

# Dining out has extra dimension in old structures

## table talk

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rant specializes in veal dishes and seafood. "We also have lots of steaks, prime rib and a nice variety of hors d'oeuvres. Our prices are very low (prime rib is \$9.95). We do everything from scratch."

Once a month, Armando does an eight- or nine-course gourmet dinner, featuring ethnic cuisine. A French dinner will be given this weekend, and on Oct. 24 emphasis will be German food at an Oktoberfest. Reservations are limited to 50 persons.

An attractive, long, narrow cocktail lounge is also part of the restaurant.

Bode's Corned Beef House, owned by Richard and Abbie Meacham, may look like a place on the outside and perhaps the inside, too, although it has been remodeled and added to many times. Formica counters and plastic booths give it the look of a modern-day diner.

THE PRESENT restaurant was opened 24 years ago in the structure built in 1868 by a German family as a hotel with sleeping facilities only for the railroad. Today diners can still sit and watch the trains go by.

A specialty of the house is "half a Bode," a corned beef salad served with a hot English muffin, for \$2.25.

A Plymouth restaurant near the old train station, in an area called Old Village, is Station 885, on the site of a freight house. The restaurant building was built only 10 years ago, but the first owner ran out of money for development and it wasn't until two years ago that Bill Waun and his wife bought the property from the C & O Railroad and opened their place.

Mini-blinds in the main dining room set off the collection of railroad artifacts Waun has amassed. The loft upstairs is often the gathering spot for party groups.

Waun said, "My wife Lorraine and I run it. The kids work here. We run it for families."

A FOCAL POINT is the cozy, angled bar that encourages conversation. Above the bar is a shelf filled with Jim Beam railway-car whiskey bottles and two stuffed dolls dressed as railroad workers who are called "C" and "E."

Seated on bentwood chairs at small tables, diners can order from the simple menu featuring soups, sandwiches and specials. Most of the sandwiches have names like Caboose, Brakeman or Cattle Car.

Contemporary design is paired with the old in Emma's Restaurant in Plymouth. The colorful yellow building originally was home to Dr. Coleman, his wife Fanny and their daughter Emma, a well-known area soprano.

The building has been moved once, and Emma's has moved from the part of the structure that houses shops for gifts, books and interiors (the Iron Gate Galleries) to its present location.

The restaurant is bright and airy, restored with its old brick interior walls painted offwhite and the ceiling back to its tongue-and-groove wood. Antique, leaded-glass wall hangings on chains and track lighting add drama.

EMMA'S IS CO-OWNED by two women, Gary Beglinger and Audrey Gibson. Its tables are covered in pretty green-flowered oilcloth and the walls are hung with contemporary prints.

The Garden Room, for nonsmokers, really captures the breezes, with its white latticed open walls. The floor is brick, windows have black grillwork, chairs and tables are white. Plants in pots suit the setting.

In the Ladies Room, decorative tiles — handmade by other merchants for the restaurant's opening — draw attention.

The menu has appetizing luncheon entrees ranging from Crepe Divan to Emma's Enchiladas and Plymouth Pride. Appetizers, homemade soups, sandwiches and salads are available. After 4 p.m. entrees are offered, plus appetizers and a la carte side orders.

Another Plymouth restaurant with historic interest is the Hillside Inn, with dining rooms upstairs, and downstairs the Bottom of the Hill that also features a soup and salad bar.

MARGARET AND Jacob Stremlich opened the Hillside Barbecue, specializing in spare ribs, in the old Strenghomestead in 1934. This became the Hillside Inn, which celebrates its 50th year in 1984. The three-story Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth was built in 1927. Ralph G. Lorenz, who became manager during the Depression, took over ownership in 1955. At Thanksgiving dinner, the hotel serves an original Thanksgiving dinner with Indian corn pudding and other authentic dishes. People make reservations a year ahead. Beside its dining room, the hotel has a popular pub.



Jerry Mancour takes a break in the sun-splashed Paint Creek Restaurant, which he owns along with the cider mill at Goodison.

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