

# WESTCHESTER

For Breakfast or a Late Night Snack, Visit These **GREASY SPOONS** ~ **FALL FESTIVALS** Where to Celebrate the Harvest

## 16 GREAT B&Bs AND BOUTIQUE HOTELS FROM NJ TO RI

**LOCAL HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS**  
 "All I Wanted Was to Live An Ordinary Life"  
 JOHN EVANS  
 Pound Ridge Book  
 Mayon on Her New Web Venture with BFFs  
 Liz Smith, Peggy Noonan

OCTOBER 2011

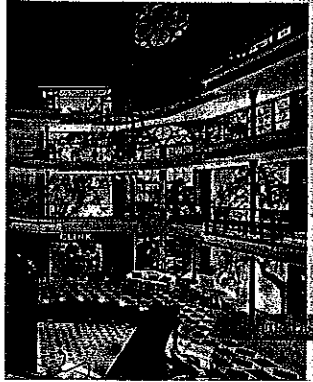
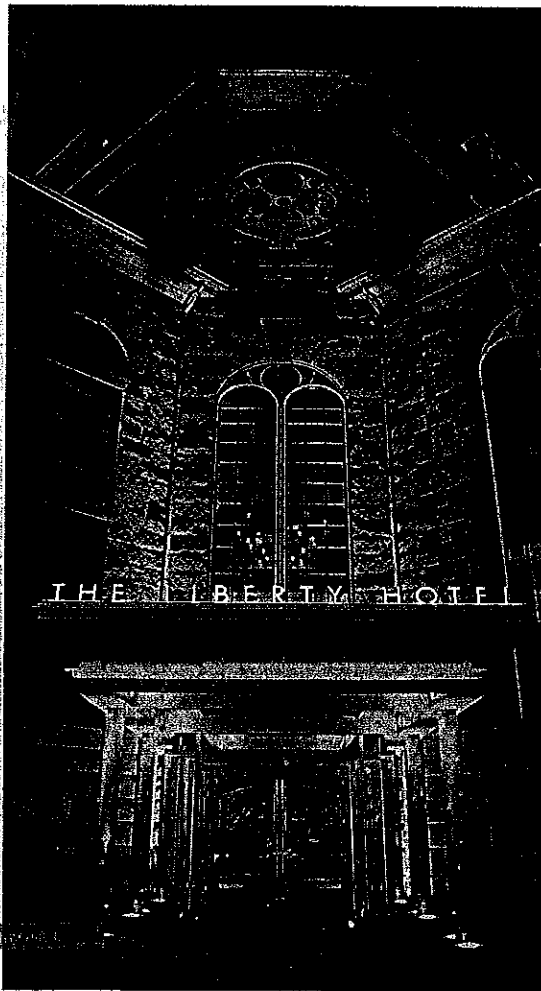
After you've experienced all of that, you can finally make it up to your room. Guest rooms overlook Harvard Square, Cambridge, or the Charles River. Also, there are custom-designed quilts all over the place—on the beds, decorating the lobby, etc.—but the hotel has more of a modern feel, with sleek, unadorned "web cube" workspaces set up in the fields, in-room Wi-Fi, and flat-screen TVs. There are even TVs in the bathroom when turned off, they're ungloriously inoperable from the bathroom mirror (and they don't fog up, either). Ask for the Presidential Suite, and you'll be set up in a top-floor retreat with five flat-screen TVs, an oversized shower with two heads and six side sprays, a separate dressing room, and a view of the Boston skyline. And it's not just a clever name for the digs; either, either has it that two high-profile Westchester neighbors—the Clintons—stay at the Charles when they're in town.

**THE NITTY-GRIITY:** Standard rooms range from \$199 to \$499 per night based on double occupancy.

### Give Me Liberty

**THE LIBERTY HOTEL**  
 214 CHARLES ST. // BOSTON, MA  
 (617) 224-4999 // LIBERTYHOTEL.COM  
 Reference from White Pages: 4 hours

A trendy Beacon Hill crowd starts to arrive at the Liberty Hotel lobby. You grab a drink from the lobby bar—perhaps a Juniper-Blossom, made of Tanqueray, St. Germain, and grapefruit—and look out onto the soaring four-story atrium. The grand space is marked with towering arched windows.



## Fall getaways

wrought-iron chandeliers, and mahogany furniture. If you didn't know, you might never guess that the place was once a jail.

Yes, until the 1990s, the hotel was the old Charles Street Jail, which housed inmates such as Sacco and Vanzetti and James Michael Curley (who was imprisoned there for fraud but ran a successful campaign for alderman while he was incarcerated). Developer Carpenter and Company and architect Cambridge Seven Associates teamed up to repurpose the property. The old cellblocks are now stylish catwalks with sitting areas for guests; the original "drunk tank" has (fittingly) been turned into a bar, and some of the original jail cells are now dining nooks at the on-site restaurant. Eighteen of the 298 guest rooms also are set up within the landmark jail building (with the rest in a newly constructed 16-story tower).

While there are many nods to the Liberty Hotel's history, thankfully, there's nothing prison-like about the guest accommodations. Spa like is more apt, with luxurious bathrooms with separate deep bathtubs and rainfall showerheads. And, with a spot right at the foot of the Longfellow Bridge, many of these rooms look over the Charles River.

That location also makes the hotel the perfect jumping-off point for exploring the rest of the historic Beacon Hill neighborhood. Walk the cobblestone noones, browse the tony shops on Charles Street, and gawk at houses that once belonged to the likes of Louisa May Alcott and Sylvia Plath. Hike or bike down the riverside Esplanade, or take a walk to the gold-domed Massachusetts State House and Boston Common.

But, when those historic gas lamps start to shine, it's time to return to the Liberty. There are a few different bars and restaurants in the hotel—Scampo for Italian cuisine infused with global influences, Abibi for soul music and cocktails, and the perfectly named Clunk for drinks and modern American cuisine or classic New England seafood, among others—but they all seem to spill out into the hotel lobby, which becomes a scene at night. Which may be the first time it's said that people want to end up in an old jail after a night of partying.

**THE NITTY-GRIITY:** Rates for standard rooms begin at \$269 and suites begin at \$550 per night, based upon seasonality and double occupancy.



### Holiday-on-