

Grand Lake House – Waldron House

The earliest hotel – The Grand Lake House or the Waldron House was built by Wilson Waldron (or Waldern) in 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Waldron had three children when they arrived. Their new hotel became the birthplace of Grand Lake's first child, Roy Waldron, born in 1880.

In December of 1882 the *Grand Lake Prospector* announced: "The invitations for the New Year's Ball at the Grand Lake House have been issued. A large attendance is looked for, and an enjoyable time anticipated."



This New Year's Eve ball became the undoing of Wilson Waldron, for while the dancing and joviality were at their height he shot and fatally wounded Bob Plummer, a miner who had come down from the Ruby mine for a bit of fun during the holidays. A witness told that Mr. Waldron had been drinking heavily. Mrs. Waldron was nursing her baby and Waldron began fooling with the baby, teasing it and annoying the mother. She asked Bob Plummer to get him quietly away. When Waldron wouldn't go Bob got a little rough and tried to force him to leave. This infuriated Waldron who got his gun down from the wall. Plummer left the house and walked quickly across the road. Waldron shot him dead. He was arrested and put in jail. He escaped and didn't return to Grand Lake. In October of 1883 Mrs. Wilson Waldron and her children left for Golden. A year later the furniture of the Grand Lake House was offered for sale.

(from Grand Lake in the Olden Days by Mary Lyons Cairns)

The Grand Lake House was eventually torn down to make way for the Pine Cone Inn.