

The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation was formed in 1983 and 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 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.

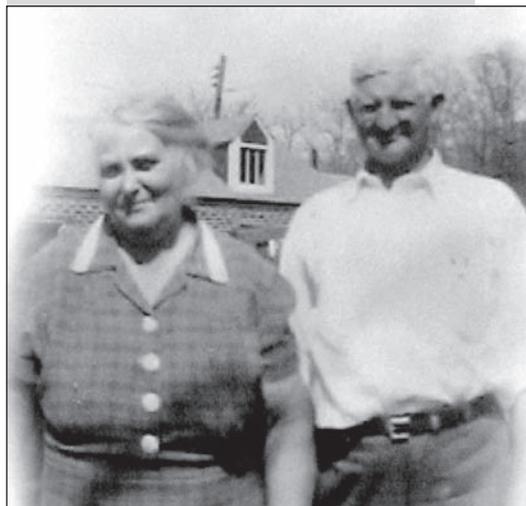
The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation wishes to thank the following Lifetime and Sponsoring members whose generosity has made possible our continuing progress toward meeting our goal "to preserve, restore, protect and maintain the historic structure in Waynesville, Missouri, known as the Old Stagecoach 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



Albert Spencer and Lulu McNeese (above) purchased the Old Stagecoach Stop, then known as the Tourist Inn, from Dr. James and Leona Titterington in 1941. With the advent of Fort Leonard Wood, thousands of construction workers and then military personnel cre-



ated an acute housing shortage in Waynesville (see the "1941 News" section for a description.) The OSS, the Bell Hotel, and the Baker Hotel (the established hostelries) were quickly filled to capacity.

The McNeeses built a 10x60 foot cafe (left) very close to the hotel on the north side, later Feltner's Shoe Shop (see "Foundation" in the 2014 *Gazette*). In the rear of the building, there was a two-room frame apartment, three two-room plywood cabins and a one-



room cabin (above right) to house additional guests. The Foundation razed the last of the wooden cabins in 2008. Still standing is a two-room brick apartment which we call the McNeese Building (above center.) On each end of the building are two four-foot-wide rooms. These contained a toilet and shower with doors from each room of the apartment and also entry from the outside. The facilities were used by guests in the apartment, the cabins, and the old hotel.

Full occupancy came to an end with the closing of Fort Leonard



Wood as a large scale training center in 1945. Undoubtedly, the ninety year old building was in need of repairs and other improvements. The McNeeses put the property and its contents up for auction September 28, 1946. W. A. and Ollie Underwood became proprietors and upon their deaths, the property passed to their heirs. Mary Underwood Crane and others sold the old hotel to the Foundation in 1983 and the rest of the property in 2003.

Today the McNeese Building is used for storage of supplies and equipment necessary for the upkeep of the OSS. It also serves as a classroom for media presentations during school tours.