HERITAGE MUSEUM OF ORANGE COUNTY

Kellogg House Tour

About the Front Parlor

Just to the right of the main entrance is the front parlor. This room was intended for adults to socialize and entertain. The sliding wooden door, called a "pocket door," separates the front and back parlors, and allows for a sense of privacy.

Victorian homes often incorporated decor inspired by nature, a recurring theme observed throughout the Kellogg house. Examples of this in the front parlor are flowers on the ceiling, plates decorated with birds, and wallpaper adorned with pineapples. Pineapples represent hospitality and can be spotted in most rooms of the house.

Music was, and still is, a popular form of entertainment, so there were many listening options available. The oldest instrument in the front parlor is the pump organ which was invented in 1864 by the Smith American company. In order to play this instrument, a person must pump the foot pedals while pressing the keys. Pumping the pedals fills the bellows with air, and pressing the keys allows the air to flow up reeds which produces sound.

There are also two examples of early music technology. First is the Edison "talking machine", also known as a phonograph, which was invented in 1877 by Thomas Edison. Sound waves were recorded as indentations on tinfoil wrapped tubes and then played back when a stylus passed over the grooves. The size of the recordings were limited to what could fit on a tube.

The second example is the victrola, a flat-disc playing gramophone, perfected in 1901 by Eldridge Johnson of the Talking Machine Company. In order to function, the victrola had to be wound up, which would cause the record to spin. The needle was then placed on the record and sound was produced. In order to increase the volume of the music, small doors on the victrola could be opened or a horn could be attached. For more information on music visit the Victorian Audio Technology exhibit on the digital exhibition page.

About the Back Parlor

The back parlor is where children would gather. Through the wooden door is the front parlor, which was mainly for adults. Children were often taught how to play the piano or other instruments at a young age, so they could not only entertain themselves, but also the adults in the front parlor. In this room, children would play games with common household items. For example, one game involved trying to drop a clothes pin in a glass bottle.

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One interesting item in this room is the hair wreath located on the left side of the piano. Hair wreaths were very common during the Victorian era and were most commonly created as a form of remembrance for deceased loved ones. Locks of hair from the deceased were woven together, sometimes around wire, to form the wreath. Other items were also created from human hair. A person could put locks of their hair in a piece of jewelry and give it to a friend or loved one as a keepsake. It was also common for porcelain dolls to have human hair on their head.

Another interesting item is the telephone on the wall next to the door separating the front and back parlors. The telephone was invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell. The phone that is seen in this room would have originally been set up on a party line. This means the phone in one house was connected to phones in three or four other houses and could be used to directly call them. Each house on the party line was assigned a different number of rings to indicate who was being called. However, the connections were not private, and anyone else on the line could use their phone to eavesdrop on conversations.

About the Dining Room

The dining room is where adults would eat their meals. Typically, children were not allowed to eat here, with the exception of babies and teenagers. Babies might need help eating, so they would sit in high chairs to be near their mother. Although teenagers were allowed to eat here, they were not allowed to speak during meals.

Similar to other rooms throughout the home, natural elements are incorporated into the decor. For example, there is fruit on the ceiling and the wallpaper is made to look like tree bark.

In Victorian era homes it was common to utilize pass-through-drawers. In the Kellogg house, these drawers connected the kitchen and dining room. This feature allowed staff to pull open the drawer in the kitchen, place the readied food inside, and push the drawer through into the dining room where the food could be collected and served. When the meal was finished the dirty dishes were loaded into the drawers and pushed through to the kitchen.

Mr. Kellogg loved sailing ships, and he utilized many design elements from ships when he built this house. There are several elements in this room that are modeled after ships. One element is the oval shape of the room, which is designed to resemble the hull, or body of a ship. The features of this room, including the floor, ceiling, and cabinetry, are curved to follow this shape. A second ship design element incorporated into this room is the use of tongue and groove boards. This can be seen in the floor design in the dining room. This method of assembly involves fitting pieces of wood together, like a puzzle, so no nails need to be used. Ships were built in this way because nails, when exposed to water, would rust and eventually disintegrate.

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About the Office
Off of the dining room is Mr. Kellogg's main office. He had two other offices, one on the second floor and one in the original basement of the home. This office contains the only fireplace in the Kellogg house. Before the house was moved, it had a basement with a stove which would warm the rest of the house through vents in the floors.

Mr. Kellogg was a civil engineer and this was the office where he would meet clients. Clients would come in through the side door on the porch, so they would not have to walk through the house. One way people knew this house belonged to Mr. Kellogg was the transit mounted to the roof. A transit resembles a small telescope and is the main tool of a civil engineer. Mr. Kellogg had an illustrious career as a civil engineer which included surveying the town-sites of Elsinore and Corona and serving as the Orange County Surveyor from 1894 to 1899. Mr. Kellogg built this home during his time as Orange County Surveyor in 1898. For more information on the items in Mr. Kellogg's office, visit the Office Supplies exhibit on the digital exhibition page.

About the Kitchen
The kitchen is connected to the dining room and the back parlor. There was a larger kitchen in the basement of the home before it was moved. It was underground, so it was much cooler and used for storage and baking. This kitchen would have been used for preparing plates to be served and washing dirty dishes.

Throughout the kitchen are many examples of items and tools that would have been utilized during this time. An icebox would have been used to keep things cold, much like a modern refrigerator, but without the use of electricity. A gas stove would have been used not only to cook and warm food, but also to heat cooking tools like toasters, grooming tools like curling irons, and pots of water for bathing or washing laundry.

The Kellogg house was one of the first homes to have electricity for lighting purposes. The light bulbs that are used in this room are the same type of light bulbs that would have been used when the Kelloggs lived here. They are not as bright as modern light bulbs, so they stay cooler and therefore last longer.

For more information on specific tools visit the Kitchen Tools exhibit on the digital exhibition page.

About the Staircase
From the landing on the staircase one can see the attic, the second floor, and parts of the first floor. The staircase was designed with many elements of a ship in mind, including the use of an actual mast from a decommissioned sailing ship in San Francisco. Mr. Kellogg bought the mast and had it shipped down the coast to Santa Ana. He then designed the attic to resemble a crows

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nest sitting on top of the mast and the landing to resemble the bridge on a ship. Like a captain giving orders to his crew, Mr. Kellogg would stand on the landing to address his guests and family in the dining room.

Every room on the second floor can be accessed directly from the curving hallway. This really made it a central point in the home. On the wall are photos of Mr. Kellogg and his family. Hiram Clay Kellogg was married twice in his lifetime. His first wife, Victoria Shultz, died shortly after giving birth to their only child, Sibyl Victoria. Hiram then married Helen Vianna Kellogg and together they had four children, Helen, Hiram Clay II, Leonard Franklin and Oahu Rose. Hiram's first wife, Victoria, never lived in this home, as Hiram built it as a wedding gift for his second wife, Helen.

About the Children's Room

Originally a bedroom for the children, this room now has examples of clothing and toys that both boys and girls would have utilized in the Victorian era. It is important to notice that all of the toys are made from either wood, metal, or fabric and none of them require batteries or electricity to operate. This is very different from toys we have today, which are mostly made of plastic and usually require some source of energy to work.

Also in this room, hanging on the wall by the door, is an example of a friendship quilt. Girls began learning to sew at the age of three or four, and could make quilts like the one seen here by the age of eight. This friendship quilt was made in 1902 for a girl named Belle. Each of her friends created a quilt square with red embroidery, a style known as redwork. Then all of the squares were sewn together to make one large quilt.

Unlike most modern children's rooms, this room does not have a closet. During the time Mr. Kellogg built this house, homeowners were taxed based on the number of rooms in their home. According to the tax law of the era, closets counted as rooms, and for this reason, many Victorian homes have few or no closets. Instead, clothes would be stored in dressers, trunks, or wardrobes.

For more information on the toys that can be seen in this room visit the Children's Toys exhibit on the digital exhibitions page.

About the Schoolroom

Originally, this room was Mr. Kellogg's upstairs office. The French doors in this room provide a lot of natural light which made it ideal for the drafting work he needed to do. The doors open out to the balcony which allowed Mr. Kellogg to greet arriving guests. A unique feature of this room is the staircase leading up to the attic. Designed like stairs on a ship, there are built in drawers for storage.

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Now this room is set up to resemble a schoolroom. Most schools only had one classroom and children from multiple grades would learn together. The picture on the wall is of Diamond School, a one-room school in Santa Ana. All of the students from the school are shown in the picture. Notice the difference in the appearance between girls and boys. During the Victorian era, girls had to follow a strict dress code; all of their skin, except for their face and hands, had to be covered. Girls were always expected to look their best. On the other hand, boys did not have to follow such rules and oftentimes even went barefoot to school!

The desks in this room each have a hole carved into the top. The purpose of these holes was to hold inkwells, though ink and paper were expensive and usually students wrote on slates with chalk. Sometimes students would play naughty pranks on one another by dipping the end of someone's long hair into black ink. This was not very nice and usually ended with students being punished.

About the Attic

The attic was designed to resemble a crows nest sitting on top of the ship mast, which ran from the bottom of the first floor all the way to the ceiling in the attic. The "crows nest" was a favorite play spot for the Kellogg children. One day, the two boys attempted to slide down the mast on their way down for lunch. Mrs. Kellogg caught them right before they jumped out onto the mast and banned them from playing in the attic for several months.

The attic provides access to the widow's walk on the roof of the house. This unique feature can be spotted from in front of the Kellogg house and can be identified by the white fence surrounding it. Widow's walks were a common feature on homes near the ocean. Wives of sailors would go up to the roof of their home to watch for their husband's ship. Due to the prevalence of shipwrecks and disease at sea, many women were left as widows when their husbands passed away. For this reason, this feature became known as the widow's walk, and although he wasn't a sailor and his house was never near enough to see the ocean, Mr. Kellogg added one to the roof of his home.

About Mr. & Mrs. Kellogg's Bedroom

This suite was originally the bedroom of Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg. Now the room contains many examples of original clothing and items that adults would have utilized in the Victorian era. On the vanity are examples of essential Victorian era grooming tools including a hair brush, a hand mirror, a buttonhook, and curling irons. Unlike curling irons of today which require electricity to work, these curling irons were heated by a flame. Women could use these to curl their hair and men often used them to style their mustache.

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There are many examples of Victorian era clothing in this room including bathing suits, long underwear, petticoats, and corsets. Women wore corsets tightly wrapped around their midsection to achieve the fashionable figure of the Victorian era. Corsets were laced very tight and were made rigid with stays of wood, whalebone, or steel, which forced a person to stand up straight. These conditions could make breathing difficult, and as a result, it was very common for women to faint. This led to the creation of the fainting couch, a designated piece of furniture for women to lie down gracefully on when they were feeling faint.

For more information on the items in this room visit the Adult's Clothing and Grooming Tools exhibit on the digital exhibition page.

About the Bathroom

The Kellogg house was one of the first homes in the area built with an indoor bathroom and plumbing. Mrs. Kellogg was afraid that the toilet would smell like the outhouse and spread disease, so it was located in a smaller room connected to the main bathroom called a water closet.

Most homes had either had an outhouse or a bathroom attached to the house accessible only from outside At night, or when the weather was bad, people would use chamber pots so they wouldn't have to leave their house to go to the bathroom. A common chore for children was to empty the chamber pots.

While the Kellogg house was built with running water, initially it did not have a water heater. This meant that water had to be warmed on the stove in the kitchen and carefully taken upstairs to fill the bathtub.

It was commonly believed that too much bathing would make it more likely that one would get sick. For this reason, most families only bathed once a week. All family members would use the same water, taking turns in order from oldest to youngest. If there was a baby in the family, they were washed last; in large families the water was usually very dirty by this point. This led to the saying, "don't throw the baby out with the bath water," meaning the water was so dirty one might not see the baby still in the tub.

About the Architecture

Originally a shared bedroom for two of the Kellogg children, today, this room is a place to discuss the architectural features of the home. Remember, the Kellogg House was not built where it sits today. It had to be moved to the Heritage Museum and needed a lot of restoration work when it arrived. Many of the unique features original to this house were preserved during this process and can be seen through the cutout in the wall of this room.

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No matter how old or new a house is, a major concern for its structural integrity is a pesky pest called the termite. Termites are insects that eat wood, which is bad news for wood framed houses. The good news is termites do not like the taste of redwood. Mr. Kellogg wanted his house to stand for a long time, so he built it with redwood. 120 years later and the Kellogg House is still standing strong!

The inside of the walls were lined with adobe bricks made by combining water, clay-rich soil, sand, and straw. This form of insulation allowed the house to stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer. The face of the walls were created with lath and plaster. Laths are narrow strips of wood and plaster is a thick mixture that dries hard. Once the plaster was dry, the walls could be painted or wallpaper could be applied.

As one of the first homes in the area to have electricity, the Kellogg house was wired with an early method called knob-and-tube wiring. Unlike modern insulated wiring, which can also be seen in the wall, the original cloth wrapped wires could easily ignite. This made having electricity a significant fire hazard.

One area in his home that did not have electricity was the basement, which housed a second kitchen and Mr. Kellogg's third office. In order to bring natural light into this space, Luxfer Prisms were set into the concrete of the front porch directly above. These prisms would refract sunlight down into the basement and onto the surface where Mr. Kellogg worked.

To learn more about the architectural features of this Queen Anne style, Victorian era home, watch the video below.

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