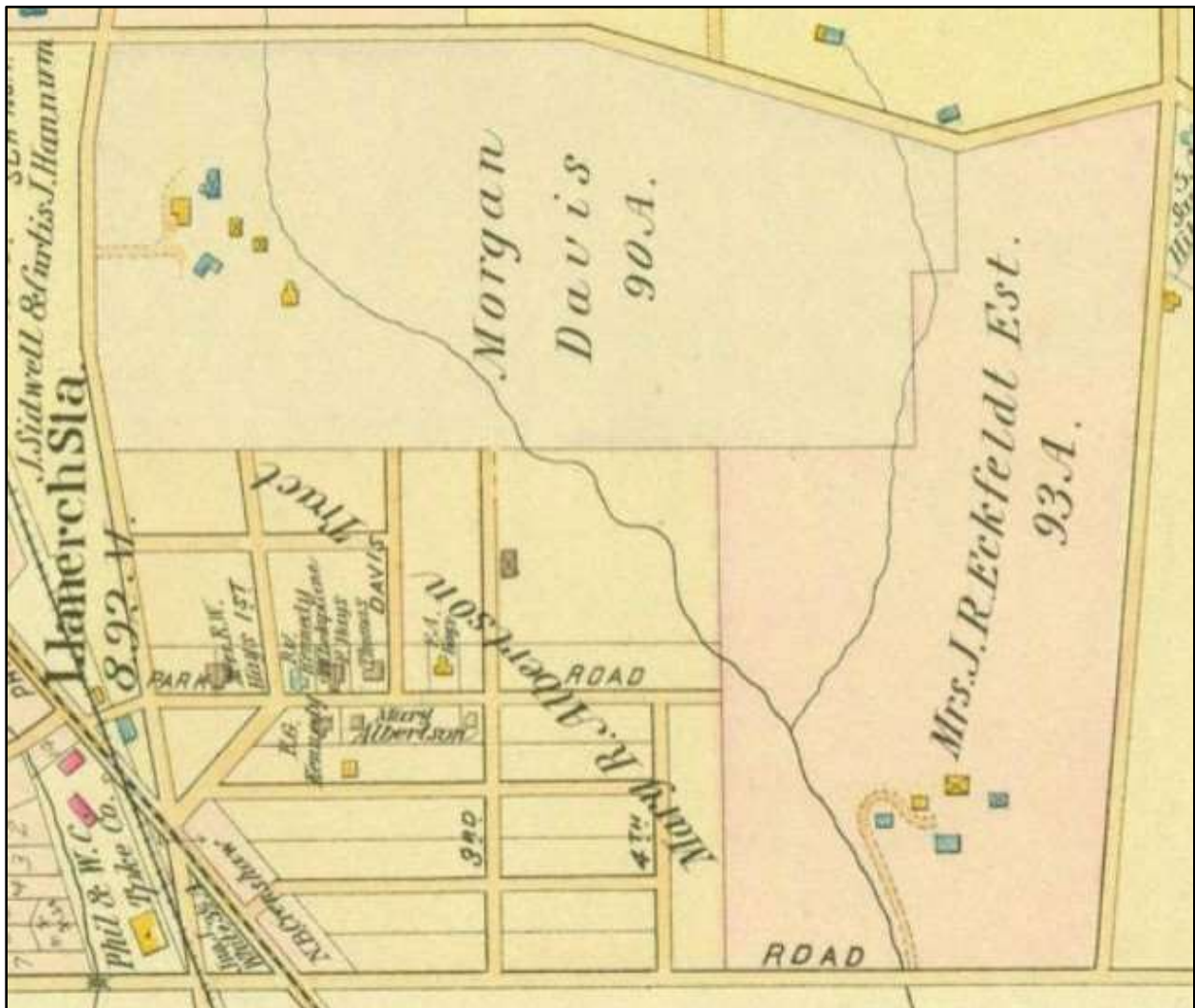




DAVILLA FARM

By Richard D. Kerr

[The following text is excerpted from *Rural Pennsylvania in the Vicinity of Philadelphia* by Rev. S. F. (Samuel Fitch) Hotchkin, M. A., published in 1897 by George W. Jenkins & Co. in Philadelphia, with additional comments in square brackets.]



Davilla Farm is the Morgan Davis property shown at the top of this 1897 map detail, south of Manoa Road.

DAVILLA FARM – This name is derived from the owner’s name, Davis, with a termination adapted for the purpose of an appellation. [“Davis” and “villa” combined]. Morgan Reese Davis [see separate biography] is the present [1897] proprietor. He purchased it from the estate of Samuel Davis, Esq., in A. D. 1867. It

comprises about eighty-eight acres, lying on the Coopertown Road [now called Darby Road], and touching the new village of Llanerch. The first-named Davis family held the place for two generations. Morgan R. Davis enlarged and remodeled the house in 1874, placing a cozy piazza around two sides of the building, and enlarged the barn and other outbuildings, and erected a new tenant house near the mansion for the use of the farmer. The beautiful trees of the lawn were nearly all planted by the present proprietor, though an old cherry tree tries to assert its antiquity, but is yielding to the gnawing tooth of time. The bright row of pine trees which enliven the avenue under the summer sun and the winter snow were planted by Morgan R. Davis. Mr. Davis was born in Downingtown, Chester County, Pennsylvania. His father was E. Davis, and his mother's maiden name was Mary Pauling. Mrs. Davis is the daughter of William Roberts, and was born in Philadelphia. Her father had been a resident of Gwynedd, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His wife was Hannah W. Wilson, of Chester County, Pennsylvania, being a descendant of the well-known Maris family. The children of the present family are Clara L. Davis, William R. Davis, Harry M. Davis, Sarah Davis, Nellie Davis, Cresson R. Davis, John H. Davis, and Morgan R. Davis, Jr.

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