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Dabbs Brothers records, 1904-1982

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Dabbs Brothers records, Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives, Powhatan, Arkansas.

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Dabbs Brothers records

MSNE.0001

Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives

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June 09, 2020

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives
11 Seventh Street
Powhatan, Arkansas, 72458

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Summary Information

Repository	Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives
Title	Dabbs Brothers records
Date [inclusive]	1904-1982
Extent	1.65 Cubic feet 2 boxes
Language	English
Language of Materials	Materials entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

Dabbs Brothers records, Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives, Arkansas State Archives, Powhatan, Arkansas.

Biographical/Historical Note

Today, Hulbert is an old section of town in West Memphis, but one hundred years ago, it was its own little community. In 1909, Brothers H. Ruppel Dabbs and E.O. Dabbs built the first general store in Hulbert. Unfortunately, the little wooden structure could not stand up against the spring flood waters of 1912. Determined to stay in Hulbert, the Dabbs brothers rebuilt with the aid of a Little Rock architect. By the end of 1912, a new brick Dabbs Brothers General Store opened on higher ground.

Because the structure was lauded as permanent, it became a host to the community. A school met in the store until the one-room school was built across the railroad tracks. It served as the first Post Office from 1923-1948. The Dabbs brothers were deeply invested in Hulbert. In addition to serving as merchants, they owned a cooperage company, lent money to residents to purchase land and homes, and E.O. Dabbs held elected offices, including Justice of the Peace and County Coroner.

The original brick building is still standing in West Memphis and today functions as an office for Pat Kelley Magruder Architects. Ruppel sold the store to Pat Magruder, Sr. in 1979. The new owners placed the building on the National Register of Historic Places and expertly renovated the space, preserving the majority of the original structure and details.

Along with the papers and books, a small box of store inventory was donated. These items included a pair of pants, buttons, sew-on snaps, cookware hole repair, bobby pins, and embroidery patterns. Because these items added no value to the collection, they were removed.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains ledger books for the Dabbs brothers' various businesses and undertakings, sales advertisements, tax assessments, mortgages, court cases, magazines, and school books. Included is an informational brochure about the Dabbs Brothers store and a copy of the National Historic Register of Places application for the building.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Northeast Arkansas Regional Archives 07/18/2014

Revision Description

06/16/2016

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Pat McGruder, West Memphis, Arkansas, 2014.

Collection Inventory

	Box
Historic Dabbs Store materials	1
Sales advertisements	
State of Arkansas v Sanders, John	
State of Arkansas v Davis, Julius	
Spratlin, Cleveland v Spratlin, Walter	
Wilson-Ward Company et.al. v Young et.al.	
County Coroner letter	
1904 Tax Assessments	
1905 Tax Assessments	
1905.1 Tax Assessments	
1906 Tax Assessments	
Mortgages	

School books

Magazines

School books

Box

2

Hulbert Cooperage ledger

E.O. Dabbs Justice of the Peace ledger

General Account book No.29

General Account book 1916-1917

General Account book No.30

General Account book No.32

General Account book No.33