

Searles Castle in Windham, NH

is 15-1/2 miles from our Raddisson Hotel

The authentic English Tudor castle is nestled in the New Hampshire woods, high atop a 175 acre estate. Edward Francis Searles was born on July 4, 1841 - Searles Castle was built under his direction having become an interior decorator and antique collector. Having traced his ancestry to the Oxfordshire Harcourt family, he engaged the prominent architect, Henry Vaughn to design the castle in the style of Stanton Harcourt Manor in Oxon County, England.



If you drive through the towns of Windham and Salem, NH and Methuen, MA, you will notice stonewalls. These walls were built around all the castle grounds, but were not built for any reason. These walls were built during the Great Depression to help ease the suffering of the area. Edward had millions, but did not want to give "hand outs" to the townfolk. Instead he hired everyone that would work to build him the wall, this way they felt they were earning their money and he was not giving it away.

The castle was completed in 1915 at a cost estimated to have been in excess of \$1,250,000 and has 20 rooms. Searles is said to have employed the finest masons and woodworkers to construct the castle, and imported marble and artifacts from Europe to furnish it. Examples of the fine work are found in the carved oak balcony, and the marble fireplaces.

Searles was a lover of art and most of the mansion was covered with great art works that he had collected on his many trips to Europe. He hired Thomas Ball whom he met on a trip to Italy to sculpt art works for Searles private collection. Edward F. Searles died in August 1920.

For years, the town and local teen groups of Methuen held haunted house walk, though the castle. At that time lots of old items were in the rooms like tapestry hanging from the walls and suits of armor in rooms though out the house. All the items that at one time were in the castle have been sold, mostly by the nuns, but the town is trying to get them back.