John Maag had his two story, twelve room house built for $10,000. It was begun in 1895 and completed in 1899. It was located on Fairhaven near the city limits of Orange on land which is now part of Fairhaven Cemetery. It was intended for a large family and John and Catherine Maag produced such a family.

In reminiscing about the home of her grandparents, Lucina Maag Considine remembered the dining room with a beautifully tiled fireplace, built in cabinets and bay windows. The dining room was large enough to seat at least 24 people at the main table and side table for the grandchildren. After a meal, the men went into the adjacent study for smoking and the women into the large living room for gossip or into the kitchen for cleanup. Lucina also remembered that as a child putting a book on her head in ascending the grand staircase, practicing for the grownup time when she would be making pretty entrances.

Mr. and Mrs. Maag's bedroom was on the first floor, allowing nighttime solitude away from the active children. The children slept on the second floor in five of six bedrooms. The girls each had their own bedrooms with that of Mary, the oldest, directly above the dining room. The six boys shared three of the four remaining bedrooms. The last was a guest bedroom. We have further remembrances of the house from William Altmiller, the only son of Mary, John's oldest child. He points out, first, that the grandchildren, when working the farm, entered the house through the back door off the kitchen, after cleaning up in the wash basin on the back porch. William remembered, as did Lucina, the long shelf in the pantry always being filled with fresh pies, cakes and cookies. Twelve pies were baked for each Sunday dinner. Naturally, the children would know the location of the pastries.

The kitchen stove was part electric and part wood burning. The wood was burned, to save electricity, and the fuel was lemon wood or orange wood. Maag had his home wired with electricity in 1900, though no one else locally did, only for those in the big cities.

Also remembered was the tank house, now known as the water tower. A water tank was on the roof of the tank house with a pump on the first floor to get water to the tank above. This provided the water pressure for the upstairs bathroom, the first floor kitchen and the toilet of the main house.

In the horse and buggy days, the carriage barn was so named. But with the coming of the automobile, it became the garage with a gas pump in front of it. Not without humor, Maag planted “maagnoita” trees along the road in front of his property, an indication of how his name is pronounced. The front entrance of the house was rarely used. Arriving guests departed their coaches, and later their cars, at the side entrance, since the driveway was on the side, not the front of the house.

Today, entering the house for the first time, one is immediately overwhelmed with a sense of melancholy. What remains of this beautiful structure is merely a skeleton of the past.