

Directions

90 minutes south of Memphis.

Clarksdale, MS is at the intersection of Highways 61 and 49, ("the crossroads"). From Memphis, take Highway 61 South 1 1/2 hours. From Nashville, take I-40 to I-240 West to I-55, then Highway 61 South (5 1/2 hours). From New Orleans, take I-55 North to Highway 49 (5 hours). From Little Rock, take I-40 to Highway 49, cross the Mississippi River at Helena (2 1/2 hours).



Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Summer (March1- Oct 31)
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Winter (November 1- Feb 28)
Admissions: \$7 Adults, \$5 Students, Seniors
Group Rates Available

Delta Blues Museum
1 Blues Alley Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614
662-627-6820

www.deltabluesmuseum.org



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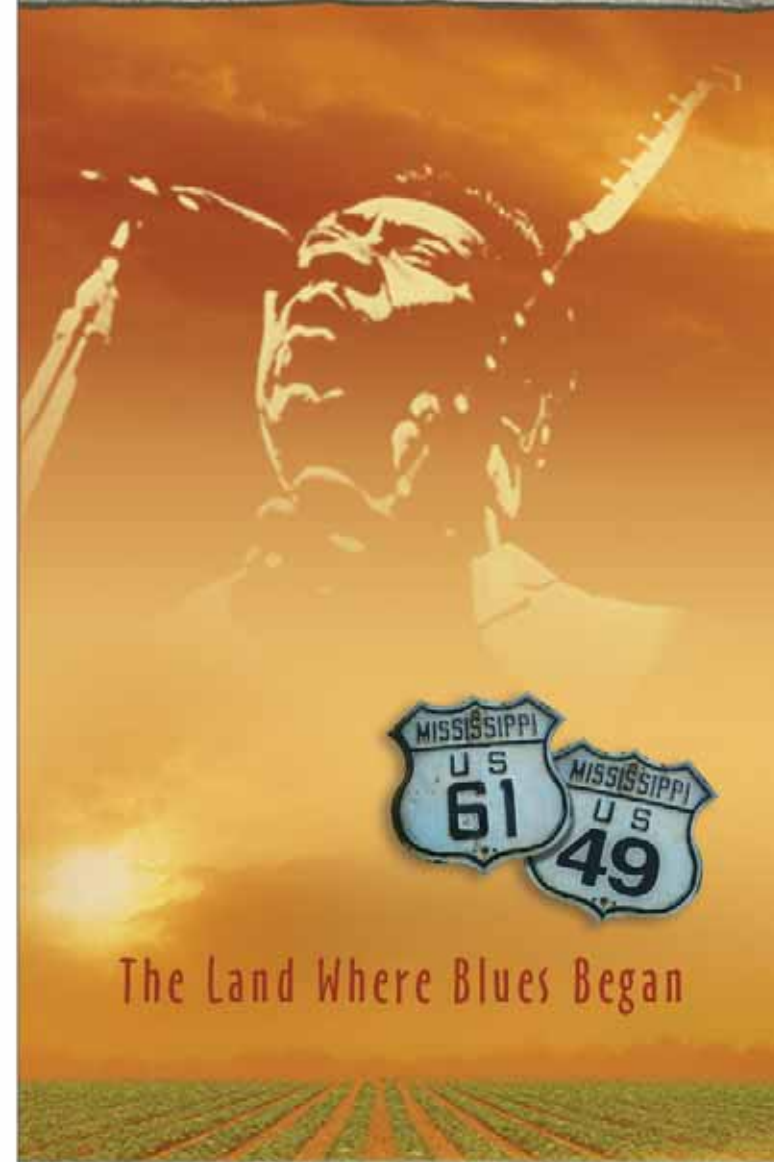


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Clarksdale, Mississippi • Founded 1979



The Land Where Blues Began

The Collection

The Delta Blues Museum has a large collection of artifacts, including musical instruments, recordings, sheet music, posters, photographs, costumes, folk art, paintings, and other memorabilia. Among the highlights:

- **Muddy Waters Exhibit** This display features the core of the former Morganfield family home, once located on Stovall Farms, just outside Clarksdale. The original house had several additional rooms but the dwelling was damaged by a tornado; this central part was saved by the House of Blues foundation and donated to the museum in 2001. Inside, a life-size (and eerily lifelike) statue of Waters, dressed in his trademark sharp suit and holding a '50s vintage electric guitar, sits, exuding its own brand of "mojo." Plaques with information about Water's life and music are fixed to the cabin's walls; excerpts from the A&E TV biography of Waters play on a monitor inside. A "Muddywood" guitar, made from salvaged wood from the cabin, courtesy of Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top, is on view.



- **John Lee Hooker Guitars** Another Clarksdale native and blues legend, the "Boogie Man" created his singular sound on these guitars.

- **B.B. King Guitar** The current "King of the Blues" has had many "Lucilles," his name for his trademark guitar—this is one of them.



- **Big Mama Thornton** A display case is devoted to the life and career of the pioneering blues singer, the vocalist on the original versions of "Hound Dog" and "Ball and Chain."

- **Charlie Musselwhite** The piano, shoes, harmonica (signed) and other memorabilia of the harp master, longtime compadre of John Lee Hooker and Chicago blues scene veteran, are on display.

- **Three Forks Sign** The original sign from one of the reputed stores/juke joints where Robert Johnson was allegedly poisoned at his last gig.

- **Clack Grocery Sign** This sign is from the store and train stop on old Highway 61 in Tunica County where Alan Lomax recorded Son House for the Library of Congress in 1941.

- **Big Joe Williams Guitar** A classic example of the traveling country bluesman, Williams played this customized, nine-string version of the instrument.

- **Jimmy Burns** This contemporary Delta musician, one of the many who settled in Chicago, is represented by one of his earliest guitars.

- **Stella guitars** Early Stella guitars (made in New Jersey by the Oscar Schmidt Company) were favored by classic Delta blues musicians like Charley Patton, Willie Brown, Skip James and a host of others.

- **Son Thomas** His much-used electric guitar and several ghoulish folk art sculptures ("Woman in Coffin," a skull) display this artist's dual interests.

Son Thomas Guitar



Mission Statement

The Delta Blues Museum is dedicated to creating a welcoming place where visitors find meaning, value, and perspective by exploring the history and heritage of the unique American musical art form of the blues.

History

The Delta Blues Museum is the state's oldest music museum, established in 1979 by the Carnegie Public Library Board of Trustees and re-organized as a stand-alone museum in an historic Clarksdale building in 1999. Originally built as the Yazoo and Mississippi River Valley Railroad depot around 1918, the museum building later served as the Illinois Central Gulf freight depot. No longer used by the railroad, the building was recognized as well suited for use as the Delta Blues Museum; it was designated a Mississippi Landmark Property in 1996. The adjacent Delta Blues Museum Stage serves as the main venue for local festivals. In 2005, the Delta Blues Museum was granted programming oversight of the historic Greyhound Bus Station; it houses occasional exhibits and a monthly lecture series. The building was designated a Mississippi Landmark Property in 2001.

