

In its first year of existence, the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation bought the building for \$40,000. A matching grant of \$13,200 was obtained from the Department of Natural Resources. With the grant, the exterior of the building was restored to its 19th-century appearance.

The original debt was retired in 1992 and interior restoration began in earnest. The rest of the historic property, along with a small brick building, was acquired in 2003. Maintenance of the nearly 160-year-old building and small improvements consume most of the Foundation's resources.

The Old Stagecoach Stop today (below right) is the oldest publicly accessible building in Pulaski County. The interior is restored to different periods, ranging from 1860 to 1960. The ten rooms reflect the history of the building and county.

The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation wishes to thank the following Lifetime and Sponsoring members whose generosity has made possible our continuing progress toward meeting our goal "to preserve, restore, protect and maintain the historic structure in Waynesville, Missouri, known as the Old Stagecoach Stop, in order to permit its educational value to be appreciated by future generations."

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These and the many annual memberships and generous donations have made our progress possible.

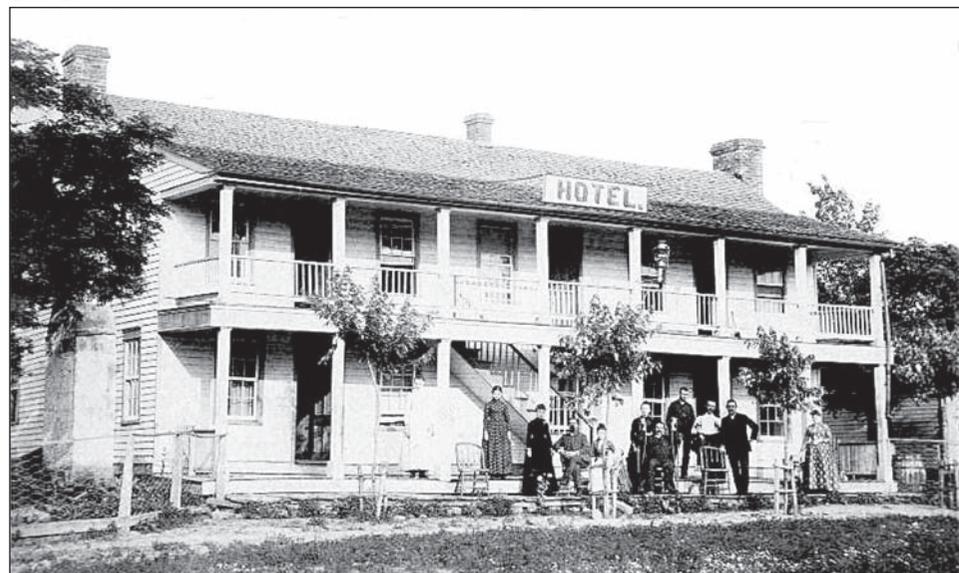
We apologize for any omissions. If you are a Lifetime Member and would like your name to appear in the next issue of the Old Settlers Gazette, please contact our membership chair at pamela.barnabee@gmail.com or 417-458-3099. If you would like to become a member, please visit us at the Old Stagecoach Stop and pick up an application or join on our website: www.oldstagecoachstop.org

Open Saturdays 10 - 4, April through September.

The Old Stagecoach Stop has had a variety of names throughout its history, including the Waynesville House, Johnson Hotel, Black Hotel, Tourist Inn, and, in its last decade of occupancy, simply the "old hotel."

The original building, built in the early 1850s by William Walton McDonald, was a double-pen dogtrot log structure. It was one-story with three rooms. It served as a stagecoach stop, post office and, during the Civil War, as the hospital for the Union fort standing on the hill overlooking the village of Waynesville.

Construction of a railroad through Pulaski County was resumed after the war and it passed through the northern section of the county in 1869. With rail service a reality, the stagecoach business on the Wire Road through Waynesville ceased. McDonald, for a brief time, relocated to the booming rail center at Crocker and sold the Waynesville House to W. H. and Nancy Mitchell in 1870. The Mitchells sold it to Alexander and Mary Bryan in 1874.



Alexander Bryan was a very large man and is shown seated with crutches on the front porch of his hotel (lower left). Bryan, born in Ballard county, Kentucky, in 1825, enlisted in the Missouri State Guard in July of 1861. He left after six months, later stating, "I never considered that I was disloyal to the General Government," since he had not drawn arms or fought in any engagement against Union forces. Alexander joined the Union Army, 48th Volunteer Infantry at Waynesville, in 1864 and served eleven months. He received an Invalid Pension in his later years as a result of his Union service. After selling the Waynesville House in 1886, Bryan moved to a farm near Richland where he died on February 6, 1919.

Sometime during the Mitchell-Bryan ownership years of 1870 to 1886, the building was raised to its current two stories.

