

Homes – C. C. Johnson

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C1904 - Residence of C. C. Johnson

Charles C. Johnson was born in Sweden in 1844. He came to Whitehall in 1867 and worked for Joseph Hogreen for the first five years, which consisted of farm work in the summer and working in the woods in the winter. He tried his hand in a sawmill, but it did not agree with his health, so he bought some land in the Fruitland area and went to work for himself.

He became a naturalized citizen in 1873.

He married Flora Belle Stockwell in Lawrence, VanBuren County in 1878. They had three children: a son, Walter Louis (1879-1922) and two daughters, Myrtha Lomina (1881-1950) and Martha Lucybelle (1891-1966).

In 1901 Johnson purchased a one-third interest in the Olsen & Youngquist Roller Mills in Whitehall and Montague.

The following information came from a local newspaper item dated August 4, 1904, and gives details of the C. C. Johnson's new house: We have just been favored with a view of the plans for the new residence of Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Johnson. The plans with all details and specifications have been drawn

and prepared by local resident Mr. C. W. Redfern, who has taken the contract for the erection and completion of the dwelling, ready for occupancy.

The dwelling will be 26 feet and 9 inches wide by 44 feet in length, two stories. The entrance will be from a commodious porch on the southeast corner, into a reception room with circle arch to front parlor, and door to dining room. A cozy sitting room with open fireplace will be connected with parlor and dining room by circle arches. From dining room, the entrance to kitchen is through double action door, while from the kitchen you can go to pantry, cellar, alley and rear hall. Returning to the reception room, we ascent open stairway to commodious hall, which opens on a covered balcony, also to parlor, and to rear hall, which forms entrance to four chambers, each of which is furnished with a roomy clothes press.

Plans show the building will be modern in every way, several windows of bevel plate and one of colored art glass, Colonial columns will be used for both porch and balcony, and specification call for a building right up to date in every respect, and one that will be another ornament to our pretty town. The house will be heated by steam or hot air furnace.

Mr. Redfern had engaged the following first-class workmen: carpenter R. H. Osborne; mason Wm. Thieman; painting and decorating, A. F. Casselman & Son, while the mill work will be done by Erickson & Allen.

On 7 August 1906, fire destroyed the Whitehall Roller mill. C. C. Johnson's house was located directly across the alley from the burning building. It was thought that at one time it would be impossible to fight the fire off, so all the household goods were moved out into the street. Then the walls of the mill fell and all hope of saving the house was given up. Fortunately, however, there was little or no wind and the rain helped the firemen somewhat and they finally succeeded in driving off the fire.

By February 1907 Charles C. Johnson had built a new mill at the same location. He sold the Whitehall Flour Mill to Marshall S. Green and John O. Reed in 1909.

Around 1912 Johnson moved to Muskegon where he operated a flour mill under his name.

Charles died at the Muskegon County Home in May 1920. His wife Flora died in October 1923. They are both buried in Oakhurst Cemetery.

Note: C. C. Johnson's house and the roller mill would have been located in the area behind where "Big John's Pizza was located until 2024.