

Seager House

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Mr. Leroy G. Seager was born in New York in 1846. When he was eighteen years old, he and his parents moved to Iowa. It is there that he married Estelle Sparks in 1872; they had four children - an infant who died at five months, a daughter Maysie and two sons: George L. and Charles P.

His business interests in Iowa were in canned goods and banking. Eventually Leroy left Iowa and came to this area where, in 1894, he started a canning factory on Wood and Union in Hart. He sold his interest in the canning factory in 1900 and bought an interest in Nufer Ceder Company's box factory. A short time later he decided to retire to a more private life in Whitehall.

In April 1904, an article appeared in the Whitehall Forum telling about L. G. Seager's new house that was going to be built by Contractor Henry L. Palmer of Muskegon, at a cost of \$7,000. At the time, it was considered the most modern residence of the time, featuring wiring for electric lights; hot and cold running water in the bedrooms and kitchen; and hot air heat in addition to three fireplaces. The three-story house contains about 2,740 plus square feet.

The first floor consisted of a vestibule and reception hall 14x15 feet with a nook 8x5 foot and octagon windows, 21x14 foot sitting room, 14x15 foot dining room, butler's pantry and 15x13 foot kitchen.

Columns and ornamental grills connect the arches in the hall, sitting room and a dining room with a china cupboard that has plate glass doors, columns and capitals.

A double fireplace stands in the wall between the hall and the dining room.

Red oak finishes and polished oak floors were used throughout the first floor except in the kitchen and pantry which were finished with Georgia pine and maple floors.

The second floor consists of four spacious and airy bedrooms, five closets, and a white tiled bathroom. The third floor is occupied by a den in the circular tower and a servant's room.

A pleasant 10 foot wide porch runs across the front of the house.

Allen Benjamin of Whitehall supervised the construction of the house. The painting, papering and woodwork finishing were done by Ole Esterling.

Unfortunately, L. G. Seager only had about three years to enjoy his house, as he died in April 1907. His wife Estelle continued to live in the house until her death in February 1924.

Their son Charles then lived in the house until he died in February 1960. Charles Parry Seager was a talented musician and composer involved in the White Lake Dramatic Club, the Playhouse, and the White Lake Swedish Mid-Summer Festival.

As Charles never married, he left the house to friend and former Whitehall mayor Richard Cogswell, who later sold it to a family named Kelly. They used it as their summer home.

In 1987, John & Carol LaCroix purchased the house and did some extensive updating to it while still keeping all the original old charm. During their ownership, they operated the house as "The Music Box" Bed and Breakfast until around 1996.

There have been several other owners since then who have called this house their home.