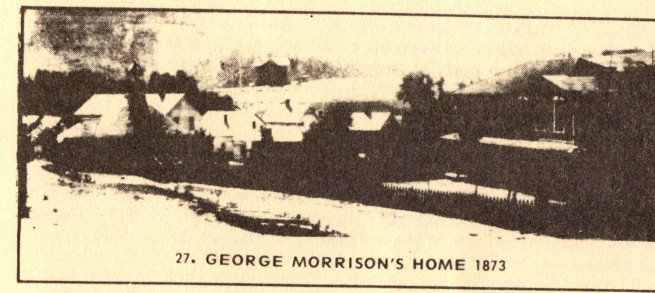
66. **HOWARD BEACH - 201 Mill St. ca. 1918.** Built by Walter Weir. Mr. Weir had milk goats and lived below town before he built this house. The Beaches have lived there for 50 years.

67. **TOM MORRISON HOME - on Mt. Vernon Creek ca. 1877.** Son of founder George Morrison, Tom was a stagecoach driver from Morrison to Bradford Junction (now Conifer.) In 1887 on a toll-road called McNassor. In 1877, he also drove the stage to Parmalee Gulch (Indian Hills). Tom also had a butcher shop No. 9, and a saloon, at different times.

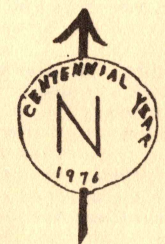
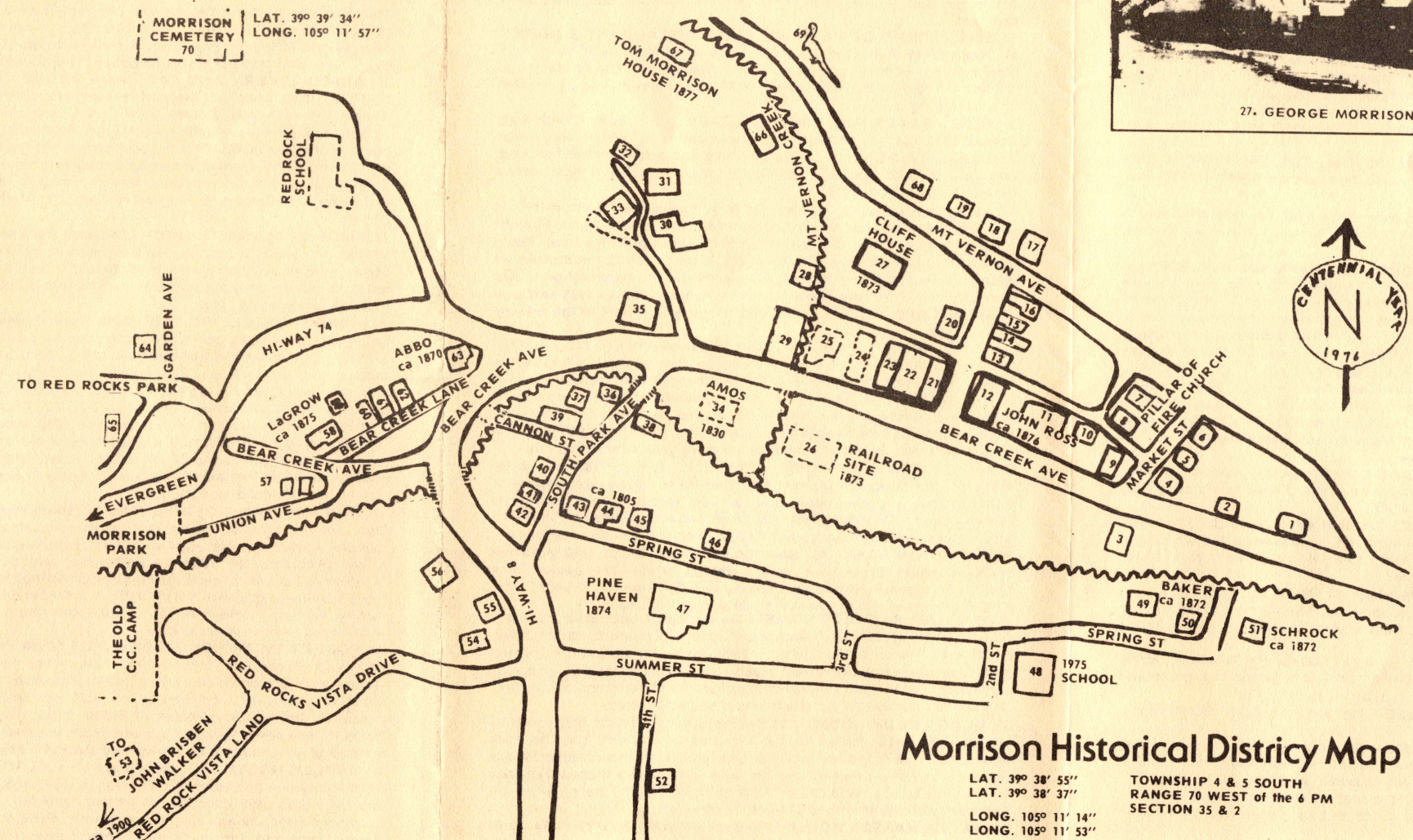
68. **CROSSER HOUSE, or, DAVIS HOUSE - 403 Mt. Vernon Ave. ca. 1882.** Mr. Crosser worked for Mr. Beckett and Mr. Ross. He built the jail with the door pins on the inside! He was the first prisoner in the new jail, and the first to break out.

69. **DINOSAUR SITE - Mt. Vernon Ave.** In 1878, Othniel C. March, a Yale Professor, excavated a huge brontosaurus from the hogback ridge above Morrison. The white scar on the hillside is visible from almost any point in Morrison looking northeast. As both one of the largest and most complete skeletons ever found, it is displayed at Yale University's Peabody Museum.

70. **MORRISON CEMETERY - North of the Red Rocks Elementary School. Ca. 1868 to 1975.**



27. GEORGE MORRISON'S HOME 1873



DRAWN BY
LORENE HORTON
Aug., 1975

Morrison Historical District Map

LAT. 39° 38' 55"
LAT. 39° 38' 37"
LONG. 105° 11' 14"
LONG. 105° 11' 53"
TOWNSHIP 4 & 5 SOUTH
RANGE 70 WEST of the 6 PM
SECTION 35 & 2