

(Transcript: The “Hub Sign”)

(A photo rendering of the “Hub Sign” atop the Ross Building)

The Ross Building is an historic structure in downtown Hattiesburg. Built in 1907 and designed by Hattiesburg architect Robert E. Lee, the building is named for its original owner, Dr. T. E. Ross, Sr. Dr. Ross practiced medicine in Hattiesburg from 1892 - 1935 and is credited for opening the first hospital in this part of the state.

(A photo of renderings of “The Hub Sign” from different angles)

Hattiesburg's "Hub Sign" was perched atop the five-story Ross Building in the early 1900's. The sign faced the train station and served to both greet arrivals and to promote Hattiesburg as THE central city in Southern Mississippi.

(A photo of a close-up rendering of “The Hub Sign”)

The 3-color, 50 foot sign was first lit on Thanksgiving Day, 1912. The sign was powered by more than 1000 Westinghouse 5 watt, 7 1/2 volt Mazda lamps. We're told that a simple strobe system allowed different portions of the sign to appear at night in a preset sequence.

(A photo of one of the original “Hub Sign” light bulbs)

No one knows exactly what happened to the sign, but one of the original bulbs was donated to the museum by Nell B. Hurlock. Nell's Uncle, William Wells, worked for the power company and serviced the Hub Sign for many years.

(A photo of a close-up rendering of “The Hub Sign”)

The bulb and artists' interpretations of the original sign are on display in the museum gallery. While the original Hub Sign is gone forever,

(The HAHS logo)

it lives on today through the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society's logo.