

## WHY DO PEOPLE STAY AT YOUR INN?

- 1. Why do most travelers stay at your inn?** 50% are here because of Smith College. Sugar Maple Trailside Inn is one of the closest B&Bs to Smith College—the largest women’s college in the U.S.
- 2. What are you best known for?** I’ve written five books and have given over 1,200 lectures in 12 states about former RRs converted to linear parks. And all the ramifications of that change and how it affects communities at large including residential real estate values.
- 3. What makes your inn unique?** A former railroad, now a linear park is 8 feet away our house. And our house has a tangential tie-in to Sojourner Truth and a host of pre-Civil War era abolitionist history.
- 4. What do you love most about your inn?** The history of our house and the neighborhood and the passers-by who bike and walk past.
- 5. If someone has never been to your city, what is the #1 reason to come visit?** Northampton is the #1 Small Arts Town in the U.S. and the #1 Place for Retirees. And in 2015, our city was named to be in the top 10 best small cities to live in, in the U.S.
- 6. What’s the best compliment you have ever received about the inn?** We treated the guests like family and our house felt like home to them. AND we have an extraordinary number of repeat guests—usually Smith College parents. Repeat customers are a great compliment.
- 7. What’s the best kept secret about the area?** The abolitionist/underground railroad history of the area and the nearly completely intact Civil War era industrial village.
- 8. If a traveler is staying at your inn for 4 nights, what should he/she do in the area?** 1. There are 10 world-class museums within 15 miles. 2. There is a 30+ mile long bike path that goes right past our house. We also have free bikes for our guests. 3. The most acclaimed downtown in the northeast is our downtown. 4. There are more restaurants here than any other city in the northeast between NYC and Montreal. 5. Located here is North America's only E-W oriented mountain range. Hiking trails galore there.
- 9. Is there anything within walking distance of your inn?** We are in a Civil War era village center with several parks within a few blocks, shops, cafes, and safe, walkable/bikeable streets--and an off-road walking/biking path that connect them all. We are an "80" on the WalkScore.com search panel. VERY WALKABLE! And since late 2015, we now have the Florence Pie Bar--four doors from our house and nearby is the newly opened Brew Practitioners a craft beer pub. Several other new restaurants and businesses have opened too.
- 10. What is your favorite restaurant/food in the area?** We really like East Side Grille.
- 11. Any good area guides/websites that travelers could reference?** [www.VisitHampshireCounty.com](http://www.VisitHampshireCounty.com) is the website for the Regional Tourism Council. You’ll love that site.