

**TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM**

**TITLE:** Historic Resources of Grundy County

**COUNTY:** Grundy

**SITE:** 3

**HISTORIC NAME:** McMinnville - Chattanooga Stagecoach Road

**COMMON NAME:** Stagecoach Road (preferred)

**ADDRESS:** Savage Gulf State Natural Area  
Beersheba Springs Vicinity, Tennessee

**OWNER:** Elbert Gill, Commissioner  
Department of Conservation

**ADDRESS:** 701 Broadway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219-5237

**HISTORIC USE:** Road **CURRENT USE:** Hiking Trail

**CATEGORY/BUILDING TYPE:** Structure/Road

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** c.1830 **ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** unknown

**ORIGINAL SITE:** yes **MOVED:** N/A **DATE:** N/A

**ORIGINAL OWNER/SIGNIFICANT INDIVIDUALS:** unknown

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

**CONTRIBUTING:**

buildings 0  
structures 1  
sites 0  
objects 0

**NON-CONTRIBUTING:**

buildings 0  
structures 0  
sites 0  
objects 0

**TOTAL** 1

**TOTAL** 0

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

The nominated property includes approximately one-half mile of the original McMinnville-Chattanooga Stagecoach Road. See map #3. The section of the Stagecoach Road included in the nomination is the portion that retains the most integrity of the original roadway and stone retaining walls.

**ACREAGE:** 2 acres or approximately one-half mile

**UTM REFERENCE:** Collins, Tennessee 99NE

A: 16/626660/3923260

B: 16/627180/3922750

**SUPPLEMENTAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

"Mountain's Highways & Byways," Grundy County Herald, 2 September 1976, p.31-A.

Wanamaker, Jim. Interview. 18 June 1986.

**PREPARED BY:** Elizabeth A. Straw, Historic Preservation Specialist

**ADDRESS:** Tennessee Historical Commission  
701 Broadway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

**TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM - CONTINUATION SHEET**

**TITLE:** Historic Resources of Grundy County

**SITE:** 3

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**DESCRIPTION:**

The McMinnville-Chattanooga Road is a narrow section of roadway located in the mountains in the Savage Gulf Natural Area. The one-half mile stretch of steep roadway consists of a switchback and stone retaining walls. The road has retained much of its original integrity including the width of the original roadway, the sharp curved switchback, and the dry construction stone retaining walls. This section of the roadway is currently maintained in a state natural area as a hiking trail.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**CRITERIA:** A

**CONSIDERATION:** N/A

**AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Transportation

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE/SIGNIFICANT DATES:** c.1830 - c.1920

**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Local

The McMinnville-Chattanooga Stagecoach Road is being nominated under National Register criterion A for its historical significance to Grundy County in the area of transportation. The McMinnville-Chattanooga Stagecoach Road, constructed c.1830 was an important travel route through the mountains and was one of only three stagecoach roads in Grundy County. The road was reportedly built by slave labor and by 1850 was one of several stagecoach lines considered for hook-up with the railroad lines. Near the end of the nineteenth century the McMinnville-Chattanooga Stagecoach Road became a part of the stage line from Nashville to Chattanooga and connected to the railroad lines in Chattanooga. By the beginning of the early twentieth century the railroad became the preferred mode of transportation for intercounty travel. However, the McMinnville-Chattanooga Stagecoach Road continued to be used by local residents who resided in the mountains as a major route into the community centers up to the 1920's when State Route 56 was built.