

## Morning Room

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The Morning Room has a title which suggests it was used in the morning, but it suggests nothing more. It was an uncommon room name although not unique. In a review of over a hundred house plans of the period, both English and American, only two other examples were found. Those plans are shown in Illustrations 13 and 14. The first plan with a morning room on the ground floor is English, and by its location suggests that it is either public or semi-public. The second plan exhibits a morning room on the second floor with a similar relationship to the primary bedroom as is found at Orchard House. This relationship suggests a private use.

References to morning rooms are found in decorating journals of the day, but offer no conclusive evidence as to use. In one article the term morning room is used to mean breakfast room, but most references suggest it to be a library, den, or private sitting room. In an article about a house in the October 1905 edition of *The House Beautiful*, the writer states that "As the room is used as a library, the lower part of the walls have several glass bookcases built in. The desk is an original piece of furniture, very graceful in design, the ivory inlay adding much to its beauty of detail. Some green blown glass made on the Clyde looks very decorative when filled with water, and makes a charming receptacle for flowers. The folding mahogany table with drop leaves had some of the green glass with flowers on it .... The room is decidedly dainty." Photographs of the room are shown in Illustrations 15 and 16.

In *The Architectural Record*, January 1905, in an article titled "British Home of To-day," there is discussion that includes morning rooms and which suggests any number of possibilities for use. "As for the rooms of the house itself, the complete shutting off of one sitting-room from another, so that to go from the morning-room to the dining-room and thence to the drawing-room you must twice pass through the hall and the passage which leads from the vestibule to the house, although the drawing-room and the dining-room have only a wall to separate them, is again something which American plans will not often show. The mistress of this house, if an American lady, would wish a door cut through from dining-room to drawing-room, and that forthwith. And as for the morning room, she would try to get that

into touch with the other two rooms mentioned, and would alter without hesitation to do it - unless, indeed, 'morning-room' is another phrase for the master's work-room or study or 'den.'"

A morning room with a adjoining relationship to a master bedroom is described in the January 1905 *House Beautiful*. "The pretty morning-room, leading from this apartment [bedroom] is hung in French chintz, of a large flower pattern, in greens, pinks, lavenders, and soft yellows. The material is laid in broad French pleats, and is carried to a low molding. The mantel is very plain, which is well for the decorative walls make ornamental details imposible .... Upon old brass andirons are placed small logs, in readiness to light. A commodious writing-table, with every conveniencce for correspondence, is the most interesting piece of furniture in the room. It is shaped like an old-fashioned low-boy, with high cabriole feet. Another piece of colonial furniture is a Windsor rocking chair." The bedroom that adjoins this morning room is shown in illustration 65.

It is reasonable to conclude by the location of the Morning Room at Orchard House that it was used as a private sitting room and, as discussed in the chapter "Use of Rooms," as Mrs. Sclater's. Although the she may have taken tea in the room, it isn't likely that she actually had breakfast here since there was a room specifically designated for that purpose on the ground floor.

The walls were painted light coral with a white ceiling. The pine woodwork was stained and waxed. The floor should be carpeted wall to wall with strip carpeting. The alcove opening should be reconfigured as shown on interior elevation illustration 9. Windows should have green paper shades, sheer curtains and floor length side panels. Because the room is recommended to be interpreted as Mrs. Sclater's private sitting room, it is suggested that this room be decorated in a feminine fashion.