

The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation was formed in April of 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 stabilized and 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 house museum is open Saturdays, April through September, from 10 AM to 4 PM. However, it is temporarily closed due to COVID-19.

### Foundation Flashback

One of the most ambitious and certainly the longest lasting of the community events sponsored by the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation was the hosting of an exhibit called *Journey Stories* in 2010 that was part of the Smithsonian Institution's **Museum on Main Street** program. The *Journey Stories* theme was one of "travel and migration...from Native Americans to new American citizens."

The Smithsonian did not charge a fee for the exhibit but it was the Foundation's responsibility to ship it in a timely manner to its next destination in Marshall, Missouri, and bear the \$600 cost. The free-standing panels that comprised the exhibit were contained in 14 very large shipping crates on wheels.

The exhibit required at least 900 square feet of floor space in an easily accessible location that was secure and available from October 1 through



*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.

If you would like to become a member, please visit us at the OSS and pick up an application or on our website: [www.oldstagecoachstop.org](http://www.oldstagecoachstop.org)

November 13, the time scheduled for the exhibition. Additional floor space was required for the suggested local display, designed and made by the host institution. Of course, the OSS did not have adequate space. The Waynesville school district offered the Roubidoux Early Childhood Center, one block north of the museum. (This had been the middle school previously.) This was an excellent location. The large space that housed the library was vacant and there were adjacent rooms for additional activities.

The exhibition opened on October 2 and ran for six weeks. Special events or activities were held every Saturday during the exhibition. Programs were presented by: Kathryn Red Corn,

Director of the Osage Tribal Museum at Pawhuska, Oklahoma; Don Foerster, master johnboat builder; Dr. John Glover, Fort Leonard Wood Historian; and Bob Priddy, Missouri News Director and author/voice of "Across Our Wide Missouri." There also was a Trail of Tears Commemoration event at Laughlin Park.



Wednesdays and Fridays of the six-week run were reserved for school groups, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Nineteen school visits were scheduled, which included classes from

Waynesville, Laquey, Crocker, and Richland. While one-half of the class was guided through the exhibit by a docent, the other half of the class was in the "trunk room," where there were three trunks that contained numerous props that suggested a journey of some kind. The students were divided into three groups and assigned one of the closed trunks. They then opened the trunks and each group invented a story using the props inside to present to the rest of the class. At the end of an hour, the students experiencing the exhibit and those in the trunk room changed places. This worked quite well, keeping the groups small and enhancing attention to the docents.

The exhibit was closed on Mondays. A film festival that reflected the journey theme was held with the

showings at the Parker Fine Arts Building on that evening. The six films shown on successive Mondays were *Cars*, *Stagecoach*, *An American Tale*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, and *Apollo 13*. The films and all other activities during the exhibition were free of charge.

Numerous volunteers helped the Foundation board members make the six week exhibition a success. Grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Missouri Humanities Council, plus financial support from area businesses defrayed the considerable costs involved in mounting the exhibition.

In addition to *Journey Stories*, the Foundation has sponsored a wide variety of community activities during its 38 years of existence.

