

STAGE COACH INN

Source: "Prince William the Story of Its People and Its Places" by The Virginia Writers Project – Originally compiled in 1941 and later sponsored by The Bethlehem Good Housekeeping Club of Manassas, Virginia in 1961 –

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On U.S.1 close to the highway southward is the STAGE COACH INN (R), once known as Williams' Ordinary, later as Love's Tavern, and still functioning. Its two red brick stories – between high basement and hip roof – are ornamented with white stones quoining up the front two corners and with splayed flat arches of stone heavily keyed over each window. Built-in chimneys rise in pairs at both ends, high above eaves that protect a cornice set with modillions. The Inn was probably erected about 1760. Records show that George Williams was its proprietor as early as 1788 and as late as 1819. Notables undoubtedly stayed here and undoubtedly banqueted and danced at parties held in that spacious dining room.

Right of the highway and back of the tavern is GRAYSON'S HILL, where William Grayson (1736-1790), one of Prince William's most prominent citizens, maintained a home and small farm. He was born at Belle Air, was graduated in 1760 from the College of Philadelphia (now the University of Pennsylvania), studied law at the Temple of London, and practiced in Dumfries. Grayson was among the 115 patriots who signed the Leedstown Resolutions in 1766. When the storm clouds of the Revolution were gathering in 1774, he laid aside his profession to become captain of a company formed in Prince William. Later as aide to Washington he participated in the battles of Long Island, White Plains, Brandywine, Germantown, and at the battle of Monmouth in New Jersey, where he led the Americans after the forces had been rallied. At the end of the war he returned to Dumfries.