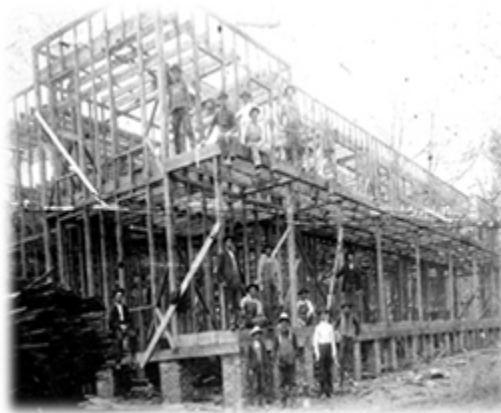


Balsam Mountain Inn

A Brief History

Balsam Mountain Inn Facts:

The inn is among the oldest in North Carolina's mountains. Construction began in 1905 and was completed in 1908.



Balsam Mountain Springs Hotel construction 1905

History Of The Balsam Mountain Inn

Modeled after the Saratoga Inn in New York, the Balsam Mountain Inn features neo-classical architecture.

The three-story building has 46,000+ square feet and 225 windows

A hallmark is our 100-foot, two-tier porch offering splendid views of the Balsams.

The inn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 1982.



Several native woods were used in construction, including poplar, hemlock and chestnut.

The 10-foot wide hallways, designed to accommodate huge steamer trunks of guests arriving by rail, are now filled with art and crafts of more than 75 local artists.



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Period furnishings are used throughout the inn, including wicker in the lobby and guest rooms, antique iron beds and original dining room furniture.

Victorian trim accents the inn's interior. Almost 900 gallons of paint were used during the inn's restoration, which began in October 1990.

A modern sprinkler system was installed as part of the inn's restoration.

The 23 acres on which the inn is situated is marked by seven springs, sparking its former name, Balsam Mountain Springs Hotel.

The land's elevation exceeds 3,500 feet. Several short trails fan out into the surrounding forest. A wide variety of wildflowers grow along the trails.

The inn's 157 hot-water radiators were a gift from Western Carolina University, contingent upon the inn removing more than 200 from a dormitory under renovation.

The inn's library contains more than 2,000 titles, including fiction, non-fiction and regional works

Currently there are 50 guest rooms & suites, each with private bath and each very different.

The inn and its restaurant - both accessible to the handicapped - are open year round. The restaurant serves dinner seven days a week for both guests and outside customers. Lunch is served on Sundays.

A variety of songwriters and musicians now perform on a monthly basis

Balsam Mountain Inn Ghosts

Most every old hotel has its share of ghost stories. The Balsam Mountain Inn is no exception. Over the past 100 years there have been quite a number of sightings revolving around our 3 longest visiting guests.

In the mid 1900's the hotel would host a community event called a box social. Here folk for all around would come and picnic on the lush grounds of the then known Balsam Mountain Springs Hotel. This fellowship was a time for new members of the community to meet their neighbors, and locals to catch up on the year gone by. During this particular event a local sheriff had stopped by to profess his love to his sweetheart. But before he had made the walk up from the livery stable he was gunned down on the road in front of the hotel.

Another one of our long term guests is a mysterious lady in a blue gown.

Guests have reported seeing her turning at a door handle and then quickly moving down the halls only to vanish around a corner. Not much is known about the woman, some speculate she is the sweetheart of the local sheriff, whilst others suspect she is the wife of a man who died in room 205.

Some years back an older man brought his family to the inn for a relaxing get-a-way. After a calm quiet night the man and his took his wife and daughter down to breakfast, but before they could order the man excused himself to return to the room. When his wife went up to check on him she found his body laying on the bathroom floor of room 205. This particular presents seems to be the most active. Numerous guests have reported sightings and feelings of company in and around this room