



News from the American Philatelic Center
Home of the
American Philatelic Society and
American Philatelic Research Library

Contact: Fred Baumann

American Philatelic Center • 100 Match Factory Place
814-933-3803 ext. 212

e-mail: fred@stamps.org

Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-933-6128 (Fax)

For Immediate Release

2/28/2008/1590

Contract Post Office to Open March 3 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte



An artist's rendering of the recently built pavilion housing the new Contract Post Office, which will open to the public on March 3 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

A new Contract Post Office will open its doors on Monday, March 3, at the American Philatelic Center (APC), located on the site of the Old Match Factory at 100 Match Factory Place in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

An informal opening ceremony is scheduled at 9:40 a.m. for the facility, which will offer a limited range of useful postal services to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, as well as serving the American Philatelic Society and American Philatelic Research Library. The Contract Post Office will sell stamps and accept letters, post cards and small items weighing less than two pounds. The full range of postal services remains available from the main Post Office located at 132 North Allegheny Street in Bellefonte, which accepts packages and parcels as well.

While this Contract Post Office will be new to Bellefonte, it has roots

extending as far back as the days just prior to the Civil War.

Dedicated last October, the new Gordon and Mary Morison Pavilion at the APC will house the Contract Post Office. Inside the pavilion, postal operations will be carried out in the historic post office of Headsville, West Virginia, on loan from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington D.C. With its original store counters and Franklin-style stove, this 1860-1914 rural post office will offer 21st century postal service to Centre County patrons.

For thirty-five years, the 540-square-foot board-and-batten structure served as an exhibition and working U.S. Post Office at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., showcasing its dual role as a country store and rural mail center. Its interior was featured on a 1972 stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Mail Order Industry.

The APC is the headquarters of both the American Philatelic Society, serving more than 42,000 stamp collectors in more than 110 countries, and the American Philatelic Research Library, the largest member-supported library of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

For additional information, including more details about the Headsville Post Office Project, call the American Philatelic Center at 814-933-3803.



The entrance to the historic Headsville, West Virginia, post office and general store that will house Bellefonte's new Contract Post Office.