

Hall of the House of Representatives
88th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2011
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Resolution No. 1037

IN HONOR OF THE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUTTERFIELD STAGECOACH
STOP AT POTTS INN IN POTTSVILLE, ARKANSAS.

Amendment No. 1 to House Resolution No. 1037

Amend House Resolution No. 1037 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete lines 22 through 24, and substitute the following:

"WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkbride Potts, a young bachelor, came to Arkansas by covered wagon in 1828; married Pamela Logan, a member of a pioneer family south of the Arkansas River; and the couple settled at the foot of Crow Mountain in Pope County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Potts homesteaded one hundred and sixty (160) acres, began clearing and farming, and was a respected citizen in the valley; like many other Americans in the late 1840's, Mr. Potts decided to mine for gold in California but was not successful in that endeavor; but he recognized the opportunity to supply meat to the hungry prospectors and organized three (3) successful cattle drives back to California; and

WHEREAS, with a large family of eleven (11) children, Mr. Potts in the 1850's began the construction of a two-and-a-half story home, which was modeled after the great houses back in his home state of Pennsylvania; almost all of the wood used in construction was cut on the homesteaded acres and hauled by oxen to Cagle's Mill, where it was sawed into lumber; the boards were hand-planed and marks of the plane bits are still visible in the attic; the bricks used in the nine (9) fireplaces were made on the premises and the molds and racks used to make the bricks are on display in the house; the doors and windows, many still with the original glass panes, were brought by keel boat up the Arkansas River; mantel boards over the fireplaces and the simple decorative woodwork in the parlor are the only architectural frills in the house; it was a functional frontier home, stage depot stop, and a well-known social center between Memphis, Tennessee, and Fort Smith, Arkansas, in those early days; and it took eight (8) years to complete the home; and

WHEREAS, the rooms on both the first and second floor are 20 x 20 with a 12-foot wide central hall; the parlor was used for state occasions, tea parties, and musicals; all of the Potts family daughters were married in front of the fireplace; governors, military officers, and Cherokee chiefs



shared the hospitality and delicious fare assured by Mrs. Potts; and the home served as the first post office in the area and the original postal desk used by Mr. Potts is on display in the museum; and

WHEREAS, in 1857, the United States Government passed legislation to establish an overland mail route to transport mail and passengers to California; Mr. John Butterfield from upstate New York was awarded the huge contract and the Potts home was a scheduled stop on the Butterfield Overland Mail route; the stagecoach traveled almost three thousand (3,000) miles one way, and they accomplished the set goal with the first trip in September of 1858 taking less than the allotted time of twenty-four (24) days; but the stage route was short-lived due to the beginning of the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, the Potts family provided legendary food and comfortable boarding for travelers and local visitors for three (3) generations; in 1970 the home was obtained by Pope County with the purpose of converting it to a museum; it is maintained by the Pope County Historical Foundation, a volunteer board; and in addition to the original well house and smoke house, there are several cabins on the grounds that display other facets of local history along with this jewel of Arkansas,"

The Amendment was read _____
By: Representative Lea
KLL/DRM - 03/15/11 01:58
KLL257

Chief Clerk