

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.

In August of 1995, Irma Vandergriff Parrot, daughter Glenda, and brother Everal and his wife visited the Old Stagecoach Stop. Irma was attending the Waynesville High School reunion. She shared with us some memories, particularly of the building.

In 1936, James and Leona Titterington bought what had been known as the Black Hotel from Sam T. and Cora Rollins. Almost immediately, the old hotel was leased by Everett A. (Gus) and Elma Vandergriff. The Vandergriffs then rented the two upstairs rooms on the south end to the Titteringtons. James Titterington was a dentist. He had his office in one of the rooms. He and Leona lived in the other. Gus was a barber and had his shop on the north side of the square, next to the old post office (opened in May of 1951) where Eircil's Jewelry is now (below right).

The Reed family lived in a large two-story house on the south side of the Tourist Hotel, as it was called then. On the other (north) side, the neighbors were John C. and Willie Ann Rollins.

*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.

The Vandergriff family quarters were in what is now the kitchen. It was used as a kitchen and Gus and Elma's sleeping room. Irma's bedroom was in the current Archaeology Room.

A Mrs. Morgan was a long-term renter occupying one of the rooms upstairs, leaving one other upstairs room available for rent. There were drummers (salesmen) who were "regulars," renting a room every few weeks as they traveled their route. Also, "Winnie Wheeler

and husband [Luna] picked tomatoes in California and a room was saved for them upstairs to stay in for the winter when they came back from California."

Recalling the building in those days, Everal said there was a porch on the back, extending to the cistern, and the sides were boxed up about thigh high and the rest was screen. There was a smoke house on the concrete foundation beyond the walnut tree. Somewhere be-

tween the walnut tree and smoke house was an outhouse. There was no plumbing in the building. There were three or four big maple trees in the front of the Tourist Hotel, where the memorial bricks are now, although the front just sloped to the dirt road. Lynn Street was not paved until 1944.

The Vandergriffs left the Tourist Hotel in 1940. Dr. Titterington sold the building to Albert Spenser and Lulu McNeese in 1941.



Irma Vandergriff Parrot, ca. 1935, lived at the OSS 1936-1940. Courtesy of Irma Parrot.



The north side of the Waynesville square, ca. 1951. Gus Vandergriff's barber shop was the first door to the left of the post office (building far right). The barber pole is visible between the door and the window. Courtesy of Jan and Terry Primas.