

Spotlight: Stone Cliff Inn

High on the ridge overlooking the Clackamas River at Carver sits the Stone Cliff Inn, which has served the Carver area since it opened in July 2004. This restaurant occupies the site of the historic Baker's Rock Quarry. Oregon Trail pioneers Horace and Jane Baker chose this spot to file their donation land claim in 1846 because the mountain of basalt located on the land was ideal for his work as a stonemason. Basalt from this quarry was rafted down the Clackamas River to build many historical buildings and structures in Oregon.

In fact, the town of Carver was named "Stone" until 1917, a name descriptive of the large boulders and basalt cliff located at the quarry. Although there were other activities in Stone between 1850 and 1900, quarry rock was the main focus of commercial activity.

Between 1900 and 1950, the town of Stone became primarily a logging community as the surrounding area grew. There were three sawmills in the area: The Mumpower Sawmill below the bridge, the Pratt Sawmill at the north end of town, and the Harrington/Rosenbaum Sawmill near the historic Baker Log Cabin.

Several families are part of the logging lore so closely tied to the identity of Carver (re-named in 2017 for Stephen Carver, who built a railroad line into the town to haul logs and passengers). Those families include the Charriere, Rosenbaum, Mumpower and Pratt families, among others. Most of the original settlers still have descendants in the area.

The Stone Cliff Inn was built by Mike Rosenbaum, son of local logger Lloyd Rosenbaum, to

preserve Carver's rich history while bringing a new dining experience to area. The site where the building now sits was not level when the project began. A natural gravel mound stretched as



Lloyd Rosenbaum and one of his log trucks, around 1944.



high as the current building's roof and quarry remainders were tumbled everywhere. Lloyd Rosenbaum ran the earth mover that leveled the site, spreading gravel and cobbles from the top of the mound down into low-lying areas until the site was level.

The Rosenbaums' original intent was to build the restaurant and then lease it to an established restaurant business to run. Several established Portland-area operators toured and were impressed by the site but it just couldn't commit to the location. So the owners stepped up to develop and run a restaurant themselves.

When they were doing their initial planning, they polled local residents for ideas on what the area needed. To meet the need they found for a unique and distinctive dining experience, the Stone Cliff Inn is set up to be like a European

Inn or "gasthaus." This German style of business features a comfortable day use inn or tavern with a bar, a restaurant with hearty fare, banquet facilities, and often an outdoor area for a beer garden. Gasthauses are typically found in smaller towns, and are often family owned. The Stone Cliff Inn is all of that – but with a Pacific Northwest twist.

The rustic building, while not a historic structure, incorporates into the design the two historical themes of Carver from 1850 to 1950: quarry rock and logging. The foundation of the Stone Cliff Inn is basalt rock remnants from the original quarry. The rock wall bordering the entire restaurant driveway is also from the quarry. The logs forming the lodge-style building are all Douglas Fir, characteristic of those logs harvested in the Carver area between 1900 and 1950.

The log cabin style harks back to the pioneer past, with a spacious interior and lots of photos of local history on the walls. With a cozy stone fireplace to warm winter guests and a riverside deck for outdoor deck seating and pavilion space, the Stone Cliff Inn offers a great experience in any season. The full-service bar and extensive wine list complement the menu built around high-quality ingredients and burger, steak and seafood options, consistently winning awards.

Since they opened in 2004, the Stone Cliff Inn has been a 'first job' for thousands of local young people, and has offered an unparalleled dining experience to even more.



The logo for Stone Cliff Inn. The word "Stone" is written in a large, bold, black serif font. The word "Cliff" is written in a smaller, black serif font below it. The word "Inn" is written in a small, black script font at the bottom right. A red, stylized graphic element resembling a curved line or a partial circle surrounds the text.