

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

TITLE: Historic Resources of Grundy County

COUNTY: Grundy  
SITE: 5

HISTORIC NAME: Stagecoach Inn  
COMMON NAME: Stagecoach Inn  
ADDRESS: Colony Road  
Gruetli, Tennessee

OWNER: Joe E. Morgan  
ADDRESS: General Delivery  
Gruetli, Tennessee 37339

HISTORIC USE: Residence/Inn            CURRENT USE: Residence  
CATEGORY/BUILDING TYPE: Building/Residence  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1875            ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown  
ORIGINAL SITE: yes    MOVED: N/A    DATE: N/A  
ORIGINAL OWNER/SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS: Christian Marugg, John Schild

HAS THIS PROPERTY BEEN DETERMINED ELIGIBLE?    no    DATE: N/A

CONTRIBUTING:		NON-CONTRIBUTING:	
buildings	1	buildings	1
structures	0	structures	1
sites	0	sites	0
objects	0	objects	0
TOTAL	1	TOTAL	2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries for the Stagecoach Inn begin at a point approximately 250 feet from the southern most property line and Colony Road. The boundary goes westerly along the south fence line approximately 100 feet, thence northerly along the west fence line approximately 125 feet, thence easterly along the north fence line approximately 100 feet and thence southerly along Colony Road approximately 125 feet to the point of beginning. See Map #5. This includes the portion of the original farm tract that retains its historical integrity and association with the Inn.

ACREAGE: less than one acre  
UTM REFERENCE: Altamont, Tennessee 99NW  
16/621040/3917960

SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

John Schild, Gruetli, Telephone Interview, October 1986

PREPARED BY: Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist  
ADDRESS: Tennessee Historical Commission  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM - CONTINUATION SHEET

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DESCRIPTION:

The Stagecoach Inn is a two and a half story weatherboard frame house that sits close to Colony Road. The southeast facade of the house, which now serves as the front of the house, is a three bay gable end with a shed roof open frame porch extending the length of the house. The porch roof is supported by simple square post with scroll work brackets. The entrance is a single leaf door with two wood panels and four lights. The entrance appears to have been added, along with the porch, circa 1910 when the southeast facade became the front of the inn.

The northeast facade, which faces the road, is six bays wide and has a center single leaf entrance identical to the door on the main facade and is sheltered by a simple shed roof. A concrete block chimney (c. 1975) has been added immediately south of the entrance. The upper floor windows on all facades are six over six double hung and the first floor windows are eight light casement windows, which appear to be a later renovation. The northeast facade was the original front or main facade of the inn.

The rear or northwest side of the house is similar to the southeast side, three bays wide with a single leaf center entrance and a shed roof porch. The rear porch is supported by wrought iron porch supports and has no floorboards, but instead extends a hard packed earth floor. The southwest side of the house has a one story shed roof addition that extends three-fourths the length of the house. The one-story addition is deteriorated and has been partially torn down.

The interior of the house has had only minor alterations on the first floor and retains many original features including the tongue and groove paneled walls and ceilings. The first floor contains three major rooms, the kitchen, a middle room and the living room. A wall has been removed from the middle room to enlarge the floor space and a modern bath added at the southwest end. The living room contains a stone fireplace that is made from three large dressed stones. Two of the stones support the third stone which serves as a mantel. A large hole has been bored through the horizontal stone to create a flue.

The second story of the house contains eight bedrooms, five on the northeast side and three on the southwest side. The upstairs hallway is unpainted and retains the original oiled board and batten paneling and built-in cupboards. Several of the entrances into the bedrooms share a common door frame. The only alterations to the upstairs rooms has been the addition of built-in shelves and paint. The staircase entrances to both the second floor and the attic are round arched doorways with a single curved lintel board. The attic is a large unfinished room with the truss system exposed.

There are two small, non-contributing outbuilding located directly behind the house, a deteriorating log smokehouse and a concrete block pumphouse.

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**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**CRITERIA:** A

**CONSIDERATION:** N/A

**AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Settlement, Commerce, Ethnic Heritage

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE/SIGNIFICANT DATES:** c.1875 - 1915

**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Local

The Stagecoach Inn is being nominated to the National Register under criterion A for its significance in the Swiss settlement of Gruetli, Grundy County, Tennessee. The Stagecoach Inn was built in c.1875 by Christian Marugg, one of the earliest Swiss settlers in Gruetli. The inn reportedly took five years to build and served as both a residence for the Marugg family and as an inn on the McMinnville-Chattanooga stagecoach line, an important and major route through Grundy County. Christian Marugg was a prominent member in the Swiss colony of Gruetli. He served as postmaster, storekeeper, maintained a printing press and made wine that won prizes at the New Orleans agricultural fair. Martin and Rudolph Marugg, sons of Christian Marugg, were also prominent and influential residents of the Swiss settlement.

At an early unknown date the inn transferred to John and Barbara Marugg (daughter of Christian) Schild. The Schild family continued to operate the Stagecoach Inn until approximately 1915. The inn served as a social gathering place for several years around the turn of the century, with dances held every weekend on the first floor. The inn has also served as both a grocery and a winery.

The Stagecoach Inn is an excellent example of an early Swiss colony building used for both a residential and commercial purposes. The inn is the only known extant commercial building remaining from the Swiss settlement of Gruetli, an important and successful ethnic community in Tennessee.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

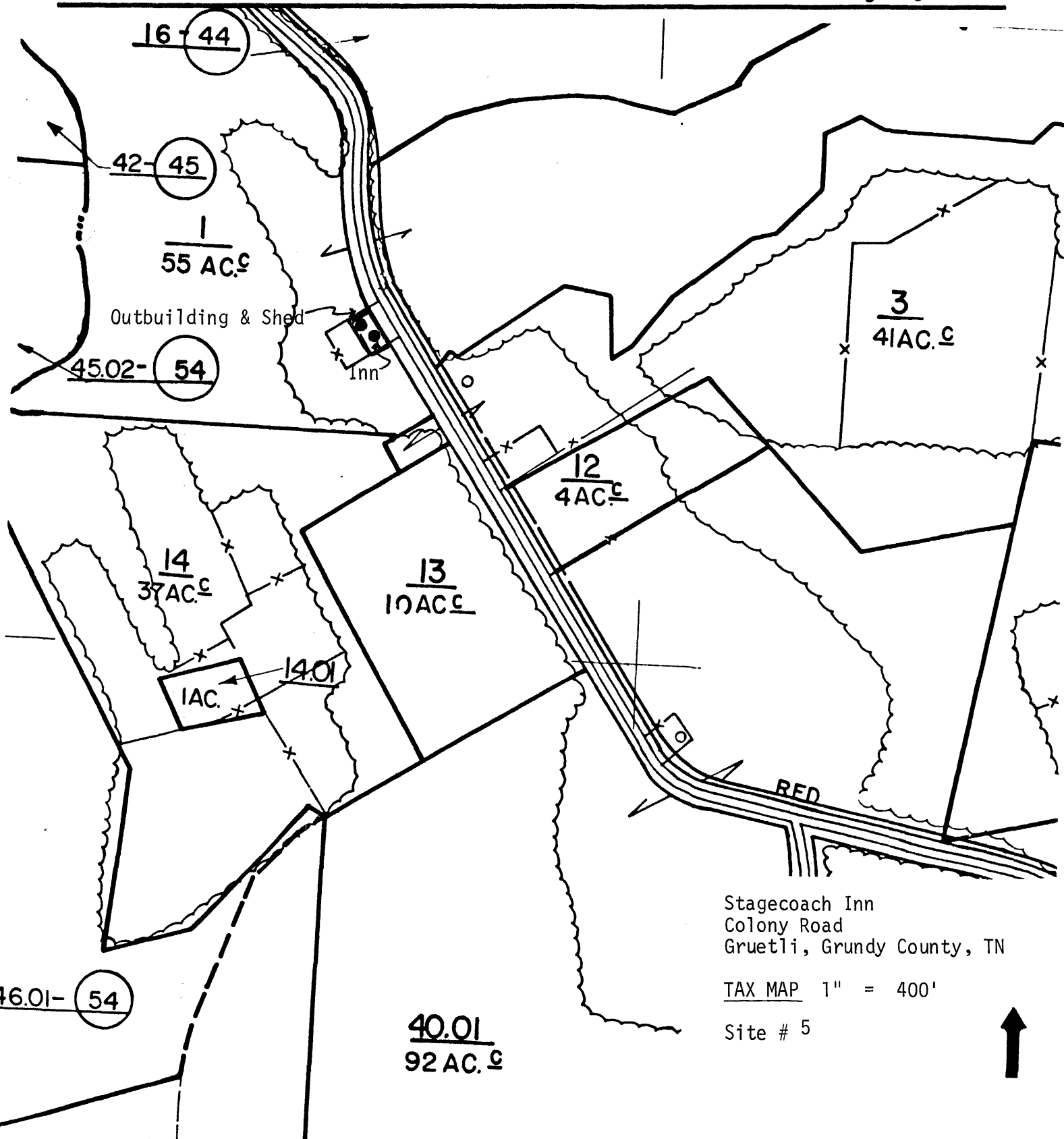
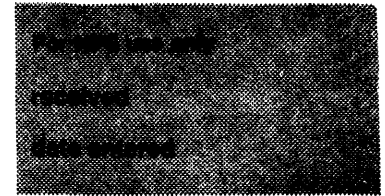
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Stagecoach Inn  
Colony Road  
Gruetli, Grundy County, TN

TAX MAP 1" = 400'

Site # 5



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

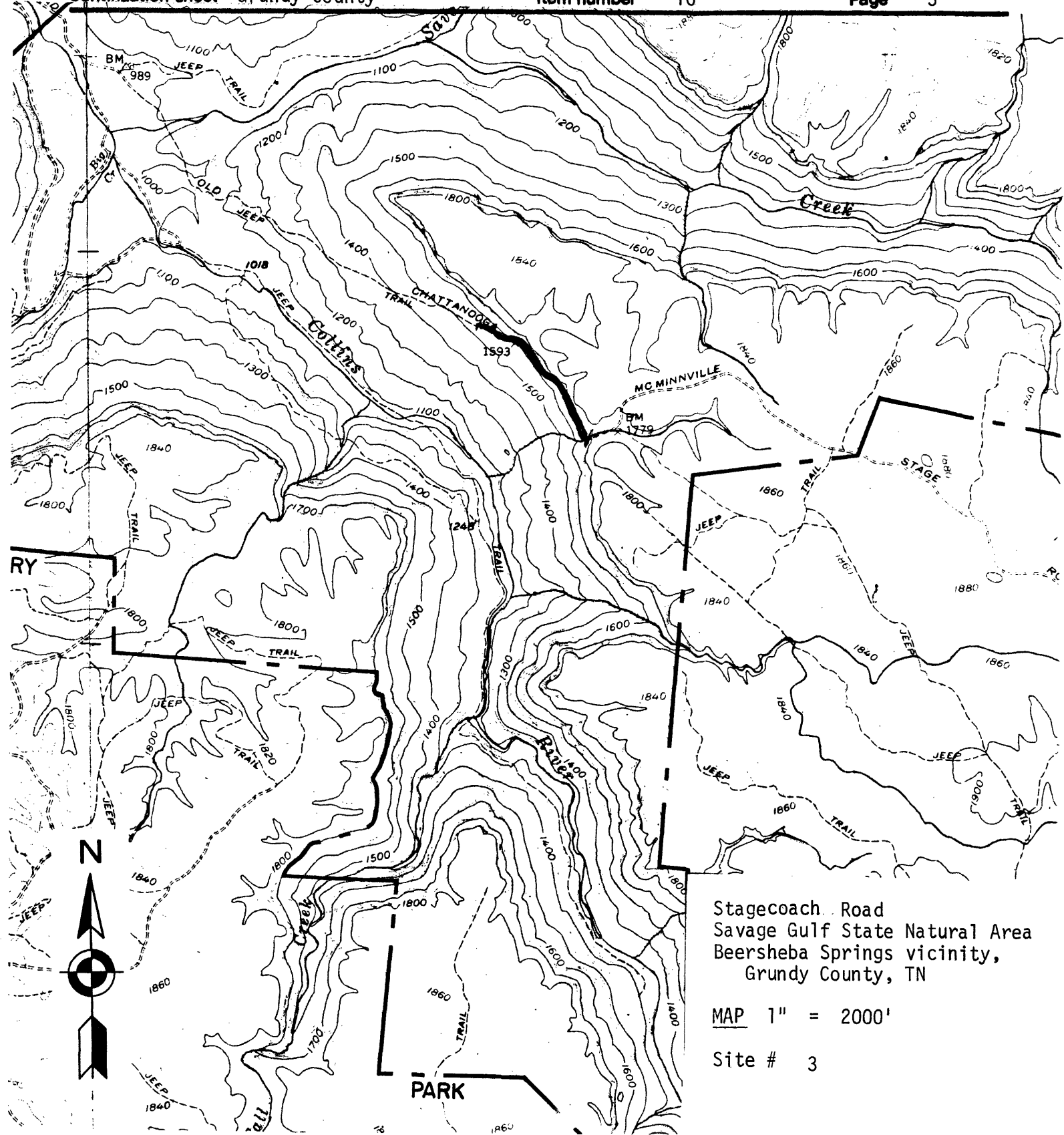
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Stagecoach Road  
Savage Gulf State Natural Area  
Beersheba Springs vicinity,  
Grundy County, TN

MAP 1" = 2000'

Site # 3