

The Henry Clay Inn



The best of our past will guide us into our memorable future.

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The Henry Clay Inn Mission Statement

*To our guests we commit to consistently provide exceptional hospitality and service
delivered with care, integrity, and gratitude;
and to provide superior services and products, while being continually sensitive and
responsive to your needs as individuals.*

History of Ashland, Virginia

Ashland, Virginia is a small town in Hanover county. According to The Ashland Museum, it was developed by the RF&P railroad company who bought acreage bordering their new tracks in 1836 (2016). This land was turned into a Mineral Well Company resort named “Slash Cottage”. According to The Town of Ashland Virginia, as the resort grew into a village, that then grew into a one square mile town, it was officially united as the town of “Ashland” on February 19, 1858; named after Henry Clay’s estate in Kentucky who was native to the town himself (2016). At this point, everything in the town adopted the name Ashland.

According to The Town of Ashland Virginia, in 1868 Randolph Macon College relocated to Ashland, Virginia from Boydton, Virginia (2016). This move changed the town from a resort feel to the feel of a college town. Randolph Macon College continued to grow and reconstruct the buildings of the town with time. When Ashland was built, everything was built and carefully placed to be seen from the train tracks.

In 1893, there was a barn fire that consequently that grew an entire block (Shalf, R.G., 1994). As the buildings in this day and age were wooden and easily flammable, it caught buildings in downtown Ashland on fire from the now Ironhorse to the Caboose locations, equivalent to a block of land. This event caused the town to build more substantial buildings that would ground the downtown of Ashland. Over the course of this construction period for Ashland, there were multiple fires pushing more construction, one of which being the original Henry Clay Inn. By the 1920s, most of Ashland’s construction was solidified into what you see today; everything was given a grander presence than before. Today you will find that this small town is now a growing 7.12 square miles (Town of Ashland, 2016).

Ashland, Virginia Pictures and Artifacts





History of The Henry Clay Inn

The Henry Clay Inn dates all the way back to the Slash Cottage Resort in the mid 1800s. The hotel, originally called The Slash Cottage Hotel Company, was renamed The Ashland Hotel before the Civil War in 1858 when Randolph Macon College purchased the resort (Shalf, R.G., 1994). The hotel was then temporarily converted into student housing and a locate for school functions until they rebuilt the college campus in the 1880s.

After Randolph Macon College took over the only hotel in Ashland, the town was in need for a hotel accessible to the public. In the early 1870s, a town benefactor built the new Ashland Hotel to fulfill this need. This gave the town a place to house travelers and weekend getaways from Richmonders (The Henry Clay Inn, 2016). This hotel was owned by various investors and was located on the southwest corner of Railroad Ave. and Henry Clay Rd. (Shalf, R. G., 1994). In 1900, the hotel burnt down.

When this hotel burnt down in 1900, a new company was granted a charter in 1901 to build a new, privately owned inn on the same location. In 1903, the inn was finished and was given a new name: The Henry Clay Inn. The purpose of this inn was to provide living accommodations for newlyweds until they found a place of their own, as well as retirees and travelers. At this day and age, it was common to live in hotels temporarily. The inn also served as a hosting place for balls, parties, and dances for Randolph Macon College students due to strict dancing rules on the college campus. Then just before World War II, Randolph Macon College bought the inn to use as a dining hall for soldiers training for the war. On February 27, 1947, the inn was burnt to the ground (The Henry Clay Inn, 2016).

Another inn wasn't rebuilt until the 1990s due Route 1 being built and not as many travelers using the train as a means of transportation. Then the current Henry Clay Inn was built as an exact replica of its predecessors just south from the original Henry Clay Inn on Railroad Ave. by Carol and Ray Martin with other investors. The Martins are said to be romantics who wanted to bring the idea of the original inn back to the town as well as have a place for Ray Martin's Schnable Engineering Company. During their time as owners one of the most significant events that occurred was the producer, Mica Peled, of the PBS documentary Store Wars coming to stay at the inn while producing the film.

On October 16, 2014, Beth Mason won the inn on an auction that took place on the front porch of the inn itself, and therefore became the new owner (Herald Progress, 2014). Since then the inn has transitioned into new management as she has partnered with James Barracuto. Renovations and progress has been made to get the inn to its current condition; however, as you will find there is much more progress to be made.

The Significance of the Inn's Name

The Henry Clay Inn is named after Henry Clay, an orator and statesman who was born in Hanover County in 1777 (History.com Staff, 2009). Soon after he passed away in 1852, the town adopted his Kentucky estate's name, Ashland, as the new town name; likewise when the inn built in 1903, it was given the name Henry Clay. Henry Clay was known as the "Mill Boy from the Slashes" (Shalf, R.G., 1994). This was said to mean that he came from a poor family that went to the mill everyday during his childhood in Hanover as a chore for his family. Ashland was also said to known as "slash" because it was a swampy, wet area that sat on a hill compared to the rest of Hanover. On the other hand, slash also has a historical meaning to be historic, romantic and rustic which is how Henry Clay was viewed. So historically the inn was built to be romanticized and rustic and carry that same view and legacy that Henry Clay left behind, much like Ashland desired as well.

Henry Clay Inn Photos and Artifacts



The Henry Clay Inn Accommodations

Guest Rooms and Accommodations

The inn has 13 guest rooms located on two floors. There are two rooms with double beds, eight rooms with queen beds, one room with a king bed, and two suites with a king bed in each.

Breakfast is included in the cost of the room and is served between 7:30 and 10:30am Monday through Friday and 8am and 2pm Saturday and Sunday.

All rooms include: private baths, cable flat screen TVs, free Wi-Fi, computer modem connections, iron/ironing boards, hair dryers, complimentary hygiene products, complimentary tea, coffee, and water

1st Floor

- Room 101
 - Queen bed, connected to porch, ADA compliant
- Room 103
 - 2 Double beds, connected to porch

2nd Floor

- Room 204
 - Queen bed, wet bar
- Room 205
 - King bed, jacuzzi, connected balcony
- Room 207
 - Queen bed, connected balcony
- Ashland Suite (208)
 - King bed, living room, wet bar
- Room 209
 - 2 Double beds, connected balcony
- Room 210
 - Queen bed, wet bar, adjoins with room 212
- Room 212
 - Queen bed, adjoins with room 210
- Room 213
 - Queen bed, connected balcony
- Room 214
 - Queen bed, wet bar
- Room 215
 - Queen bed, connected balcony

Restaurant Accommodations

The Henry Clay Inn Restaurant is located inside the Inn on the first floor. The restaurant is open for breakfast to the public Monday through Friday 7:30am to 10:30am, with the exception of Tuesday where it is only open to guests staying at the inn, as well as Saturday and Sunday for brunch from 8am to 2pm. It can hold up to 45 people.

Banquet Room Accommodations

The Henry Clay Inn's banquet room is located on the first floor inside the inn. It is available to be rented out for various events including, but not limited to: weddings, banquets, parties, and banquets. Catering is also available.

The banquet room includes a fireplace, doors leading to the front porch, tables, chairs, free Wi-Fi, a 60-inch wall-mounted flat screen TV, and sound bar.

Banquet room alone rented out:

- Holds 55 people maximum, with tables and chairs
- Holds 75 people maximum, without tables and chairs
- \$150/hour, 2-hour minimum

Banquet room with lobby or porch rented out:

- Holds an additional 28 people
- \$200/hour, 2-hour minimum

Banquet room with lobby and porch rented out:

- Holds an additional 20 people
- \$250/hour, 2-hour minimum

Upstairs Parlor and Porch Accommodations

The Henry Clay Inn's Upstairs Parlor and Porch is located on the second floor of the inn as soon as you walk up the stairs. The porch is facing the train tracks. It is available to be rented out for various events including, but not limited to: weddings, receptions, parties, and banquets.

The parlor room includes: a fireplace, sofas, chairs, computer, free Wi-Fi, and Foosball table. The porch includes: outdoor table and chairs.

Upstairs Porch and Parlor rented out:

- Holds 10-15 people
- \$75/hour, 2-hour minimum

A Personal Presentation from Mrs. Mason via Skype of her Inspirations and Vision

Ms. Mason has been the visionary and inspiration to bring this property and team members onboard the transition of The Henry Clay Inn and our goals and plans for the future of the project.

Travel 10 miles from the city of Richmond and arm's length to the Amtrak terminal which can take you to, or deliver you from, nearly any city in no time at all. You'll arrive to find yourself ensconced within a different world, one enriched with culture, beauty and sophistication. The Henry Clay Inn, ever the historic inn, has over the years been rebuilt and replicated from the original. With our new renovations, restorations and branding efforts, we strive to provide the charm and timeless essence of the past while offering our guests the utmost in modern amenities and style of a luxury boutique inn and suites.

We want to offer to our student families, facility members and colleagues of Randolph Macon College a warm and memorable experience. This extends to our wedding parties, social and corporate group clients as well. At the Henry Clay Inn our singular goal and group mission is to provide exceptional hospitality and create everlasting memories for each of our guests.

The presentation will include:

- The goal of the project
- Information on becoming a premier destination based on our renovations and changes for today's sophisticated travelers, which will include Mrs. Mason's inspirations, aspirational pieces that have inspired her.

The Henry Clay Inn Contact Information

Address: 114 N Railroad Ave, Ashland, VA 23005

Phone Number: 804-798-3100

Email Address: information@henryclayinn.com

Website: www.henryclayinn.com



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