

# Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

## HAHS MUSEUM

Hattiesburg Cultural Center  
723 Main Street  
Mailing: P.O. Box 1573  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1773

## Hattiesburg Downtown Post Office

The Pine Street United States Post Office was built in 1934 and is listed on the Register of Historic Places. Its limestone, fine gray and pink granite, and art deco style (which it shares with the Saenger Theater and Forrest Towers) have helped make it a beloved landmark in downtown Hattiesburg.

In July of 1992, former Mayor Moran Pope wrote in the *Hattiesburg American* about the building as it received a much needed facelift and cleaning. The following information is based on his research and interviews with local architects.

"The metals used in the building—the grillwork, the two outside stanchion lights (one of which was damaged by Katrina), the doors, and the airplane, train and ship cast metal friezes over the front doors—are rare and fine metal materials," architect Larry Albert stated. "The post office also incorporates Egyptian revival features," said architect Steve Blair, Jr.

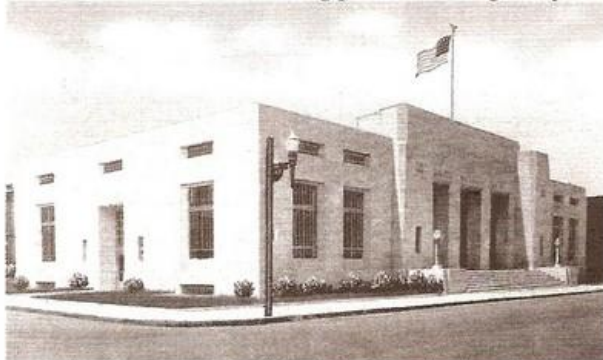
"The two large, vertical, sloped pylons, or shafts, forming a gateway to the three front entrances, are a classic Egyptian feature, as are the two large bird symbols over each of the three front entrances, and the wing emblems set in the outside limestone walls," Blair said. "The building is a distinct departure from the 1910 federal building post office diagonally

across the street, which is in the Greek revival style, with its 48 square half-columns on the four sides of the square-shaped building and two full, round columns forming a gateway to the entrance."

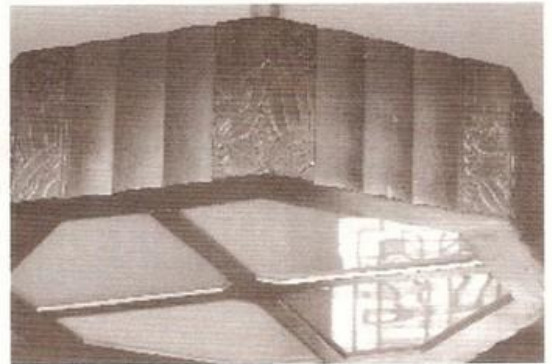
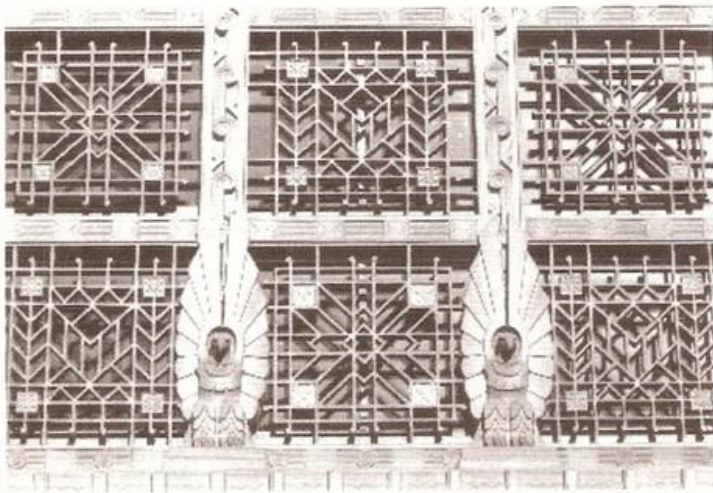
"The downtown post office had three predecessors. The city's first mail facility was on Railroad Street in back of what" is now McKenzie's On Main "and adjoined the rear of the Klondyke—later the Leaf-Hotel. The area is now a city parking lot," Pope's article explains.

"A second post office was located in the Rose Theater building, which used to be the Geiger parking lot. A third was located in the federal building at Forrest and Pine streets, which is now used by the Forrest County juvenile and county court offices" and DREAM of Hattiesburg.

"By 1933, the federal building had become too small to handle the volume of mail. A year earlier, Woodruff Furniture store had burned, and the decision was made to build a post office in its place. The current downtown post office was completed in early 1934." On September 10, 2004, the downtown post office was dedicated to the memory of Medal of Honor Recipient Major Henry A. Commiskey, Sr.



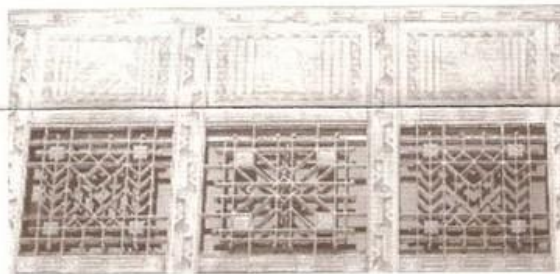
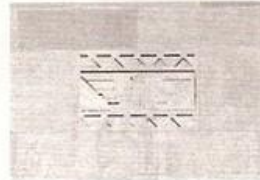
Federal Courthouse c1910 (above) located on Pine Street, Hattiesburg, MS was the third post office. A Post card (left) c1940's, of current downtown post office, Hattiesburg, MS.



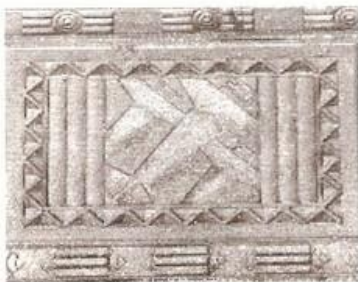
Side chandelier, above, reflects the morning light through grillwork. Central chandelier viewed looking up (see below right).

Most people have seen the Art Deco eagles in the metal grillwork over each of the three front doors, but have you noticed the friezes above the top layer of grillwork depicting the ways mail is delivered – by air, rail, and ship? (below)

Eagle frieze to the right.



Above wide-angle view of friezes over grillwork. Decorative metalwork left and right.



Close-up left to right – air, rail, and ship.



Photography by Linda M. Vasquez



## GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

October 16, 2006 – February 1, 2007



- ★ Assorted pictures c1944 Gov. Tom Bailey, Lord Halifax – Sarah Gillespie
- ★ Photosmart 2575 All-in-One HP Printer – Martha Douglas
- ★ Hattiesburg Community Concert Association files – Claire H. Mangum
- ★ HHS 1937 Reunion papers; First annual reunion; assorted items – Sarah Gillespie
- ★ Book: A History of Sanford Mississippi by Larry E. Shows, author
- ★ HHS Fiftieth Annual Commencement 1947; assorted articles – Aline Barlow
- ★ 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion color group picture HHS Class of 1937 – Sarah Gillespie
- ★ University of MS Literary Magazine 1905, article by Otis Robertson; Sheet music “Stand Up for Johnson,” 1963 – Tom Rhea Phillips III
- ★ Assorted bottles (Hattiesburg Creamery) – John and Penny Kochtitzky
- ★ 1965-66 HHS Student Directory – Phyllis Bailey
- ★ Wooden lectern, table model – Bettye W. Holmes
- ★ Postcard of South MS Infirmary & Doctor’s Home (Crawford House) 1928 – June Collier
- ★ Book: Scott County MS History and Families – Dr Tom Rhea Phillips, Jr.
- ★ 1920 b & w photo of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward School, Hattiesburg, MS – Carol Jeanne Warren
- ★ 1948 Photos Delta Airlines Inaugurating Air Service in Hattiesburg; Air Show Reception Committee – Garland Sullivan
- ★ Subscription to “South Mississippi Scene” magazine – Barbara A. Curry
- ★ Book: The Mississippi Daughters and Their Patriot Ancestors 1896-2006 by MSSDAR – Lorraine Smith Ott.
- ★ HHS Band pictures (2) of H. W. McMillan, Jr. – Merle McMillan (given earlier and not processed).
- ★ June 11, 1920 Rotary picnic photo – Sarah Gillespie (given earlier and not processed).
- ★ C1920 oil painting by Aussie Haney Sigler – Bill Sigler (son) in memory of his mother.

## Recent Monetary Contributions

September 30, 2006 – February 2007

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### In Honor Of

Earline Roseberry  
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### In Memory Of:

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 Polly Morgan Spear  
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**HAHS MUSEUM**  
Post Office Box 1573  
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1573



**MUSEUM HOURS**  
Mon., Tues., Thurs.  
2:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Or by Appointment  
Call 601-582-5460

Located in the  
Hattiesburg Cultural  
Center  
723 Main Street  
Downtown  
Hattiesburg, MS

Email:  
hahsmuseum@megagate.com

Web Site:  
[www.hahsmuseum.org](http://www.hahsmuseum.org)

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PLEASE RETURN THE FORM  
AT THE RIGHT.

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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HATTIESBURG,  
MS 39403



Members of the Southern Strings Dulcimer Club performed old time and traditional Christmas music at the HAHS Museum during the December Holiday Art Walk. Over 200 visitors enjoyed the entertainment, sugar cookies, and spiced tea.

**Did You Know?** That the HAHS has a Web site? That since July 1, 2006, there have been over 13,000 Web site page views? That over 2,300 visitors have taken a Web site virtual tour of the museum? That membership, donation, and sales counter information are available on the site? That visitors can contact us via the site and frequently do? No? Then just navigate to [hahsmuseum.org](http://hahsmuseum.org) and take a look for yourself. Let us know what you think. **Jim Yelverton, Webmaster**



**Are you spring cleaning?** Don't know what to do with that old HHS annual? Tripping over ancient city directories? Discovered great-grandma's class ring? If it is of historic significance and pertains to the Hattiesburg area, check with us. It may be a great addition to the HAHS Museum.

**Thank you for supporting HAHS.** The status of your membership is found after your name on the address label – the year dues were last paid and/or "L" for Life member.

**2007 HAHS DUES**

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Couple/Organization \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Student \$2 \_\_\_\_\_ Each Life Membership \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to **HAHS**)

P. O. Box 1573, Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1573