

74 Thayers Inn

Town of Littleton, Grafton County, New Hampshire

Thayers Inn can be found on Main Street in the Town of Littleton, New Hampshire. The name has changed a few times over the years, in addition to its current name, it has been known as: St. Andrews Inn; Thayers; and its original name, Thayer's White Mountain Hotel. Although the hotel's construction start date remains unknown, the Hotel opened on January 14, 1850 ahead of the railroad scheduled to come through Littleton in 1852.

Henry L. "Dad" Thayer, a Littleton resident and successful local merchant, wanted to build a high end hotel which featured modern equipment and had more character than other hotels of the time.

Fortunately, Thayer had the financial resources to make his dream a reality. In 1843, he purchased land to build the hotel just east of the store he already owned. Thayers Inn was designed in the Greek Revival style to convey the grandness that was sought in hotel design during the mid-19th century. However, the architect, who remains unknown, decided to soften the appearance of the Greek Revival style by incorporating design elements of the "anti-Greek" Picturesque movement, which embraced the romanticized past. The blending of these architectural styles produced a main hotel block standing 3 ½ stories tall, with a monumental portico and a steeply-pitched roof with seven gabled dormer windows on either side of the roof and a roofed cupola.



Thayers Inn was managed by Thayer and his son, Frank, from its opening in 1850 through the late 1800s. Due in part to its location in a very popular resort area of the White Mountains, and because of the high quality services provided to their guests, the Hotel was extremely successful and popular. Guest services included daily firewood delivery, candles for lighting guests' rooms, and each guest received their own pitcher of water for washing and their own "thunder jug" (chamber pot). The hotel's staff would also turn the sheets down just before guests retired to their rooms for the night, heated stones were used to warm the bed on cold nights, and if any additional service was needed, guests could ring the buzzer once to receive assistance from a boy, ring twice to summon a maid, and ring three times for water.

Not only popular for its service and one of the earliest resort hotels in the area, Thayers Inn also became a popular stop for politicians engaged in the national presidential campaign. Famous politicians such as Ulysses S. Grant, Horace Greeley, Nelson Rockefeller, Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter all visited the hotel and made speeches from the balconies on the front of the building.

Thayers Inn continues to operate today as a full service hotel, providing guests with modern luxuries with a charming look into the past. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

Sources:

National Register of Historic Places. Thayer's Hotel. Town of Littleton. Grafton County. New Hampshire. Reference # 82001678.

<http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/82001678.pdf>

"Thayer's Hotel History." *Thayer's Inn*. Web. Accessed 3 May 2013. <http://www.thayersinn.com/history.php>