

The Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation was formed in April of 1983 and bought the condemned 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. The rest of the historic property, along with a small brick building, was acquired in 2003. Maintenance of the 170-year-old building and continuing improvements consume most of the Foundation's resources.

The Old Stagecoach Stop is the oldest publicly accessible building in Pulaski County. The rooms are restored to different periods and/or use, ranging from 1850 to 1950. The ten rooms reflect the history of the building. The house museum is open Saturdays, April through October, from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Foundation Flashback

A small volunteer community group trying to preserve, restore, and open for tours an historic building faces many challenges, not the least of which is raising funds to realize its dreams. For 42 years, the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation has engaged in a variety of fund-raising activities, including membership drives, concerts, tennis tournaments, souvenir sales, auctions, and, for the last 22 years, publishing this annual gazette of history news and articles.

In the spring of 1992, the original \$50,000 note on the building and DNR grant share for stabilization of the structure was paid off. Attention turned to restoring the building but the coffers were nearly empty. In October of 1993, a much anticipated announcement was made by Louise Morgan that her cookbook, based on recipes of the Black Hotel era (1894-1915) was finished and ready for sale. Louise stated that after the initial costs were recovered, the proceeds of the sale of the *Old Stagecoach Stop Cookbook* would go to the Foundation.

Louise had been given Amanda Black's 1894 cookbook by Phoebe Ellsworth Shockley Mitchell, granddaughter of Mrs. Eliza Black. She knew Amanda, Eliza's

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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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

daughter, as Aunt Mandy and that she was the chief cook at the hotel. The old recipes were mixed with some new and original, stirred by cooking tips, and blended with historical anecdotes. The cookbook is 189 pages, containing 145 recipes plus some household tips.

Louise was an early and active supporter of the Foundation, along with her husband, Waynesville attorney Bill Morgan. As with any project that Louise did, the cookbook was an elegant product. The 5½x8½-inch book had a sturdy cover, printed in brown tones, and spiral-bound to lay flat. It came in a coarse unbleached muslin bag. There were 1,940 books printed, costing \$4.675 each. The Morgans fronted the printing costs of \$9,069.50 and the Foundation reimbursed the printing cost for each as they were sold. The proceeds were earmarked for restoration of the building.



The cookbook was an artistic, culinary, and financial success for the Foundation. In the first month after its publication, 453 cookbooks were sold at \$10.00 a copy. Restoration of the interior began in earnest with the cookbook revenue providing the funds for those early efforts. Naturally over time, cookbook sales slowed and Learning Enrichment and Acceleration (LEAP) students took over selling the books to family, friends, and neighbors. In January of 1996, with slightly more

than half of the printing cost repaid, Mr. Morgan informed us that ..."I would like to cancel the remainder of the debt and consider it a donation on my part to the Foundation." This meant that sales of the cookbook would be all profit in the future. By the new millennium, all of the cookbooks had been sold and the proceeds mostly funded the restoration of the first floor. This was due to the creative effort of Louise Morgan and the generosity of Bill Morgan.



Louise Morgan (left) autographs a copy of her cookbook for Maxine Farnham, one of the founders of the Old Stagecoach Stop Foundation.



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