

# Molly Pitcher Brewery, South Street, Carlisle, Pa.

July 13, 2018

The Molly Pitcher Brewery opened with minimal brewing equipment and seating for 30 in a garage at 10 East South Street in Carlisle in September 2014. A west-coast dock strike delayed the arrival of brewing equipment from China for more than six months, forcing the staff to make multiple batches of beer in limited facilities. Initially the bar was only open two or three days per week since demand rapidly outstripped supply.



The delay had a bright side though, the brewers were able to fine tune their recipes. By the time the brewery ramped up production enough to have normal business hours, the beer was very, very good and the limited seating at the bar and next to the brewing tanks was usually full.

In July 2018 the brewery opened a much larger restaurant and bar location at 139 West High Street with seating for 150 on two floors and a patio. They kept the brewing facility on South Street and expanded it to meet an increased demand.

The South Street location had the charm that many start-up operations do. It was cramped, usually crowded and oozed atmosphere as well as the wonderful smell of hops and brewing beer. The staff had the cheerfulness of the pioneers that they really were, explaining the beers, the brewing and the details of the business. I often ended up there at the end of bicycle rides and chained my bike to the gas meter next to the outside tables.

It was a place where strangers talked to one another. It drew an interesting group of beer drinkers including staff and students from the U.S. Army War College with their great stories about deployments in Germany or the Middle East. There were Dickinson students and retired people from all walks of life. One regular had worked in the Bethlehem Steel Works in Steelton until his retirement. Conversation was usually about travels and work days and beer and food.



People brought their dogs and sat outside in warm weather. The staff provided drinking water for animals. I took our shih-tzu and miniature poodle there enough that even after location was turned into the brewing facility the shih-tzu wanted to walk down there, hang out and sniff the door.



(Molly Pitcher Brewery menu board on the last day of operations at 10 East South Street)