

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

As Engrossed: H3/16/11

HR 1037

4
5 By: Representatives Lea, Catlett

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

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

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13 **Subtitle**

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

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19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

21
22 *WHEREAS, Mr. Kirkbride Potts, a young bachelor, came to Arkansas by*
23 *covered wagon in 1828; married Pamela Logan, a member of a pioneer family*
24 *south of the Arkansas River; and the couple settled at the foot of Crow*
25 *Mountain in Pope County, Arkansas; and*

26
27 *WHEREAS, Mr. Potts homesteaded one hundred and sixty (160) acres, began*
28 *clearing and farming, and was a respected citizen in the valley; like many*
29 *other Americans in the late 1840's, Mr. Potts decided to mine for gold in*
30 *California but was not successful in that endeavor; but he recognized the*
31 *opportunity to supply meat to the hungry prospectors and organized three (3)*
32 *successful cattle drives back to California; and*

33
34 *WHEREAS, with a large family of eleven (11) children, Mr. Potts in the*
35 *1850's began the construction of a two-and-a-half story home, which was*
36 *modeled after the great houses back in his home state of Pennsylvania; almost*



1 *all of the wood used in construction was cut on the homesteaded acres and*
2 *hailed by oxen to Cagle's Mill, where it was sawed into lumber; the boards*
3 *were hand-planed and marks of the plane bits are still visible in the attic;*
4 *the bricks used in the nine (9) fireplaces were made on the premises and the*
5 *molds and racks used to make the bricks are on display in the house; the*
6 *doors and windows, many still with the original glass panes, were brought by*
7 *keel boat up the Arkansas River; mantel boards over the fireplaces and the*
8 *simple decorative woodwork in the parlor are the only architectural frills in*
9 *the house; it was a functional frontier home, stage depot stop, and a well-*
10 *known social center between Memphis, Tennessee, and Fort Smith, Arkansas, in*
11 *those early days; and it took eight (8) years to complete the home; and*

12

13 *WHEREAS, the rooms on both the first and second floor are 20 x 20 with*
14 *a 12-foot wide central hall; the parlor was used for state occasions, tea*
15 *parties, and musicals; all of the Potts family daughters were married in*
16 *front of the fireplace; governors, military officers, and Cherokee chiefs*
17 *shared the hospitality and delicious fare assured by Mrs. Potts; and the home*
18 *served as the first post office in the area and the original postal desk used*
19 *by Mr. Potts is on display in the museum; and*

20

21 *WHEREAS, in 1857, the United States Government passed legislation to*
22 *establish an overland mail route to transport mail and passengers to*
23 *California; Mr. John Butterfield from upstate New York was awarded the huge*
24 *contract and the Potts home was a scheduled stop on the Butterfield Overland*
25 *Mail route; the stagecoach traveled almost three thousand (3,000) miles one*
26 *way, and they accomplished the set goal with the first trip in September of*
27 *1858 taking less than the allotted time of twenty-four (24) days; but the*
28 *stage route was short-lived due to the beginning of the Civil War; and*

29

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

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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives wishes to publicly recognize the historic significance of the Butterfield Stagecoach Stop at Potts Inn in Pottsville, Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the Butterfield Stagecoach Stop at Potts Inn in Pottsville, Arkansas.

/s/Lea