



Photo courtesy of DAVID ELSWICK



The main dining room at the Glen Ferris Inn, where breakfast, lunch and dinner are served. Another large dining room was added in 1997. It accommodates large parties and wedding receptions and provides sweeping views of Kanawha Falls.



Interior photos by BEN CALWELL

The stately Glen Ferris Inn sits next to U.S. 60 in Glen Ferris, near Gauley Bridge, Fayette County. The inn had its beginnings in the 1800s as a stagecoach stop/tavern along the James River & Kanawha Turnpike, now U.S. 60. In 1991, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

One of 15 rooms at the historic Glen Ferris Inn on U.S. 60 at Glen Ferris in Fayette County. Three suites are also available for guests.

Glen Ferris Inn provides quality dining and lodging in Fayette County

Historic inn popular venue for weddings, special events

By Ben Calwell
METRO STAFF

OVERLOOKING the restful, scenic Kanawha Falls, the Glen Ferris Inn beckons to those who appreciate fine dining, lodging and local history.

Owned by Robert D. Hill and managed by his wife, Becky, the Glen Ferris Inn at Glenn Ferris, on U.S. 60 near Gauley Bridge in Fayette County, is the perfect restaurant and lodging venue for a weekend getaway, a wedding, family reunion or any special occasion.

The Glen Ferris Inn, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, has 15 rooms, three suites and two dining rooms.

"In 1997, my husband built a large dining room in the back to use for large parties and weddings," Becky Hill said.

That dining room provides great views of the Kanawha Falls and river.

"We serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. We have a lot of large parties, such as reunions, birthday parties, anniversary parties, and, of course, weddings. We do a beautiful wedding," Hill said.

In addition to its quiet ambiance, the Glen Ferris Inn has earned a reputation for its weekend "feasts," which pay homage to various cuisines of the world. The feasts are served about 20 times each year, complete with festive decorations appropriate for each feast.

"We do the German feast, Irish feast, Cajun feast, Italian feast, Asian feast, a fall harvest feast and an American cookout. We get everything as authentic as we can. The German feasts are the most popular."

Inspiration for the feasts came from a wedding that a German couple had at Glen Ferris Inn in the early 2000s.

The feasts "grew out of that one wedding," she said.

Hill said the feasts have become so popular that more than 2,000 people have signed up for email notifications of the culinary and other special events at Glen Ferris Inn.

Overnight guests enjoy the comfortable atmosphere of the Glen Ferris Inn.

"They say it's like staying at home," she said.

Hill said travelers caught on U.S. 60 during the recent heavy snowstorm found a cozy retreat in the Glen Ferris Inn, where they rode out the weather in warm comfort.

The bedrooms are comfortable and tastefully decorated. Each room has its own personality, as reflected in the materials and decor.

"Some are oak, some are cherry, some are Shaker; we try to do country quilts in all of them."

Guests can expect first-class dining experiences at the Glen Ferris Inn.

"It is a good dining experience; our food is all home cooked from scratch," Hill said.

The Glen Ferris Inn is also known for its homemade desserts, including pies, cobblers



Photo by BEN CALWELL

Becky Hill, wife of Glen Ferris Inn owner Robert D. Hill, manages the inn. She said guests love the "homey" feel of the inn, which had its beginnings in the 1800s.

and bread pudding.

"We do different cobblers, but blackberry is a favorite one."

The Glen Ferris Inn had its beginnings when a Col. Aaron Stockton acquired the property in the 1800s.

"According to local legend, at the end of the War of 1812, he was given land grants in lieu of salary," Hill said.

Those grants, according to Hill, included the parcel of land in Fayette County, where the inn now sits next to U.S. 60. Stockton, whose grandfather was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, developed the property and either built a house there or added on to or remodeled an existing house.

"In 1816, he brought his family from Virginia to live here. This was their primary residence for some time," Hill said.



Photo courtesy of DAVID ELSWICK

A gazebo adds to the charm of the historic Glen Ferris Inn in Fayette County. The gazebo and nicely landscaped grounds overlooking the Kanawha Falls provide a picturesque setting.

In 1839, Stockton applied for a license to serve alcohol so that he could operate his property as a stagecoach stop/tavern along the James River & Kanawha Turnpike, which is now U.S. 60.

In researching the property, Hill said she read old diaries that indicated the inn "was the place to be on a Saturday night."

During the Civil War, the inn was a quartermaster depot.

"Local legend also says it was a Confederate headquarters at one time, became Union headquarters and became a military hospital. It has a lot of history. At the end of the war, it was returned to the (Stockton) family," Hill said.

Through the years, the property was known as Stockton's Tavern and Hawkins' Tavern.

In the 1920s, an Italian stonemason built a low wall around the inn. The wall, still standing, contains quartz "that was mined from this yard," she said. "He also built the columns and the wrap-around balcony."

Hill said that in the late 1920s, Stockton's granddaughter, Margaret, sold the inn to a company called Emco, an electric-metalurgical company. Emco, which eventually became part of Union Carbide. At this time, it became known as the Glen Ferris Inn.

"Over the years, it developed into a dining and lodging

establishment," Hill said.

The Glen Ferris Inn was eventually to Elkem Corporation, and, in 1996, Robert D. Hill, a native of the area, purchased it.

In 1991, the Glen Ferris Inn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Visitors to the Glen Ferris Inn can also shop for crafts made exclusively for the inn by Hill and her sister, Donna Jones.

"We do homemade candles, waxed animals, decorative plates, fused glass, stained glass and textiles."

For more information about the Glen Ferris Inn, visit glenferrisinn.com or call 304-632-1111.

State parks supply generous geocaching opportunities

Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for GPS users. Participating in a cache hunt is a good way to take advantage of the wonderful features and capability of a GPS unit.

The basic idea is to have individuals and organizations set up caches all over the world and share the locations of these caches on the internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the site visitor with a wide variety of rewards. All the visitor is asked to do is if they take something they should try to leave something for the cache.

There is a permit application for those wishing to place caches in state parks and/or forests in West Virginia.

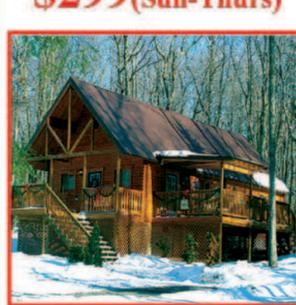
Existing geocaches in West Virginia's state parks include:

- Audra State Park
- Babcock State Park

- Beartown State Park
- Beech Fork State Park
- Blackwater Falls State Park
- Cacapon Resort
- Cedar Creek State Park
- Canaan Valley Resort State Park
- Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park
- Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
- Cedar Creek State Park
- Chief Logan State Park
- Coopers Rock
- Clay Run Copper
- Fairfax Stone
- Holly River
- Kanawha State Forest
- Kumbrabow State Forest
- Little Beaver
- Lost River
- Moncove Lake State Park
- North Bend Rail Trail
- North Bend State Park
- Pipestem State Park
- Tomlinson Run State Park
- Twin Falls Resort State Park
- Tygart Lake State Park
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