



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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- What:** Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) to designate City of Small Town, Miss., as an official Mississippi Main Street Community
- Where:** Masonic Lodge at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson, MS
- When:** 2:00 p.m., February 13, 2014

'Small Town' Joins Mississippi Main Street

JACKSON, Miss. -- On Thursday, February 13, the Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) will designate the City of Small Town, Miss., as an official Mississippi Main Street Community.

The designation ceremony will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum located at 1150 Lakeland Drive.

"Small Town, Mississippi, is a unique treasure that we are fortunate to have at the Ag Museum," said Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce. "It depicts a 1920's town complete with a blacksmith shop, church, two-room school, and operating general store."

"Receiving the Mississippi Main Street designation is valuable as we move toward making Small Town a 'living' exhibit on a regular basis, breathing life into the buildings so visitors can experience the history of Mississippi agricultural towns," Hyde-Smith said.

Speakers at the designation will include: Cindy Hyde-Smith, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, State of Mississippi; Joy Foy, Director of Asset Development Division, Mississippi Development Authority; Lise Foy, Director, Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum; Bob Wilson, Executive Director, MMSA; and Joey Hudnall, Board President, MMSA.

"Small Town, Miss. at the Ag Museum is facing some of the same challenges as many of our small communities across the state," Wilson said. "Small Town is home to many businesses and attractions that are not well-known to most Mississippians and many tourists."

"We will be focusing on marketing opportunities, placemaking, wayfinding, and recruiting creative economy businesses to join those that already exist in Small Town," he said.

"We are excited to be working with a true visionary in state government, Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith, and one of our more successful Main Street Managers, Lise Foy, who is now the Executive Director of the Ag Museum," Wilson added.

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