

Media Kit
The Carriage House Inn Bed and Breakfast

The Carriage House Inn Bed and Breakfast, also known as the Watts House was built between 1875 and 1878 in the Daniels Hill Historic District. Over the past 4 and ½ years the owners, Kathy and Michael Bedsworth have meticulously restored this grand home to its original state.

Fast Facts:

- The Carriage House Inn Bed and Breakfast is the largest and finest Italianate mansion in the City of Lynchburg.
- The Inn offers four 4 generous sized bedrooms, a huge wrap around porch, numerous architectural elements both on the interior and exterior.
- The room layouts and sizes are virtually the same as they were over 135 years ago since the interior walls are three courses of brick thick previous owners were unable to remodel.
- The owners spent numerous hours researching the colors of the late 1800's to give visitors a glimpse of what the interior looked like in the past.
- Most of the original wood work, moldings and casings, tubs and sinks, light fixtures, radiators and fireplaces and mantels still remain.
- The Carriage House Inn Bed and Breakfast is a "Green" Bed and Breakfast the only one in Lynchburg (10/1/2007) as certified by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
- The Carriage House (the 3000 square foot building behind the house, circa 1910) will be converted into a luxury suite on the second level and small conference/meeting center on the main level. That work should be completed in 2009.
- The Inn is business friendly. The library with antique conference table is available for guests use. Copying, faxing, scanning facilities are available as well as high speed internet service. We encourage local businesses to hold small meetings here where they can be out of the office and more productive.
- We offer the inn to groups for special occasions such as the girl's getaway weekend or scrap booking weekends.
- We can host teas, bridal showers, baby showers or other small events.
- Special anniversary and birthday packages are available.
- A licensed massage therapist is on staff and offers a variety of body treatments to the guests.

Media Contact:

Kathy Bedsworth, Owner
404 Cabell Street
Lynchburg, VA 24504
434. 846-1388

Kathy@TheCarriageHouseInnBandB.com

About the Innkeepers

After searching for a Victorian home to restore for over 10 years, the house at 404 Cabell Street in Lynchburg found Kathy and Michael! Scouring the internet one day Michael and Kathy found the house, immediately drove to Lynchburg from Northern Virginia and purchased the home. After four and ½ years of restoration the doors to the Carriage House Inn Bed and Breakfast opened its doors.

Doing much of the work themselves, Kathy and Mike spent countless weekends, holidays, and vacations stripping paint and wall paper, reinforcing rotted floors, hanging kitchen cabinets, re-constructing rotting wood, repairing crumbling plaster, sanding the exterior of claw-foot tubs, cleaning old radiators and much more. Slowly the property was transformed from an ugly duckling to the great mansion it was when RT Watts and Emma Watts resided here during the 1800's. It was important to Kathy and Mike to restore the home rather than renovate it. They went to great lengths to preserve the original elements of the home and when a new light fixture or door was needed, they scoured the internet or architectural salvage yards to find something from the appropriate time period.

Prior to moving to Lynchburg, Mike owned and operated a successful real estate company in Northern Virginia. He was graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in Business Administration. Licensed as a real estate agent in 1972 he has been in the real estate field in one way or another since then. When not cooking breakfast for his guests he operates a real estate settlement company in Lynchburg. In his free time (there hasn't been any during the renovation period) he is an avid photographer.

Kathy was graduated from James Madison University and taught home economics to 7th, 8th and 9th graders in Culpeper before moving to Northern Virginia. After working as a store manager for seven years she got her real estate license in 1984 and joined Mike at his firm. The world of real estate was challenging but proved to be the right niche for Kathy as she successfully helped hundreds of families with their housing needs. In 2002 Kathy decided to attend massage school and has combined the two careers. Stained and fused glass is her latest creative interest which she hopes to get back into now that much of the interior restoration has been completed.

After all their efforts to bring The Watts House back to its former glory Kathy and Mike decided that they needed to share this fabulous house and operating it as a Bed and Breakfast seemed to be the best way to open their doors to the public. Not only did they feel they had the responsibility to restore the home they have done quite a bit of research on the history of Daniels Hill and the Watts family so that they could preserve this important part of history.

The Watts House and It's Story

The original owner of 404 Cabell Street, **Richard Thomas Watts** was born September 5, 1838 in Bedford County, Virginia. R.T. attended Emory and Henry College in Emory, VA. During the Civil War he enlisted as a private in Company A, Second Virginia Cavalry and joined them at Manassas Junction. He served as a private and color bearer with the 2nd Virginia until he was promoted by General T.T. Munford to take on the responsibility of adjutant with White's Battalion. Watts held that position until May 6, 1864, when his horse was killed under him and he was wounded at Spotsylvania Court House. He was taken prisoner and was sent to Fort Delaware, where he remained until the end of the war. After the war he partnered with his brother James W. Watts and brother-in-law George M. Jones to form one of the first wholesale houses in the city: Jones, Watts, & Co, a hardware store. The firm held three stores in Lynchburg with branches in Bedford City, Danville, Salem and Roanoke. In 1887 the company was sold to Bell, Barker, & Jennings and Watts retired from the hardware trade. Watts then moved on to other interests, including coal mining and real estate investments. He was vice president of the Lynchburg Trust and Savings Company and director of the Lynchburg Cotton Mill. R.T. Watts died September 21, 1910. R.T. Watts' will bequeathed the house and lot at 404 Cabell Street, including all of its contents, his carriage and horses, and \$135,000 (approximately \$3 million in today's dollars) to his wife Emma. At the time of his death his total estate was worth over \$900,000 or in excess of \$19,000,000 in today's dollars.

Emma T. Watts, born July 2, 1849, probably grew up at 314 Cabell Street. R.T. Watts married Emma, on April 22, 1874. R.T. and Emma had eleven children, five who grew into adulthood. Emma Watts died unexpectedly on March 22, 1911 while visiting California. Upon her death, as she died without a will, her five children came to an agreement that Mary Watts, youngest child of R.T. and Emma, received the house and lot at 404 Cabell Street. She immediately took residence there.

Richard Thomas Jr., born March 18 1876 became one of the leading merchants and business men in Lynchburg. He served as President of Watts Brothers Company, Vice President of Lynchburg Trust and Savings Bank, President of the Board of Trade and was interested in many city enterprises.

Stephen H. Watts, born August 6, 1877 became a practicing physician and professor of medicine at the medical department of University of Virginia.

James Owen Watts born October 14, 1881. His profession was listed as a coal operator.

Robert Crenshaw Watts born July 1, 1883. Robert later became a United States Senator for the State of Mississippi.

Mary F. Watts, youngest child born to R.T. and Emma Watts. Born February 2, 1889 Mary moved into this house upon her mother's death in 1911. On October 16th 1920 Mary married John Williams James, from Culpeper. They lived in the house until 1928

when they sold the house to Lena Fore. John James worked as a vice president of the Craddock Terry Shoe Company for 43 years, now the Bluffwalk Hotel and Conference Center, in downtown Lynchburg. Mary Watts James died on February 2, 1979.

Subsequent Owners of the Property

Mary Watts sold the home to Lena Fore in 1928 for \$17,050.00. Lena was a successful business person who owned several properties in the City. Lena lived at 404 Cabell Street. Somewhere between 1938-1939 she began furnishing rooms to travelers and the property became known as Cabell and D Street Tourist Home. During World War II Lynchburg was the terminating point for three different rail road lines and literally tens of thousands of soldiers, sailors and marines passed through the City, hundreds of them stayed here on their way to or from the War. By the late 1950's 404 Cabell Street was once again a single family residence with Lena Fore and her brother living in the property. Lena's health began to fail and her sister Sallie Fore Tabb became Lena's guardian and a subsequent chancery court case caused four of Lena's properties to be sold at public auction in 1961. 404 Cabell Street was sold at public auction on 27 April 1961 for \$8,500.00 to Wiley V. and Norma E. Johnson.

It doesn't appear the Johnson's lived in the property as it was converted into four apartments.

The home was bought and sold 5 more times after the Johnson's sold the property in 1984 and on 23 June 2003 Michael and Kathy purchased the property and started the restoration of the home. Four years and four months later the home was opened as The Carriage House Inn Bed and Breakfast. Fortunately many of the original light fixtures, mantels, doors, and plumbing fixtures remained in the house. They updated the heating system converting the steam radiators to a hot water system and added central air conditioning. Some of the plumbing and wiring has been replaced but there are still galvanized pipes in the house that date back to the late 1800's. Massive roof repairs were required as there were over 40 buckets in the attic left there to catch rain as it leaked through the roof.

Because of the construction of the home (interior walls are three courses of brick thick) the rooms you see today are virtually the same as they appeared over a hundred years ago. Kathy spent numerous hours researching the colors of the late 1800's to give visitors a glimpse of what it looked like in years past. Most of the doors, door casings, window casings and baseboards are original to the house as is the wainscoting in the foyer, dining room and library. The changes that were made to the structure were minimal as we wanted to try to recreate the house as it was when RT, Emma and their family lived here.

The History of Daniels Hill

Daniels Hill is one the Lynchburg's "Seven Hills" surrounding the original core of downtown Lynchburg. A narrow elongated hill its bordered by the James River on the east and Blackwater Creek on the west. Located immediately northeast of the central Lynchburg business district, Daniels Hill proved to be a popular and convenient neighborhood for merchants, business owners, and others wanting to be closer to the commercial district and the James River.

According to the Lynchburg News, June 29, 1875 "Danielstown" or the "town of Daniel" was named after Judge William Daniel. The Hill consisted of a population of over 600 and 130 homes. In September 1880 the Lynchburg Virginian noted that "*in another year there will not be a vacant lot on Daniels Hill.*"

During the 1870's-90's Lynchburg's wealthy merchants built in Daniels Hill. It was an escape from the inner city to the suburbs. With the commercial development of the lower basin merchants could walk or ride in their carriages to work. Some merchants built small homes within Daniels Hill for their workers, most of whom rented the properties. After the end of the Civil War and Emancipation some home owners provided homes to their house staff.

In August 1875 the property owners in Daniels Hill met to choose names for their streets and to approve the laying out of new streets. The main street was named Cabell and ran directly up the spine of Daniels Hill. Streets parallel to Cabell were named after locally prominent families. Streets running perpendicular were given alphabet letters. This platting of the streets and the sale of lots plus the building of the new 6th Street Bridge across Blackwater Creek made Daniels Hill perhaps the most actively developed of any of the hill neighborhoods in the 1870's.

In 1878 a substantial bridge was constructed over Blackwater Creek providing greater accessibility to the community of Daniels Hill. Prior to this date a covered wooden pedestrian bridge existed at 6th Street. In 1878 the first metal bridge in Lynchburg was fabricated by Lynchburg Iron Works, owned by retired General T. T. Munford. The new bridge could fit two wagons across and became a major through fare and a vital link between Commerce and Cabell Streets. Car traffic was removed from this bridge in 1944 but it remained as a pedestrian link until 1984 when the metal began to corrode.

The D Street Bridge was originally built in 1884 as a pedestrian walkway. In 1925 it was encased in concrete, one of the original bridges surviving in Lynchburg.

After Daniels Hill reached its peak in the 1880's it began to decline in prosperity. The creation of the Rivermont Bridge, the advent of the automobile and the construction of the Williams viaduct in 1917, which cut off Daniels Hill from the city, changed the flow of traffic away from the original bridge spanning the James River that connected Cabell Street to US 29 and 7th Street.

In 1982 the National Register of Historic Places named Daniels Hill as a historic district.

Within the past 10 years Daniels Hill is once again seeing a surge of activity, renovation, refurbishment, and restoration. Walk up and down any street in this historic district and you will see the revitalization taking place. It's an exciting movement to be a part of!

Cabell Street became a residential section of Lynchburg after the Civil War. It was incorporated into the city limits in 1870.

Dr. George Cabell Sr. purchased Point of Honor in 1805, 856 ½ acres. Point of Honor was originally owned by the Lynch family. The house received its name from a bloodless duel fought between Colonel Maurio Langhorne and Captain Samuel Wiatt. Dr. Cabell was a prominent doctor who's most famous patient was Patrick Henry. Dr. Cabell died in 1823 of injuries suffered when his horse fell. William Lewis Cabell inherited the house from his father. He married Eliza Daniel on January 3, 1828. Eliza was the daughter of Judge William Daniel Sr, a judge of the Circuit Court of Virginia. W.L. Cabell died in June 1830. He left the property to his wife, who died shortly thereafter. As they were childless the house went to her father.

Architecturally the three commercial buildings at the bottom of Cabell Street define the historic entrance to the hill. Two were early tobacco warehouses associated with an important facet of Lynchburg's 19th century economy.

Cabell Street has a rich variety of architectural styles and housing types dating from the early 19th century through the early 20th century. Concentrated building activity began in the 1840's following the subdivision of the plantation established by Dr. George Cabell. Providing an interesting contrast to the impressive mansions is the large quantity of vernacular workers houses, built to accommodate laborers in the factories lining the James River.

404 Cabell Street was designed by R.C. Burkholder. Burkholder moved to Lynchburg in 1850 and established himself as a carpenter, mill owner and builder. By 1876 he had become a full-time practicing architect who established himself as Lynchburg's first professionally-trained architect. He designed seven homes in Daniels Hill. Known as the Watts House it was built between 1875 and 1878. One of Daniels Hill's most ornate mansions the red brick Italianate was enlarged over the years. The front porch addition, popular around the end of the 19th century, terminates at the north end in a porte-cochere. The elaborate carriage house seen today was constructed in 1909. Surrounded by an iron fence with large brick and stone pillars, the house gives the passerby a sense of dignity and opulence.