



Washington Duke
Inn & Golf Club

Time Uncovered: Time Capsule from Original Washington Duke Hotel Now on Display

Historical items capsulizing Durham life in the 1920s are on exhibit for a limited time only at Duke University's Rubenstein library.

DURHAM, N.C., April 13, 2016 – [Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club](#), the premier AAA Four Diamond luxury inn and golf club located on the campus of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, donated a newly discovered time capsule, placed in the cornerstone of the original Washington Duke Hotel when constructed in 1924, to Duke University Archives. The items are now on public display in an exhibit outside the rare book room in [Rubenstein Library](#), located at 411 Chapel Drive in Durham on Duke University's West Campus.

With a unique assortment of distinguished articles, many of the pieces contained in the time capsule illustrate the vitality of the tobacco and textile industries in the area during its time period, including Riz Tam Tam, a natural complement of loose tobacco bags; Duke's Mixture, an early loose tobacco brand of W. Duke & Sons; and hosiery produced by the Durham Hosiery Mill.

"It's unusual to find a time capsule in such good condition, and this is a special opportunity to share it with the public. The contents reflect major figures and industries in Durham during the groundbreaking of what was then the first and only hotel in Durham," said Valerie Gillispie, university archivist, Duke University Archives. "We welcome visitors from around Durham to view the exhibit and take a glimpse at the Durham of ninety years ago."

In November 1924, a time capsule was assembled and placed in the cornerstone of the Washington Duke Hotel. It opened as Durham's first—and only—hotel. A number of prominent citizens, led by businessman John A. Buchanan, banded together to raise the funding for the building. For fifty years it stood at the center of downtown, a place where visitors and Durham residents alike gathered. In 1975, the hotel was deemed no longer profitable and shut down. Amazingly, however, an anonymous person saved the time capsule, and later brought it to the new Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, which opened in 1988 adjacent to Duke's West Campus. In 2015, this time capsule was transferred to the Duke University Archives.

"This time capsule from our namesake hotel, Washington Duke Hotel, is truly a treasure for the Durham and surrounding hospitality communities," said Jack Schmidt, director of sales and marketing, Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club. "Through sharing these pieces of the past we are looking forward to the bright and growing future of Durham and giving back to a community that provides so much support."

A luxury hotel rich with history, the Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club makes consistent updates to accommodate the newest generation of visitors. Recent extensive renovations to its public spaces and guests rooms, as well as technology upgrades, help ensure it always meets or exceeds guest expectations. To learn more information about The Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, including its upcoming events, please visit www.washingtondukeinn.com.



Washington Duke
Inn & Golf Club®

About The Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club

The Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club is located on the campus of Duke University, only twenty minutes from Raleigh-Durham International Airport and ten minutes from Research Triangle Park. The Washington Duke Inn is the only AAA Four Diamond hotel in Durham, North Carolina. Nestled on 300 acres filled with tall pines and hardwoods, the Inn is known for its beautiful facility and grounds, 271 elegantly appointed guest rooms and suites, marvelous cuisine in the Fairview Dining Room — winner of the AAA Four Diamond Award, 2015 Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star Award and Wine Spectator Award of Excellence — the Bull Durham Bar, the Robert Trent Jones-designed 18-hole championship Duke University golf course, and its convenience to local points of interest. It is set apart from other area hotels and conference centers by unparalleled service, a gracious staff, luxurious interiors and attention to detail. The Inn is owned by Duke University and is managed by WDI Hospitality, LLC of Durham, North Carolina. For more information or reservations call (919) 490-0999 or (800) 443-3853, or by visiting washingtongdukeinn.com, and on Facebook at facebook.com/WashingtonDukeInn and on Twitter at twitter.com/WashingtonDuke.

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