

Timeless Vermont inn keeps up with the times

BY ROCHELLE LASH, SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE DECEMBER 16, 2010



The Green Mountain Inn is an 1830s landmark on Main Street in Stowe.

Photograph by: GREEN MOUNTAIN INN

The 176-year-old Green Mountain Inn in Stowe, Vt., is a classic that keeps getting younger and prettier.

Owned by the Gameroff family of Montreal for the past 25 years, this New England treasure stands out among Stowe's 50 lodges for its dedication to quality, good value and its terrific bistro, The Whip.

From the exterior, the Green Mountain Inn looks as quaint as it was when stagecoaches transported the swell folks from Boston and New York City to the mountains of Vermont. Along with the Stowe Community Church and the Vermont Ski Museum, the Green Mountain Inn is a landmark on Main Street. It is No. 13 on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places, which lists more than 85,000 properties, and it has been host to such luminaries as Thomas Edison and U.S. President Gerald Ford.

The elegant inn seems timeless: it was all the rage in the 1830s, and about 170 years later, in 2010, TripAdvisor.com ranked it No. 1 in Stowe.

Under the careful hand of innkeeper Patti Clark, the historic Federal-style beauty has evolved into a compact, convenient mini-resort with good food, a health club and an inviting outdoor pool that is heated winter and summer. Its 108 accommodations range from cozy hideaways to luxurious, contemporary suites and apartments, drawing a varied clientele - families on vacation, couples on a romantic getaway and Stowe's diehard skiers and snowboarders.

In 2010, brothers Simon and David Gameroff marked their milestone year with an update to the Green Mountain Inn's health club and to several guest rooms in the main inn. What has stayed constant is the inn's handsome library, where complimentary afternoon tea is served.

One of the big additions is a new elevator in the main inn. That doesn't sound like a big deal in the high-tech world of the 2000s, but it was a major engineering feat. The challenge was to install the single-car shaft, digging into the inn's fieldstone foundation and building up through three stories of precious wide-planked pine floors, aged wooden ceiling beams and vintage wainscoting.

The main-lodge guest rooms now are more accessible - and many were renovated recently. These little

