

★ Guided and self-guided audio tours present the development and architecture of the Tavern, interesting and important visitors, and significant events impacting American history.

★ “Hanover County: Impact of the Civil War” exhibit chronicles personal stories of local residents and combatants who came to fight, as well as lesser-known events that took place in Hanover County during the war. There are approximately 125 artifacts, weapons, documents, and photographs that have never been shared with the public, telling intriguing, previously unheard stories.

★ Hanover Courthouse is the third oldest courthouse still in use in the United States, having been built around 1735. It was here on December 1st, 1763 that Patrick Henry’s great oratory skills and patriotic fervor were first recognized when he argued damages for the defense in the famous Parson’s Cause case. The Courthouse, Tavern, early 19th Century stone jail, and brick Clerk of the Court Office form a rare complex still in existence, and together, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On the courthouse green stands the obelisk-shaped monument listing the names and units of those Hanoverians that served during the Civil War.



Since 1733, Hanover Tavern has been serving courthouse users, residents, and weary travelers in need of food, drink, and overnight accommodations as well as stables for the teams of horses and mules.

Patrick Henry married Sarah Shelton, the daughter of the Tavern owners. Henry assisted by greeting guests, tending bar, and entertaining with his fiddle playing and warm personality.

During the Revolutionary War, American, British, and French officers all visited the Tavern. One Frenchman described it as a “tolerable handsome inn, with a large salon and covered portico.” In his diary, General George Washington twice refers to dining and lodging at Hanover Courthouse.

The Civil War transformed the Tavern into a home for refugees fleeing the Union army. The Tavern was regularly visited by troops of both armies and was witness to two, spirited engagements.

Over the years, celebrated guests such as Chief Justice John Marshall, Edgar Allen Poe, P.T. Barnum, and Charles Dickens visited this roadside fixture on the corridor between Richmond and Fredericksburg.

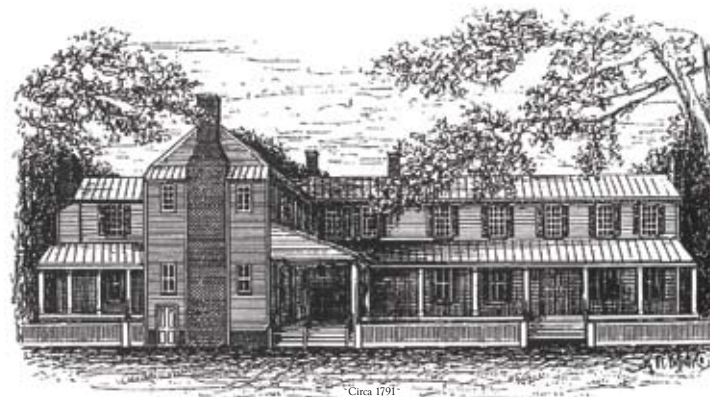
Today, this cultural site offers school field trips, tours and historical exhibits, music, lectures, and family-oriented special events as well as a full-service restaurant and pub, meeting, and event space, and Barksdale Theatre performances in a modern, 155-seat theater.

For more details about tours, meals, or play arrangements contact us at (804) 537-5050 or at events@hanovertavern.org

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History • Dining • Theatre



*Group Tour
Destination*

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