

The History of the Gratz Park Inn

Construction of the building began in 1916 for Dr. Waller O Bullock, Dr. David Woolfold Barrow, and Dr. Barrow's father, Dr. David Barrow. Inspired by the May Clinic, the three doctors opened a joint practice. They commissioned Frankel and Curtis of Lexington to construct the colonial revival two-story Upper Street front and matching one-story Second Street wing.



The practice grew with people bringing aches, pains, and even



detonator caps to the doctors. In 1920, nine doctors, including the original three, founded the Lexington Clinic. The institution enlarged the wing on Second Street and added other rooms. Many curious things occurred at the Lexington Clinic in those days. One legend claims that the stoic moonshine distiller hurt himself running downhill to escape a revenuer. He tripped, fell and had a stick that got lodged in his eye...Fifteen years later, on a trip to Lexington; a clinic doctor removed the stick.

After the Lexington Clinic moved to Harrodsburg Road in 1958, the Fuller Engineering firm occupied the building. When Fuller Engineering moved out in 1976, the building sat vacant until 1987.

In 1987, renovation began on what now serves as the Gratz Park Inn.

Gutting the building literally turned it around. Guests can now reach the hotel lobby from a private parking lot, surrounded by blooming gardens of Second Street. The Inn also had an additional level added, creating a three-story intimate hotel.



Reviews & History

“Lexington’s Gratz Park Inn is a terrific overnight or weekend getaway. It’s quite refined and comfortable without being stuffy.” - Cincinnati Enquirer

“With the charm of a southern gentleman, Gratz Park Inn welcomes guests to historic downtown

Lexington, Kentucky.”- Midwest Living Magazine

“This Charming old-fashioned hotel with its lovely antique furniture and four-posted beds can be highly recommended.”- Racing Review

Gratz Park Inn is Lexington’s only historic hotel. The hotel boasts 41 individually decorated rooms, each with different character and charm. The hotel also has an elegant, five star restaurant making it perfect for a weekend getaway, relaxing evening, or a romantic occasion.

