

BC-1721

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary)  
Other name/site number: NA  
Name of related multiple property listing: Salado Multiple Resource Area

2. Location

Street & number: 401 South Stagecoach Road  
City or town: Salado State: Texas County: Bell  
Not for publication:  Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:  
 national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer Date 8/11/17  
Signature of certifying official / Title  
Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register  
 other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] Date of Action 10/10/2017  
Signature of the Keeper

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:** Private; Public-local

**Category of Property:** District

**Number of Resources within Property** (not including original Stagecoach Inn building)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	4	buildings
1	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
11	4	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1 (Stagecoach Inn, NR 83003085)

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** DOMESTIC/hotel  
COMMERCE/restaurant

**Current Functions:** COMMERCE/restaurant  
WORK IN PROGRESS (lodging to reopen 2018)

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century: Greek Revival  
Modern Movement: Ranch Style

**Principal Exterior Materials:** WOOD; METAL; STONE/limestone BRICK

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 10 through 20)

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

X	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** Transportation, Recreation, Architecture, Landscape Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1860-1960

**Significant Dates:** 1860, 1960

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

**Architect/Builder:** Marie and Arthur Berger, James Ronald Fetridge

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 21-40)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheets 41 through 44)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. (Part 1 approved 3-16-17)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # TEX-395
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): NA

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property:** 11.81 acres (0.19 acres in 1983 nomination)

### Coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
1.	30.944465°	-97.538973°
2.	30.944289°	-97.537336°
3.	30.941781°	-97.537592°
4.	30.941724°	-97.538366°
5.	30.942123°	-97.539503°
6.	30.942964°	-97.539338°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** (see continuation sheets 45 through 47)

**Boundary Justification:** The original 1983 National Register boundary for the Stagecoach Inn did not include later 20<sup>th</sup> century additions to the property that have since become significant. The recommended historic boundary follows the historic 1960 parcel boundary which includes all historic resources on the property.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Josh Conrad, Architectural Historian  
Organization: Hardy Heck Moore, Inc.  
Street & number: 3500 Jefferson St, Suite 330  
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip Code: 78731  
Email: jconrad@hhminc.com  
Telephone: 512-478-8014  
Date: November 18, 2016

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheets 47-67)  
**Figures** (see continuation sheets 67-93)  
**Photographs** (see continuation sheets 94-120)

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

**Photograph Log**

All photos by HHM staff in 2016 (except as noted).

Photo 1 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0001)

Camera facing west

East (front) side of the 1860 building (Resource 1)

Photo 2 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0002)

Camera facing south

West entrance to the Stagecoach Inn facing onto the frontage road of IH 35, including the highway sign (Resource 11)

Photo 3 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0003)

Camera facing north

Man-made pond and the IH-35 bridge over Salado Creek

Photo 4 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0004)

Camera facing east

South entrance onto Main Street, including the stone house (Resource 2) behind the wooden fence at center

Photo 5 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0005)

Camera facing east

Northwest corner of the restaurant (Resource 1), showing the post-1985 addition next to the small stream running  
Through the property

Photo 6 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0006)

Camera facing north

Tree-lined driveway through the property

Photo 7 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0007)

Camera facing north

Motel resort landscape, including the central clover-leaf pool area (Resource 9) and the north lodging building  
(Resource 5), both from 1960

Photo 8 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0008)

Camera facing southwest

Motel resort landscape, showing the 1960 lodging building (Resource 6) south of the central pool area

Photo 9 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0009)

Camera facing west

Rear of the 1960 lobby building (Resource 3) facing onto the central pool area (Resource 9)

Photo 10 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0010)

Camera facing

Terraced side yard with the bent oak tree south of the 1860 building

Photo 11 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0011)

Camera facing north

Late 1960s or 1970s enclosure over a spring water cave

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Photo 12 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0012)

Camera facing southwest  
East (front) and north sides of the 1860 building

Photo 13 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0013)

Camera facing south  
Front porch of the 1860 building

Photo 14 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0014)

Camera facing northwest  
East (front) and south sides of the 1860 building

Photo 15 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0015)

Camera facing south  
Second floor of the original 1860 building

Photo 16 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0016)

Camera facing south  
Southeastern fireplace on the first floor of the original 1860 building

Photo 17 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0017)

Camera facing north  
Northeastern fireplace on the first floor of the original 1860 building

Photo 18 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0018)

Camera facing north  
Northeastern fireplace on the second floor of the original 1860 building

Photo 19 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0019)

Camera facing north  
Northwestern fireplace on the first floor of the original 1860 building

Photo 20 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0020)

Camera facing northeast  
Roof structure in the original 1860 building, as seen in the attic

Photo 21 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0021)

Camera facing east  
Crawl space under the first floor of the original 1860 building showing unhewn logs used as floor joists

Photo 22 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0022)

Camera facing east  
Exposed post-and-girt structural joint in the original 1860 building, as seen at the southeast corner of the second floor

Photo 23 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0023)

Camera facing southeast  
Pre-1936 stone smokehouse

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Photo 24 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0024)

Camera facing southwest

Small ca. 1930s stone house, possibly meant as a spring water bath house (Resource 2)

Photo 25. (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0025)

Camera facing west

Log cabin moved to the current site ca. 1935 (Resource 14)

Photo 26 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0026)

Camera facing east

1960 dining room addition to the rear of the original 1860 building

Photo 27 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0027)

Camera facing north

Ca. 1960 central atrium surrounding the large bur oak tree, part of the rear addition to the original 1860 building

Photo 28 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0028)

Camera facing north

West (rear) side of the 1860 building (visible with horizontal wood siding) and its ca. 1960 rear addition surrounding a large bur oak, taken from the central atrium

Photo 29 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0029)

Camera facing southeast

Ca. 1960 dining room extension to the rear of the original 1860 building

Photo 30 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0030)

Camera facing east

Inn's rear additions

Photo 31 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0031)

Camera facing southeast

Dining room extension built sometime after 1985 to the south of the ca. 1960 addition

Photo 32 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0032)

Camera facing southeast

Dining room extension built sometime after 1985 to the north of the ca. 1960 addition

Photo 33 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0033)

Camera facing north

Motel resort landscape, showing the 1960 lodging building (Resource 6) south of the central pool area

Photo 34 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0034)

Camera facing east

Motel resort landscape, showing the 1960 lodging building at left (Resource 6) south of the central pool area and a later non-contributing lodging building (Resource 8) in the background, constructed between 1970 and 1985

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Photo 35 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0035)

Camera facing west

Entrance driveway and the 1960 sign facing onto Interstate 35

Photo 36 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0036)

Camera facing east

1960 lobby building (Resource 3)

Photo 37 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0037)

Camera facing east

Interior of the 1960 lobby building (Resource 3)

Photo 38 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0038)

Camera facing northwest) at the canopy of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4)

Photo 39 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0039)

Camera facing east

West side of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4)

Photo 40 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0040)

Camera facing west

1960 pool area (Resource 10) next to the clubhouse building (Resource 4), both from 1960

Photo 41 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0041)

Camera facing west

Interior of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4) facing out into the side pool area (Resource 10)

Photo 42 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0042)

Camera facing east

Interior of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4)

Photo 43 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0043)

Camera facing south

1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4) showing the curving stone wall visible from the front of the building

Photo 44 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0044)

Camera facing west

East side of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4), showing the ca. 2005 addition to the building (including the chimney)

Photo 45 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0045)

Camera facing northeast

1960 lodging building (Resource 5) north of the central pool area

Photo 46 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0046)

Camera facing northeast

1960 lodging building (Resource 6) south of the central pool area



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Photo 47 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0047)

Camera facing north

1960 lodging building (Resource 5) north of the central pool area

Photo 48 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0048)

Typical room in a 1960 lodging building

Photo 49 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0049)

Camera facing northeast

1960 lodging building (Resource 7) at the southwest corner of the property

Photo 50 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0050)

Camera facing northeast

Non-contributing lodging building (Resource 8) built between 1970 and 1985 at the south edge of the property

Photo 51 (TX\_Bell County\_Stagecoach Inn\_0051)

Camera facing north

Non-contributing coffee shop building (Resource 12) built ca. 1985 to the east of the central pool area

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

## Description

The Stagecoach Inn, located in Salado, Bell County, Texas, is located 600 feet south of Salado Creek,<sup>1</sup> between Main Street (formerly U.S. Highway 81, State Highway 2, and the Meridian Highway) and Interstate Highway (IH) 35. (See maps in the *Additional Documentation* continuation sheets.) The original inn (Resource 1) is a nineteenth-century Greek Revival I-House sited among large-canopy trees and a small spring-fed stream that flows into a man-made pond near Salado Creek. The inn evolved in the 1940s and 1950s into a restaurant through a series of rehabilitation efforts that minimally affected the integrity of original inn. Subsequently, by 1960, the inn was expanded to include a modern commercial kitchen and additional dining space. At the same time, new Ranch-style buildings and a modernist resort landscape were constructed so that the property grew into a mid-century motel complex on approximately six acres of land between then-newly constructed IH 35 and Main Street. Further construction after 1985 again enlarged the inn and expanded the motel complex. The overall landscape of the Stagecoach Inn is contributing to the property as Resource 13 (Maps 1, 3).

---

## Geography and Topography

The Stagecoach Inn, the town of Salado, and much of southern Bell County sits atop the northern segment of the Edwards aquifer in Central Texas.<sup>2</sup> The aquifer consists of a highly porous limestone geology featuring a vast network of faults, underground rivers, caves and, notably, springs, including the several that make up the Salado Springs group along Salado Creek.<sup>3</sup> The grounds of Stagecoach Inn feature a large habitable spring water cave south of the old inn (Figure 16) which showcases a well-known example of this geology.<sup>4</sup> Until the mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century, the owners maintained a public spring water pump in front of the inn (Figure 4), though it was later removed.

The western boundary of the Stagecoach Inn is Salado's Main Street. The old inn faces its entrance directly onto the street behind a row of small trees and shrubs, a sidewalk, and a one-car-deep gravel parking area (Photo 1). Nearby and across the street are a number of other downtown commercial buildings with similarly small setbacks, including a log cabin (Resource 14) and two newer buildings (Resources 15 and 16). The eastern boundary is the Stagecoach Inn's secondary entrance. It faces directly on the frontage road of IH 35 with a wide horseshoe driveway entrance, a tall sign targeting highway drivers (Resource 11), three flagpoles, and a decorative replica stagecoach on the wide front lawn (Photo 2). The northern boundary roughly follows the northern bank of Salado Creek, north of the pond (Photo 3). The southern boundary of the Stagecoach Inn follows the outermost driveway serving the motel's southern lodging buildings. This driveway continues along the boundary and connects to Main Street south of the old inn. The boundary here is semi-wooded and undeveloped beyond the motel landscape (Photo 4).

---

<sup>1</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, "Salado Creek (Williamson County)," accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rbs08>. There are several Salado Creeks in Texas, including a well-known stream near San Antonio. The creek that runs through Salado begins in Williamson County and empties into the Little River.

<sup>2</sup> Ian C. Jones, "Groundwater Availability Modeling: Northern Segment of the Edwards Aquifer, Texas," Report 358, Texas Water Development Board, December 2003. Available at [http://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/numbered\\_reports/doc/R358/Report%20358%20Northern%20Edwards.pdf](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/publications/reports/numbered_reports/doc/R358/Report%20358%20Northern%20Edwards.pdf), accessed Oct 31, 2016

<sup>3</sup> Gunnar Brune, "Salado Springs," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rps03>; Gunnar Brune, *Springs of Texas* (Fort Worth: Branch-Smith Inc., 1981), 65-69.

<sup>4</sup> The cave was covered with a small shed enclosure in the 1960s or 1970s and is currently not open to the public.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Topographically, the landscape is split by a small stream running behind the old inn. East of the stream, the land behind the old inn slopes about ten feet from Main Street down to the stream. In response, the additions behind the inn are raised on tall stone and metal piers (Photo 5). West of the stream, the larger motel landscape slopes down generally toward both the small stream and Salado Creek to the north. The driveways throughout the property casually respond to this topography with gentle curves and small culverts over the waterways (Photo 6).

### Circulation and Landscape Patterns

The overall circulation of the motel complex is structured around a system of curvilinear automobile driveways leading from two entrances on the IH 35 frontage road from the west and linking to two entrances from Main Street to the east. Large shade trees protected by curving stone retaining walls line the edges of these streets throughout the property, leading cars to the drive-through canopies of the lobby and club house buildings, as well as to parking spots on the outward sides of the lodging buildings. Before 1960, this area was largely wooded and undeveloped, however a 1953 aerial photograph shows a single road leading to an unknown non-extant building near the location of the current club house (Map 11). Numerous large oak, elm, and pecan trees grow throughout the motel and restaurant complex. A 2014 tree survey documented 105 trees over eight inches in diameter, with some over 50 inches.<sup>5</sup> This tree canopy provides an essential wooded, rural character that complements the simple, rustic board-and-batten and squeezed mortar exteriors of the motel buildings and the historic vernacular charm of the old inn.

The inward sides of the motel buildings, with the exception of the southwestern lodging building, all face onto pedestrian spaces. The buildings act as a gateway between the automobile and pedestrian spaces and between the busy process of arrival and departure, thus creating the relaxing environment of leisure. The inward sides of the most central grouping of buildings—the lobby and two original lodging buildings—face into the heart of the resort complex: the clover-leaf pool (Resource 9, Photo 7). This leisurely pedestrian-only landscape consists of a poured concrete patio surrounding the pool with tile coping at the pool edge (likely replaced). The patio forms fluid, curving edges along the grass lawns laying between the pool area and the lodging buildings. On the south side, this edge is lined with a short, stone retaining wall that curves around to various sets of relaxed stone steps leading up to and around the lodging building to the south. At the steps immediately south of the pool, each tread, all varying in depth by several feet, bows outward in leisurely, elaborate arches, matching the curving patio below (Photo 8). The low curving wall continues to the west around an immense oak tree shading the lobby building. The concrete patio continues directly to the rear entry of the lobby, past a concrete outdoor ping-pong table (likely original, Photo 9). To the east, beyond the pool area, other recreational amenities include posts for a volleyball net (likely original), two concrete shuffleboard courts (likely original), and a playground (not original). East of the clubhouse, a second curving pool (Resource 10) and concrete patio follows the same design features of the central pool. Originally, the pools had diving boards and fountains, now removed, and a new metal safety fence now surrounds the two areas. The club house pool area also once contained a small pool house on the west corner (Figure 24), but this was removed at an unknown time.

Sidewalks and steps continue around the entire property and lead back to the north side of the restaurant via a new wood deck bridge over the stream. Between the restaurant (Resource 1) and the log cabin facing Main Street (Resource 14), the deck walkway surrounds a sunken courtyard before leading back to the front of the building. Among the trees and plantings in front of the building, a sign reading “Historical Stage Stop of Pioneer Days, Stagecoach Inn, Open Daily” hangs from a wooden post, and the building’s Registered Texas Historical Landmark marker is embedded in a standalone stone wall. Early photographs show a similar “Stagecoach Inn” sign located closer to Main Street (Figure 14). Later other signs came and went as the property became known as “Shady Villa” (Figures 1, 2, 6). Photographs also show an evolution of spring water pumps located on the street in front of the inn, though none of these remain

---

<sup>5</sup> “Tree Survey, Job No. 14317,” Tree Survey by Texas Land Surveying, Inc., dated October 3, 2014.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

(Figures 3, 4). A small, non-historic electric pump is currently located south of the inn within a wooden enclosure. At some point after its 1981 photographic depiction, the large signature pecan tree in front of the old inn was removed, a tree that had been featured in every photograph of the inn since the early 1900s (see Figures 3, 4, 14, 27) and which likely contributed, along with the interior bur oak, to the origins of the title “Shady Villa.”<sup>6</sup>

On the south side of the restaurant in front of the small stone house (Resource 2), a series of curving rock and concrete planters form small grassy terraces once used by the restaurant for outdoor dining (Map 2, Figure 15 and Photo 10). This area also features the property’s famous spring cave, sited next to a large oak tree bent nearly horizontally (Figure 16). Today, the cave is covered and locked with a small gable-roof metal enclosure on concrete blocks, constructed in the 1960s or 1970s (Photo 11).<sup>7</sup>

North of the motel, a pond occupies much of the land between the clubhouse and Salado Creek. East of the pond, the city maintains a small creek-side park (including the dam on Salado Creek), a wastewater treatment facility and a parking lot on what was once part of the Stagecoach Inn property.<sup>8</sup>

### Architectural Description

The Stagecoach Inn property contains nine buildings, two pool structures and one sign structure. The ca. 1860 inn and a 1930s stone house are located near Main Street, and seven motel buildings, the pools and the sign, all built between 1960 and 1985, are located near the IH 35 frontage road. (See *Section 8: Statement of Significance* for additional discussion and sources regarding construction dates.) Of the motel buildings, four are lodging, one is a lobby, one is a café, and one is a club house. The old inn has a series of rear additions built after 1943 which have enlarged the facility into a modern restaurant.

### Original Portion of the Old Inn/Restaurant (Resource 1)

The original inn, built ca. 1860, faces directly onto Salado’s Main Street, Old US 81, among a number of commercial block buildings.<sup>9</sup> It comprises a two-story wood-frame building on a stone pier-and-beam foundation with a rectangular footprint and a two-story porch lining the full width of the building’s street (east) side (Photo 1). The form of the original building is akin to the tradition of the pre-railroad vernacular I-house, two-stories in height and two-rooms deep, except the rear rooms are half the depth of the front rooms. Painted wood lap siding wraps the exterior of the building not protected by the porch, while the exterior wall under the porch has wide, flush board siding. Six slightly tapering wood box columns with chamfers at their corners support the porch on each level, and a railing of simple square wood balusters wraps the porch’s second floor (Photo 12). Conveying Greek Revival stylistic influences, the porch posts are styled like square Doric columns and raised proportionally on square plinths at the ground floor. The columns taper inward near the capitals, evoking the aesthetic *entasis* of Classical columns. Of those on the first floor, only the southernmost column features the historic profile (Figure 26 and Photo 13). The other five columns have been replaced with in-kind replicas of varying accuracy. The building contains six-over-six double-hung

---

<sup>6</sup> “Odds and Ends,” *Lynn County News*, June 13, 1952.

<sup>7</sup> Harper Scott Clark, “Legends of famous guests, buried gold give Stagecoach Inn allure,” *Temple Daily Telegram*, August 4, 2008, accessed June 1, 2016, [http://www.tdtnews.com/archive/article\\_0531613a-f26c-5b85-a304-761449714af4.html](http://www.tdtnews.com/archive/article_0531613a-f26c-5b85-a304-761449714af4.html).

<sup>8</sup> Tim Fleischer, “Aldermen to address issues arising from influx of people in the creek,” *Salado Village Voice*, August 11, 2016, accessed December 15, 2016, <http://saladovillagevoice.com/aldermen-to-address-issues-arising-from-influx-of-people-in-the-creek>

<sup>9</sup> Including the ca. 1870 Barbee-Berry Mercantile Building at the north side of Main Street and Royal Street, also documented in the 1983 National Register nomination.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

wood-frame windows throughout, wood two-panel doors on the first floor, and four-panel doors on the second floor. Though window and door locations on the front of the building have not changed, those on the rear and sides of the building all have been altered over the years to accommodate various additions and other modifications. All doors have a variety of non-original hardware, and one, on the first floor, has a non-historic decorative outer door. Historically, the front doors and windows all had screens (Figure 14). The exterior light fixtures on both floors of the porch have also been replaced, and the porch floor, now composite decking, replaced an earlier stone floor (Figure 26).<sup>10</sup>

The building features a simple side-gabled metal roof with a slightly shallower shed porch roof. The roof structure encloses the whole building, suggesting that the building originally featured its current plan configuration, as opposed to the common practice of adding an addition of rear rooms after initial construction, such as with saltbox houses.<sup>11</sup> On the south side of the building, a large external stone chimney sits just forward (east) of the gable peak (Photo 14). An internal end chimney on the north side occupies a similar position, serving the front rooms of the building. According to photographs taken prior to renovation in the 1940s (see Figures 5, 11), the building also once possessed two more smaller stone end chimneys serving the rear rooms. In total, the building once featured at least six and possibly eight fireplaces, depending on whether the second-floor rear rooms were heated.<sup>12</sup>

The interior layout divides the building into front rooms and back rooms on each floor (Map 2). The wall separating these areas is structural and carries the floor joists at each level down to a stone foundation (Photo 15). The front rooms of the building are larger than the rear rooms, with large fireplaces at each end of both floors (Photos 16, 17, 18). One fireplace remains in the northern rear room, though its chimney is not extant (Photo 19). Both floors have nearly identical layouts: the front (east) half of the building is divided by the staircase into a larger southeast room with two front doors, and a smaller northeast room with one front door. Due to the position of the staircase, the southeast room downstairs has three porch windows while the upstairs room has four.

The building features a heavy-timber post-and-girt structural frame. Remnants of this original nineteenth-century construction exist throughout, including exposed uncut and rough-hewn ceiling joists in the back rooms of both floors; similarly-hewn roof rafters and joists visible in the attic (Photo 20); large uncut timber logs as floor joists under the first floor, visible from the crawl space below (Photo 21); and other rough-hewn structural members visible in various locations (Photo 22). Interior fireplaces remain intact, as do interior wood floors. Fireplace mantles, interior finishes, fixtures, and hardware have all been replaced throughout the old inn (Figure 13).

## Outbuildings

Behind the old inn is a single limestone outbuilding, possibly a smokehouse, that dates possibly to the nineteenth century but at least to the 1936 photographic depiction of it (Figure 12). The small structure is square in plan with a hipped roof and two enclosed windows (Photo 23). It is currently connected to the restaurant kitchen through an addition to the old inn and used for storage. Near this outbuilding is a ca. 1930 small, one-story building used as an office (Resource 2, Photo 24), and possibly originally functioned as a bathhouse.<sup>13</sup> It has a stone exterior, a composition shingle gable roof, double-hung wood windows with screens, and a shed addition in the back. East of the

---

<sup>10</sup> Morene Parten Cutler. *Stagecoach Inn: Iron Skillet & Velvet Potholder* (Salado: Village Press, 1981), 22; The earlier stone floor was added in the 1930s, replacing an earlier wood porch floor.

<sup>11</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. 2nd ed. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 122.

<sup>12</sup> It is not clear from historic photos or current conditions whether the rear chimneys served the second floor. Today, only the front chimneys on each side survive, and an interior fireplace surround remains at the rear of the ground floor.

<sup>13</sup> "Enthusiastic Citizen Declares Rip Van Winkle Has Awakened," *Belton Journal*, September 22, 1938. This article mentions the construction of a bath house.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

inn is a log cabin (Resource 14, Photo 25), moved to its current location in the 1930s.<sup>14</sup> It features a center passage dog-trot form with a front and rear entrance, a stone end chimney on the north gable end, fixed wood-frame windows, and rough-hewn exterior logs.

A number of other outbuildings were once located around the old inn including a barn (Figure 7, Map 10) and possibly one or more camp houses, but these are no longer extant today.<sup>15</sup>

### Additions and Alterations to the Old Inn/Restaurant

#### 1943–1959 Alterations

Alterations to the building have been relatively minor and generally supported the preservation and continued use of the building. Original structural elements have been modified, sistered, supplemented, reinforced, replaced, and otherwise altered in numerous ways, leaving a complex hodgepodge of new and old elements throughout the building. For the most part, these structural elements are concealed from public view, visible only within the basement, crawl space, and attic.

In 1943, new owners purchased the inn for adaptive re-use as a restaurant. Exterior changes from 1943 to 1959 included minor adjustments to the fenestration pattern and removal of one of the north chimneys and one of the south chimneys (Photos 12, 14). In interviews, the owners of the property at the time describe some of the restoration work they undertook, including replacing sill plates and removing the unstable south chimney.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, a 1950s photograph (Figure 14) shows that the three middle porch columns on the ground floor shifted positions so that they no longer lay directly underneath the second floor columns, likely another alteration during this period of ownership but with an unknown purpose.<sup>17</sup>

During this period a series of new kitchen and dining spaces were constructed at the rear of the building to aid its new restaurant use. At the time of the purchase of the inn for re-use in 1943, a now-demolished rear addition likely existed, as it appeared in photographs for the Historic American Building Survey in 1936 and comprised a board-and-batten rear kitchen addition and an adjacent raised water tank (Figures 9, 10). The stone hipped-roof smokehouse also appears in these 1930s photographs (Figure 12). The rear kitchen and dining room additions eventually surrounded the large bur oak tree directly behind in the old inn, forming an enclosure with an “extension [that] allowed the tree to become the center of an aviary for exotic birds . . . enhanced with tropical plants” (Figure 31).<sup>18</sup> By 1960, these rear additions included modern kitchen facilities and large dining hall with a stone fireplace and central air-conditioning (see Figure 23).<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> Cutler, 23.

<sup>15</sup> “Salado Journal,” *Belton Journal*, September 16, 1926; “Salado Journal,” *Belton Journal*, September 23, 1926.

<sup>16</sup> Cutler, 8–9.

<sup>17</sup> “Old Texas Inn: You Can Recall Past at Early Stage Stop,” *Dallas Morning News*, 1950. The columns were restored to their original location after 1981, according to 1981 photos (see Figure 31). The shifted columns were perhaps inspired by the irregular column arrangement on the Winedale Inn in Round Top or the Meredith Hart House in Rio Vista.

<sup>18</sup> Cutler, 8–9

<sup>19</sup> “Old Inn Puts on New Face,” *Dallas Morning News*, November 20, 1960. This article advertising the motel’s opening describes a “big new dining room with a handsome stone fireplace that has been added to the original inn,” stating that “the new dining room and kitchen were added at the rear of the building, enclosing a tremendous oak tree 300 or 400 years old within a central patio.” Though the design of the addition is modest, lacking any clear stylistic influences distinguishing its decade, the size and shape of the dining room fireplace suggest a design in keeping with the 1960 motel complex. In addition, a set of ca. 1960 press photographs (see Figure 28) of the new motel includes an image of the large dining hall prominently featuring air-conditioning

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

On the interior, the configuration of the rear rooms and the positioning of doors and other openings between the rooms likely have been altered. Map 10 shows the inn with a small rear addition and describes it as a “15 room frame building.” This implies that each floor contained at least six rooms each, though it is not clear how the rooms were arranged. Routine replacement of interior finishes such as wallpaper and refinishing of millwork has occurred as well. (Refer to Photos 17, 18, and 20 for illustrations of these alterations. Notations regarding alterations appear within the captions.)

### 1960 Addition

In 1960, a large, one-story (with basement) rear expansion was added to the original inn, possibly replacing, or at least improving upon, the earlier additions from the 1940s or 1950s. The new expansion added two dining halls and a modern kitchen to the then-popular restaurant (Photo 26). The addition forms a small outdoor courtyard around the large oak tree immediately behind the old inn. This courtyard, surrounded with floor to ceiling glass windows, was landscaped with vines and left as a sunny backdrop to the indoor dining room (Photo 27, 28).

The additions in 1960 were essentially composed of several interconnected gable-roofed structures that wrap around the courtyard (see Figures 2, 3). The west dining hall occupies one of these masses, extending from the north side of the old inn westward to the small stream, where the hall ends with a sunroom facing west (Photo 29). The kitchen structure extends south from this dining hall, ending at a rear loading dock and service entrance (Photo 30). A smaller third structure connects the southwest part of the old inn to the kitchen to form a dining hall on the south side of the glassed-in courtyard. This space also has a small gable-roof extension to the south (Figure 31). These additions have a minimal impact on the original fabric of the old inn. They are one-story and setback from Main Street, with similar lap-board siding and gabled roof forms. In addition, these extensions were constructed at the same time as the 1960 Ranch-style motel resort (discussed below) and exhibit similar, though more muted, references to this mid-century architectural style, such as floor-to-ceiling windows in the sunroom and larger-scale interior spaces. It is not clear whether the architect of the motel, James Fetridge, also designed these additions.<sup>20</sup> The additions are also mostly obscured from view by dense vegetation surrounding the entire building.

As the topography descends from the old inn to the stream in the rear, the west dining hall and the kitchen are carried on wide stone piers over the water (Photo 5). The elevation change is enough to allow a full-height basement level under both the large dining hall and the kitchen, enclosed with concrete block. At the main level, the exterior is covered with wood lap siding, windows at the sunroom have wood frames with large glass panes and the roofs are composition shingle. Two simple panel doors face out onto the rear loading dock.

In the interior spaces accessible by the public, the west dining room features a large stone fireplace centrally located between the dining room and the front lobby (Photo 26 and Figure 23). The fireplace faces into the dining hall. These two spaces are connected with a large double-width opening trimmed in dark stained wood. This trim continues as wainscoting around the hall to the sunroom where it frames the floor-to-ceiling fixed glass. All surfaces are painted white in the sunroom. The ceiling in the dining hall features a dark wood coffered grid. All doors in this room are four-paneled wood, while the sunroom has wood double-doors with large glass panels. The smaller dining room contains finishes similar to the larger room. Since construction in 1960 the interior has remained largely intact. Alterations

---

vents in the ceiling, which further supports a construction date closer to 1960. This dining area, however, could easily have been an improvement on an earlier addition that included the exotic bird atrium. It is safe to say that these rear additions were constructed incrementally between 1943 and 1960. Further additions were constructed sometime after 1985.

<sup>20</sup> Jean Simmons, “Old Inn Puts On New Face,” *Dallas Morning News*, November 20, 1960.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

include replaced wallpaper, lighting fixtures and the addition of a sprinkler system and acoustical tile in some locations.

In front of the north addition, along Main Street, historic photographs show a trellis-covered walkway, now non-extant, from the front parking area to the restaurant's entrance (Figures 27, 28).

### **Post-1985 Alterations**

Between 1985 and 1995, an additional dining room extension was added to the north of the west dining room (Photo 32), the lobby was enlarged with restrooms, and the kitchen was expanded slightly to connect to the old smokehouse structure to the southwest (Photo 24). These additions are one story and set back from Main Street with lap-board siding and gabled roof forms. The large dining hall to the north of the 1960 dining hall is raised on stone piers with lap-board infill between the piers enclosing a basement. On the east and west sides of the dining hall are ribbons of fixed wood frame windows, each with one large pane over a smaller lower pane. The dining hall connects to the 1960 portion through a set of internal double doors that originally led to an outdoor walkway. The newer dining hall addition otherwise did not affect the 1960 hall.

### **Old Inn/Restaurant Integrity Evaluation**

The original portion of the Stagecoach Inn retains all of the National Register's seven aspects of integrity: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. The bulk of the historic fabric of the inn remains intact. Although some elements of the building fabric have been replaced piecemeal over time, they generally have been replaced in kind with exceptions noted above. The addition built in 1960 was designed so that it would not detract from the integrity of the original inn; its architecture now possesses significance in its own right. The post-1985 alterations also are located and designed in such a way that they have minimal impact on the historic inn.

### **Motel Buildings**

The motel consists of seven main buildings, four of which date to its initial opening in 1960, and were designed in the Ranch Style by Palmdale, California-based architect James Fetridge in association with Temple, Texas-based architect Vail Logsdon (later of the firm Logsdon & Voelter).<sup>21</sup> The original four buildings are the lobby (Resource 3), the club house (Resource 4), and two lodging buildings (Resources 5, 6). Two similar lodging buildings were constructed later, one within a year of the opening (Resource 7) and another sometime after 1970 (Resource 8, Map 17), possibly using the same architects. The resort landscape (Resource 13, Map 3), including two pools (Resources 9, 10), was designed by Dallas modernist landscape architects Marie and Arthur Berger late in their career (Photos 7, 8, 33, 34).<sup>22</sup> In about 1985, a new coffee shop was constructed east of the central clover-shaped pool (Resource 12, Map 18).

The motel complex faces west onto the frontage road of IH 35 with a horseshoe-shaped driveway offering two entrances leading to the drive-through canopy of the lobby building (Photos 35, 36). Catching the eye of highway drivers, a large neon sign reading "THE STAGECOACH INN" (Resource 11) sits near one of the entrances while a replica stagecoach and three flagpoles occupy the grass lawn encircled by the entry drive. Short stone piers topped with lights flank the two entries.

---

<sup>21</sup> Simmons, "Old Inn Puts On New Face."

<sup>22</sup> Thomas Turner, "Historic Texas 'Stop' to Have 'Space' Motel," *Dallas Morning News*, February 13, 1960; Obituary, "Noted Landscaper, A. S. Berger, Dies," *Dallas Morning News*, August 14, 1960.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

### **Lobby (Resource 3)**

The 1960 lobby building is a one-story building with a nearly A-frame roof shape (Photo 36). Though only a single story, the center lobby hall is a double-height space. The large gable roof, clad in composition shingles, slopes down from this height to only seven or eight feet off the ground on each side of the building. Large, wooden box beams protrude out from beyond the short eaves and end with a decorative angled shape. Similarly-sized beams extend from the front of the lobby entrance and carry a drive-through flat-roof canopy to wide box columns mounted in a limestone foundation island in front of the building. These beams also extend past the end of the canopy roof, ending in a more dramatic, almost pointed, angle shape. The exterior of the building exhibits a semi-rough ashlar limestone façade, except for the lobby space, which features expansive double-height floor-to-ceiling glass walls on both the front and rear entrances of the building.<sup>23</sup> At the rear of the building, the exterior wall is covered in board-and-batten siding, and a large oak tree shades the east-facing glass wall (Photo 9).

The openness of the large glass walls gives the lobby a feeling of being a gateway from the front canopy to the swimming pool area, the heart of the resort complex. While the glass wall is symmetrically centered on the front of the building, only the southern half of the rear wall is glass, making room for a large stone interior fireplace and chimney at the northeast interior corner of the lobby (Photo 37). Inside, the original wood-paneled ceiling remains, though the 1960s linoleum flooring, asymmetrical hanging light fixtures, glass doors, and modernist Danish-style lobby furniture have been replaced (Figure 19). Around 1985, a south addition was added to the building, providing additional office space. This addition is small in scale and similar to the overall design of the lobby, so that it does not compromise the overall integrity of the building.

### **Club House (Resource 4)**

The 1960 club house building is sited on the north end of the property between the main driveway and a large pond. It is a one-story (with basement) side gable building with a large roof structure allowing for a vaulted interior space, similar to the lobby building. Unlike the lobby, however, the building's gable ends peak along the sides of the building rather than to the front, so that the roofline along the front is lower. Here, the rough ashlar stone and board-and-batten façade forms a semi-circular projection with small windows leading guests to the double front doors under another large drive-through flat-roof canopy (Photo 38). The canopy structure features painted steel I-beams decoratively shaped with pointed ends similar to the wooden box beams at the lobby canopy. Steel columns support the beams at a stone island across the driveway from the entrance. The roof is covered with composition shingles.

The tall gable roof allows the side of the building to open towards a second, fenced-in outdoor pool area next to the interstate frontage road (Photos 39, 40). Like the lobby, this building features a double-height floor-to-ceiling glass wall, though here, the west-facing wall is more protected under a wide roof overhang supported by tall wooden box columns and exposed roof beams. The glass covers the northwestern half of the gable end wall while board-and-batten siding fills the other half. Unlike the central pool area, the club house pool is detached from the resort landscape and maintains a sense of privacy with a surrounding wood fence.

The vaulted interior retains its wood paneling and boxed beam ceiling, though the 1960s hanging light fixtures, glass doors, and linoleum flooring have been replaced (Figures 20, 21 and Photos 41, 42). An interior stone chimney also remains. Near the front entrance, a semi-circular lounge space occupies the round stone projection with tall, thin window openings, built-in seating, and oblong glass tables custom-shaped to each rounded booth (Photo 43). Towards

---

<sup>23</sup> These stylistic features are in line with a strand of mid-century modern architecture developing by 1960 that countered the earlier trend of minimal flat roofs with more expressive roof shapes such as A-frames and gables.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

the back of the building, sliding-glass doors open up to a wooden walkway that overlooks the pond and wetland landscape at the north of the property (Photo 3). Originally this building featured another chimney on the east side, but in ca. 2002 an addition was added to the east side of the building, demolishing the chimney but providing a large conference center space and a large new chimney on the south side (Photo 44). The addition is sited away from the main entrance fronting IH 35 so that it does not obscure the original front façade, and its compatible board-and-batten exterior walls do not distract from the original design, so that the building retains its overall integrity.

### **Lodging (Resources 5, 6, 7, 8)**

Two lodging buildings provided 36 rooms for guests when the motel opened in 1960 (Photos 45, 46). These two-story single-room-deep buildings, along with the lobby, encircle the central pool area (Photo 7). Each room, like the lobby, has two entrances: a solid four-panel front door that faces the guest parking area with no windows, and a sliding-glass aluminum door and window opening onto a private patio (or balcony on the second floor) that faces onto the clover-leaf pool (Photo 47). These lodging buildings have side-gable roofs with composition shingles and a row of pop-up ridge vents. The building north of the pool (Resource 5) has a straight rectangular footprint while the one immediately south of the pool (Resource 6) has an obtuse V-shaped footprint. Exterior walls are clad varyingly in board-and-batten siding and light painted brick with weeping mortar joints. The weeping mortar gives the walls a distinctively rough texture. Exterior stairs and walkways are supported by an exposed post-and-beam grid composed of wooden box columns supporting wide eaves and exposed wood joists. Second floor walkways and balconies have simple, square wood balustrades. Between each unit's patio or balcony, simple dividers with alternating wood boards maintain visual privacy, and each unit has its own wrought-iron outdoor furniture, originally painted a shade of pale blue (now off-white). Exterior brick was originally white, exterior trim was dark brown, and all doors were also painted pale blue to match the furniture.<sup>24</sup> Each unit's interior is a simple single room with an attached bathroom (Photo 48). Fixtures, finishes, equipment, and furniture have all changed (Figure 22). Both buildings retain their overall integrity.

Two additional two-story lodging buildings were built ca. 1960 and ca. 1975. Each follows the same design vocabulary as the original two. The southwestern-most building (Resource 7), built soon after the first two lodging buildings, is two-rooms deep: first floor units have exterior doors while second floor units have doors onto an interior hallway, allowing short balconies (Photo 49). This building also has a recently expanded patio addition for a few rooms on the east side and a small mechanical shed addition on the south side. This building has a straight rectangular footprint while the other newer building to the east (Resource 8) has a V-shaped footprint, similar to the first two lodging buildings. This newer building, built ca. 1975, has private patios and balconies that face onto a fenced-in grass lawn and a covered spring-fed bath and pump house (Photo 50). With the exception of painting, the exteriors of these buildings remain intact. Overall, both buildings retain their integrity.

### **Coffee Shop (Resource 12)**

In the mid-1980s, the Stagecoach Inn constructed a coffee shop in the grassy lawn to the east of the central pool area (Photo 51), designed Logsdon & Voelter of Temple. This building is one-story with an elevated central gambrel-roof shape that encloses mechanical equipment mounted on the roof. On the sides of the building, the roof shape is more shed-like. The exterior of the building is clad in board-and-batten siding and limestone, matching the materials of the earlier motel buildings. The doors to the building are aluminum-framed with glass panels, and windows have large, fixed, single-pane wood frames. The building does not compromise the overall integrity of the complex. It attempts to be compatible through the use of matching materials and similar siting to the 1960s motel buildings.

---

<sup>24</sup> Simmons, "Old Inn Puts On New Face."

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Drawings of this building also include plans for the addition to the lobby building but do not include the later dining room addition to the restaurant, which may have occurred in the late 1980s or 1990s.<sup>25</sup> In 2002, an addition was also constructed to the clubhouse.<sup>26</sup>

### **Main Street Commercial Buildings (Resources 15 and 16)**

Two non-contributing commercial buildings exist within the boundary of the Stagecoach Inn along Main Street. 400 S. Main Street (Resource 15), originally the Longhorn Room, a conference center for the Stagecoach Inn, is a ca. 1977<sup>27</sup> side-gable building facing onto Main Street with multiple entrances, a full-width front porch, board-and-batten siding and five dormers on a metal roof. 380 S. Main Street (Resource 16) is a ca. 2007 commercial building with board-and-batten siding, large fixed metal windows, a wrap-around porch and a metal side-gable roof.

### **Overall Integrity**

The Stagecoach Inn retains a high degree of integrity in all areas (location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association). Non-historic additions to the original inn, the motel lobby and the club house are designed so that they do not detract from the integrity of the original buildings. The 1960s addition on the original inn is now significant itself as historic-period modification. The four non-contributing buildings added after 1960 are located and designed in such a way that they have minimal impact on the historic inn and motel complex. Alterations to the historic motel landscape, including new fences surrounding the pools, a new playground and a miniature golf course around the club house pool are minimal, relatively non-permanent, and do not detract from the integrity of the landscape. Overall, there are 16 historic resources, 12 contributing, and four non-contributing, for a total contributing percentage of 75%.

---

<sup>25</sup> Drawings provided by Terry Potts, Facilities manager at the Stagecoach Inn.

<sup>26</sup> Terry Potts, Facilities manager at the Stagecoach Inn, Interview by HHM, Personal conversation, Salado, Texas, May 6, 2016.

<sup>27</sup> "Salado gallery expands facilities," *Belton Journal*, June 9, 1977. Opening in the mid-1960s, the Stagecoach Inn's "Longhorn Room" was originally in the ca. 1920 C.B. Hodge Feed & Grain office building (401 S. Main St.) across from the old inn, but in 1977 the facility moved to the new building at 400 S. Main St. Later this building hosted multiple commercial shops.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

**Inventory**

In the following inventory (Table 1), all resources are categorized as either contributing or non-contributing to the significance of the property. The *Resource No.* corresponds to a label on the accompanying map of the property (Map 1). The *Construction Date* gives an estimated or actual construction date based on analyses of building features and historical research.

Table 7-1. Inventory of Resources at the Stagecoach Inn

Resource No.	Resource Name	Construction Date(s)	Contributing Status	Photo(s)
1	Original Stagecoach Inn	1860, 1960	Contributing	1, 12–24, 26–32
2	Small stone house	ca. 1935	Contributing	25
3	Lobby	1960	Contributing	9, 36, 37
4	Club house	1960	Contributing	38, 39, 41–44
5	Lodging building 1	1960	Contributing	7, 45, 48
6	Lodging building 2	1960	Contributing	8, 33, 46, 47
7	Lodging building 3	1960	Contributing	49
8	Lodging building 4	ca. 1975	Non-Contributing	50
9	Central pool	1960	Contributing	7–9
10	Club house pool	1960	Contributing	40
11	“The Stagecoach Inn” highway sign	1960	Contributing	2, 35
12	Coffee shop	ca. 1985	Non-Contributing	51
13	Overall landscape	1943–1960	Contributing	2–11, 33–35
14	Log cabin	ca. 1935	Contributing	25
15	400 S. Main Street	ca. 1977	Non-Contributing	
16	380 S. Main Street	ca. 2007	Non-Contributing	

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

## Statement of Significance

### Scope of this Nomination Amendment

The Stagecoach Inn was listed in the National Register as part of the 1983 *Salado Multiple Resource Area* nomination.<sup>28</sup> This previous designation only applies to the 1860 building and its later 1943-1960 rear additions (see Map 4 for 1983 Sketch Map and boundary description). It currently does not include any other historic resources on the property. The 1983 nomination's Statement of Significance included the following about the Stagecoach Inn:

The creek was first crossed at Salado Springs by the old Military Road, and later by a stage route which ran between Little Rock, Arkansas, and San Antonio. One of the oldest remaining structures in Salado is the Stagecoach Inn, which has been serving travelers since 1852. Originally an overnight inn, the structure now functions as a restaurant, while a nearby addition serves as a motor hotel. . . . In 1943, the Stagecoach Inn was purchased by a couple who put together what quickly became a nationally acclaimed restaurant. A motel facility was added to the inn property in the 1950s, and fronts on Interstate 35. Thus the popularity of this charming little community on the creek began to grow.<sup>29</sup>

The purpose of this nomination update is to amend the original 1983 nomination form to both increase the boundaries of the nominated resources and extend the period of significance to recognize the significance of the associated outbuildings and landscape constructed prior to WWII as well as the post-WWII buildings, structures, and landscapes through 1966. The original 1983 nomination does not cite any criteria nor areas of significance other than "architectural/historical," which corresponds to Criteria A and C.

### Statement of Significance Summary

The Stagecoach Inn in Salado, Bell County, Texas, is significant as a longstanding landmark of Salado and of Central Texas. Its 150-year history provides an illustrative cross-section of the evolution of transportation, recreation, and architecture in Central Texas. Constructed soon after the 1859 founding of Salado, the original inn is a rare intact example of frontier-settlement vernacular Greek Revival design and transitional I-house typology within the state. Through the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Stagecoach Inn operated under a variety of formal and informal names, including the Salado Hotel and the Shady Villa Hotel. In 1943, Ruth and Dion Van Bibber purchased the then-derelict Shady Villa Hotel, renamed the property as the Stagecoach Inn to reflect its rich history, and rehabilitated the building into a restaurant (see Map 5). The restaurant's location on Highway (US) 81 (initially the Meridian Highway or State Highway No. 2) connected it to state- and nation-wide tourism via the early national highway system and led to the growth of a number of businesses and institutions in Salado, revitalizing the town. As Interstate Highway (IH) 35 bypassed Salado 700 feet to the west in 1960, the Van Bibbers and their nephew William Bratton added a motel resort and country club on the property with a second west-facing entrance directly onto the new interstate frontage road. These new facilities, designed by California-based architect James Fettridge and Dallas-based landscape architects Marie and Arthur Berger, showcased expressive mid-century Modern and Ranch style buildings within a Modernist, curvilinear, resort-like landscape.

The Stagecoach Inn complex meets Criterion A in the following areas: **Transportation** for its significant association as a nineteenth-century hotel with a major stagecoach route through the state that evolved into one of the state's first interstate highways; and **Recreation** for its longstanding role as a tourist destination and health resort since the late

---

<sup>28</sup> Linda Flory Butler, "Salado Multiple Resource Area," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Austin: Texas Historical Commission, Feb 23, 1983).

<sup>29</sup> Butler, 8-1, 8-3; The original inn was likely constructed in 1860, not 1852, and the motel opened in 1960.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

nineteenth century and its evolution into a popular restaurant, motel resort, and country club in the twentieth century. The complex also meets Criterion C in Architecture beyond its previously established association with pre-railroad vernacular residential construction and design in the early American West to also include the mid-twentieth century Modern and Ranch style design of roadside commercial buildings across the state; and in **Landscape Architecture** for its association with mid-twentieth century Modernist landscape design in the United States. The property is significant at the local level for both Criteria A and C. The historic inn continues to retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance, despite the additions and other changes made since it was first listed in 1983.<sup>30</sup>

---

### Criterion A: Transportation

The Stagecoach Inn, along with the town of Salado, lays at the intersection of Salado Creek and the north-south transportation corridor lining the eastern lower side of the Balcones Escarpment through Texas, from the time of early settlement through the construction of the interstate highway system. The early significance of the route is established within the 1983 National Register Multiple Property Nomination for Salado.<sup>31</sup> Anglo-American colonizers beginning in the early 1840s began to appropriate a series of trails used by the area's Indian residents to connect the Republic of Texas' new capital at Austin (incorporated in 1839) with a stable chain of United States Army forts and Anglo settlements north of the Red River. Additionally, government officials hoped to connect the route from Austin south to the Camino Real in San Marcos and onward to San Antonio, bridging Anglo, Texas, and Mexican, Texas.<sup>32</sup> Once military and political infrastructure were in place in Texas by the late 1840s, road improvements<sup>33</sup> and early stage lines began to develop between Houston, San Antonio, and Austin as the Central Texas area prospered economically from growing trade between Texas and Mexico. Similar trail improvements followed north of Austin, eventually connecting Salado, Belton, Waco, and the settlements in North Texas (see Map 5). By the start of the Civil War in 1861, this corridor would evolve into the main stagecoach line connecting Texas over land to the Eastern United States.<sup>34</sup>

Competitive federal mail contracts fueled the establishment of stage routes, but coaches also carried passengers and other cargo. Regular stagecoach routes ran between Austin, Houston, and San Antonio by 1847,<sup>35</sup> and in the 1850s, the stagecoach company Burney and Blair operated routes from San Antonio through Austin, Salado, Belton, and north to Waco.<sup>36</sup> Listings of these routes in almanacs and local newspapers do not specifically mention Salado as a stop until

---

<sup>30</sup> While this nomination is not concerned with the site's significance under Criterion D, given the proximity of the site to the area's famous springs, qualified archeologists in the future should consider the potential for evidence of historic and pre-historic Indian settlements on the property. Additionally, qualified building technology historians should consider the potential for deriving important information from the study of the nineteenth century building's original material elements and construction systems.

<sup>31</sup> Butler, 7-1, 8-1.

<sup>32</sup> Howard J. Erlichman, *Camino del Norte* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2006), 60–82; Resistance from the region's Comanche, Apache and Kiowa inhabitants and persistent pressure from the Mexican military in south Texas postponed the physical development of the route until after the U.S. annexation of Texas and the establishment of the first U.S. Army forts in the late 1840s. The territorial war with Mexico from 1846 to 1848 established the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo as the international southern border.

<sup>33</sup> Erlichman, 62,76, 86–87. Improvements consisted mostly of the removal of trees, large rocks, and other obstructions largely by slaves, convicts and other compulsory work crews.

<sup>34</sup> Erlichman, 79–90.

<sup>35</sup> John A. Sells, *Stagecoaches across the American West, 1850–1920* (Blaine, WA: Hancock House, 2008); Robert H. Thonhoff, *San Antonio Stage Lines, 1847–1881* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1971), 3–4. Thonhoff compiles schedules and routes from period newspapers.

<sup>36</sup> Erlichman, 97–98; George W. Tyler, *The History of Bell County* (San Antonio: Naylor Company, 1936), 137–138. Tyler cites stage line announcements published in the *Belton Independent* in 1857 and 1858. Handbook of Texas Online, "Risher and Hall Stage Lines," accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/err01>; *The Texas Almanac for*

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

the late 1860s, but Salado had established a post office in the county as early as 1852, so the town may have at least hosted a relay station before the 1860 inn was available as an overnight station.<sup>37</sup> In addition to the inn, other extant buildings that may have serviced the stage lines through Salado include the ca. 1860 Robertson plantation home, the ca. 1850s Boles-Aiken Cabin, and the ca. 1860 Anderson House and Store.<sup>38</sup>

The 1859 *Texas Almanac* mentions that a stage line passed through Belton daily on its way either to Austin, 60 miles south, or Waco, 40 miles north.<sup>39</sup> The 1861 *Texas Almanac* further explains that, three times a week, Sawyer & Risher ran a four-horse stagecoach from San Antonio to Waco, arriving in Waco on the third day and leaving on the return trip the next day.<sup>40</sup> A coach arrived in each town along the route at least once a day, alternating north-bound and south-bound each day. The almanacs do not mention where the coaches stopped for the night or where they stopped to change out horses with a fresh team, but generally stagecoach drivers switched out their team every ten to fifteen miles at specific relay or “swing” stations along the route where fresh horses were kept.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, stagecoaches stopped at larger “home” stations at the end of each day, typically at inns or other residences often located in county seats. These venues were located about fifty miles apart, the average distance travelled in a day.<sup>42</sup> The longer sixty-mile leg between Belton and Austin, due to their locations on major rivers, may have been a critical geographic annoyance that contributed to the demand for a substantial home station in Salado, 50 miles from both Austin and Waco. The 1871 almanac lists a route, provided by Risher & Hall, from Austin to Georgetown, Salado, Belton and Waco leaving Austin three times a week at six AM and arriving in Waco the following day at four PM.<sup>43</sup> It is possible that this route was planned around the inn at Salado, exactly halfway.<sup>44</sup>

The construction of the Stagecoach Inn was a key example of the direct link between transportation and the expansion of Salado. December 1860 deed records show that Thomas Jefferson Eubanks (1811–1877<sup>45</sup>) purchased a parcel described as “hotel property” at the location of the inn.<sup>46</sup> Salado historians Charles Turnbo and Mary Belle Brown

---

1861. Galveston, TX: Richardson & Co., 1860, 225–226. A reproduction of the 1861 stage route schedule is also available at [http://www.ttarchive.com/Library/Lists/Stagecoach\\_Routes-1861.html](http://www.ttarchive.com/Library/Lists/Stagecoach_Routes-1861.html), accessed October 17, 2016; By 1857, this route was operated by Sawyer and Compton (later Sawyer & Risher, and by 1860 Sawyer, Risher & Hall); *Belton Independent*, “Another Camp-Meeting,” Sept 4, 1958; This article mentions the stage road crossing Salado Creek at “Col. Robertson’s Springs.”

<sup>37</sup> Charles A. Turnbo, *Salado, Texas: Frontier College Town* (Salado TX, Yardley Publishing, 2006), 10.

<sup>38</sup> Sherry N. DeFreece Emery, Martha Doty Freeman, and Deborah Dobson-Brown, “Robertson, Col. Elijah Sterling Clack, Plantation (Boundary Increase)” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. (Austin: Texas Historical Commission, March 2, 2007); Salado Historical Society, “Tour Salado,” accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.saladohistoricalsociety.org/tour.asp>; Turnbo, 10; Elizabeth Varville, “Salado’s Heritage Is Undeniable,” [us105fm.com](http://us105fm.com), accessed October 17, 2016, <http://us105fm.com/salados-heritage-is-undeniable-photos>.

<sup>39</sup> *The Texas Almanac for 1859*, 131–132, 168.

<sup>40</sup> *The Texas Almanac for 1861*, 225–226.

<sup>41</sup> Oscar Osburn Winther. *The Transportation Frontier, Trans-Mississippi West 1865–1890* (New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston, Inc, 1964), 66–68.

<sup>42</sup> Winther, 66–68; *The Texas Almanac for 1871*, 187–188. Through 50 miles was average the 1871 almanac lists that stagecoaches made the Austin to San Antonio leg, an 85-mile trip, in one day, departing at 6 AM and arriving 17 hours later at 11 PM.

<sup>43</sup> *The Texas Almanac for 1871*, 188; *The Texas Almanac for 1873*, 199–200. The 1873 almanac lists S. T. Scott & Co. as the provider of the Austin to Waco route.

<sup>44</sup> Sterling Clack Robertson (1785–1842) recruited early colonists to the area in the late 1830s from Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and many of them initially settled along Little River near present-day Belton, but resistance from regional Indian tribes and the Mexican military forces prohibited permanent settlement until after Texas’ annexation into the United States in 1845; Tyler, 1–12; Emery, Section 8, 14–16; *Handbook of Texas Online*, Malcolm D. McLean, “Robertson, Sterling Clack,” accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fro34>.

<sup>45</sup> U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current, digital image, Ancestry.com, accessed October, 17, 2016, <http://ancestry.com>.

<sup>46</sup> Morene Parten Cutler, *Stagecoach Inn: Iron Skillet & Velvet Potholder* (Salado: Village Press, 1981), 19; Turnbo, 21, 140–143. Previous research shows that the parcel was “Lot 10 of Block 1” of the original town survey, however does not seem to reference

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

identified a January 1861 advertisement in the *Belton Journal* as the earliest known publication to mention what was then called the Salado Hotel:

SALADO HOTEL—Salado, Bell County, Texas, T.J. Eubanks, Proprietor. Travelers will find themselves at home when they call at this house located at the flourishing town of Salado, in the county, nine miles from Belton. Horse feed will always be kept, and servants sufficient to attend to all. Fare as good as the County affords, and terms reasonable.<sup>47</sup>

At the end of the Civil War in 1865, the economy of Texas, and that of the Southern United States as a whole, had come to a standstill. As economic activity slowly rebounded during the Reconstruction Period, long-distance stagecoach lines began to regain much of their prewar operations and persisted along the major routes, unless or until they were replaced by the arrival of the railroad lines. From the end of the Civil War in 1865 until the early 1880s, Salado enjoyed a growing economy built around its transportation access, exemplified by the college, agriculture development, and a number of industrial mills along Salado Creek. At the time, Belton and Salado were the largest towns in the county. Numerous businesses lined Main Street along with the Stagecoach Inn (see Figure 1).<sup>48</sup>

Unfortunately, the railroads bypassed Salado entirely, causing an economic stagnation in the town that would last until the development of twentieth-century automobile highways (see Maps 7, 8). An 1891 list of thirteen local stagecoach lines still in operation in Central Texas includes a route from Belton to Salado operated by Thomas Reynolds Russell of Salado, who possibly also managed the Stagecoach Inn at the time.<sup>49</sup>

Yet the longevity of stagecoach service could not be sustained into the twentieth century. In 1913, both bridges were destroyed by a flood, and a 1914 replacement truss bridge was again destroyed in a 1921 flood. The current heavily-reinforced concrete bridge was constructed in 1922 by the then-newly established State Highway Department.<sup>50</sup> Without the transportation connectivity that historically was so critical to Salado's livelihood, the town declined. The population of Salado suffered in the late nineteenth century, reaching a peak of 900 in 1882, only to fall to 400 by the 1910s and 200 by 1950.<sup>51</sup> The population would not surpass this peak until the 1980s. In the past decade (2005–2015), Salado has maintained a population of around 2,000 to 2,100.<sup>52</sup>

---

the original survey according to the survey map and list of lot purchases in 1859 and 1860 found in Turnbo, though it might refer to a later addition.

<sup>47</sup> "Salado Hotel," ad, *Belton Journal*, January 5, 1861; Printed in Turnbo, 21, crediting Mary Belle Brown, Salado, Texas.

<sup>48</sup> Turnbo, 75; Butler, section 7, page 5; Tyler, 287. In 1870, the town built a narrow pedestrian suspension bridge across the creek, the first bridge in Salado. However, this bridge was not wide enough to accommodate stagecoach traffic, which had to ford the creek. In 1892, this bridge was supplemented by an iron truss bridge wide enough for wagons and coaches. The suspension bridge was destroyed in a 1913 flood.

<sup>49</sup> Texas Transportation Archive, "Stagecoach Operators in Texas in 1891," accessed October 17, 2016, [http://www.ttarchive.com/Library/Lists/Stagecoach\\_Operators\\_1891.html](http://www.ttarchive.com/Library/Lists/Stagecoach_Operators_1891.html). This online list is taken from the *Journal of Texas Shortlines and Transportation*, Vol. 2, No. 2. Lester Haines: Austin, 1997. The operator is listed as "T. R. Russel"; Morene Parten Cutler and Linda Kelley, "Stagecoach Inn," unpublished manuscript held in the Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker files, 1984. Cutler and Kelley note in the early 1980s that Salado resident Joe Lee Mankins, descendant of Salado resident Perry Calvin Russell, suggests that Perry Calvin may have owned the hotel in the 1880s. It is unclear from ancestry research if Perry Calvin Russell is related to Thomas Reynolds Russell.

<sup>50</sup> Mary Harrison Hodge and Charlene Ochsner Carson, *Images of America: Salado* (Charleston: Arcadia Pub., 2014), 59–62.

<sup>51</sup> Salado Chamber of Commerce, "History of Salado," accessed October 17, 2016, <http://www.salado.com/salado-history.cfm>.

<sup>52</sup> *Texas Almanac, 1982–1983, Texas Almanac, 1992–1993*. Salado's population was 400 in 1980 and 1,216 in 1990; 2000–2015 U.S. Census Bureau data accessed at <https://www.google.com/publicdata>.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

After the railroads bypassed Salado in the 1880s, the town, once the second largest in the county, went into an economic and population decline. Belton, the county seat, similarly struggled to compete with the growing rail center at Temple. In the late 1880s and 1890s, various plans developed to build rail lines from Austin to Salado, Belton, and on to McGregor, southwest of Waco, but the funding for these never materialized.<sup>53</sup>

As the technology supporting electric streetcars matured in American urban areas at the turn of the century and emerged in Texas cities, many passenger railroad networks began to extend outwards into rural areas, connecting to smaller neighboring towns with electric interurban systems.<sup>54</sup> In 1905, an interurban line opened between Belton and Temple as part of an unrealized route between Austin and Waco.<sup>55</sup> Though planned and promoted in numerous ways over several decades, a rail line never ran to Salado. On August 20, 1908, the front page of the *Temple Daily Telegram* documented an “Interurbanfest” held on the grounds of the Stagecoach Inn (then the Shady Villa Hotel) in Salado. The event aimed to promote the extension of the Temple-Belton interurban line south from Temple to Salado. By this time, Temple had taken over as the county’s largest economic center, and Salado was “very much in earnest in her desire for interurban connection with the outside world.”<sup>56</sup> The event is remarkable in its illustration of the desires of a small town still struggling to adapt to the twentieth century, but also especially because it was documented with one of the most well-known photographs of the inn (see Figure 2). The article describes the taking of the photograph: “before the first contingent began their homeward journeys, photographs were taken by Mr. George W. Hughes of Holland. These will show the crowds including the auto cars and the band [The Temple Concert Band], lined up in front of the hotel.” And indeed, the photograph shows several dozen people surrounding a number of early 1907 or 1908 Buick touring cars and a group of band members posing with various kinds of brass horns and drums. In the background the sign “Shady Villa” is just visible and a number of women in summer dresses occupy the second-floor porch of the inn.

Though rail lines bypassed Salado entirely, the development of the state highway system in Texas in the late 1910s set the stage for a revitalization of the Stagecoach Inn and of Salado. Less than two months after the 1908 Salado Interurbanfest, the first Ford Model T rolled off the production line in Detroit. Between 1900 and World War I, calls for road improvements from the growing number of automobile users, in addition to increasing international wartime pressures and the civil war in Mexico, eventually led to the passage of the 1916 Federal Aid Highway Act and the creation of the Texas State Highway Department in 1917.<sup>57</sup> The Texas Good Roads Association held conventions in Temple in 1905 and in Belton in 1907. These efforts led to an allotment of county funding for the grading and gravelling of a road between Temple and Belton in 1912 and further funding for improvements around the county. Eventually, for the major routes, these piecemeal county efforts throughout the state consolidated into a coordinated effort by 1917, when the State Highway Department proposed the State Highway system including State Highway No. 2 through Bell County. This route, however, initially paralleled the Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroad and bypassed Salado and Belton to the east until 1922, when the state added a second parallel route through Salado (Highway No. 2-C, see Maps 8, 9) and constructed the current concrete bridge over Salado Creek (see Map 10).<sup>58</sup> In 1923, the Belton-

---

<sup>53</sup> Tyler, 317–318.

<sup>54</sup> George W. Hilton and John F. Due, *The Electric Interurban Railways In America* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1960), 3–44; Electric streetcars appeared in Dallas starting in 1890, Austin starting in 1891, Houston and Galveston starting in 1891, and Temple and Waco by the early 1900s.

<sup>55</sup> Hilton, 376–380; One of the earliest lines, completed in 1902, ran between Dallas and Fort Worth, and eventually by 1914 a line connected south to Waco.

<sup>56</sup> “‘Temple and Salado Must Be Connected By An Interurban Line,’ Was The Dominating Note Thursday At Salado’s Interurbanfest,” *Temple Daily Telegram*, August 21, 1908.

<sup>57</sup> Hardy Heck Moore, 47–53; Erlichman, 156.

<sup>58</sup> Tyler, 345–348; Erlichman, 153; Hardy Heck Moore, 51. In a March 2, 1916, article in the *Belton Journal*, “Good Roads Meeting Held at Prairie Dell,” local government representatives from Belton, Temple, and Waco expressed concern over connecting the Meridian Highway through Belton and Salado due to the lack of a convincing route between Jarrel, Prairie Dell, and Salado; TxDOT CSJ Log 0015-07-001, 1922. The 1922 TxDOT CSJ log shows the initial route of Highway No. 2 from

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Temple interurban ceased operations.<sup>59</sup> Federal standardization of highway naming relabeled the Meridian Highway as US 81 in 1926.<sup>60</sup> Salado was now reconnected to the state's major north-south transportation corridor for the first time in 40 years. However, commercial revitalization in Salado did not flourish until after World War II, and especially after the construction of IH 35 in the late 1950s, when the Stagecoach Inn restaurant grew in popularity. (See the follow section, *Area of Significance: Recreation*, for more about the growth of Salado).

In 1956, a new Federal-Aid Highway Act established the interstate highway program, and in 1959 the Federal Bureau of Public Roads approved the proposed route of IH 35 through Texas (Map 13). Around many small towns along the highway, including Salado, this route deviated from US 81 to easily acquire enough land for the wide right-of-way required by the new interstate highway design standards.<sup>61</sup> The new segment of the limited-access highway in Bell County, completed by 1960, bypassed downtown Salado to the west by 700 feet (compare Figures 10 and 13).

To take advantage of the new re-routing, the Van Bibbers, along with Ruth's nephew William Bratton, formed Stagecoach Properties, Inc. and developed approximately ten acres of land between the restaurant and the new interstate highway into a resort motel, country club, and conference center facing directly onto the interstate's frontage road (compare Figures 11 and 14). In 1957, owner Dion Van Bibber told the *Austin American Statesman* that he envisioned a "group of cottages in the beautifully wooded area between the highway and the inn."<sup>62</sup> The new facility opened in the fall of 1960 with 36 motel units in two lodging buildings, a central pool, a lobby, and café building facing onto the main entrance driveway, and a club house and meeting hall with a separate pool overlooking a manmade pond. The motel driveways and sidewalks connect back to Main Street and the restaurant. Additionally, the restaurant expanded towards the rear, with a large dining hall featuring a sunroom and air-conditioning.<sup>63</sup> Within a year, a third lodging building was constructed on the property, and in the 1970s a fourth was added.<sup>64</sup> Nearby in Salado, the interstate highway also spurred the construction of several new auto-oriented business in the 1960s, including Mobil and Texaco gas stations near the Thomas Arnold Road overpass (Map 16). Like the Stagecoach Inn's reorientation towards the new highway, these new buildings superseded older auto garages and filling stations located on US 81.

### Area of Significance: Recreation

As early as the 1850s, before the founding of Salado and the construction of the inn, Anglo settlers in Central Texas came to Salado Creek to enjoy the fresh spring water and camp under the trees. An 1858 announcement for an annual Baptist camp meeting describes Salado's springs as "one of the most beautiful places, and affords the greatest accommodations [for camping]."<sup>65</sup> Salado's founders platted the town around the creek's famous bubbling springs, and in the late nineteenth century the Salado Hotel took the name Shady Villa in response to the leisurely landscape of canopy trees surrounding the inn. Later promoted as a health resort featuring a spring water well in the early twentieth century, the inn and its landscape entered a new era by the mid-twentieth century as it transitioned into a popular

---

Temple to Bartlett following along the east side of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroad and the planned new alignment (called Highway 2-C) through Salado over the new bridge.

<sup>59</sup> Hilton, 379.

<sup>60</sup> Erlichman, 162.

<sup>61</sup> Hardy Heck Moore, 133–148.

<sup>62</sup> "The Highway and Salado," *Austin American-Statesman*, April 7, 1957.

<sup>63</sup> Advertisement, *Austin American-Statesman*, Oct 16, 1960; "Old Inn Puts on New Face," *Dallas Morning News*, November 20, 1960.

<sup>64</sup> A 1961 photograph (see Figure 24) and a 1963 USGS aerial photograph (see Map 14) both show three lodging buildings; a 1970 aerial photograph (see Map 17) of the complex does not include the fourth lodging building, while the construction drawings dated to 1985 (Map 18) for a coffee shop building east of the pool, prepared by Logsdon & Voelter, does include it.

<sup>65</sup> *Belton Independent*, "Another Camp-Meeting," Sept 4, 1858

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

restaurant and historical tourist attraction serving highway travelers and visitors to Central Texas. After World War II, the Stagecoach Inn evolved into a dining venue for employee parties, society luncheons, and wedding dinners before expanding into facilities for regional business conferences, honeymooning, and family reunions, among other recreational uses.

One of the earliest newspaper advertisements promoting the Stagecoach Inn itself as a tourist venue dates to 1884, when correspondents from the *Fort Worth Gazette* took a stagecoach from Belton and visited Salado for two days.<sup>66</sup> The article relays the visitors' impression of "the lovely and picturesque little town situated on Salado Creek . . . the most beautiful little stream in Southern Texas," including "the magnificent and splendidly built old rock residences," and "the Salado hotel, the principal house of the place [where] we are well cared for by Gen. Buckles, the proprietor, and his most splendid lady." (See Table 1 in Additional Documentation for known owners and proprietors.) The tourists visited the stores along Main Street and the grist mills downstream, advertising their worth and economic promise perhaps to an audience looking for investment opportunities as well as vacation destinations. By the turn of the twentieth century, these types of personal travelogues published in newspapers folded into the arguments for extending the interurban railway south from Temple.<sup>67</sup> One article published in the *Temple Daily Telegram* in August 1908, a few weeks before the Salado *Interurbanfest*, entitled "Appreciation of Salado as a Summer Resort" reports from the Shady Villa Hotel of "refreshing spring water as cold as ice, cool breezes which continue to blow, deep shades which do not get sunny, wide porches and wholesome viands . . . biscuits like mother used to make." Especially noted are the "healing waters of the mineral well" for drinking and "the rippling waters of Salado river" for swimming.<sup>68</sup>

From the beginning of the twentieth century, Salado earned a reputation for its "healing" mineral water during the health spa craze in Texas from the 1880s through the 1930s. At the turn of the century, the most famous resort towns in Texas had developed along established rail lines, especially Mineral Wells (connecting from Fort Worth), Lampasas (connecting from Temple), and Marlin (connecting from Waco).<sup>69</sup> In their heyday, these towns featured all-inclusive hotels, luxury bathhouses, large event pavilions with drinking wells, and medical facilities such as sanitariums.<sup>70</sup> In 1900, the lesser known and less accessible Salado featured at least two public wells, one directly in front of the Stagecoach Inn (see Figures 3, 4, 14) and another with its own bathhouse by the creek, possibly outside of the Stagecoach Inn property.<sup>71</sup> A 1911 article in the *Temple Daily Telegram* titled "Bell County's Health Resort" advertises the well in addition to the inn's famous underground cave:

If one were to ask a Saladoan as to the town's chief attractions he would be told of the abundance of pure water, including the mineral wells noted for their curative properties. . . . Springs abound along the pretty creek that runs through the town, the stream having a brisk flow at all seasons from the springs along its banks. The most unique spring is that at the Shady Villa Hotel, Salado's chic hostelry. This spring is situated in a cave within a few feet of the hotel, and water is pumped from it—water as clear and sparkling as ever came from Mother Earth. The cave is one of the chief show places of Salado. It is reached by a dozen or more steps cut into solid stone, and extends for about 100 feet back from the entrance. Mine Host Rigsby uses the cave for cold storage purposes, stating that he can keep eggs, vegetables and milk in it for a surprisingly long time.<sup>72</sup>

---

<sup>66</sup> "A Traveler At Salado," *Fort Worth Gazette*, June 1, 1884.

<sup>67</sup> "Back to the Old Home" *Temple Daily Telegram*, October 4, 1908.

<sup>68</sup> "Appreciation of Salado As A Summer Resort," *Temple Daily Telegram*, August 6, 1908.

<sup>69</sup> Janet Mace Valenza, *Taking the Waters in Texas* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000), 34–43.

<sup>70</sup> Valenza, 64–94.

<sup>71</sup> Valenza, 197. The creekside bathhouse was destroyed in the 1921 flood.

<sup>72</sup> "Bell County's Health Resort," *Temple Daily Telegram*, May 23, 1911.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Newspaper articles into the 1920s continued to write about the spring well and the underground cave that “breathe[s] of romance and potent charm.”<sup>73</sup> Owners Mary Olivia Rigsby and her son William Rice Rigsby promoted this sentimental nature tourism at the Stagecoach Inn through the 1910s and 1920s, until William Rice Rigsby’s death in 1929.<sup>74</sup> During the 1920s, after the 1922 construction of the concrete bridge and improvement of Main Street into State Highway No. 2, the Rigsbys gave a number of tours of the inn and the cave to travelling writers and also promoted their popular chicken dinners in newspaper advertisements.<sup>75</sup> One article even connects the healing qualities of the water to the goals of a visiting Baptist revival: “I should think the clear, sparkling springs of the lovely Salou [Salado Creek] would easily supply water for a hundred thousand souls.”<sup>76</sup> And indeed the Salado Creek had been used for many decades since the nineteenth century as a camping venue for revivalist baptisms.<sup>77</sup> In the late 1920s, Rice Rigsby also constructed one or more “camp houses” for tourists, though it is not clear if these were on the grounds of the Stagecoach Inn or if these houses are still extant elsewhere in town.<sup>78</sup>

Charles Wilkins Stevens (1871–1948<sup>79</sup>) owned the property in the 1930s, after the designation of Main Street as US 81 in 1926, and continued to promote the site’s mineral water to tourists. He improved the inn’s existing street side spring well in the late 1930s (not extant, see Figure 4) and wrote boosterish articles for the *Belton Journal*.<sup>80</sup> By September 1938, Stevens seems to have even embarked on a commercial bottled water endeavor similar to Mineral Well’s Crazy Water brand, writing (in the third person) that,

the first truck load of Salado mineral water was shipped out this week. It is being distributed to local dealers in each town in our territory. It is planned to have a mineral water station in every locality. C. W. Stevens, owner of the Salado mineral well, has on display at the Shady Villa bath house four bottles of the mineral water that has been bottled 90 days. The water is as fresh and effective as the water right out of the well.<sup>81</sup>

The *Belton Journal* names banker and perennial candidate for governor Arlon Barton “Cyclone” Davis as an investor in distributing the water across the state.<sup>82</sup> The business, however, does not seem to have lasted through the 1930s. Stevens’ articles ended in 1938, and by the early 1940s, the inn was for sale. Later road-widening projects removed the front street-side well, and new governmental regulations prohibited a return of the health spa in Salado, as they did throughout the state.<sup>83</sup> Stevens, however, constructed a few new structures in the mid-to-late 1930s, including a small one-story house—possibly meant as a bathhouse<sup>84</sup>—which might have replaced an earlier detached stone barn,<sup>85</sup> and a

---

<sup>73</sup> “A Fascinating Cave at Salado,” *Belton Journal*, April 1, 1926; “Salado’s Mysterious Cavern,” *Dallas Morning News*, October 24, 1926.

<sup>74</sup> Cutler, 23.

<sup>75</sup> “Big Chicken Dinners,” *Belton Journal*, September 30, 1926.

<sup>76</sup> “Announcing Baptist Revival At Salado,” *Belton Journal*, June 30, 1927.

<sup>77</sup> Hodge, 100; *Belton Independent*, “Another Camp-Meeting,” Sept 4, 1858.

<sup>78</sup> “Salado Journal,” *Belton Journal*, September 16, 1926; “Salado Journal,” *Belton Journal*, September 23, 1926.

<sup>79</sup> Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982.

<sup>80</sup> “Hop, Skip, Jump in Every Gallon of Salado Mineral Water,” *Belton Journal*, May 5, 1938; “Enthusiastic Citizen Declares Rip Van Winkle Has Awakened,” *Belton Journal*, September 22, 1938.

<sup>81</sup> “Salado News,” *Belton Journal*, September 29, 1938.

<sup>82</sup> “Hop, Skip, Jump In Every Gallon of Salado Mineral Water,” *Belton Journal*, May 5, 1938.

<sup>83</sup> Ruth Van Bibber and Morene Parten Cutler, “Stagecoach Inn . . . Reflections & Recipes,” unpublished, Bell County Museum, Belton TX; Valenza, 142–144.

<sup>84</sup> “Enthusiastic Citizen Declares Rip Van Winkle Has Awakened,” *Belton Journal*, September 22, 1938. This article mentions the construction of a bath house; Cutler, 23. Cutler mentions that Stevens built the extant “small rock bungalow”; Additionally the structure is immediately adjacent to the cave where there is easy access to a spring water well.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

reconstructed log cabin moved from the nearby Claude Hodge ranch to its current location just north of the Stagecoach Inn.<sup>86</sup> Stevens originally used the cabin for the “Old Plantation Kitchen” restaurant serving “old-time plantation meals,” later described by the Stevens family as “depression food.”<sup>87</sup> The building later housed various Main Street shops and still exists today.<sup>88</sup>

With Stevens’ introduction of the Old Plantation Kitchen, the Stagecoach Inn began to embrace its own nineteenth-century history as a tourist attraction in itself. Writers visiting the building in the 1920s and 1930s also began emphasizing the inn’s historic nature during a time when many regional authors were publishing romantic histories and mythologies glorifying the nineteenth-century Anglo-American West, especially in Texas.<sup>89</sup> Locally, Salado native George W. Tyler wrote the *History of Bell County*<sup>90</sup> in the mid-1920s, and residents in Salado began, in 1926, a yearly “old settlers” reunion of former residents and Salado College alumni, an event that originally headquartered at the Shady Villa Hotel and which continues to this day.<sup>91</sup> In 1936, Texas celebrated its centennial, 100 years since its independence from Mexico, and a number of official efforts monumentalized the history of the state with elaborate state fairs, granite roadside markers, and permanent museums and monuments.<sup>92</sup>

Ruth and Dion Van Bibber purchased the property from the Stevens’ family in October 1943 and reopened the inn as a tearoom after an extensive renovation, though newspaper articles did not begin using the name “Stagecoach Inn” until 1947.<sup>93</sup> Writers in the late 1940s also begin to publish more embellished histories of the building, based largely on a guest register that featured a number of famous nineteenth-century names and which was mysteriously stolen soon after the Van Bibbers found it. A 1947 *Belton Journal* article offers an example of how the Van Bibber’s sought to mythologize and market the building’s history through these famous figures:

George Washington did not sleep here! But the famed Spanish named Inn near the Salado river has quartered many staunch notables: General Sam Houston, his son Andrew Jackson Houston, Stephen H. Austin, Governor Peter H. Bell and others. Not only these characters of Texas history but even our own Grandparents weary of travel from the lower country, silver hungry and adventurous Chisholm Trail drivers, desperados, like the James Brothers, cat skin-vested gamblers, beard-trimmed high frontal horse gangsters, land swindlers, treasure seekers and prairie playboys have all spent a spell at the lapboard Put Up.<sup>94</sup>

---

<sup>85</sup> Cutler, 23; Tyler, 161. Tyler includes a photograph and description of the barn.

<sup>86</sup> Hodge, 53; Cutler, 22.

<sup>87</sup> Cutler, 22.

<sup>88</sup> Hodge, 53.

<sup>89</sup> The Texas Folklore Society began in 1909 led by Frank Dobie, John Lomax, and Leonidas Payne (Handbook of Texas Online); the Texas State Historical Association began publishing the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* in 1912 and began publishing regional history books in 1917 (Handbook of Texas Online).

<sup>90</sup> Tyler wrote the county history before his death in 1927 and it was published in 1935.

<sup>91</sup> “Salado Picnic Great Success”, *Belton Journal*, July 24, 1930; “Salado Reunion and Home-Coming,” *Belton Journal*, July 3, 1930; “90<sup>th</sup> annual Salado Reunion set for June 11 at Salado Intermediate,” *Salado Village Voice*, May 13, 2016, <http://saladovillagevoice.com/90th-annual-salado-reunion-set-for-june-11-at-salado-intermediate>, accessed October 17, 2016.

<sup>92</sup> Handbook of Texas Online, “Texas Centennial,” <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/lkt01>, accessed October 17, 2016.

<sup>93</sup> “Legal Notices,” *Belton Journal*, June 21, 1951. This legal notice describes the 1943 deed purchase; Cutler, 8; Boyce House, “I Give You Texas,” *Whitewright Sun*, February 6, 1947. This article announces the new Stagecoach Inn sign.

<sup>94</sup> A. B. Messer, “Shady Villa At Salado Historic And Popular Place of Past Years,” *Belton Journal*, March 6, 1947. It is not clear what “Spanish named Inn” refers to.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

A 1950 *Dallas Morning News* article further lists as past residents George Custer, Robert E. Lee, George Littlefield, and outlaw Sam Bass, among others: “But, true legends or not, the new crop of 1950 Texans who sit in the cool rooms of the old inn can almost hear the jangle of spurs and the creak of leather.”<sup>95</sup> Later tall tales from the era include Sam Houston giving an anti-secession speech from the porch of the inn “wearing his famous leopard skin vest.”<sup>96</sup> Though historians have never found evidence for this claim, the Van Bibbers named one of dining rooms after him.<sup>97</sup>

By the early 1950s, the “old Stagecoach Inn” had transitioned in a popular full-service restaurant and event space. Between 1950 and 1960, regional newspapers reported wedding dinners,<sup>98</sup> society luncheons,<sup>99</sup> and employee parties,<sup>100</sup> in addition to packed dining rooms. Several national magazines and writers also featured the Stagecoach Inn among listings of recommended restaurants, including *Life* in their 1957 article “Roadside Inns and Their Fine Food: Travelers in America Can Find Superb Cooking” (Figure 15) and restaurant reviewer Duncan Hines in a 1954 article “Recipe From Famed Texas Inn Good,” which provided the ingredients for the Stagecoach Inn’s apparently popular Avocado Grapefruit Jell-o Mold, a recipe that also calls for cream cheese, celery, and mayonnaise.<sup>101</sup> Other popular dishes included deep-fried Banana Fritters, finger-sized hush puppies, barbecued chicken (featured in *Ford Times*<sup>102</sup>), and the Strawberry Kiss, a meringue desert.<sup>103</sup>

After the construction of the interstate highway and expansion of the inn to include the new motel complex in the 1960s and 1970s, the Stagecoach Inn began to cater to larger and more elaborate private events. Newspapers across Texas documented family reunions,<sup>104</sup> institutional symposia,<sup>105</sup> honeymoons,<sup>106</sup> and weekend vacations<sup>107</sup>

---

<sup>95</sup> “Old Texas Inn: You Can Recall Past At Early Stage Stop,” *Dallas Morning News*, September 7, 1950.

<sup>96</sup> “Stagecoach Inns and Early Travel,” *Dallas Morning News*, August 11, 1953.

<sup>97</sup> Cutler, 4–5.

<sup>98</sup> “T. J. Pace Jr. and Palestine Girl Say Marriage Vows Directed by Bride’s Father,” *Wichita Daily Times*, May 27, 1951; “Anne Cromwell-Donald Gondran Engagement Announced At Tuesday Noon Luncheon Party,” *Taylor Daily Press*, May 5, 1954; “Bride of Week, Patricia Sullivan Feted With Pre-Nuptial Parties,” *Taylor Daily Press*, September 15, 1955; “Paul C. Burke Miss Pam Smith Exchange Vows,” *Cameron Herald*, June 14, 1956; “Dorothy Etter Weds Douglass Mills,” *Abilene Reporter-News*, April 27, 1958.

<sup>99</sup> “Taylor Teacher On DKG Panel For Meeting Saturday Noon,” *Taylor Daily Press*, April 23, 1953; “Alpha Chi to Hear Browning Authority At Dinner April 1,” *Belton Journal*, March 25, 1954; “Delta Kappa Gamma To Continue Aid To College Students For This Year,” *Taylor Daily Press*, September 26, 1955, Page 2; “Beta Sigma Phi Dinner at Salado,” *Gatesville Messenger*, December 14, 1956; “ADPI Anniversary Annual Convention Observed at SU,” *Georgetown Megaphone*, March 29, 1957; “Delta Delta Delta National President To Visit SU Campus,” *Williamson County Sun*, April 28, 1960.

<sup>100</sup> “First National Bank Holds Birthday Party,” *Belton Journal*, November 24, 1955; “Dinner Given For Dr. and Mrs. Gettys,” *Belton Journal*, August 26, 1954; “Tiger Tales,” *Belton Journal*, November 3, 1955.

<sup>101</sup> Bradley Smith, “Roadside inns and Their Fine Food: Travelers in America Can Find Superb Cooking,” *Life*, July 1, 1957, 66–72; Duncan Hines, “Receipt From Famed Texas Inn Good,” *San Antonio Express*, June 14, 1954. The Stagecoach Inn was also featured in Hines’ 1956 paperback compilation of reviews *Adventures in Good Eating*.

<sup>102</sup> *Ford Times*, May 15, 1963.

<sup>103</sup> Cutler, 35–44.

<sup>104</sup> “News Notes From Florence,” *Williamson County Sun*, January 13, 1966; “Personal,” *Burleson County Citizen*, May 23, 1963.

<sup>105</sup> “Inaugural Ball Gowns Will Be Shown At Tea,” *Bryan Daily Eagle*, February 19, 1961; “Dr. Henry Meyer Speaks At Salado,” *Williamson County Sun*, August 2, 1962; “Secretaries To Attend Board Meet,” *Galveston Tribune*, September 13, 1963; “UT Officials To Take Part in Conference,” *Daily Texan*, January 28, 1964; “Where Bosses Are Told Off—And Like it,” *Nation’s Business*, July 1969, 62–65.

<sup>106</sup> “Alice Klein, Mr. Nellis take Vows,” *San Antonio Express*, September 18, 1961; “M. A. Kurtz, Miss Johnson Repeat Vows,” *Waco Tribune-Herald*, November 19, 1961; “Miss Billye Faye Mullinax, Fiance Marry in Austin,” *Wichita Falls Times*, May 30, 1961.

<sup>107</sup> “Waco Group Returns From Weekend Trip,” *Waco News-Tribune*, November 14, 1961; “Mrs. Saxon, Daughter Make Tour,” *Houston County Courier*, April 28, 1966.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

headquartered at the new resort. Tourists visited Salado's historic sites, such as the Robertson Plantation and the Salado College ruins, and patronized various new businesses, institutions, and festivals that flourished in Salado in the 1960s. The Central Texas Area Museum opened in 1959 across Main Street from the restaurant,<sup>108</sup> the annual Scottish Gathering, sponsored by the museum and still operating today, began in 1961,<sup>109</sup> and the annual two-day Salado Arts and Crafts Fair began in 1967, just north of the Stagecoach Inn, drawing 10,000 visitors by 1970.<sup>110</sup> Numerous writers also proudly point to the arrival of New York fashion designer Grace Jones and her downtown boutique in the early 1960s.<sup>111</sup> These writers all consistently credit the town's growth during this era to the postwar popularity of the Van Bibbers' restaurant.<sup>112</sup>

The state honored the Stagecoach Inn with a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation in 1962, the inaugural year of a program that has today recognized over 3,600 historic places throughout Texas.<sup>113</sup> Building upon that recognition, in 1968, the state designated Salado Creek as the first (and currently the only) Recorded Texas Natural Landmark.<sup>114</sup> State-wide attention on Salado increased further during the build-up to the 1968 HemisFair in San Antonio. Between 1966 and 1968 newspapers across the state published several lists of popular tourist attractions along the interstate highway for travelers driving to the international exposition, recommending Salado's Stagecoach Inn alongside Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington (opened in 1961), the LBJ Ranch in Stonewall (donated to the state in 1965), Inner Space Cavern in Georgetown (opened in 1966), Aquarena Springs in San Marcos (opened in 1951), and La Villita in San Antonio (initially restored in 1939 and designated a historic district in 1969).<sup>115</sup> In 1968, the state government included Salado as a stop on the Brazos Travel Trail, one of ten trails established around the state to promote tourism — building upon a legacy of recreation and tourism begun in the nineteenth century.<sup>116</sup>

### Criterion C: Architecture

#### Stagecoach Inn

Although the 1983 Multiple Property Nomination of Salado previously established the architectural significance of the ca. 1860 Stagecoach Inn, this amendment provides an opportunity to expand upon the inn's architectural significance. Typologically and stylistically, the Stagecoach Inn is an important example of how Anglo-colonial settlers moved and adapted to frontier settlements with limited resources and access to building materials. The inn also represents the end of an era of Southern Anglo-colonial building culture before the Civil War and Industrial Revolution ushered in shifts in technology and stylistic tastes. The ca. 1860 building is a variation of a three-bay two-story I-house residence with a set of rear rooms on both floors that are half as deep as the front rooms, a *transitional* plan that is not quite *massed* yet

---

<sup>108</sup> "Historic Salado Opening Homes for Public Tours," *Dallas Morning News*, May 1, 1960.

<sup>109</sup> "Scotch Clans Will Gather At Salado," *Waco Tribune-Herald*, October 28, 1962.

<sup>110</sup> "Salado Arts Fair Planned," *Austin American-Statesman*, June 4, 1969; "Salado to Work July 30–31 On Final Phases of Art Fair," *Belton Journal*, July 16, 1970; "Salado Art Fair Draws About 10,000 for Weekend," *Belton Journal*, August 6, 1970.

<sup>111</sup> Frank X. Tolbert, "Town Saved From Ghosts," *Dallas Morning News*, August 19, 1962; Hodge, 51; Cutler, 25–26.

<sup>112</sup> Tolbert; Cutler, 25–29; "Stagecoach Inn adds history to this central Texas town," *Galveston Daily News*, August 30, 1985.

<sup>113</sup> Texas Historic Sites Atlas, "Stagecoach Inn," <https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/5027005091/>, accessed October 17, 2016; Texas Historical Commission, "Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks," <http://www.thc.texas.gov/preserve/projects-and-programs/recorded-texas-historic-landmarks>, accessed October 17, 2016.

<sup>114</sup> "Salado Creek Marker Designates It as Natural Historical Landmark," *Belton Journal*, May 30, 1968.

<sup>115</sup> "National AAA Group To Make Texas Tour," *Navasota Examiner*, April 21, 1966; "Thousands To Take IH35 Through Here To HemisFair," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, August 16, 1967.

<sup>116</sup> "Tourists Invited To See Limestone," *Mexia Daily News*, January 21, 1968.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

not quite *linear*.<sup>117</sup> The I-house typology is common for stagecoach inns, but the building also features Greek Revival stylistic influences, an adaptation only common in Texas and the early southwestern frontier.<sup>118</sup>

Although stagecoach inns in Texas proliferated throughout the state, they generally never consolidated into a specific building type. In *Stagecoach Inn of Texas*, Carter observes that “the stagecoach inn varied greatly in different sections of Texas—it could be anything from only a crude log settler’s hut to an elaborate hotel.”<sup>119</sup> In small towns in Central and East Texas, inns often took the form of residential houses and frequently were, in fact, also private homes. Commonly though, stage coach inns in Central and East Texas took the form of vernacular Greek Revival I-houses, though many of these were simply private residences with extra rooms to rent.<sup>120</sup> A distinctive feature of the Stagecoach Inn, however, is the original half-deep rear rooms with separate chimneys. Unlike nearly all I-houses, whose chimneys are centered on the roof ridge, in Salado, the original chimneys on the Stagecoach Inn flanked the roof ridge equally on each side to serve all rooms in the building. This deviation illustrates an innovative adaptation of the typical I-house for use as an inn, a function requiring more actively-used rooms than a usual residence. I-houses at the time also typically featured inset porches enclosed under the main roof framing,<sup>121</sup> but the Stagecoach Inn employs an extended shed porch with its own roof structure.<sup>122</sup> With the need for rear rooms, the builders of the Stagecoach Inn perhaps reached the limit of how far they could span a roof structure and opted for a simple shed porch construction in the front.

As an example of the stagecoach inn typology, the inn at Salado is simultaneously both typical and exceptional. Historian Oscar Winther, pulling largely from nineteenth century travel narratives by East Coast and British visitors, describes typical home stations as,

more elaborate establishments and two to three times larger than swing stations. Usually the home stations were plain construction, but they were also sufficiently commodious and well equipped to meet passenger and postal requirements. Such places normally contained lodging and eating facilities, a ticket and postal office, store, barn with stable, and of course staging equipment and livestock. Some home stations were located within towns, even within cities, and when this was the case the offices were housed in hotels, the horses and vehicles in livery stations. . . . Most stage stations, however, were necessarily located along bleak country roadside. . . . Most of the home stations

---

<sup>117</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), 30–31, 122.

<sup>118</sup> Blakeley Drury Alexander, *Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966), 85–90; As in Salado, the Greek Revival style is represented in some of the earliest extant buildings among many southern communities west of the Appalachians, including those along the Central Texas frontier. Builders in these outlying areas often decorated or adapted earlier folk building forms by adding minimally-decorated columns and simple wood or brick architectural details to evoke a sense of permanence and stability that early settlers greatly desired. Before the Civil War, many buildings in the South featured simple classically-inspired, double-gallery, front porches similar to the inn in Salado.

<sup>119</sup> Carter, 1.

<sup>120</sup> Carter, 75, 111, 160, 179; Alexander, 45–47; Paul Goeldner, *Texas Catalog: Historic American Building Survey* (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1974), 159; Important preserved examples of these buildings in Texas include the Winedale Inn in Round Top, the Vance House (Landmark Inn) in Castroville, the J.B. Henderson Home in Marshall, and the Branches Home in Gonzales. Examples of similar extant residential houses without any specific historical tie to the stage system include the Polley House in La Vernia, the Meredith-Hart House in Rio Vista, the Hinman House in New Braunfels, the Cavitt House in Wheelock, and the Captain Nelson Merrell House in Round Rock.

<sup>121</sup> The Nicholson House in Bastrop, destroyed by fire in 1899 and only known through a drawing, possibly also had four chimneys and an extended (not inset) porch roof. The depiction of this building however shows the front chimneys set on center with the peak of the roof, suggesting that the rear chimneys and rooms were additions (Carter, 56).

<sup>122</sup> McAlester, 53. Though this was also not rare for folk housing at the time, especially on earlier structures later styled as Greek Revival.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

contained three rooms, but some were limited to one room divided by muslin draperies into a kitchen, dining room, and sleeping quarters . . . <sup>123</sup>

Within this context, the inn in Salado was quite luxurious. The building is unusually large for its type, with six to eight rooms on two floors, each with its own fireplace.<sup>124</sup> Additionally, photographs taken in the 1930s, before the building was rehabilitated, show an old stone barn and smokehouse, possibly of nineteenth-century construction (the smokehouse is still extant). These amenities along with an ample supply of fresh springs water on site suggests that the inn provided relatively substantial room and board. Kathryn Turner Carter notes in her inventory *Stagecoach Inn of Texas* that the stage routes in Central Texas and near the Gulf coast were often more luxurious in terms of meals, tableware, furnishings, and general hospitality than the transcontinental routes further north and west, on which many of Winther's sources travelled.<sup>125</sup>

Its Greek Revival features associate the inn with buildings constructed the last decades of the ante-bellum Southern building culture. However, in contrast to the nearby high-style Greek Revival Robertson Plantation house, also completed in 1860, the inn retains a basic resemblance to earlier end-chimney I-house forms from both the coastal South and the upland South residential building cultures,<sup>126</sup> with the important exception that the root I-house archetype has been enlarged and adapted to accommodate its function as a stage coach inn.<sup>127</sup>

When the Greek Revival Style was brought to frontier regions, builders often went through considerable effort to obtain materials necessary to construct the desired stylistic details. For the Stagecoach Inn, access to more expensive sawn lumber for the exterior weatherboard and the stylistic porch features may have been coordinated with the construction of the Robertson Plantation house.<sup>128</sup> Documents show that Elijah Sterling Clack Robertson, who donated his land in 1859 to develop Salado, including the inn, purchased flooring, weatherboard and ceiling plank for his house that same year from a lumber mill in Bastrop, 80 to 90 miles to the south.<sup>129</sup> Additionally, a 1926 newspaper article describing the history of the inn claims that lumber was brought "overland from Houston by an ox train."<sup>130</sup> The structure of the inn, however, is a traditional rough-hewn post-and-girt timber structural frame with both hewn and un-hewn floor joists and ceiling rafters. The ground floor joists, for example, are simply large un-hewn logs set onto a limestone foundation (see Photo 21).

### Motel Complex

After the Van Bibbers purchased the Stagecoach Inn in 1943, they began a campaign of modifications and expansions lasting through the 1970s. The alterations and additions to the original inn, including those done in the 1980s and 1990s, allowed the building's conversion into a full-service restaurant and event space, but also were appropriately designed as to allow the historic building to retain sufficient integrity to continue conveying its historic significance to

---

<sup>123</sup> Winther, 66–68.

<sup>124</sup> It is not clear if the upstairs rear rooms were used for guest rooms or for storage.

<sup>125</sup> Kathryn Turner Carter, *Stagecoach Inn of Texas* (Waco: Texian Press, 1972), 4. Carter cites Marilyn McAdams Sibley's *Travelers in Texas, 1761–1860*.

<sup>126</sup> McAlester, 142–143; Most Anglo settlers to Bell County before the Civil War were from Tennessee, and many brought slaves who actually built the houses (Emery, Section 8, 14–15).

<sup>127</sup> Alexander, 85–90; Alexander proposes that buildings such as the Stagecoach Inn, which do not have the fully developed Greek Revival details seen on high-style Southern plantation houses, can be classified as "vernacular Greek Revival."

<sup>128</sup> Sherry N. DeFreece Emery, Martha Doty Freeman, and Deborah Dobson-Brown, "Robertson, Col. Elijah Sterling Clack, Plantation (Boundary Increase)" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. (Austin: Texas Historical Commission, March 2, 2007).

<sup>129</sup> Emery, Section 8, 18.

<sup>130</sup> Violet Short, "Salado's Mysterious Cavern," *Dallas Morning News*, October 24, 1926.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

visitors. Over time, the 1960 rear dining hall extension itself has gained significance, along with the motel resort and country club, as representative of mid-century design trends in the United States. The design of the 1960 motel and conference center buildings, including the later 1960s and 1970s lodging buildings, reflect the popular use of the Ranch and Modern (also called Contemporary<sup>131</sup>) styles in architecture of the time and represent an excellent example of how architects adapted this style from residential housing to new roadside commercial building typologies. The architect of the motel resort's buildings, James Fetridge, a California-based architect working largely with residential mid-century Ranch and Modern styles, is significant for his association with demonstration housing designs for the 1956 Women's Congress on Housing. Additionally, the design of the motel resort landscape, including the central clover-shaped pool and curvilinear walkways, is significant for its association with mid-century Modernist landscape design trends in the United States, finished in a manner that complemented the historic architecture on the site. The Dallas-based landscape architects of the resort, Marie and Arthur Berger, were nationally recognized early practitioners and advocates for Modernist landscape design ideas. The Bergers collaborated with influential Texas architect O'Neil Ford on dozens of residential, commercial, and institutional projects around the country, including the Frank Murchison House in San Antonio, the Trinity University campus in San Antonio, and the Texas Instruments Headquarters in Dallas.

In the fall of 1960, the Stagecoach Inn opened the motel resort and country club. All of the motel-related buildings share a common mid-century Modern/Ranch language: wide open eaves, large chimneys and fireplaces, floor-to-ceiling window walls, open floor plans and vaulted interior spaces, integrated car canopies, asymmetrical massing and details borrowed from earlier Craftsman and Prairie styles such as exposed, expressive roof rafters and simple, bold juxtapositions of wood, brick and stone on both exterior and interior surfaces. The lodging buildings also express a freestanding post-and-beam frame around their exterior stairwells, an uncommon but associated feature of the style.<sup>132</sup> Initially, these details appeared on residential houses of the time and are famously associated with California designer-developer Joseph Eichler's 1950s and early 1960s houses, but on the Stagecoach Inn's buildings architect James Fetridge adapted these features to address the differences in scale and function required by motels and club houses.<sup>133</sup>

#### *Architect James Fetridge*

Architect James Ronald Fetridge (1912–1997)<sup>134</sup> was born in Illinois and attended the University of Illinois before moving to Southern California in the 1940s with his wife Dorothy (née Crawford).<sup>135</sup> In the late 1940s through the early 1950s, Fetridge practiced with the firm Fetridge Wilde & Lundy in South Pasadena, California, with whom he produced residences and apartment buildings.<sup>136</sup> Known extant projects of the firm are a residence at 1272 Sunny Oaks Circle in Altadena, California<sup>137</sup> and an apartment complex ("The Croydon") at 322 W. California Boulevard in

---

<sup>131</sup> McAlester, 646.

<sup>132</sup> McAlester, 636.

<sup>133</sup> McAlester, 629–646. Similarly, in the late 1950s and 1960s, Enco brand gas stations found throughout the state also displayed an adaptation of the residential Ranch style, with the use of oversized exposed roof rafters and gable-end window walls. Examples of Ranch-style Enco stations that are eligible for the National Register according to Hardy Heck Moore (with Texas Historical Commission concurrence) include 920 IH-35 in New Braunfels, 231 San Pedro Ave. in San Antonio, and 101 S. Texas Ave. in Bryan. The currently-abandoned and neglected Bel-Air Motel in Wichita Falls (ca. 1950) offers another once-excellent example of this style on motels in Texas.

<sup>134</sup> California, Death Index, 1940–1997. Digital images. Ancestry.com. <http://ancestry.com>, accessed October 17, 2016.

<sup>135</sup> "Weddings and Engagements," *Oak Leaves* (Oak Park, Illinois), November 30, 1939.

<sup>136</sup> American Institute of Architects, *American Architects Directory*, Second edition (New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1962).

<sup>137</sup> "Altadena Real Estate: USC Architecture Case Study Hits the Market," *Partners Trust Blog*, <http://www.thepartnerstrust.com/blog/2013/07/altadena-real-estate-usc-architecture-case-study-hits-market>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Pasadena.<sup>138</sup> By the mid-1950s, Fetridge operated out of Palmdale, California, and advertised house plans nationally with lumber companies in newspapers and magazines such as *Popular Mechanics*.<sup>139</sup> From the mid-1950s through the 1970s, Fetridge largely worked locally in Southern California, producing designs for buildings such as the Southern California Gas Company headquarters in Lancaster,<sup>140</sup> the Antelope Valley regional library in Lancaster,<sup>141</sup> Los Angeles Fire Station No. 37 in Palmdale,<sup>142</sup> and the Palmdale International Airport.<sup>143</sup> Fetridge's designs reflect the Ranch and Modern residential housing styles emanating out of California at the time, especially with the emphasis on lofty interiors, exposed wood and steel structural elements, and the geometric composition of various exterior wall materials. Fetridge often used board-and-batten exterior siding on his residential projects, a material prominently featured at the Stagecoach Inn.

In 1956, Fetridge joined architects Edward Marks of Evanston, Illinois, and Edwin Bruno of Skokie, Illinois, to design a series of houses that incorporated the recommendations of Women's Congress on Housing held in Washington, D.C., in April 1956. These designs resulted in built demonstration houses displayed in Munster, Indiana, outside of Chicago in December 1956.<sup>144</sup> Building materials companies, such as Celotex, later sold plans of these houses in catalogs.<sup>145</sup> The 1956 Women's Congress was led by Annabelle Heath, Assistant Administrator with the United States Housing and Home Finance Agency (later superseded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development), with the goal of developing an influential design critique of the postwar suburban house from the perspective of the middle-class American housewife. Over 100 woman delegates from around the country convened in Washington and recommended a series of improvements to the layout of the ideal detached single-family residence, including the introduction of now-common spaces such as informal "family rooms" open to a centralized kitchen, "mud rooms" attached to the kitchen, and bedrooms separated from active living areas by hallways. Many of these ideas were not only functionally rational but also symbolic of a growing feminism in the United States that desired to replace traditionally gendered and oppressive concepts of domestic space (the man's parlor, the woman's salon and her separated and hidden kitchen) with ideas that encouraged the celebration of family, togetherness and an active home.<sup>146</sup> From the late 1950s through the 1970s, after this prominent and influential national project, Fetridge worked on designs in Southern California—except for the Stagecoach Inn, his only known work in Texas.

### Area of Significance: Landscape Architecture

Mid-century Modern and Ranch-style houses often included large semi-enclosed outdoor living areas and curvilinear swimming pools integrated within the overall design of the home. In architect-designed houses, landscape architects commonly planned these personal gardens to provide a soft and flowing contrast to the sharp lines and hard materials of modernist houses. Modern landscape architects like Roberto Burle Marx and Thomas Church applied the formal geometric abstractions found in modern art and graphic design to landscapes, delineating hardscapes, such as concrete

---

<sup>138</sup> "Four Apartment Buildings Slated for New Project," *Los Angeles Times*, Aug 21, 1949; "New Apartment Complex," photographs, 1950, J. Allen Hawkins Collection, Pasadena Digital History Collaboration, Pasadena Museum of History, Pasadena, CA, <http://collection.pasadenadigitalhistory.com/cdm/ref/collection/p16237coll8/id/1363>, accessed October 17, 2016.

<sup>139</sup> Advertisement for Botsford Lumber Co., *Winona Republican-Herald*, July 27, 1953; "Tomorrow's Trends In Homes," *Popular Mechanics*, October 1953, 147.

<sup>140</sup> "Gas Company Building Set," *Los Angeles Times*, June 2, 1957.

<sup>141</sup> "Sign County Pact," *Van Nuys Valley News*, December 27, 1959.

<sup>142</sup> "Fire Station Ceremonies Set April 30," *Van Nuys Valley News*, April 15, 1965.

<sup>143</sup> "Yorty Raps Senate Stand on SST at Airport Rites," *Van Nuys Valley News*, December 20, 1970.

<sup>144</sup> Anne Douglass, "Women's Ideas Built Into Homes," *Chicago Tribune*, December 9, 1956.

<sup>145</sup> Advertisement for the 1957 Celotex Book of Homes, *Life*, March 11, 1957, 60.

<sup>146</sup> Kathleen S. Mullins, "Let Women Build Houses," Dissertation (West Lafayette: Purdue University, 2012), 94–128; Elizabeth Fraterrigo, *Playboy and the Making of the Good Life in Modern America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 80–85.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

walkways, from softscapes, such as grass and other plantings.<sup>147</sup> The landscape of the Stagecoach Inn provides an excellent example of this landscape design philosophy as applied to the needs of a modern resort. In addition to Petridge and the Bergers, Vail Logsdon of Temple acted as associate architect, Hal E. Stringer and Eugene “Red” Houck of Waco were associate landscape designers, and Lorraine Brown and H. M. Sherrill of Temple were the project’s interior designers, providing for the clean Modern finishes and mid-century Danish-inspired furniture selections in the public spaces and motel rooms (see Figures 24, 27).<sup>148</sup>

*Landscape Architects Marie and Arthur Berger*

Marie Monica Berger (née Harbeck, 1898–1963) was born in Oregon and graduated from Oregon State University before moving to San Francisco to work with influential Modernist landscape architect Thomas Church in the 1930s. Her interests in landscape and textile design led her to a United States Army position during World War II, alongside Arthur Berger, developing military camouflage at the Engineer Research & Development Laboratories (ERDL) in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.<sup>149</sup> The ERDL during this time developed its famous four-color Leaf and Woodland camouflage patterns that would become iconic designs in American culture after their use in the Vietnam War.<sup>150</sup> Arthur Schoene Berger (1903–1960) was born in Kansas and attended the University of Kansas and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He worked for landscape architects Ferruccio Vitale and Alfred Gieffert Jr. in New York and began his own practice in Dallas in the late 1930s before joining the U.S. Army in Virginia.<sup>151</sup>

After the war, the two were married in Dallas, where they began their acclaimed professional practice working with notable architects such as William Wilson Wurster, Howard Meyer, George Dahl, and, especially, O’Neil Ford.<sup>152</sup> Works include the landscapes for the *Dallas Morning News*, the Dallas Public Library, Trinity University, the University of Kansas, Texas Instruments, and hundreds of residential gardens including the DeGolyer Estate, currently part of the Dallas Arboretum.<sup>153</sup> In their projects, the Bergers promoted a Modernist landscape style through the use of curvilinear and asymmetrical juxtapositions of plantings, paved surfaces, retaining walls, and water features such as fountains and pools.<sup>154</sup> Their designs provided complex layers of shade and light that act to casually frame buildings and other outdoor spaces. Magazines such as *Architectural Forum*, *House Beautiful*, *House & Garden*, and *Landscape*,<sup>155</sup> regularly published their projects alongside descriptions such as,

the chiaroscuro of sun and shade adds sparkle to terraces, lawn and flower beds which might otherwise be drab and uninviting...Bold shadows result from objects like arbors, walls or seats repeating their outline in silhouette. The crisp edge of these shadows gives definitions to their form.<sup>156</sup>

---

<sup>147</sup> Marc Treib, “Axioms for a Modern Landscape Architecture,” in *Modern Landscape Architecture*, ed. Marc Treib (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1993), 36–67.

<sup>148</sup> “Old Inn Puts on New Face,” *Dallas Morning News*, November 20, 1960; “Usefulness With Beauty In Landscape,” *Waco Tribune Herald*, February 11, 1962.

<sup>149</sup> Dianne Susan Duffner Laurence, “A Symbiotic Relationship,” Thesis (Arlington: University of Texas at Arlington, 2007), 51–53.

<sup>150</sup> Peter Forbes, *Dazzled and Deceived: Mimicry and Camouflage* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011).

<sup>151</sup> Laurence, 44–48.

<sup>152</sup> Laurence, xxi.

<sup>153</sup> Laurence, 153; “Mrs. Arthur Berger, Landscaper, Dies,” *Dallas Morning News*, April 5, 1963; “Noted Landscaper, A. S. Berger, Dies,” *Dallas Morning News*, August 14, 1960.

<sup>154</sup> Laurence, 100; Kurt Culbertson and Dianne del Cid, “Arthur Berger,” *Cultural Landscape Foundation*, <http://tclf.org/pioneer/arthur-berger>, accessed October 17, 2016.

<sup>155</sup> Laurence, 161.

<sup>156</sup> Arthur Berger, “Plan the shadows in your garden,” *House and Garden*, March 1949.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Arthur died in a tragic car accident in 1960, a few months before the opening of the Stagecoach Inn motel, and Marie died three years later.<sup>157</sup> One of their last projects, the Stagecoach Inn represents a culmination of their landscape design philosophy.

### Conclusion

The Stagecoach Inn has rich historical significances related to the history of transportation, recreation, and architecture during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Texas. The combination of these areas of significance at the Stagecoach Inn illustrate their larger cultural interrelationship. The development of meaningful architecture styles and typologies during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century gave frontier settlers confidence to build and maintain new transportation networks. *New York Tribune* editor Horace Greeley, in his account of a 1859 overland journey to California, describes relay stations and stage coach inns as standing for “Civilization, Intelligence, Government, [and] Protection,” providing nervous colonists with a physical symbol of “terrestrial Providence.”<sup>158</sup> The 1908 Salado Interurbanfest illustrated the way that towns advertised recreational tourism, health resorts in the Stagecoach Inn’s case, as a justification for building new transportation systems. At the same time in many small towns, the evolution of the automobile highway spurred the growth of restaurants and other business, as well as new kinds of recreational activities, such as motel honeymooning and regional conferences at the Stagecoach Inn. These new uses in turn justified new building types that needed to accommodate cars as well as people. At the Stagecoach Inn, these new building forms required the expertise of architects and landscape architects to not only creatively adapt existing styles and typologies for new recreational uses but also to successfully resolve the problem of rehabilitating a historic structure while addressing the need for a new highway-oriented site plan. In a 1960 review, the *Dallas Morning News* describes the elegance of the solution: “Straddling 12 scenic acres between a new super highway and the meandering one-upon-a-time Old Chisholm Trail, the century-old Stagecoach Inn at Salado turns an appropriate face toward each.”<sup>159</sup>

---

<sup>157</sup> Laurence, 55.

<sup>158</sup> Cited in Winther, 44.

<sup>159</sup> “Old Inn Puts on New Face,” *Dallas Morning News*, November 20, 1960.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

**Table. 1 Known owners/proprietors and property names based on newspaper evidence, 1860–1966**

Name of owner/proprietor	Birth–Death	Property Name	----- Owner/Proprietor -----			
			no earlier than	as early as	as late as	no later than
Thomas Jefferson Eubanks <sup>160</sup>	1811–1877 <sup>161</sup>	Salado Hotel	1860			1867
Jesse Bryant <sup>1</sup>	1821–1904 <sup>2</sup>		1860			1867
William Buriage Armstrong <sup>1</sup>	1819–1897 <sup>162</sup>		1860			1867
John H. Stith <sup>163</sup>	1813–1903 <sup>164</sup>	Salado House	1867			1884
Edward R. A. Buckles <sup>165</sup>	~1826–1896 <sup>166</sup>	Salado Hotel		1884		1908
Charleston H. Jessee Sr. <sup>167</sup>	1855–1923 <sup>2</sup>	Shady Villa		1908		1923
Mary Olivia Rigsby	1838–1935 <sup>169</sup>	Shady Villa		1923	1929	
William Rice Rigsby, son <sup>168</sup>	1861–1929 <sup>170</sup>					
Charles Wilkins Stevens <sup>171</sup>	1871–1948 <sup>10</sup>	Shady Villa		1929		1943

(Table continued on next page)

<sup>160</sup> Cutler and Kelley, 1–2.

<sup>161</sup> U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current, digital image, Ancestry.com, accessed October, 17, 2016, <http://ancestry.com>.

<sup>162</sup> Kansas, Find A Grave Index, 1854–2012, digital image, Ancestry.com, accessed October, 17, 2016, <http://ancestry.com>.

<sup>163</sup> “Salado House,” *Belton Journal*, ad, November 26, 1870; Cutler and Kelley, 1. Cutler and Kelley found that John H. and Charles Stith (possibly his son) purchased the property in 1867.

<sup>164</sup> 1900 United States Federal Census, Cameron County, Texas, population schedule, Milam, Roll: 1657, Page: 18B, Enumeration District: 0066, FHL microfilm: 1241657, John H Stith, digital image, Ancestry.com, accessed October, 17, 2016, <http://ancestry.com>; “Formerly Lived at Salado,” *The Bartlett Tribune* (Bartlett, TX), February 20, 1903. In this obituary, he is listed as “Major J. N. Stith.”

<sup>165</sup> “A Traveler at Salado,” *Fort Worth Daily Gazette*, June 1, 1884; “Back to the Old Home,” *Temple Daily Telegram*, October 4, 1908. This article recollects an “Ed Buckles’ sign that once hung in front of the ‘Salado House’ hotel; Felda Davis Shanklin, *Salado, Texas: Its History and its People* (Belton TX: Peter Hansbrough Bell Press, 1960), 4.

<sup>166</sup> Confederate Pension Applications 1899–1975, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Collection # CPA27771, Roll # 624; Pension File Nos 27771 to 27792, Application Years 1913 to 1914, digital image, Ancestry.com, accessed October, 17, 2016, <http://ancestry.com>.

<sup>167</sup> “Back to the Old Home,” *Temple Daily Telegram*, October 4, 1908; “Appreciation of Salado as a Summer Resort,” *Temple Daily Telegram*, August 6, 1908; “‘Temple and Salado Must Be Connected By An Interurban Line,’ Was The Dominating Note Thursday At Salado’s Interurbanfest,” *Temple Daily Telegram*, August 21, 1908.

<sup>168</sup> “A Fascinating Cave at Salado,” *Belton Journal*, April 1, 1926; “Salado’s Mysterious Cavern,” *Dallas Morning News*, October 24, 1926; Cutler, 23;

<sup>169</sup> Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982. Digital images. Ancestry.com. October, 17, 2016. <http://ancestry.com>. Mary Olivia Rigsby was born Mary Olivia Ratcliff, and later went by Mary Olivia Towns by a subsequent marriage.

<sup>170</sup> Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982.

<sup>171</sup> “Salado News,” *Belton Journal*, September 29, 1938; “Hop, Skip, Jump In Every Gallon of Salado Mineral Water,” *Belton Journal*, May, 5, 1938

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

TABLE 1 (CONT.)

Ruth (née Walker) Van Bibber	1893–1990 <sup>173</sup>	Stagecoach Inn	1943			1960
Dion Van Bibber (né Ray Bibber) <sup>172</sup>	1885–1985 <sup>11 174</sup>					
William Bratten (Stagecoach Properties Inc.) <sup>13</sup>	1919–2008 <sup>11</sup>	Stagecoach Inn	1960		1983	

Only owners/proprietors that were verified through multiple sources were included above. Other possible owners/proprietors of the inn include Annie Fyke and Alvah Ferguson from 1921–22 (Cutler, 23); C. H. Brown in 1921 (*Temple Daily Telegram*, ad, November 21, 1921); B. L. Franz of Prairie Dell in 1923 (*Bartlett Tribune*, April 6, 1923; called the “Shady Villa hotel and meat market”); George Lane of Waco in 1956 (“Duncan Hines Notes Stage Coach Inn,” *Waco Tribune-Herald*, July 8, 1956). More recent owners include Morris Foster, Terry Potts and, currently, Clark Lyda (“Stagecoach Inn changes owners,” *Temple Daily Telegram*, February 29, 2012, accessed December 14, 2016, [http://www.tdtnews.com/news/business/article\\_bdc0c1f8-5be7-5fa0-b0cc-26e56c08874e.html](http://www.tdtnews.com/news/business/article_bdc0c1f8-5be7-5fa0-b0cc-26e56c08874e.html)).

<sup>172</sup> The Van Bibbers’ and Bratten’s ownership is sufficiently documented in deeds and other primary sources; Cutler, 7-8

<sup>173</sup> U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current.

<sup>174</sup> 1900 United States Federal Census, Washington County, Maine, population schedule, Eastport, Roll: 601, Page: 18B, Enumeration District: 0206, FHL microfilm: 1240601, Ray Bibber, digital image, Ancestry.com, accessed October, 17, 2016, <http://ancestry.com>.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

**Bibliography**

- Alexander, Blakeley Drury. *Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966.
- American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory*, second edition. New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1962.
- Austerman, Wayne R. *Sharps Rifles and Spanish Mules: the San Antonio--El Paso Mail, 1851--1881*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2000.
- Berger, Arthur. "Plan the shadows in your garden." *House and Garden*, March 1949.
- Brune, Gunnar. *Springs of Texas*. Fort Worth: Branch-Smith Inc., 1981.
- Butler, Linda Flory. "Salado Multiple Resource Area." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Austin: Texas Historical Commission, February 23, 1983.
- Carter, Kathryn Turner. *Stagecoach Inn of Texas*. Waco: Texian Press, 1972.
- Culbertson, Kurt and Dianne del Cid. "Arthur Berger." *Cultural Landscape Foundation*, <http://tclf.org/pioneer/arthur-berger>. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- Cutler, Morene Parten. *Stagecoach Inn: Iron Skillet & Velvet Potholder*. Salado: Village Press, 1981.
- Cutler, Morene Parten and Linda Kelley. "Stagecoach Inn." Unpublished manuscript held in the Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker files, 1984.
- Emery, Sherry N. DeFreece, Martha Doty Freeman, and Deborah Dobson-Brown. "Robertson, Col. Elijah Sterling Clack, Plantation (Boundary Increase)." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Austin: Texas Historical Commission, March 2, 2007.
- Erllichman, Howard J. *Camino del Norte*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2006.
- Forbes, Peter. *Dazzled and Deceived: Mimicry and Camouflage*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011.
- Goeldner, Paul. *Texas Catalog: Historic American Building Survey*. San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1974.
- Handbook of Texas Online. "Risher and Hall Stage Lines." <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/err01>. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Robertson, Sterling Clack," <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fro34>. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Robertson, Elijah Sterling Clack," <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fro24>. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Salado Creek (Williamson County)." <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rbs08>. Accessed October 17, 2016.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

- \_\_\_\_\_. "Salado Springs", <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/rps03>. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- Hardy Heck Moore Inc., *The Meridian Highway in Texas*. Austin: Texas Historical Commission, 2016. Available at <http://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/survey/highway/Report%20Final.pdf>.
- Hilton, George W. and John F. Due. *The Electric Interurban Railways In America*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1960.
- Hodge, Mary Harrison, and Charlene Ochsner Carson. *Images of America: Salado*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2014.
- Laurence, Dianne Susan Duffner. "A Symbiotic Relationship Between Mid-Century Modern Masters: The Collaborative Works of Arthur and Marie Berger, Landscape Architects, and O'Neil Ford, Architect." Thesis. Arlington: University of Texas at Arlington, 2007.
- McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013.
- McGilvray, Julie, Jim Steely, and Ramona Caplan. "Butterfield Overland Mail Route Corridor," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Austin: Texas Historical Commission, February, 2013.
- Mullins, Kathleen S. "Let Women Build Houses." Dissertation. West Lafayette: Purdue University, 2012.
- Salado Chamber of Commerce. "History of Salado." <http://www.salado.com/salado-history.cfm>. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- Salado Historical Society. "Tour Salado," <http://www.saladohistoricalsociety.org/tour.asp>. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- Sells, John A. *Stagecoaches across the American West, 1850–1920*. Blaine, WA: Hancock House, 2008.
- Shanklin, Felda Davis. *Salado, Texas: Its History and its People*. Belton, TX: Peter Hansbrough Bell Press, 1960.
- Smith, Bradley. "Roadside inns and Their Fine Food: Travelers in America Can Find Superb Cooking." *Life*, July 1, 1957, 66–72.
- Texas Almanac*, various years, 1858–1989. Galveston, TX. Available at The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas Libraries, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>, crediting Texas State Historical Association. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- Texas Historic Sites Atlas. "Stagecoach Inn." <https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/5027005091/>. Accessed October 17, 2016.
- Thonhoff, Robert H. *San Antonio Stage Lines, 1847–1881*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1971.
- Treib, Marc. "Axioms for a Modern Landscape Architecture," in *Modern Landscape Architecture*, ed. Marc Treib, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1993.
- Turnbo, Charles A. *Salado, Texas: Frontier College Town*. Salado TX: Yardley Publishing, 2006.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

Tyler, George W. *The History of Bell County*. San Antonio: Naylor Company, 1936.

Valenza, Janet Mace. *Taking the Waters in Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000.

Van Bibber, Ruth and Morene Parten Cutler. "Stagecoach Inn . . . Reflections & Recipes." Unpublished. Bell County Museum, Belton TX.

Winther, Oscar Osburn. *The Transportation Frontier, Trans-Mississippi West 1865–1890*. New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1964.

#### Newspapers

*Abilene Reporter-News* (Abilene, TX), 1917–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*, <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Austin American-Statesman*, 1914–1973. Available at *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*. <http://proquest.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*The Bartlett Tribune* (Bartlett, TX), 1902–1907. Available at *The Portal to Texas History*, University of North Texas Libraries, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>, crediting Bartlett Activities Center and the Historical Society of Bartlett. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*The Belton Journal* (Belton, TX), 1870–1918. Available at *The Portal to Texas History*, University of North Texas Libraries, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>, crediting The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. Accessed October 17, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_, 1913–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Bryan Daily Eagle* (Bryan, TX), 1895–1972. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>, Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Burleson County Citizen* (Caldwell, TX), 1961–1970. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>, accessed October 17, 2016.

*Cameron Herald* (Cameron, TX), 1905–2009. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Daily Texan* (University of Texas, Austin), 1913–1979. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Dallas Morning News*, 1885–1984. Available at *NewsBank: America's Historical Newspapers*. <http://newsbank.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Denton Record-Chronicle* (Denton, TX), 1909–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

*Fort Worth Daily Gazette*, 1883–1894. Available at *The Portal to Texas History*, University of North Texas Libraries. <https://texashistory.unt.edu>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Galveston Daily News*, 1865–2015. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Galveston Tribune*, 1904–1963. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Gatesville Messenger* (Gatesville, TX), 1955–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*, <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Georgetown Megaphone* (Georgetown, TX), 1907–1979. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Houston County Courier* (Crockett, TX), 1962–1981, available at *Newspaper Archive*, <http://newspaperarchive.com>, accessed October 17, 2016.

*Los Angeles Times*, 1881–1992, available at *ProQuest Historical Newspapers*. <http://proquest.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Mexia Daily News* (Mexia, TX), 1923–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Navasota Examiner* (Navasota, TX), 1954–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Oak Leaves* (Oak Park, Illinois), 1902–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*, <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*San Antonio Express*, 1865–1974. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Taylor Daily Press* (Taylor, TX), 1917–1979. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Temple Daily Telegram* (Temple, TX), 1907–1922. Available at *The Portal to Texas History*, University of North Texas Libraries, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>, crediting Abilene Library Consortium. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Van Nuys Valley News* (Van Nuys, CA), 1946–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Waco News-Tribune* (Waco, TX), 1920–1989. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Waco Tribune-Herald* (Waco, TX), 1955–1962. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

*Whitewright Sun* (Whitewright, TX), 1914–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Wichita Daily Times* (Wichita Falls, TX), 1907–1971. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Wichita Falls Times* (Wichita Falls, TX), 1925–1976. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Williamson County Sun* (Georgetown, TX), 1877–1977. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

*Winona Republican-Herald* (Winona, MN), 1947–1954. Available at *Newspaper Archive*. <http://newspaperarchive.com>. Accessed October 17, 2016.

Ancestry documents

1900 United States Federal Census. Digital images. Ancestry.com. <http://ancestry.com>. Accessed October, 17, 2016.

California, Death Index, 1940–1997. Digital images. Ancestry.com. <http://ancestry.com>. Accessed October, 17, 2016.

Confederate Pension Applications 1899–1975, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, Texas. Digital images. Ancestry.com. <http://ancestry.com>. Accessed October, 17, 2016.

Kansas, Find A Grave Index, 1854–2012. Digital images. Ancestry.com. <http://ancestry.com>. Accessed October, 17, 2016.

Texas, Death Certificates, 1903–1982. Digital images. Ancestry.com. <http://ancestry.com>. Accessed October, 17, 2016.

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current. Digital images. Ancestry.com. <http://ancestry.com>. Accessed October, 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

### Boundary Description

This description is adapted from the boundary definition in the land survey by Texas Land Surveying, Inc., "Title Survey, Job. No. 14317," October 3, 2014. This land survey describes three tracts which, combined, form the boundary of this nomination.

TRACT ONE: Being a 6.28 acre tract, more or less, out of the H.W. Hurd Survey, Abstract No. 398, Bell County, Texas, and being out of a certain 9.221 acre tract described in a deed to Daybreak Construction, Inc., recorded in Document No. 201200020909, of the Deed Records of Bell County, Texas.

TRACT TWO: Being a 2.65 acre tract, more or less, out of the H.W. Hurd Survey, Abstract No. 398, Bell County, Texas, and being out of a certain 25.843 acre tract described in Volume 4066, Page 433, Official Public Records of Real Property, Bell County, Texas.

TRACT THREE: Being a 2.880 acre tract, more or less, out of the H.W. Hurd Survey, Abstract No. 398, Bell County, Texas, and being that same tract described in a correction special warranty deed to Stagecoach Properties, Inc., recorded in Document No. 201400012059, Real Property Records of Bell County, Texas, and being out of that certain 9.221 acre tract described in a deed to Daybreak Construction, Inc., recorded in Document No. 201200020909, of the Deed Records of Bell County, Texas.

#### METES AND BOUNDS:

BEGINNING (P.O.B. TRACT ONE): at a 1/2-inch iron rod with orange cap inscribed "ALL COUNTY" found in the east right-of-way line of IH-35, marking the northwest corner of a 1.536 acre tract described in a deed to Stagecoach Properties South I, LLC., recorded under Document No. 201200014559, Real Property Records of Bell County, Texas, for the southwest corner of said 9.221 acre tract;

THENCE: N 06°45'06" E, along said east line of IH-35 right-of-way and the west line of said 9.221 acre tract, 349.44 feet to a 1/2-inch iron rod with pink cap inscribed "TLSINC." set, marking the south corner of a 0.055 acre tract described in a deed to The State of Texas, recorded under Document No. 201215013, said Deed Records;

THENCE: N 38°08'20" E, with the south-east line of said 0.055 acre tract, 46.78 feet to a 1/2-inch iron rod with pink cap inscribed "TLS INC;"

THENCE: N 06°49'20" E, in part with the east line of said 0.055 acre tract and continuing with the east right-of-way line of said IH-35, for a total distance of 179.60 feet to a 1/2-inch iron rod with pink cap inscribed "TLS INC." set, marking the southwest corner of a 2.880 acre tract described in a deed to Stagecoach Properties, Inc., recorded under Document No. 201400012059;

THENCE: N 06°49'20" E, along said IH-35 right-of-way and the west line of said 9.221 acre tract, 287.21 feet to (P.O.B. TRACT THREE) a 1/2-inch iron rod with pink cap inscribed "TLS INC." found in the east right-of-way line of IH-35 and the south line of a 4.712 acre tract described in a deed to First Baptist Church of Salado, Inc., recorded under Document No. 201100008883, Real Property Records of Bell County, Texas;

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

THENCE: S 87°25'18" E, leaving said IH-35 right-of-way with the south line of said First Baptist Church tract and the north line of said 9.221 acre tract, 332.52 feet to a nail in limestone found marking the northeast corner of said 9.221 acre tract, for the northeast corner of said 2.880 acre tract;

THENCE: S 87°27'24" E, with the north line of said 25.843 acre tract and the south line of said First Baptist Church tract, 192.47 feet to (P.O.B. TRACT TWO) a 1/2-inch iron rod with no cap found in the west right-of-way line of Main Street, marking the southeast corner of a 4.712 acre tract described in a deed to First Baptist Church of Salado, Inc., recorded under Document No. 201100008883, Real Property Records of Bell County, Texas, for the northeast corner of said 25.843 acre tract;

THENCE: S 03°29'52" W, with the east line of said 25.843 acre tract along said Main Street right-of-way, 743.20 feet to a 1/2-inch iron rod with yellow cap inscribed "RPLS 2181," found in the east line of a 9.221 acre tract described in a deed to Daybreak Construction, Inc., recorded in Document No. 201200020909, of the Deed Records of Bell County, Texas;

THENCE: S 03°28'16" W, along said Main Street right-of-way, 92.77 feet to a 1/2-inch iron rod with orange cap inscribed "ALL COUNTY;"

THENCE: S 16°51 '51" W, continuing along said Main Street right-of-way, 107.14 feet to a 1-inch pipe found, marking the northeast corner of a 0.26 acre tract described in a deed to John L. Ambrose III, et. al., recorded under Document No. 201400016361;

THENCE: S 83°41'20" W, with the north line of said Ambrose tract, 153.44 feet to a 1/2-inch iron rod with orange cap inscribed "ALL COUNTY" found, marking the northwest corner of said Ambrose tract, being an angle point in the north line of a 1.210 acre tract described in a deed to Stagecoach Properties South V, LLC., recorded under Document No. 201000027258;

THENCE: S 84°45'53" W, with the north line of said 1.210 acre tract, 66.17 feet to a 1/2-inch iron rod with pink cap inscribed "TLS INC." set;

THENCE: N 04°19'24" E, continuing with the north line of said 1.210 acre tract, 42.78 feet to a 1/2-inch iron rod with pink cap inscribed "TLS INC;"

THENCE: N 75°10'14" W, continuing in part with the north line of said 1.210 acre tract and the north line of a 1.536 acre tract described in a deed to Stagecoach Properties South I, LLC., recorded under Document No. 201200014559, said Real Property Records, 364.82 feet to the Point of Beginning (P.O.B. TRACT ONE).

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

**Boundary Map**

Source: Google Earth (accessed April 13, 2017)



	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
1.	30.944465°	-97.538973°
2.	30.944289°	-97.537336°
3.	30.941781°	-97.537592°
4.	30.941724°	-97.538366°
5.	30.942123°	-97.539503°
6.	30.942964°	-97.539338°

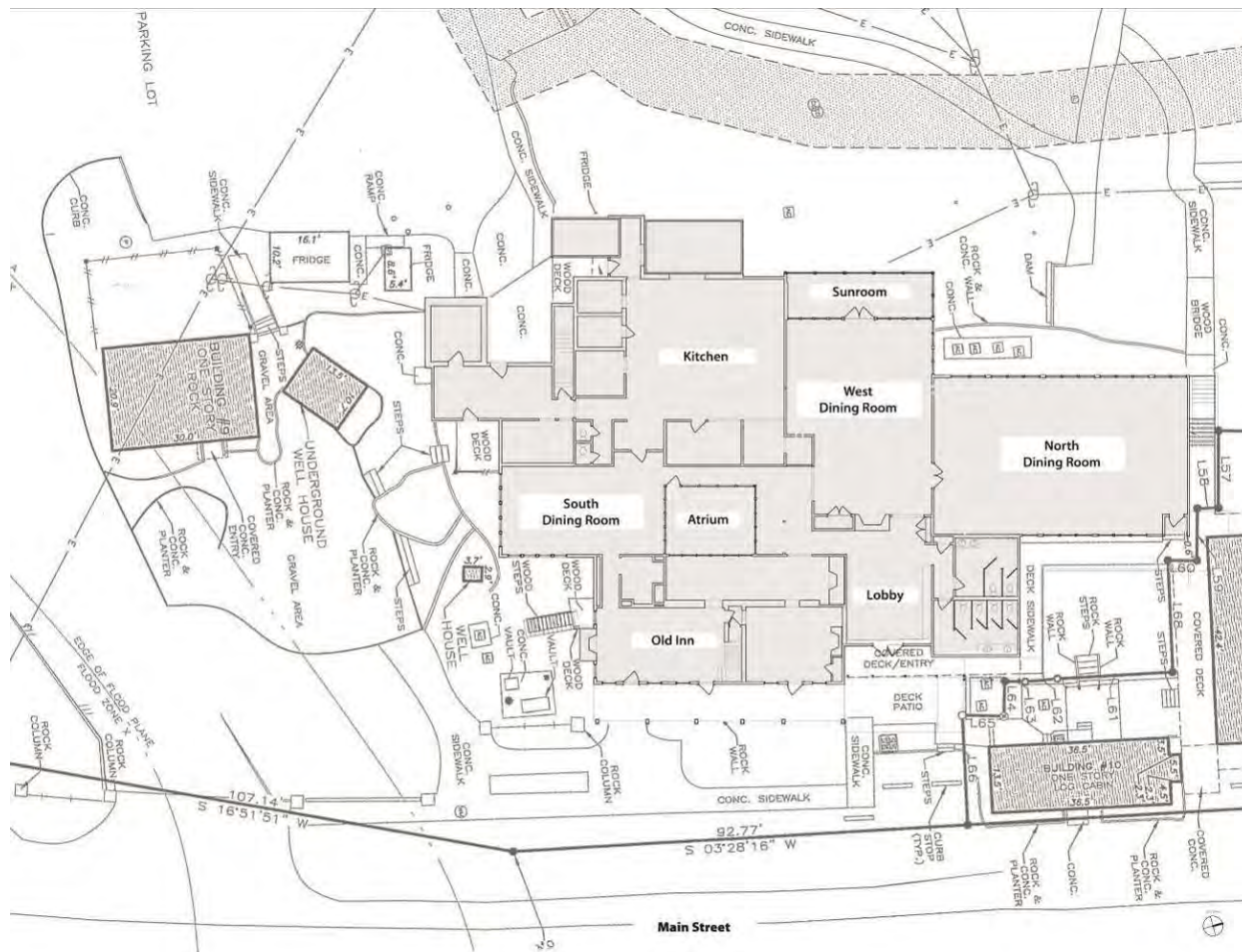
Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



Map 1. The updated boundary of the Stagecoach Inn, including contributing (white) and non-contributing (grey) resources. Resource numbers correspond to Table 7-1, Inventory of Resources at the Stagecoach Inn. The site boundary follows the boundary definition in the land survey by Texas Land Surveying, Inc., "Title Survey, Job. No. 14317", October 3, 2014. The Site Boundary described in the diagram above is an approximation of the 2014 boundary. See Map 19 for the aerial photograph without the labels. Source: HHM, 2016; aerial image from Google Earth.

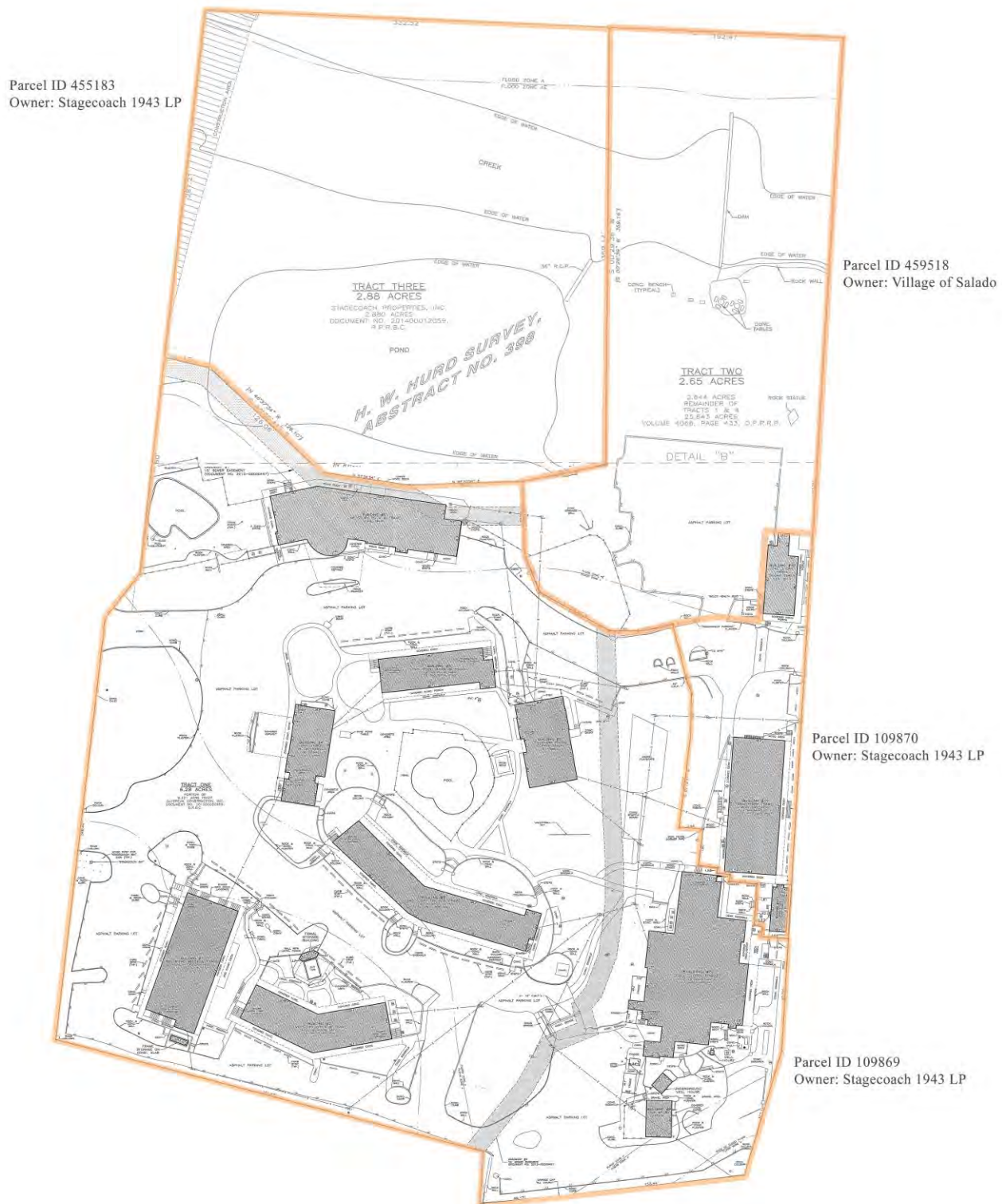


Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



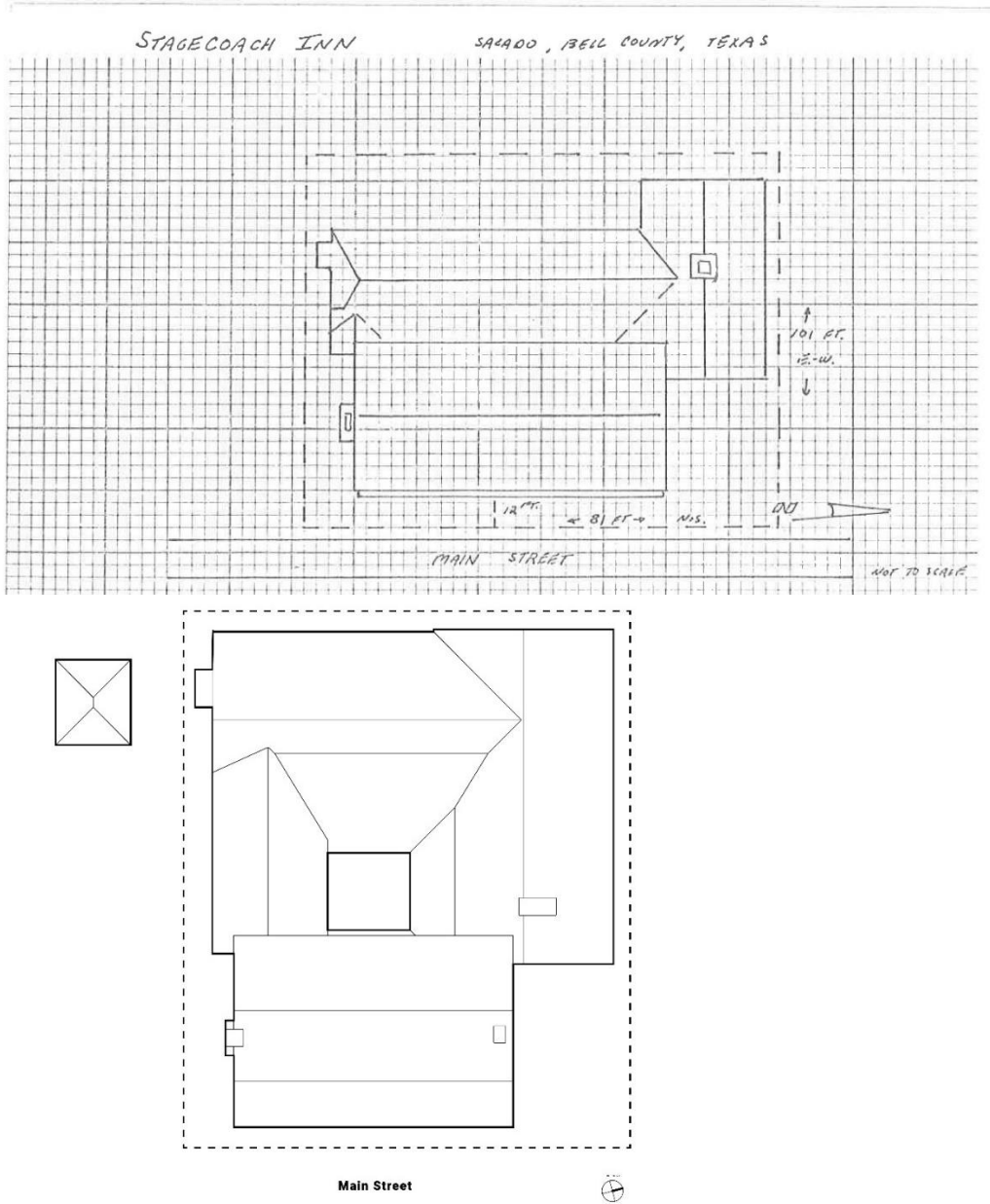
Map 2. Composite plan showing both the current interior plan of the restaurant (Resource 1) and the surrounding exterior site plan, including the stone house south of the restaurant (Resource 2) and the log cabin west of the restaurant (Resource 14). Source: HHM, 2016; Interior plan from Clayton Little Architects; Site plan from Texas Land Surveying, Inc., "Title Survey, Job. No. 14317", October 3, 2014.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



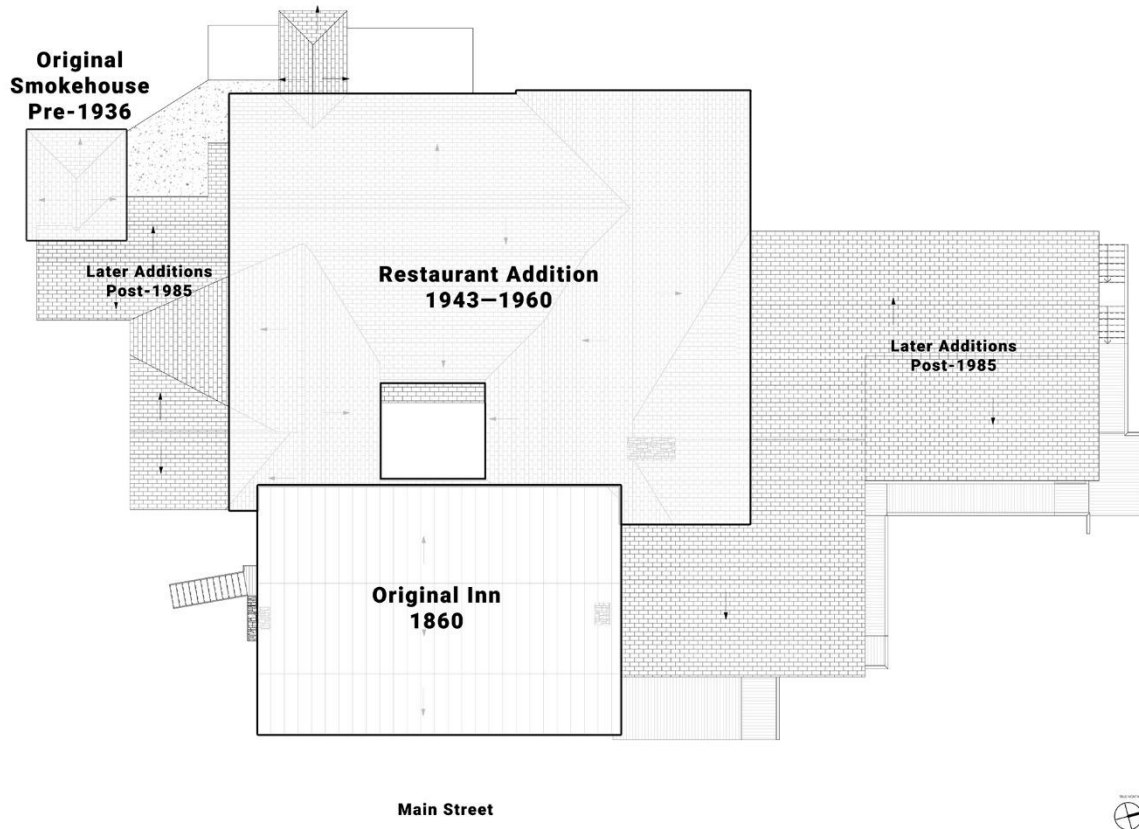
Map 3. Site plan showing features of the overall landscape (Resource 13). Source: HHM, 2016; Site plan from Texas Land Surveying, Inc., "Title Survey, Job. No. 14317", October 3, 2014.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



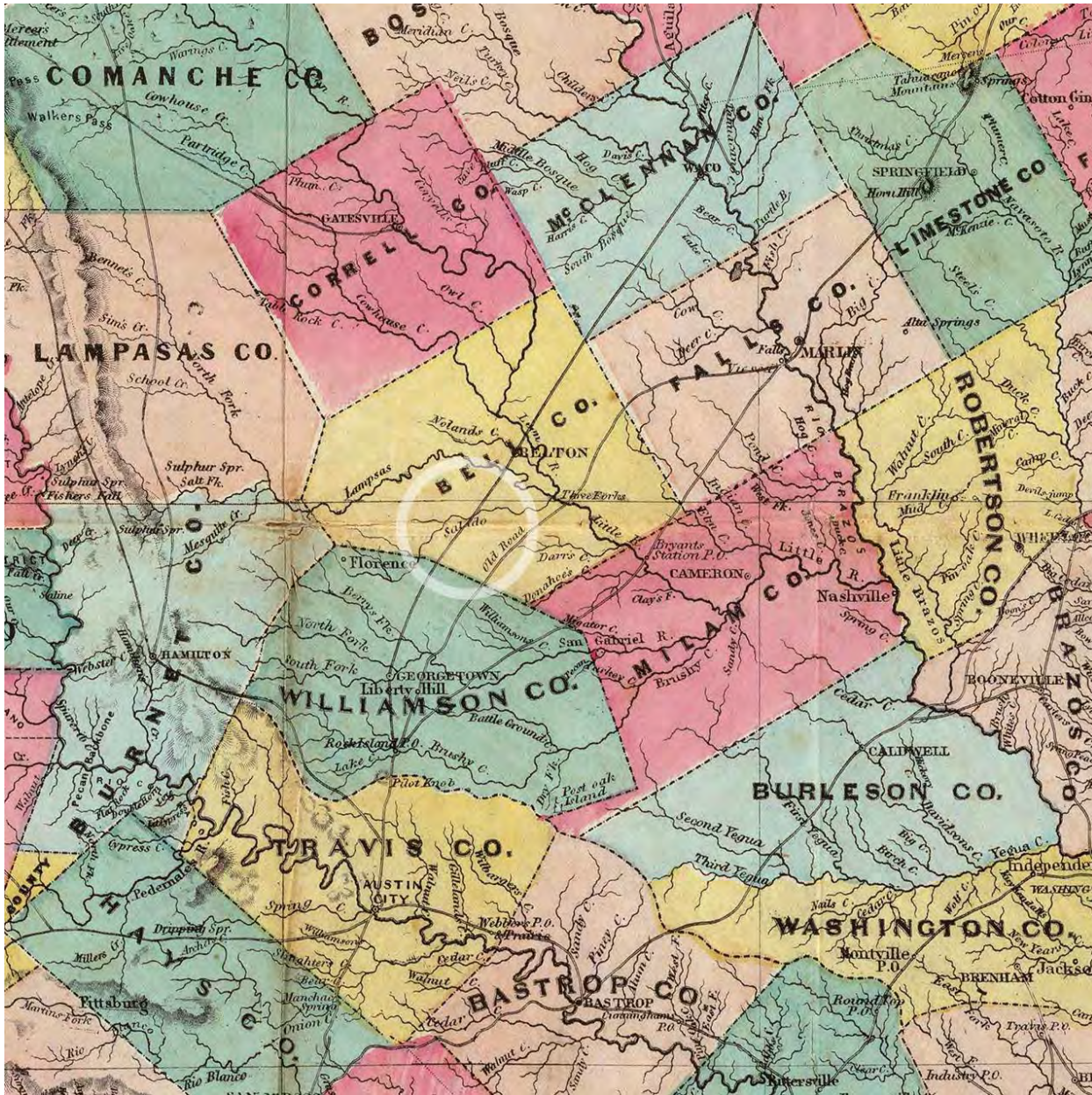
Map 4. (Top) The dotted line shows the original boundary of the Stagecoach Inn as drawn and nominated within the 1983 Salado Multiple Resource Area. The drawing inaccurately depicts the layout of the inn and its rear additions. (Below) Corrected drawing of the Stagecoach Inn as it appeared in 1983 with its original boundary. The small outbuilding to the south of the boundary is an early smokehouse but it was not included in the original nomination. See Map 5 for a more detailed diagram of the construction history of the inn and its additions. Source: Top image from Butler, 1983; Bottom image by HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



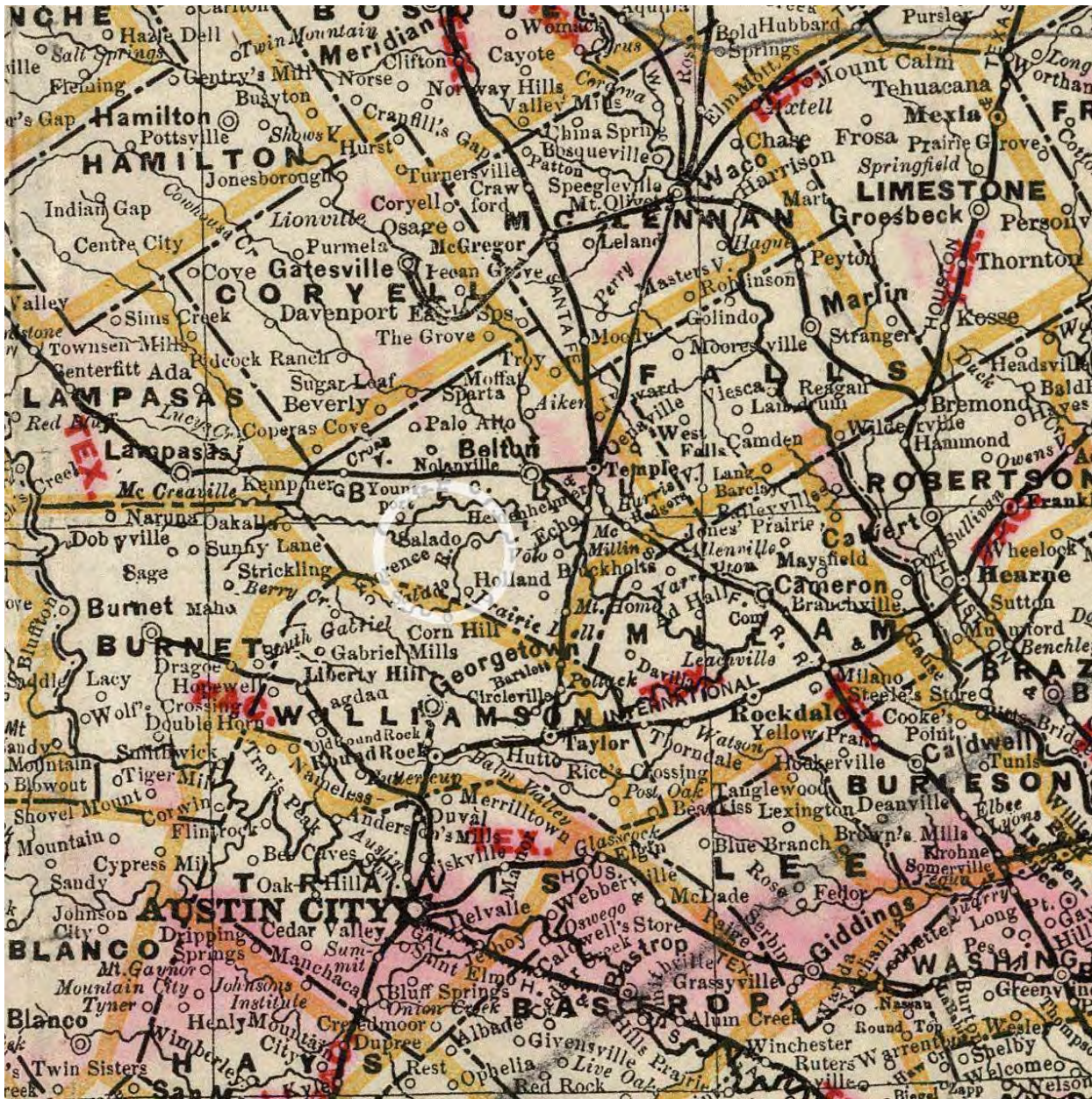
Map 5. Diagram of the Stagecoach Inn's construction history. Several rear additions were constructed between 1943 and 1960 and further additions were constructed after 1985. The historic inn continues to retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance, despite the additions and other changes made since it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. See Statement of Significance for further explanation and sources of additions and alterations. Source: HHM, 2016; Roof plan by Clayton Little Architects.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



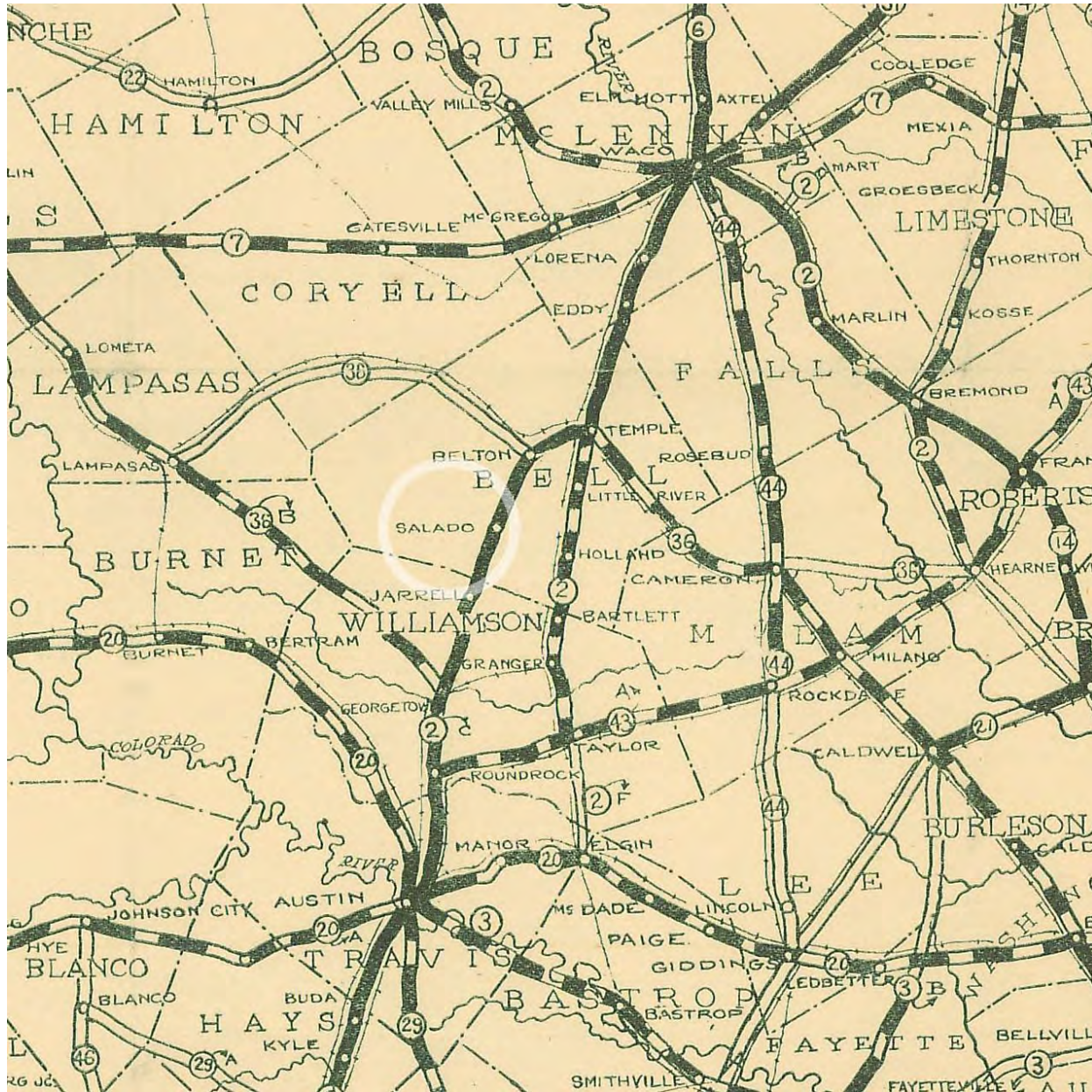
Map 6. Except from an 1856 map of Texas showing roads and waterways in Bell County and surrounding counties. White circle (added by HHM) shows future location of the town of Salado (platted in 1859) at the intersection of the Austin-to-Waco road and Salado Creek. Source: De Cordova, Jacob, *J. De Cordova's Map of The State Of Texas* (New York: J.H. Colton & Co., 1856), available online at <http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/zc9ju1>, accessed October 31, 2016, edited by HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



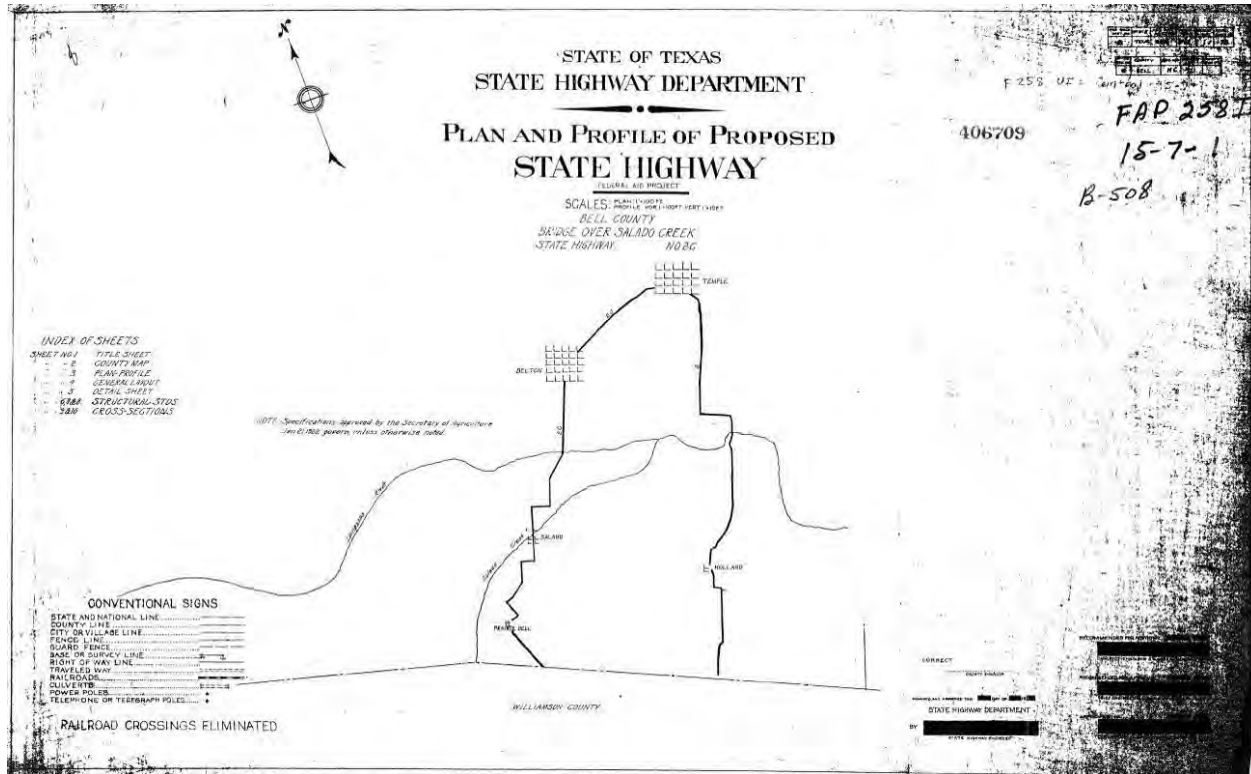
Map 7. Except from an 1887 map of Texas showing railroads and waterways in Bell County and surrounding counties. White circle (added by HHM) shows location of Salado. The railroad system in Texas bypassed Salado entirely. Source: Cram, George Franklin, *Railroad and County Map of Texas* (Chicago: George F. Cram, 1887), available online at <http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/s/s9kw9h>, accessed October 31, 2016, edited by HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



Map 8. Except from a 1922 map of Texas showing highways, railways and waterways in Bell County and surrounding counties. White circle (added by HHM) shows location of Salado on Highway 2-C. Solid black roads are “first class roads,” alternating black and white roads are “second class” and white roads are “third class.” Source: *Highway Map of the State of Texas* (Austin: Texas State Highway Department, 1922), available online at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/cgi-bin/aris/maps/maplookup.php?mapnum=6184>, accessed October 31, 2016, edited by HHM, 2016.

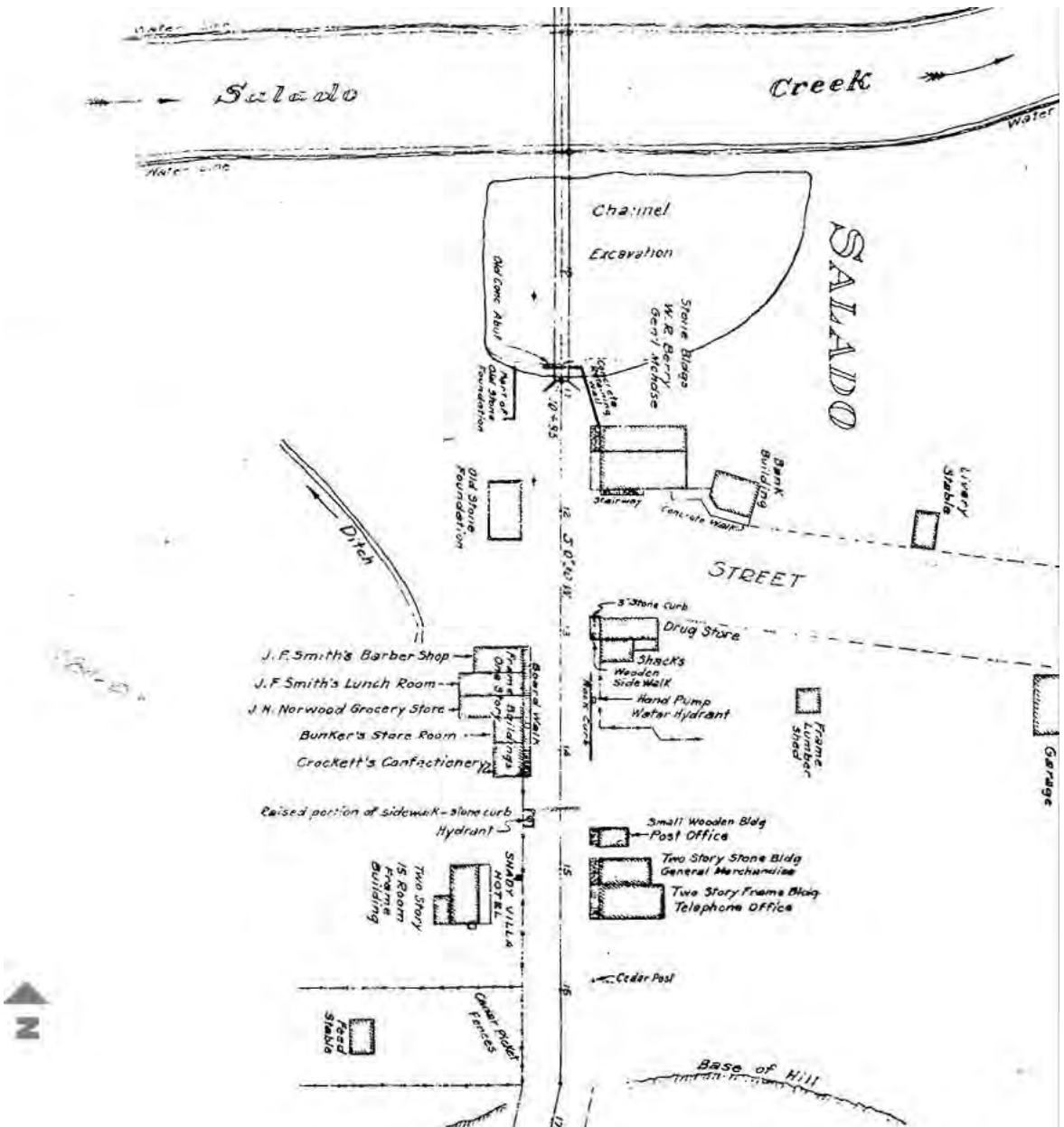
Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



Map 9. Cover sheet of 1922 Texas State Highway Department engineering drawings for State Highway 2-C from Temple to Belton, Salado, Prairie Dell, and southward towards Georgetown. The plans also include drawings for the current concrete bridge over Salado Creek. Map 10 shows an excerpt from page 3 of this drawing set. The earlier route of State Highway 2 is also shown here from Temple to Holland and southward toward Taylor. State Highway 2-C eventually became U.S. Highway 81 and later IH 35. Source: Texas Department of Transportation.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



Map 9. An excerpt from Page 3 of 1922 Texas State Highway Department engineering drawings for State Highway 2-C through the center of Salado. The plans also include drawings for the current concrete bridge over Salado Creek. Map 9 shows the cover sheet for this drawing set. This map depicts the buildings, business names and landscape features of downtown Salado along Highway 2-C in 1922, including the Shady Villa Hotel, described as a "two story 15 room frame building." Also depicted is the street side spring water well, described as a "hydrant" on a "raised portion of sidewalk-stone curb," and a "feed stable" to the southwest of the inn. Source: Texas Department of Transportation.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Map 11. Aerial photograph from 1953 of the town of Salado, showing U.S. Highway 81 running north-south through the town over Salado Creek. See Map 12 for a detail of the Stagecoach Inn property. Compare to 1963 aerial photograph in Map 13. Source: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), available from <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Map 12. Detail from an aerial photograph from 1953 of the town of Salado, showing the location of the Stagecoach Inn (white rectangle) on U.S. Highway 81. See Map 11 for the full image. Compare to 1963 aerial photograph in Map 14. Source: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), available from <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Map 13. Aerial photograph from 1963 of the town of Salado, showing Interstate Highway 35 running north-south past the town over Salado Creek. See Map 14 for a detail of the Stagecoach Inn property. Compare to the 1953 aerial photograph in Map 11. Source: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), available from <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



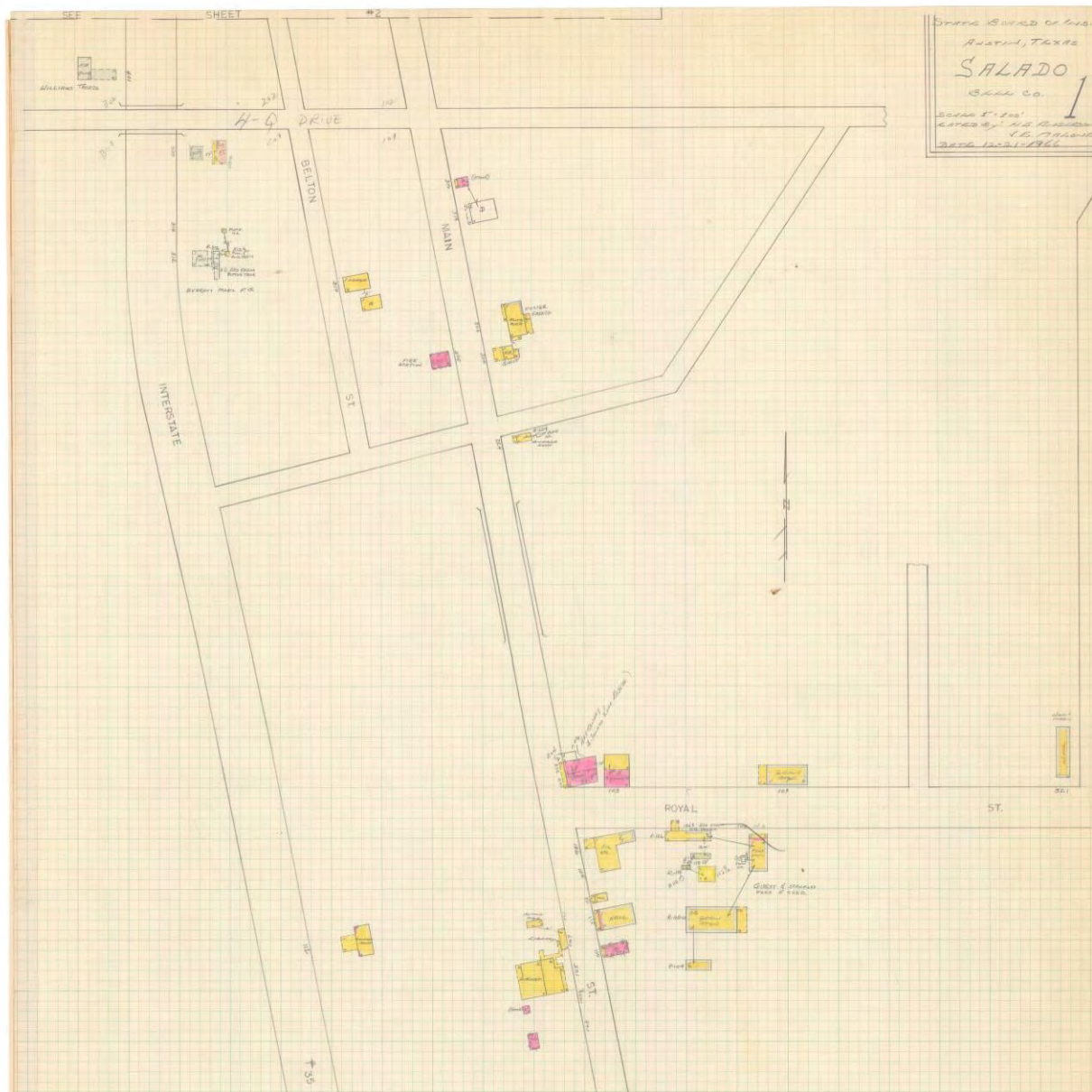
Map 14. Detail from an aerial photograph from 1963 of the town of Salado, showing the location of the Stagecoach Inn between Interstate Highway 35 and Main Street (formerly U.S. Highway 81). See Map 13 for the full image. Compare to 1953 aerial photograph in Map 12. This image shows all current resources except the 1970s lodging building (Resource 8) and the 1985 coffee shop (Resource 12). Source: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), available from <http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



Map 15. Except from a 1960 map of Texas showing highways and waterways in Bell County and surrounding counties. Grey circle (added by HHM) shows location of Salado on Interstate Highway 35. A portion of IH 35 in Williamson County, south of Salado, is still designated as U.S. Highway 81. Source: *Road Map of Texas* (Houston: Humble Oil & Refining Company, 1960), available online at <http://www.dfwfreeways.com/old-highway-maps>, accessed October 31, 2016, edited by HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



Map 16. Fire insurance map from 1966 of downtown Salado showing various buildings along IH 35 and Main Street, including the Stagecoach Inn near the bottom of the map. The old inn and its 1960 additions are drawn, along with the smokehouse and the stone house to the south. Of the five motel buildings constructed by this time, only the lobby is drawn (labeled as “coffee shop”). Note the gas stations constructed along the interstate at top. Source: *Salado, 1966* (Austin: Texas State Board of Insurance, 1966), available online at <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/fireinsurancemaps/items/show/34716>, accessed October 31, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

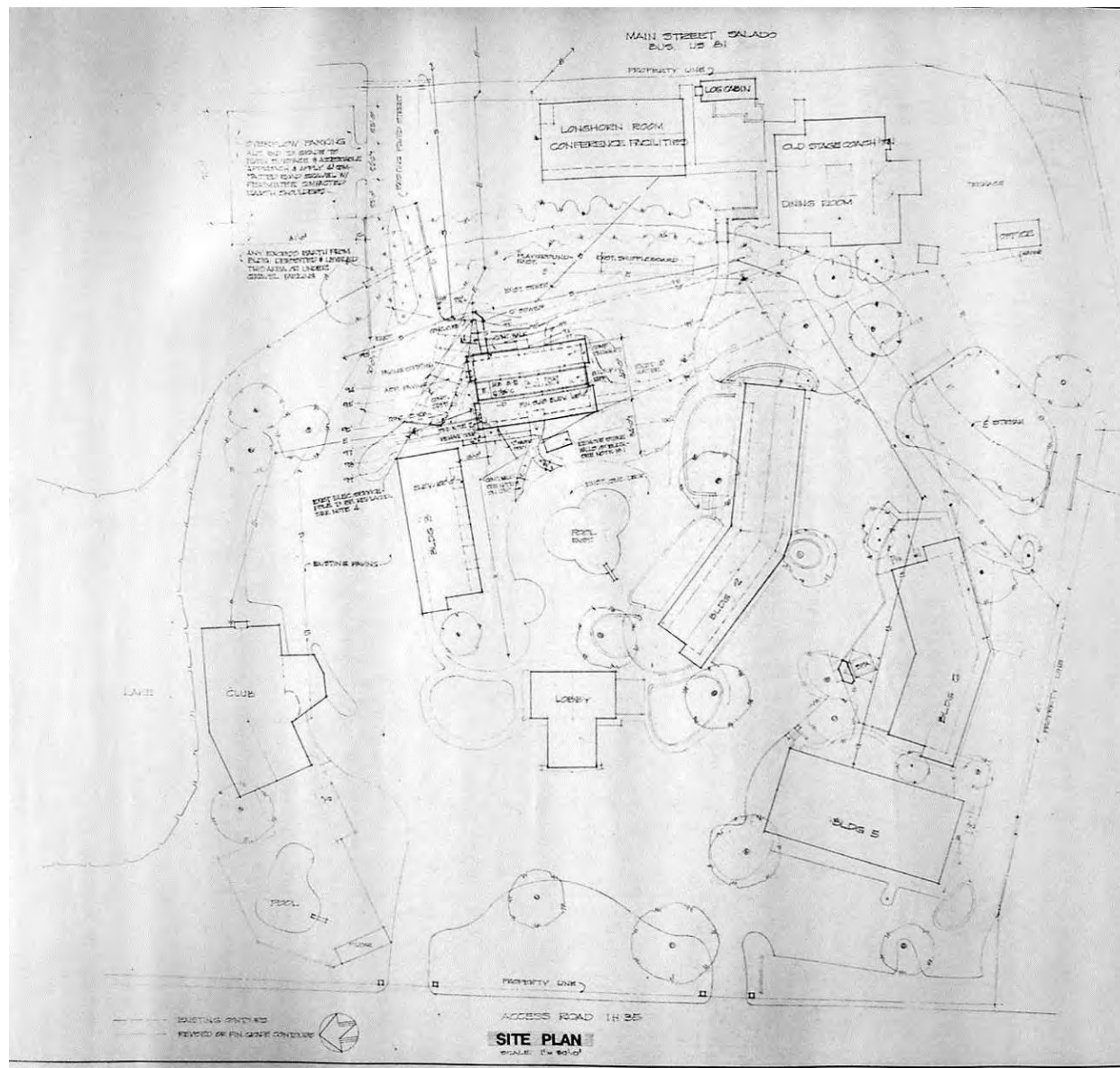
---



Map 17. Aerial photograph from about 1970 of the Stagecoach Inn complex showing all current buildings except the 1970s lodging building (Resource 8) and the 1985 coffee shop (Resource 12), view looking east. Source: Texas Department of Transportation, Communications Division, Media Production, Photo Library, Austin, Texas.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



Map 18. Site plan dated September 1984 of the Stagecoach Inn complex showing the siting of the new coffee shop (Resource 12) just east (above) the central clover-leaf pool (Resource 9). All four lodging buildings are depicted as existing by this time. Between 1984 and 2016 additions were constructed to the old inn, the lobby, and the clubhouse. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas; Drawing by Logsdon & Voelter Architects.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Map 19. Aerial photograph from ca. 2015 showing the current Stagecoach Inn complex. See Map 1 for a diagram of the site boundary and contributing and non-contributing resources. Source: Google Earth.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 1. Historic photograph (facing north) from the 19<sup>th</sup> century showing Main Street in Salado. The Stagecoach Inn is on the left. The two original chimneys are visible on the inn's south gable end. Of the other commercial buildings in the image, only the ca. 1870 Barbee-Berry Mercantile Building and the ca. 1870 Salado Grange Building (currently the Central Texas Area Museum) remain today. Source: Belton County Museum, Photograph 1995.004.0009.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 2. Historic photograph (facing west) from the August 20, 1908, “Interurbanfest,” held to promote an extension of the Temple-Belton Interurban Railway south to Salado. The Stagecoach Inn at the time was called both “Shady Villa,” per the sign in background and “Hotel Salado” by the photographer, George W. Hughes of Holland, TX. See “‘Temple and Salado Must Be Connected By An Interurban Line,’ Was The Dominating Note Thursday At Salado’s Interurbanfest,” in the August 21, 1908, edition of the *Temple Daily Telegram* for coverage of this event, including the taking of this photograph. Source: Belton County Museum, Photograph 1995.004.0010.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

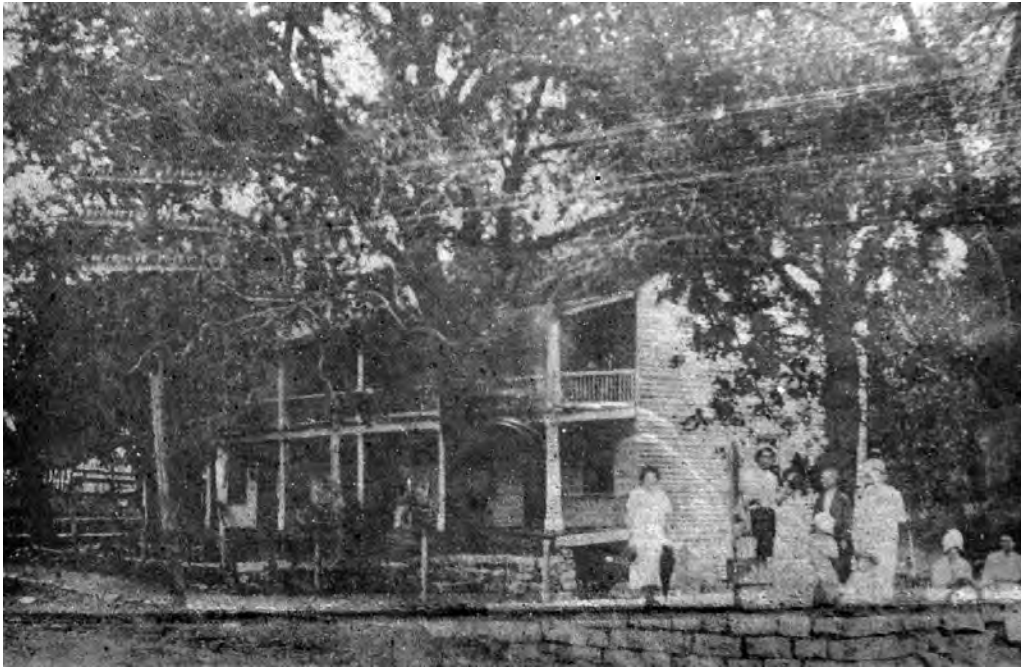


Figure 3. Historic photograph (facing southwest) from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century of the front of the Stagecoach Inn and the street-side spring water well. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 12. Source: Stagecoach Inn collection.



Figure 4. Historic photograph (facing southwest), possibly from the mid-1930s of the front of the Stagecoach Inn and the street-side spring water well when newspapers documented the construction of a new well. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 12. Source: Hodge.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 5. Historic photograph (facing north) after a snow storm of the Stagecoach Inn's south side in the early-to-mid 1930s, clearly showing both end chimneys and a non-extant rear kitchen addition with a raised water tank. Figure 10 shows these past rear additions more clearly. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 14. Source: Cutler.



Figure 6. Historic photograph (facing west) of the front of the Stagecoach Inn in the 1920s or 1930s, showing signage at the time. The sign to the far left reads "Shady Villa." Compare with the current photograph in Photo 1. Source: Tyler, 161.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 7. Historic photograph (unknown direction) of a barn once located on the grounds of the Stagecoach Inn in the 1920s or 1930s. Map 9 possibly depicts this structure as “Feed Stable” to the southwest of the inn. Source: Tyler, 161.



Figure 8. Historic photograph (facing west) from 1936 of the Stagecoach Inn’s east (front) side showing a corrugated metal roof. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 1. Source: Historic American Buildings Survey, “*Shady Villa*,” East access Road I-35, Salado, Bell County, TX, HABS No. TX-395 (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, compiled after 1933), retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/tx0156> (cited hereafter as *Shady Villa HABS TX-395*).

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 9. Historic photograph (facing south) from 1936 of the Stagecoach Inn's north side, showing both internal chimneys at this end (rear chimney is not extant) and a non-extant rear board-and-batten kitchen addition with a raised water tank. Note the bur oak directly in front of the rear kitchen is the tree in the central atrium today. The window configuration on this façade has been altered. An addition blocks this view currently but Photo 12 partially shows this façade. Source: Shady Villa HABS TX-395.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 10. Historic photograph (facing east) from 1936 of the Stagecoach Inn's west (rear) side showing a non-extant rear board-and-batten kitchen addition with a raised water tank. Note the bur oak at center is the tree in the central atrium today. An addition blocks this view currently but Photo 28 partially shows this façade from the atrium. Source: Shady Villa HABS TX-395.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 11.

Historic photograph (facing north) from 1936 of the Stagecoach Inn's south side showing a non-extant rear board-and-batten kitchen addition with a raised water tank. Both stone end chimneys on this end are visible through the trees (rear chimney is not extant). Compare with current photograph in Photo 14. Source: Shady Villa HABS TX-395.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 12. Historic photograph (facing east) from 1936 of the extant stone smokehouse in the rear yard of the Stagecoach Inn. The outbuilding has been incorporated into the current restaurant through additions. The rear of the inn is visible in the background. Compare with the current photographs in Photos 24 and 30. Source: 076-0696, General Photograph Collection, University of Texas at San Antonio, <http://digital.utsa.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/p9020coll008/id/8563/rec/1>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

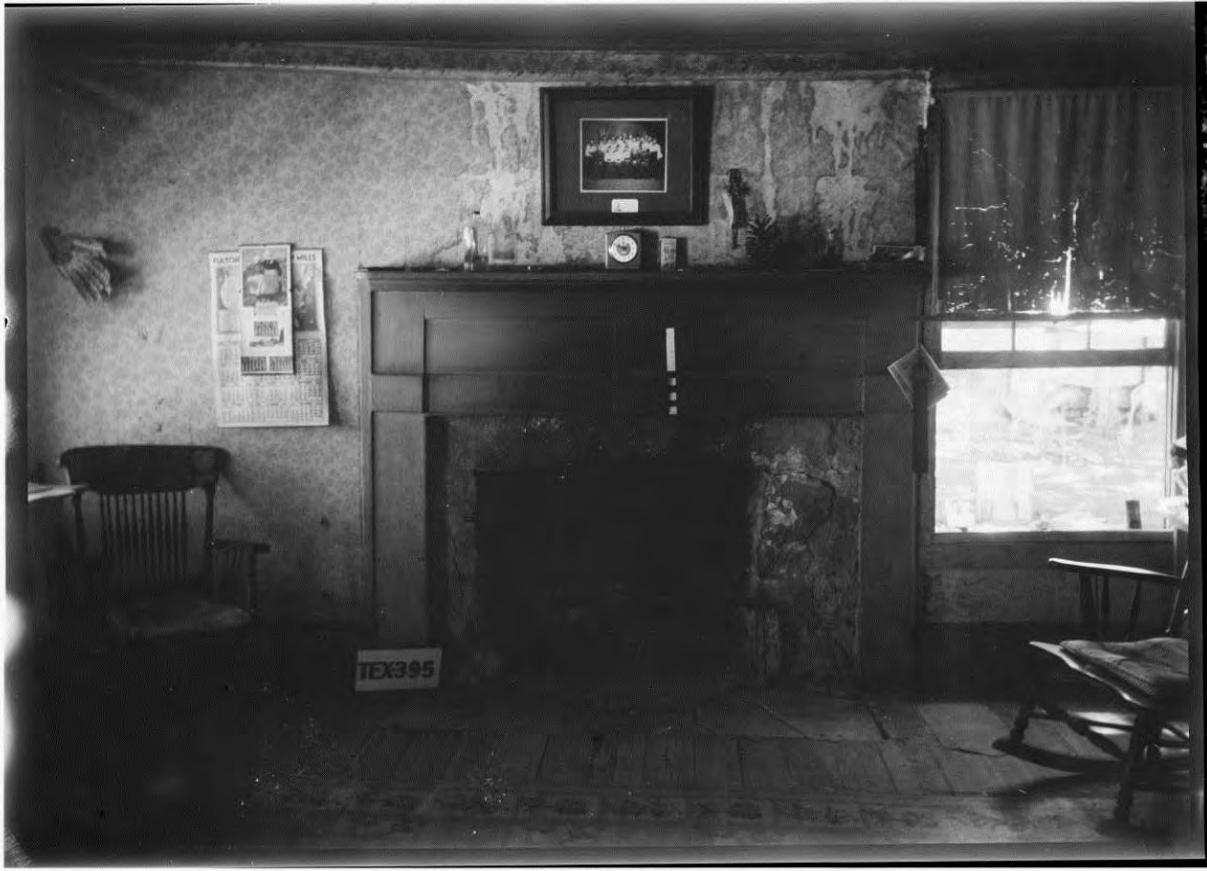


Figure 13. Historic photograph (facing south) from 1936 of the southeastern (front) fireplace on the first floor of the inn. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 16. Source: Source: Shady Villa HABS TX-395.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas



Figure 14. Historic photograph (facing west) published in Life Magazine in 1957, showing outdoor dining on the south side of the old stone outbuilding behind the old inn. The photo caption reads, "Outdoor dining area shaded by pecan tree is next to what was once smokehouse (right)." The article text cites an inaccurate construction year ("1840s"). Source: Bradley Smith, "Roadside Inns and Their Fine Food," *Life*, July 1, 1957, 66.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 15. Historic photograph (facing southwest), possibly from the late 1940s or 1950s of the front of the Stagecoach Inn. Note the sign which reads "Stagecoach Inn, Historical Stage Stop of Pioneer Days," the spring water well (non-extant) to the right, and the misaligned ground floor columns, a post-1935 modification that was restored to regular spacing after 1981. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 12. Source: Postcard sold on eBay, link not available.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

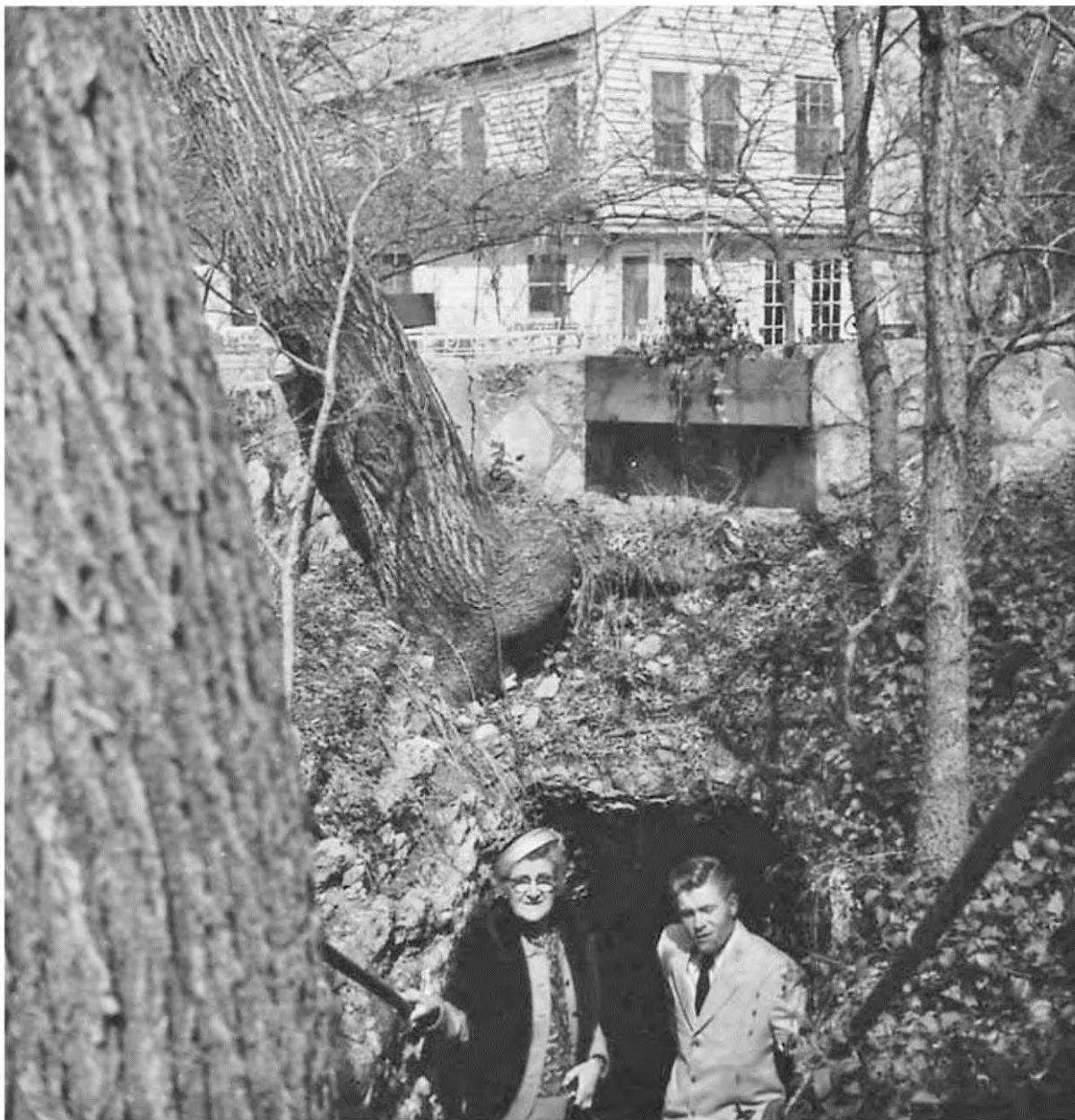


Figure 16. Historic photograph (facing northeast) of the entrance to the cave down to the spring-fed well on the south side the old inn (visible in the background), ca. 1960. This cave entrance was enclosed, likely in the late 1960s or 1970s, with a small gable roof enclosure. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 11. Source: “Traces of Texas” Facebook page crediting Ben Rehder, <https://www.facebook.com/TracesofTexas/photos/pb.105810232784448.-2207520000.1463312587./1008217285877067/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 17. Historic photograph (facing north) from 1960 of the central pool area of the motel resort (Resource 9), including the south side of one of the lodging buildings (Resource 5). Currently the pool has been enclosed with a fence, and the diving board and fountain have been removed. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 7. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 23. Historic photograph (facing south) of one of the lodging buildings (Resource 6) and the central pool area (Resource 9). Note the curvilinear stone retaining walls. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 33. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 19. Historic photograph (facing east) from 1960 of the interior of the lobby building (Resource 3). The flooring, lighting fixtures, and furniture have been replaced. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 37. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 20. Historic photograph (facing west) from 1960 of the interior of the clubhouse building (Resource 4). The flooring, lighting fixtures, and furniture have been replaced. Compare with current photograph in Photo 41. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 21. Historic photograph (facing east) from 1960 of the interior of the clubhouse building (Resource 5). The flooring, lighting fixtures, and furniture have been replaced. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 42. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 22. Historic photograph from 1960 of one of the motel rooms with Danish-inspired modern furniture. All furniture and finishes have been replaced. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 48. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 23. Historic photograph (facing east) from 1960 of the interior of the rear dining hall addition to the 1860 building. Note the air conditioning diffusers in the ceiling. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 26. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 24. Historic photograph (facing southeast) dated June 20, 1961, of the Stagecoach Inn motel resort entrance, from the I-35 frontage road. Visible is the lobby building (foreground, Resource 3) and the three surrounding lodging buildings (Resources 5, 6, 7). Compare with the current photograph in Photo 2. Source: Stagecoach Inn archives, Salado, Texas.



Figure 25. Historic photograph (facing southwest) April 1963, showing the front of the old inn and part of its 1960 rear addition, including a non-extant covered walkway. The roof edge seen at the very right is part of the adjacent log cabin. The large pecan tree at center was removed after 1981. Compare with Photo 12. Source: Texas Department of Transportation, Communications Division, Media Production, Photo Library, Austin, Texas.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 26. Historic photograph (facing north) from 1970 of the front porch of the Stagecoach Inn. The stone porch floor has been replaced with composite wood boards, the window and door screens have been removed, and the light fixtures have been replaced. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 13. Source: The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas Libraries, crediting Texas Historical Commission, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph680516/>, accessed October 17, 2016.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 27. Historic photograph (facing west) from 1981 of the front of the Stagecoach Inn. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 1. Source: The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas Libraries, crediting Texas Historical Commission, <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph673303/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 28. Historic photograph (facing west) from 1981 of the front of the Stagecoach Inn, showing the non-extant outdoor covered walkway. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 12. Source: The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas Libraries, crediting Texas Historical Commission, <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph673303/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 29. Historic photograph (facing east) from 1981 of the rear of the Stagecoach Inn, showing the rear of the 1960 dining room addition. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 29. Source: The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas Libraries, crediting Texas Historical Commission, <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph673303/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 30. Historic photograph (facing northeast) from 1981 of the rear of the Stagecoach Inn, showing the rear of the 1960 dining room addition. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 30. Source: The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas Libraries, crediting Texas Historical Commission, <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph673303/>, accessed October 17, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Figure 31. Photograph (facing south), ca. 1992, of the small dining area north of the enclosed atrium surrounding the large oak tree behind the old inn. The trellis roof over the atrium is not extant. Note the finger-sized hush puppies at center, a Stagecoach Inn staple. Compare with the current photograph in Photo 27 (taken from the south side of the atrium). Source: Texas Department of Transportation, Communications Division, Media Production, Photo Library, Austin, Texas.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 1. Current photograph (facing west) of the east (front) side of the 1860 building (Resource 1). Compare to historic photographs in Figures 6, 8, and 27. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 2. Current photograph (facing south) of the west entrance to the Stagecoach Inn, facing onto the frontage road of IH 35, including the highway sign (Resource 11). Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 24. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 3. Current photograph (facing north) of the manmade pond and the IH-35 bridge over Salado Creek. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 4. Current photograph (facing east) of the south entrance onto Main Street, including the stone house (Resource 2), behind the wooden fence at center. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 5. Current photograph (facing east) of the northwest corner of the restaurant (Resource 1), showing the post-1985 addition next to the small stream running through the property. Source: HHM, 2016.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 6. Current photograph (facing north) of the tree-lined driveway through the property. The street crosses a small stream via a culvert at center. Source: HHM, 2016



Photo 7. Current photograph (facing north) of the motel resort landscape, including the central clover-leaf pool area (Resource 9) and the north lodging building (Resource 5), both from 1960. Note the original curvilinear retaining walls surrounding the pool area and the wide stone steps leading down from the south lodging building. The fence surrounding the pool and the handrails are not original. Compare with the historic photograph in Figure 17. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 8. Current photograph (facing southwest) of the motel resort landscape, showing the 1960 lodging building (Resource 6) south of the central pool area. The pool area (Resource 9) is just visible to the right. Note the curvilinear retaining walls surrounding the pool area and the wide stone steps leading from down the south lodging building, both original to 1960. The fence surrounding the pool and the handrails are not original. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 9. Current photograph (facing west) of the rear of the 1960 lobby building (Resource 3), facing onto the central pool area (Resource 9). Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 10. Current photograph (facing west) of terraced side yard with the bent oak tree south of the 1860 building. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 11. Current photograph (facing north) of the late 1960s or 1970s enclosure over a spring water cave. Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 16. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---

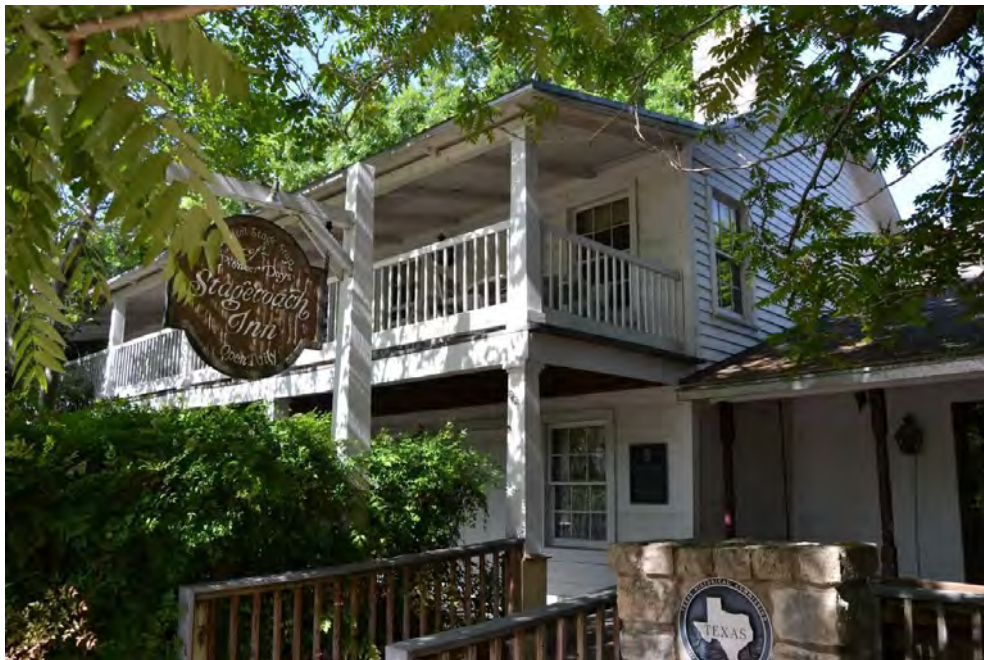


Photo 12. Current photograph (facing southwest) of the east (front) and north sides of the 1860 building. The “Stagecoach Inn” sign is not original, nor is it in the original location. The post-1985 addition is visible to the right. Compare to the historic photographs in Figures 3, 4, 9, 15, 25, 28. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 13. Current photograph (facing south) of the front porch of the 1860 building. The porch floor and the bases of the porch columns have been replaced. Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 26. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 14. Current photograph (facing northwest) of the east (front) and south sides of the 1860 building. A second external chimney to the rear of the current stone chimney was removed in the 1940s. The wood stairway to the left is not original. Compare to the historic photographs in Figures 5 and 11. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 15. Current photograph (facing south) of the second floor of the original 1860 building. The roof structure is supported by a central load-bearing wall dividing the front and rear rooms. In many locations throughout the building, unhewn and rough-hewn wood structural elements are visible. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 16. Current photograph (facing south) of the southeastern fireplace on the first floor of the original 1860 building. Wall finishes, fireplace details, and hardware have changed. Wooden floors, ceilings, and window and door trim likely date to the period of significance. Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 13. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 17. Current photograph (facing north) of the northeastern fireplace on the first floor of the original 1860 building. Wall finishes, fixtures, fireplace details, and hardware have changed. Wooden floors, ceilings, and window and door trim likely date to the period of significance. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 18. Current photograph (facing north) of the northeastern fireplace on the second floor of the original 1860 building. Fireplace details and hardware have changed. Wooden floors, walls, ceilings, and window and door trim likely date to the period of significance. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 19. Current photograph (facing north) of the northwestern fireplace on the first floor of the original 1860 building. Wall finishes, fixtures, fireplace details, and hardware have changed. Wooden floors, ceilings, and window and door trim likely date to the period of significance. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 20. Current photograph (facing northeast) of the roof structure in the original 1860 building, as seen in the attic. Note that older components such as the un-hewn wood rafters have been reinforced by more recent structural members. These conditions are visible in the attic and basement. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 21. Current photograph (facing east) of the crawl space under the first floor of the original 1860 building showing un-hewn logs used as floor joists. In many locations throughout the building, un-hewn and rough-hewn wood structural elements are visible. Source: HHM, 2016.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 22. Current photograph (facing east) of an exposed post-and-girt structural joint in the original 1860 building, as seen at the southeast corner of the second floor. In many locations throughout the building, unhewn and rough-hewn wood structural elements are visible. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 23. Current photograph (facing southeast) of the pre-1936 stone smokehouse. Once a freestanding outbuilding, the smokehouse was incorporated into later rear additions to the inn and is now used for kitchen storage. Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 12. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 24. Current photograph (facing southwest) of a small ca. 1930s stone house, possibly meant as a spring water bathhouse (Resource 2). Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 25. Current photograph (facing west) of the log cabin moved to the current site in ca. 1935 (Resource 14). Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 26. Current photograph (facing east) of the 1960 dining room addition to the rear of the original 1860 building. The stone fireplace and wood ceiling coffers are original. All other finishes and fixtures have been replaced. Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 23. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 27. Current photograph (facing north) of the ca. 1960 central atrium surrounding the large bur oak tree, part of the rear addition to the original 1860 building. Originally, the atrium featured a wood trellis and lush vegetation. Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 31. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 28. Current photograph (facing north) of the west (rear) side of the 1860 building (visible with horizontal wood siding) and its ca. 1960 rear addition surrounding a large bur oak, taken from the central atrium. The double windows on the upper floor may be original but are not in their original configuration. Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 10. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 29. Current photograph (facing southeast) of the ca. 1960 dining room extension to the rear of the original 1860 building. Compare to the historic photograph in Figure 29. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 30. Current photograph (facing east) of the inn's rear additions. The stone structure is an original pre-1936 smokehouse. The other structures are a combination of additions constructed in phases after 1943. Compare to the historic photographs in Figures 12 and 30. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 31. Current photograph (facing southeast) of the dining room extension built sometime after 1985 to the south of the ca. 1960 addition. The design of the additions built after 1985 are compatible with the original 1860 building and allow it to retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance. Source: HHM, 2016.

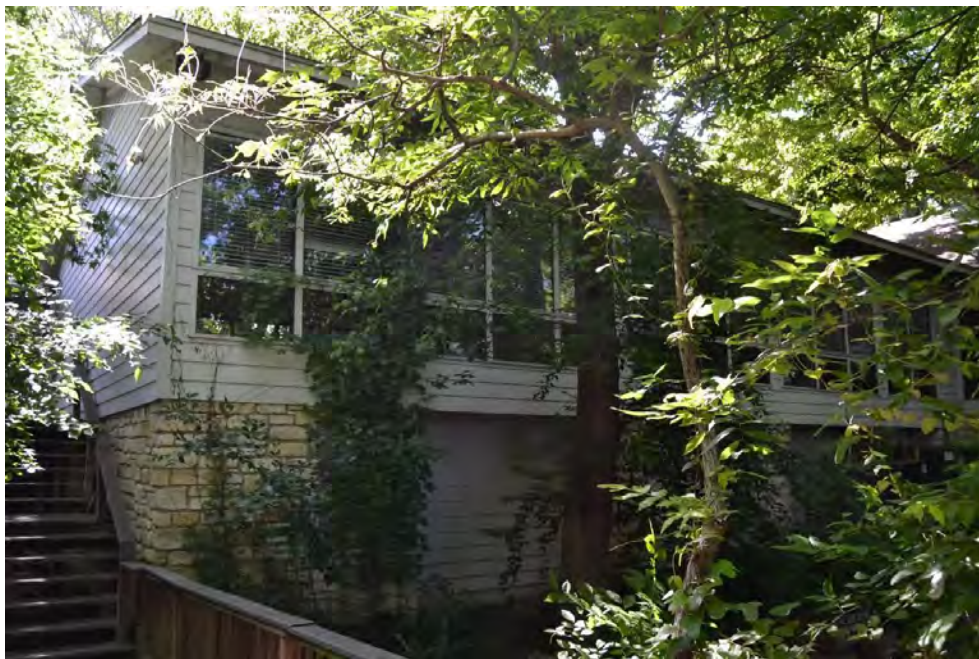


Photo 32. Current photograph (facing southeast) of the dining room extension built sometime after 1985 to the north of the ca. 1960 addition. The design of the additions built after 1985 are compatible with the original 1860 building and allow it to retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 33. Current photograph (facing north) of the motel resort landscape, showing the 1960 lodging building (Resource 6) south of the central pool area. A later, non-contributing lodging building (Resource 8) constructed between 1970 and 1985 is barely visible through the trees in the distance at right. Note the original 1960 curvilinear retaining walls and the curving stone steps leading up to the south lodging buildings. Compare with the historic photograph in Figure 23. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 34. Current photograph (facing east) of the motel resort landscape, showing the 1960 lodging building at left (Resource 6) south of the central pool area and a later non-contributing lodging building (Resource 8) in the background, constructed between 1970 and 1985. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 35. Current photograph (facing west) of the entrance driveway and the 1960 sign facing onto Interstate 35. The base of the sign has been modified and made taller. The reconstructed stagecoach was built by Harry Donaldson of Waco in 1989. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 36. Current photograph (facing east) of the 1960 lobby building (Resource 3). The south gable-roof extension is a later ca. 1985 addition. The design of the addition is compatible with the original 1960 building and allows it to retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance. Compare with the historic photograph in Figure 24. Source: HHM, 2016.



Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 37. Current photograph (facing east) of the interior of the 1960 lobby building (Resource 3). Note the original stone fireplace, painted wood ceiling, and rear window wall. Other finishes and fixtures have been replaced. Compare with the historic photograph in Figure 19. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 38. Current photograph (facing northwest) at the canopy of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4). Note the curving stone wall leading to the front door. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 39. Current photograph (facing east) of the west side of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4). The miniature golf course is not original. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 40. Current photograph (facing west) at the 1960 pool area (Resource 10), next to the clubhouse building (Resource 4), both from 1960. The miniature golf course and the curving slide are not original. Compare with the historic photograph in Figure 20 (visible outside of the window wall). Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 41. Current photograph (facing west) from the interior of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4) facing out into the side pool area (Resource 10). The exposed wood rafter ceiling and window wall are original, but other finishes and fixtures are not. Compare with the historic photograph in Figure 20. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 42. Current photograph (facing east) from the interior of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4). The exposed wood rafter ceiling and stone fireplace are original, but other finishes and fixtures are not. Compare with the historic photograph in Figure 21. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 43. Current photograph (facing south) from the interior of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4), showing the curving stone wall visible from the front of the building. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 44. Current photograph (facing west) at the east side of the 1960 clubhouse building (Resource 4), showing the ca. 2005 addition to the building (including the chimney). The design of the addition is compatible with the original 1960 building and allows it to retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 45. Current photograph (facing northeast) of the 1960 lodging building (Resource 5) north of the central pool area. Note the board-and-batten siding, painted brick with squeezed mortar joints, and the exposed post-and-beam feature surrounding the exterior stairwell. This building is one-room deep with room entrances on both sides of the building. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 46. Current photograph (facing northeast) of the 1960 lodging building (Resource 6) south of the central pool area. Note the board-and-batten siding, painted brick with squeezed mortar joints, and the exposed post-and-beam feature surrounding the exterior stairwell. This building is one-room deep with room entrances on both sides of the building. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 47. Current photograph (facing north) of the 1960 lodging building (Resource 5) north of the central pool area. Note the board-and-batten siding, painted brick with squeezed mortar joints and original wrought iron patio furniture. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 48. Current photograph at typical room in the 1960 lodging building. All fixtures, finishes and furniture have been replaced. Compare with historic photograph in Figure 22. Source: HHM, 2016.



Figure 49. Current photograph (facing northeast) of the 1960 lodging building (Resource 7) at the southwest corner of the property. Note the board-and-batten siding, painted brick with squeezed mortar joints, and the exposed post-and-beam feature surrounding the exterior stairwell. Unlike the other original lodging buildings (Resources 5 and 6), this building is two-rooms deep with an interior central hallway. Source: HHM, 2016.

Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

---



Photo 50. Current photograph (facing northeast) of the non-contributing lodging building (Resource 8) built between 1970 and 1985 at the southern edge of the property. The design of this building is compatible with the original 1960 buildings and allows them to retain sufficient integrity to convey their significance. Source: HHM, 2016.



Photo 51. Current photograph (facing north) of the non-contributing coffee shop building (Resource 12), built ca. 1985 to the east of the central pool area. The design of this building is compatible with the original 1960 buildings and allows them to retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance. Source: HHM, 2016.

- end -







THE STAGECOACH  
INN





















Historical Stage Stop  
of  
Pioneer Days  
Stagecoach  
Inn  
Open Daily















EXIT





ENJOY YOURSELF -  
IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK

















EXIT



















THE  
STAGECOACH  
INN





REGISTRATION







**POOL REED**  
BARBERSHOP - 10:00 AM  
CLOSET - 10:00 AM  
FRONT PORCH - 10:00 AM  
LOBBY - 10:00 AM  
OFFICE - 10:00 AM  
RESTROOMS - 10:00 AM  
STAIRS - 10:00 AM  
TENNIS COURT - 10:00 AM  
TRUCKS - 10:00 AM  
WATER - 10:00 AM  
WHEELCHAIR - 10:00 AM  
WOODS - 10:00 AM

NO BALLS IN HOLE  
NO BALLS IN POCKET  
NO BALLS IN STRIKER





























Stagecoach  
INN  
COFFEE  
SHOP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Boundary Update

Property Name: Stagecoach Inn (Boundary Increase)

Multiple Name: Salado MRA

State & County: TEXAS, Bell

Date Received: 8/25/2017      Date of Pending List: 9/19/2017      Date of 16th Day: 10/4/2017      Date of 45th Day: 10/10/2017      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: BC100001721

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      10/10/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Stagecoach Inn (Boundary Increase/Additional Documentation) augments the 1983 listing of Salado's Stagecoach Inn to include the entire commercial parcel associated with the historic inn and its circa 1960s expansion into a highway-servicing motel resort complex. The new boundary expands the original district listing by almost 12 acres and includes locally significant examples of modernist-designed motel architecture and a resort landscape design by California architect James R. Fetridge and landscape designers Marie and Arthur Berger. The expanded listing illustrates the evolving nature of transportation and settlement history in Salado and its impact on commerce, recreation and architecture. (Added Areas of Significance are Transportation, Recreation/Entertainment, and Landscape Architecture with a new Period of Significance under NR Criterion A and C of 1860-1960. (Original nomination--Exploration/Settlement and Architecture, 1850-74). Accept Boundary Increase

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation

Reviewer Paul Lusignan      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229      Date 10/10/2017

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

*real places telling real stories*



TO: Edson Beall  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas

DATE: August 11, 2017

The following materials are submitted:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Stagecoach Inn (Amendment to Increase Boundary), Salado, Bell County, Texas
	Resubmitted nomination.
X	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk.
	Resubmitted form.
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	Correspondence.

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do ) (do not ) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

