



Post Office Mural Shows Pioneers

The mural now installed in the lobby of the Post Office Building was a Treasury Mural Competitive Award given to and executed by William Sherrod McCall of Jacksonville, Florida.

The design, titled "Early Settlers of Shelby County," shows a simple scene of a representative family of pioneers weighing cotton in the field. They are a sturdy stock; healthy, intelligent looking people of Anglo-Saxon background. Many of them migrated from Virginia and the Carolinas.

Quoting Mr. McCall, "I did not strive to make

my painting startling or different. I just wanted to paint simple, honest people in a simple, honest manner. I wanted my panel to be so appropriately made that having once seen it, one will henceforth see it only as a natural part of the building."

Mr. McCall is a native of the South, his ancestors having migrated into Florida from Virginia in 1802. His art education was gained in California schools, where he lived and studied for some time; but in his painting he reflects the warm, mellow colors of his native soil.

This work was done under the authorization of the Division of Painting and Sculpture, Procurement Division of the United States Treasury, and is in no way connected with WPA but is a stationary part of the Federal Government.



United States Post Office (1936), Montevallo, Alabama – Photograph shot in 2015

HENRY MORGENTHAU JR.
SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

JAMES A. FARLEY
POSTMASTER GENERAL

LOUIS A. SIMON
SUPERVISING ARCHITECT

NEAL A. MELICK
SUPERVISING ENGINEER

1936