

Hanover Tavern serves as 'gathering place for the community'

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Three separate entities co-exist within the Hanover Tavern on Route 301: the Barksdale Theatre, Michelle's Restaurant, and the Hanover Tavern Foundation.

The Hanover Tavern Foundation was formed in 1990, when it purchased the Tavern for the purpose of restoring and preserving the historic facility. A volunteer board of directors manages the Foundation.

The oldest parts of the current building date back to 1791, and a separate structure was built next door circa 1822 (to the right of the 1791 structure, if you're facing the Courthouse.) These two units were connected

at some point before 1870, according to Hanover Tavern Foundation executive director Katarina Spears.

The current Hanover Tavern is not the original Hanover Tavern. The first one likely would have been built around 1733, shortly after the Hanover Courthouse was constructed, when a tavern license would have been available.

Where exactly the original Tavern stood, no one knows for sure. In the 18th century, the Tavern and Courthouse were separated by open green space. Construction of Route 301, parking lots, and structures such as the library displaced the soil, making the original location difficult to determine.

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Hanover Tavern is again a gathering place for food, drink and entertainment, as well as being a valuable historic resource. (H-P photo by Dan Sherrier)

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