



The earliest portion of Dranesville Tavern was erected in the third decade of the nineteenth century to serve the needs of the wagon trade that supplied the Piedmont section of northern Virginia. As it stands today, the tavern is the product of three distinct phases of construction, and thus it offers an interesting insight into the evolution of local vernacular styles.

It was during the tavern's first phase of construction that Fairfax was evolving from a remote frontier into settled farmland. The tavern thus stands as a significant vestige of the social and commercial history of the region. Its association with the turnpike trade, so important to the development of the area, is an interesting chapter in the history of the Piedmont. The rapid growth of these roads in the general area of Dranesville was spurred on by the rivalry between the cities of Georgetown and Alexandria for the valuable resources of the Shenandoah Valley. Dranesville Tavern in particular was frequented by those who travelled between these eastern towns and Leesburg.

The region of Dranesville Tavern was opened for settlement in the middle of the eighteenth century when the Native American occupation of the area was brought to an end. As early as 1740 two generations of a family by the name of Coleman secured the first land patent in the tavern area. Records show that during the early half of the nineteenth century, Sandord Cockerille purchased the land on which the tavern stands from members of the Carper family. From architectural investigation of the tavern's structure it is generally believed that Dranesville Tavern was built around 1830 and most records point to Sanford Cockerille as the builder.

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## Dranesville Tavern

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places November 9, 1972

