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A Presidential Place

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Historic home becomes a bed and breakfast (with video)
July 10, 2008 - 5:51PM

Allison Flynn

The only town in the United States to be named for former president Grover Cleveland now has its first bed and breakfast.

Operated by Martin and Stormy Mongiello, who were married there in April, The Inn of the Patriots opened in June.

The couple came to the area looking to start a bed and breakfast.

"Stormy is from the Bessemer City-Kings Mountain area," said Mongiello.

The couple settled on the Grover home, located at 301 Cleveland Ave., because it "had a look about it," he said.

"It also had serious conversions already done with the electrical and plumbing," Mongiello said.

HISTORY OF THE HOME

The house was built in 1879 by Dr. Alfred Hambricht, great-great-grandson of Revolutionary War Col. Frederick Hambricht.

"Alfred was an assistant surgeon in the Civil War and when he came home, he told people he was going to ride around on horseback with his medical bag and treat people. He became quite wealthy from this and in 1879 decided to build this two-story mansion," Mongiello said.

Only two families have owned the home in its 129 year history - the Hambrichts and the Hortons. From 1948 to 1978 the home operated as Renn's Cafeteria. During this time the motion picture "Hooch" was made in the home.

"Hooch" is a film about the northern mafia coming down south to take over the moonshiner's operation," Mongiello said. "In a nod to that the inn serves moonshine jelly every morning."

ACCOMMODATIONS

The four guestrooms at the inn reflect the history of the home and of the innkeepers.

On the ground floor there are three rooms - the Baby Ruth Room, the Cleaveland Suite and the Magnificent Polynesian.

The Baby Ruth Room is named for the first child of President Grover Cleveland, for whom the town was named. A fresh Baby Ruth bar is placed in the room each day for guests.

The Magnificent Polynesian features items collected by Mongiello during his time living in Japan. The room, along with the Oceanicus Blue Dreams Room, is painted with certified Biltmore Estate paints.

The Oceanicus Blue Dreams Room, located on the second floor of the inn, is painted a deep blue and is a tip of the hat to Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mongiello said.

SPA

The Inn of the Patriots includes the second location for Bellus Tu Spa. Guests at the inn are welcome to book massages and basic facials as well as couple's massages during their stay.

PRESIDENTIAL CULINARY MUSEUM

Martin Mongiello spent 21 years in the Navy and part of that time was spent as a chef to the President of the

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Jeff Melton photo

The Inn of the Patriots is located in the home built by Dr. Alfred Hambricht, great-great-grandson of Revolutionary War Col. Frederick Hambricht, in 1879.

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