



1. OLD STAGECOACH STOP, 106 N. LYNN ST: The original log building was built by William Walton McDonald in the mid-1850's. The original structure was two log cabins connected by an open "dogtrot". One cabin was used as a residence and the other as a stop for passengers on the Burden and Woodson stage route (later the South-Western) that ran from St. James to Springfield three times a week. The railroad came through Pulaski County in 1869 and the stagecoach business dried up. W.W. McDonald sold the building in 1870.



2. TALBOT HOUSE, 405 NORTH ST: Talbot House was built in 1885 by Reverend Albert Washington Davis, a pastor of Waynesville Methodist Church. He died in 1888, three years after building the house, at the age of 26. His widow turned the house into a hotel that became known as the Pulaski House. Dr. Charles A. Talbot bought the house in March 1920. Dr. Talbot had been practicing medicine in Pulaski County since 1910, and continued doing so for thirty-five years, until his death in 1945. After that, his widow rented out rooms to boarders.

3. KOREAN BAPTIST CHURCH, 210 N. LYNN ST: This church, formerly the Waynesville Methodist Church, was built in 1945; but the first Methodist Church building to be constructed on this site was completed in 1887. Organized before the Civil War, founder Wilson M. Tilley, decided that the settlers in the area needed a church, and he rode out on horseback in search of a preacher. Services were held at the Tilley's farmhouse once a month by a Methodist circuit rider until interrupted by the Civil War and Mr. Tilley's death. Stories differ, but most agree that Mr. Tilley was shot by bushwhackers.



4. NICKELS' APARTMENTS, 404 SCHOOL ST: These apartments occupy a portion of the former Waynesville USO club, built 1942. The USO was a way for local communities to participate in the war effort during World War II, and the Fort Leonard Wood area was no exception. As the military was still segregated, plans called for separate clubs. At first, space above a store was rented. Dedication of this USO building was held on March 7, 1942. It was an L-shaped building. The main lobby was two stories high, with a penthouse. All that remains is one wing of that building, now converted to apartments.



5. ARMED SERVICES YMCA, 403 SCHOOL ST: In 1886, a two-story frame building of two rooms was built at this location to house the Waynesville School. In 1936-37, a brick building was erected by the federal Public Works Administration to replace the frame building. When Fort Leonard Wood was built in 1940-41 more classrooms were needed. Enrollments continued to expand, and more schools were constructed, but in 1955, the high school graduating class was still only 34 students. A separate high school wasn't built until 1959. The 1936-37 building was joined to a 1952 school building, and housed the Waynesville Junior High for many years.

6. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 202 N. BENTON ST: Baptist churches were also among the earliest to be established in the Waynesville area. The First Baptist Church was organized in 1880, and the first church building, a log structure, was located at this site in 1887. Two other buildings replaced the original before the stone structure housing the current fellowship hall was built in 1936.

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7. BAKER HOTEL: A popular overnight stop on Route 66, sat on this site from 1905 to the early 1970's. The original frame building was constructed at the corner of Benton and North Streets by Lee Baker. It burned in 1914 and was rebuilt with 26 bedrooms. The Lee family sold the hotel to Ralph and Mattie Atwill in 1942. The hotel burned again in the early 1970's and disappeared.

8. ROUBIDOUX CREEK, WAYNESVILLE CITY PARK: Roubidoux Creek is named for a family of French traders prominent in the early settlement of MO. Around 1831, George Washington Gibson became the first "squatter" on the present-day Waynesville. The town first grew up around the creek, but after 1847 growth shifted to the area around the courthouse.



9. ROUBIDOUX BRIDGE, HISTORIC ROUTE 66: This concrete arch bridge was built in 1923 as part of a road improvement project on State Route 14, the graded earth and gravel road connecting St. Louis with Joplin. That project also straightened out the road, which originally turned to go around the square behind the courthouse and crossed the Roubidoux on a steel truss bridge at the end of North Street. Three years later, in 1926, State Route 14 was designated U.S. Route 66. However, the road was not paved through Pulaski County until 1930.



10. TRAIL OF TEARS MEMORIAL, LAUGHLIN PARK: National Park Service Trail of Tears Memorial and Interpretive Walking Trail. There seven Trail of Tears Wayside Exhibits. The exhibits begin at Roubidoux Spring and are located along the beautiful, mile long walking concrete walking trail that follows along the banks of the Roubidoux River. Laughlin Park is one of only seven certified sites in Missouri.



11. ROUBIDOUX SPRING, LAUGHLIN PARK: This was the site of a Cherokee encampment on the Trail of Tears. In 1830, the U.S. Congress passed a law that mandated the relocation of Native nations from their ancestral lands in eastern states. In the winter of 1838-39, several Cherokee groups walked almost 1,000 miles to Oklahoma. The history of the Trail of Tears is documented in several diaries of the time period. In 2006 the area was certified by the National Park Service as a site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The NPS constructed an exhibit and an interpretive walking trail with brochure that was completed in 2015.



12. BANK BUILDING, 100 S. BENTON STREET: This stone and brick building was constructed in 1904 to house the Bank of Waynesville. The second story was divided into offices, with George M. Reed's abstract business being one of the first tenants.

13. SITE OF CIVIL WAR FORT, FORT STREET: In 1861, the Confederate flag flew above the courthouse, but in June of 1862, the Union's Thirteenth Missouri State Militia marched into town, under the command of Colonel Albert Sigel. They established a fort on the hill south of the courthouse square, overlooking Roubidoux spring. Between the soldiers and the pro-Southern irregular troops called "bushwhackers" much of the town was destroyed by the end of the war.



14. LONE OAK PRINTING, 300 HISTORIC ROUTE 66: J.M. Long became a resident of Pulaski County when his father moved the family here from Kentucky in 1867. He had a grocery in Waynesville, but was burned out in 1887. He was elected county sheriff in 1888, and served in that capacity until 1892. In 1906, he built this now-remodeled structure of concrete block. The bottom floor was a store and post office at one time; the second floor, called the "opera house" was used for community entertainments such as local theatre productions.



15. HISTORIC ROUTE 66: In the early days of Waynesville, the stretch going through town was named Commercial Street, and was noted for the ditch, said to be deep enough to hide a horse and rider, that ran down the middle of it. Under pressure from the "good roads movement" of the first decades of the twentieth century, the road was improved and became State Route 14. In 1926, it became part of U.S. Route 66 that crossed the west from Chicago to Los Angeles. Interstate 44 later bypassed much of that route. In 1990, John Ashcroft, then Governor of Missouri, signed a bill making this stretch of highway officially "Historic Route 66". The signing took place in front of the Pulaski County Courthouse.



16. RIGSBY HOUSE, 103 N. BENTON ST: Claude and Eva Rigsby bought this house, which stands on lots 6 and 7 in block 4 of the original town of Waynesville, in 1924. We don't know the year of construction, but the foundation is made of rough-hewn logs. For 33 years, Claude operated the Standard Service Station next to his home, serving Route 66 as it passed through town. During the years when Fort Leonard Wood was being built, the Rigsby's rented rooms and beds to construction workers.



17. SEDA'S GIFT SHOPPE, 107 N. BENTON ST: Formerly Rexall Drug, the south side of this building still bears the scar from a semi-truck crashing into it in the early 1980's. The tractor trailer lost its brakes while coming down Waynesville Hill.



18A. 1903 COURTHOUSE & COURTHOUSE SQUARE: During the Civil War, the courthouse was badly damaged, and in 1873 a new brick courthouse was completed at a cost of about \$9,000. That building burned to the ground in 1902, destroying all the county records except the land books. This, Pulaski County's fourth courthouse, was built the following year. The bricks for this building were made at a kiln that was located on the grounds of the present Waynesville City Park. The 1903 courthouse now houses the Pulaski County Courthouse Museum.

18B. BLOODLAND METHODIST CHURCH BELL: Bloodland was once a thriving community situated in the middle of the area selected by the Department of the Army to build Fort Leonard Wood. In 1941 there were three general stores, three filling stations, two churches, two barber shops, a stove mill, a tomato canning factory, a brand new high school, and 120 inhabitants. The residents of Bloodland and the surrounding area had to leave their homes by July of 1941 and workers began tearing everything down. The Bloodland Methodist Church was probably organized in the late 1800's; the church building was constructed around 1900. Many Bloodland families attended the church and are buried in its cemetery. The cemetery remains today and is maintained by Fort Leonard Wood.

18C. WORLD WAR I CANNON: This World War I cannon made its return as a fixture on the square December, 2010. Many years ago the cannon was removed by a group of local boys as part of a Halloween prank and was struck by an automobile and damaged. Luther Thomas, a prominent area businessman offered to take the cannon off the county's hands. He then had it restored. For many years the cannon "guarded" the entrance to Old Farm Estates before being rededicated by members of the Thomas family.



South side of Square, circa 1950



Old Roubidoux Bridge is visible between center arch, circa 1923



West side of Square, circa 1940

1. OLD STAGECOACH STOP
2. TALBOT HOUSE
3. KOREAN BAPTIST CHURCH
4. NICKEL'S APARTMENTS
5. ARMED SERVICE YMCA
6. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
7. BAKER HOTEL
8. ROUBIDOUX CREEK
9. ROUBIDOUX BRIDGE
10. TRAIL OF TEARS MEMORIAL
11. ROUBIDOUX SPRING
12. BANK BUILDING
13. SITE OF CIVIL WAR FORT
14. LONE OAK PRINTING
15. HISTORIC ROUTE 66
16. RIGSBY HOUSE
17. SEDA'S GIFT SHOPPE
18. 1903 COURTHOUSE

KEY



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In 1832, G.W. Gibson, made his home on the banks of the Roubidoux, near the Big Spring, on the Kickapoo Trace, in the beautiful Ozarks of Missouri.

Two years later, in 1834, William Moore and Josiah Christeson donated the land for the town site. Pulaski County surveyor, Thomas P. Masterson, platted the town, and Cyrus Colley was tasked with selling the lots. Harvey Wood, the first postmaster, named his new post office in honor of Revolutionary War hero "Mad Anthony" Wayne, and thus, Waynesville was born.

Waynesville is the county seat of Pulaski County, in south central Missouri. Parts of the town line the "Roaring Roubidoux" to the north and south, and the "Old Wire Road" to the east and west. Historic Route 66 provides the main route through town. Visitors from all over the world visit Waynesville to pay homage to "The Mother Road" and take pictures of the landmarks that dot the city.

Waynesville is a proud neighbor of Fort Leonard Wood, one of the largest training bases for the United States military. Construction of the fort began in December, 1940 and has forever changed the face of Waynesville. We celebrate the diversity that Fort Leonard Wood has brought to our city.

Waynesville is home to the Tigers, the mascot of the Waynesville R-VI School District. The school district is acclaimed for its academics, and athletics, and is always striving for excellence in both those, as well as staff, facilities, and student education.

Whether in the area for a visit, or, if looking for a home to raise a family, Waynesville has plenty to offer. We hope that our community captures your heart just as the natural beauty of the area captured George W. Gibson, over 175 years ago.

"Preserving The Past, Planning For The Future"



1903 Courthouse

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county
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& Visitors Center

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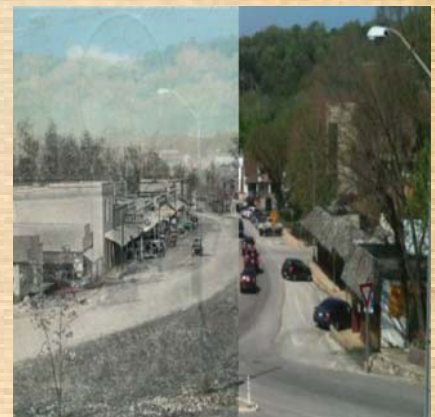


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