

THE HUB

MARSHALL, TEXAS



HUB #002 – Book Rack – January 31, 2010

When the historic Hub Shoe Store, operated in Marshall, Texas since 1897 by the Weisman and Kariel families, is restored for use as a law office for Marshall attorney Michael C. Smith in 2010, much of the old-growth pine lumber used in the original 1897 store and reused throughout the store's 104 year history will be recycled as furnishings, including trim and paneling, conference tables, desks, shelving, and book racks, preserving and recreating the finishes and characteristics of the original.

Individual pieces of Hub furniture, handcrafted by Mr. Smith, current owner of the Hub, from the original Hub lumber, have been made available to community groups for fundraising. These pieces feature characteristics from the original 1897 store including:

- Edge-stained shelves. To accommodate constant use handling shoe boxes, Hub shelving was always stained only on the edge, leaving the surface unfinished, with a patina from over a century of use. In most cases, this edge staining is original to the 1897 store. Other parts of the furniture are stained to blend in with the original woodwork.
- Bin drawer pulls and wooden label holders. Each piece features bin pulls and label inserts inspired by those on the original store's storage bins.

Each signed and numbered piece features a plate with the Hub logo and contains information on the Hub and on the individual piece.

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Notes on the piece:

Pieces #001 and #002 are identical 18" long book racks made from original store shelving. The picture below shows 001 complete and the pieces for 002 cut, sanded and ready to be assembled.



The basic design for the rack comes from a pine book rack than my dad and I built when I was in graduate school. That rack was sized for paperbacks, while the Hub one is larger - although technically sized for legal rulebooks it's the right size for hardbacks as well. The shelf and back are slanted as on the original, but the sides are cut flat - not on a slant. Also, the gap between the shelf and back is deliberate - 23 years



experience with the old book rack has taught me that joining them together just creates a trap for dust and dirt. There are no screws or nails used in the construction - everything is held together using "biscuits", which are the little pieces of wood shown in the picture. They are glued into the slots shown in the racks and then the whole thing is clamped together.



The shelf on each is an original Hub shelf which has an odd characteristic that I wanted to preserve - the original stain is still on the edge but is not the surface of the shelf - the Hub shelving was never stained or painted on its flat face, since the constant in and out of shoe boxes would have marred the finish. I stained the other pieces of the rack to match the original stain. The pieces have a plaque with the Hub logo and "Marshall, Texas" taken directly from the logo on the 1924 deed of sale from original owner Mose Weisman to his nephew Louis Weisman Kariel, Sr.

The ends of the book rack have a vertical card holder (sized for a business card) and an oiled bronze bin pull. Both were copied from the card holders and bin pulls used on the original store's bin drawers,



shown in this 1908 photo and 2009 photo of a shoe repair bench that is still in the store which contains three of the original bins.



Hub #002 was completed on January 31, 2010, and was donated to Trinity Episcopal School for auction in the

February 6, 2010 fundraiser.

