



Stanardsville, which was established in 1794, became the County Seat of the newly formed Greene County. In 1838 Robert Pritchett, a prominent citizen began the construction of the Lafayette.

The Lafayette (circa 1840) is a Federal-style three story building. Its walls, three layers of brick thick, surround a large central hall and stairway, with rooms on either side. The Tavern room was both a saloon and a general store. The entire second floor served as a ballroom, and the third floor was the residence for the Pritchett family. The fourth floor (cupola), offered a view of the town in all directions. Above the cupola was a bell used to call people to meetings or meals. The hotel was heated by twelve fireplaces. The side building was actually the earliest building on the lot, (circa 1820) constructed to house some of those who worked on the hotel. The property included "Dicey's Cottage" (at the edge, on Main Street) served as the original slave quarters to "Miss Dicey" and others.

The most consistent and sustaining use of the Lafayette was that of a regional stage coach stop. Travelers would stop for a few days to rest and prepare for the challenging trip over the mountain when traveling west- and equally played host to others that just conquered the mountain traveling east- resting up for several days. It is believed the expression "We have you coming and going" may have originated from this experience.

In 1862 General Stonewall Jackson ordered General Richard S. Ewell to move his 8,500-man division into Greene County where they would be available to Jackson over in the Shenandoah Valley. Ewell's men became sick, probably with typhoid fever. The Lafayette was converted to a hospital during this period.

After the Civil War, the manager, James Saunders, and Dr. Edwin S. Hunter, returned the Lafayette from a hospital back to a hotel. The hotel became a regional destination for entertaining political groups, lodges, and celebrities of the day

In 1887, local lawyer, schoolteacher and legislator Francis Marion McMullan began a bid to gain control of The Lafayette, by purchasing the Pritchett family's one-third interest. But he failed, and in 1890 he sold his, by then, five-sixths interest to Magnolia and Robert Blakey, who eventually gained total ownership for \$4,300. Magnolia sold it in 1893. From then until 1914 it changed hands five more times.

H.W. Moyers then bought the hotel, which was passed down in his family until the 1980s. There seems to have been plenty of social and business activity at the hotel over the years. The side building has been used for a number of purposes: a post office, the telephone exchange, law offices, and as home to the *Greene County Record*, Greene County's weekly newspaper.

In 1989 the hotel was sold to Bob Sowder, who succeeded in having the Lafayette Hotel placed on the Virginia Landmark Register, making it possible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

In early 2005, the Lafayette Hotel was bought by Alan and Kaye Pyles, who are intent on maintaining and further restoring the historical integrity of this local treasure. Alan and Kaye changed the name to The Lafayette Inn & Restaurant, which they believe better, defined their business. The Lafayette Inn and Restaurant has (and continues) to enjoy accolades reaffirming their commitment to deliver a positive, but approachable dining and lodging experience. Named "Virginia's Restaurant of the Year" (Virginia Food & Wine Society), Open Table "Best Overall", Trip Advisor "Travelers Choice", Wine Enthusiast "Top America's Wine Friendly Restaurants" and Chef Alan named to the "Top 1% Chef's in America"

Another chapter in The Lafayette's long history is being written daily ...

Greene County Historical Society. You can contact the Society at PO Box 185, Stanardsville VA 22973.