

ALLEN O. MASON



802 Lancaster Highway
Lancaster, TN 38569-6257

Phone (615) 683-6131
Fax (615) 683-6701

A2011-2

November 5, 2010

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington DC 20268-0001

RECEIVED
2010 NOV 10 P 2:57
POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Sir:

Please accept this letter of appeal in the Final Determination To Close The Suspended Lancaster, TN Post Office. The first Lancaster Post Office was established May 18, 1821. There were three periods of discontinued service in 1866, 1879, and 1887 and with continued service from 1888 until suspended services in 2003.

Lancaster is a vibrant community with the activity of The Corps of Engineers at Center Hill Dam and Lake, tourism, and the developments at Highland Cove Condominiums and Cove Hollow Bay. There are currently 176 active mail boxes located at these developments and a new phase is selling units in a preconstruction deal. There are also two major campgrounds at Edgar Evins State Park and Long Branch below Center Hill Dam. All of these have a Lancaster address except for Edgar Evins.

The closing of the Lancaster Post Office would leave the Eastern and Southeastern parts of Smith County without a postal facility. Driving to either the Hickman or Gordonsville facility would be a 30 minute round trip with no other stops. The Hickman and Gordonsville facilities are only a mile apart.

The building that houses the Lancaster Post Office is in a state of repair and will meet standards. The expense of the repairs will be paid for by the property owner and not the USPS as stated in your proposal.

The Lancaster Post Office has been a vital part of this community since 1821 and hopefully now and in the future. There is a proposed Interstate Exchange to be built off of I 40 in the Betty's Bend area of Lancaster on the books. This is according to our County Mayor. The land for this is already owned by the government.

Please reconsider your Determination To Close the Lancaster Post Office. If nothing else, please leave the Lancaster Post Office on temporary suspension of services until more thought, understanding, and research can take place in making the best decisions for the USPS, the citizens of Lancaster, and the customers on Lancaster Route.

Enclosed are copies of previous correspondence and supporting documents stating reasons not to close the Lancaster Post Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen O. Mason". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Allen O. Mason

Enclosures

Received

NOV 08 2010

Office of PAGR

June 30, 2009

USPS
c/o Ms. Sandra Quick
811 Royal Pkwy
Nashville, TN 37229-9751

Dear Ms. Quick:

Please reconsider your decision to close the Lancaster, TN Post Office. There are several reasons for this request; cost savings to USPS, number of customers, growth, logic, common sense, driving distance to another postal outlet, and the pledge of the USPS to provide good service to its customers.

When the Lancaster Post Office was placed on temporary suspension of services in 2003 we strongly felt that proper procedure was totally ignored. There was no notification of any kind, no meeting, and no postings. The USPS called the Carthage Courier after the Lancaster location was placed on temporary status and had the paper place a notification about the cessation of services. The majority of the postal customers that had inside boxes were told to erect roadside boxes or go to another location. We also strongly feel that our fundamental rights were violated at that time and we will be seeking legal counsel to determine if the USPS actions were illegal.

Good business acumen dictates that a business start cutting cost by reducing its largest expenses. You are considering closing the least expensive location as far as rent is concerned. The Lancaster Post Office is only costing you \$900.00 a year in rent. The other locations in this area are costing you much more; Hickman \$3,828/yr, Buffalo Valley \$11,363.75/yr, Chestnut Mound \$13,200/yr, Gordonsville \$7,400/yr, and Elmwood \$3,600/yr. The Lancaster location is in the heart of the route and would save on auto expenses and driving time.

The enclosed petition is signed by 150 USPS customers that live in the Lancaster area. There are also 56 active boxes in Highland Cove Condominiums and 120 active boxes in Cove Hollow Bay. There are other areas around Cove Hollow on Center Hill Lake that have developments planned.

Logic and common sense come into play when you are going to keep the Hickman, TN location open when the Gordonsville location is only 1.9 miles away. It just makes more sense to merge the Hickman location into the Gordonsville location and put the Lancaster Route back in Lancaster.

Should the Lancaster office be closed all the residents and businesses would have to drive several miles to purchase postal supplies and send packages or other mail. One of the largest USPS customers is the Corp of Engineers at Center Hill Dam with their three offices.

Another concern that has been discussed is whether or not Lancaster would lose its Zip Code. You have stated that there is no current plan to change the Zip Code because of 911 and GPS. The 911 director says that a change in Zip Code would not affect their service in any way because 911 services are based on ESN through the telephone system and not Zip Codes. GPS is a satellite tracking system and not a Zip Code system. This means that the postal service could change a Zip Code with the push of a button and may take only a few minutes to accomplish.

Please consider putting the Lancaster Post Office back into operation with the route. If not this option, please consider leaving Lancaster Post Office on temporary suspension of services until more thought, research, insight, and reasoning can be made so the best solution can be reached.

Please give the enclosed documents consideration in your decision making process. Copies of this letter and documents will be supplied to; Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, Representative Bart Gordon, State Senator Mae Beavers, State Representative Terri Lynn Weaver, and Mayor Michael Nesbitt.

Sincerely,

Allen O. Mason

Enclosures

RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL TO CLOSE LANCASTER POST OFFICE

The Lancaster Post Office was opened on May 18, 1821 and had three suspension of services after the Civil War. The office had continuous service from 9/28/1888 to 4/5/2003 with the Lancaster rural route being serviced from Lancaster. No one knows why the route was changed to Hickman in 1975.

The citizens of Lancaster were not told that facility was going to be placed on temporary suspension of services in 2003. There was no notification, no meetings, and no opportunity to voice opposition to the closing. We also did not know that an employee requesting a transfer was a reason to close the facility.

The building deficiencies that are mentioned are being taken care of. Attached are copies of the septic permit and water meter installation. The weather has delayed the installation, but work should be complete by 10/23/09. I, as the property owner, would like to point out that no one representing the USPS ever requested that water and a toilet facility be installed. All requests that were made were done; natural gas instead of propane, electrical wiring, lowered ceiling, new lighting, replacement of porch and entrance. I also have never requested an increase in rent. When I inherited the property in 1975 the rent was \$15.00 per month and I currently receive \$75.00 per month. The increases that were made were through the kindness of the USPS.

The income from the Lancaster Post Office did decline due to request by USPS that the mail carrier not drop off stamp orders, picked up packages, and any other request for supplies. All orders for postal supplies that were picked up on the Lancaster route were taken to the Hickman facility.

You tell us that our address will not change and this is very difficult for us to believe. Two other postal facilities have been closed in Smith County and in both cases the citizens were told that their address would not change, and needless to say their addresses changed immediately after the facilities were closed.

The Lancaster Post Office needs to be reopened with the Lancaster route moved back where it belongs because of good business sense. You now have mail carriers working out of the Hickman and Gordonsville facilities and they are only 1.9 miles apart. The driving time and savings in having the route in the center of the route will be substantial. Lancaster proper may have had minimal growth, but the developments of Highland Cove Condominiums and Cove Hollow Bay with a total of 176 mail boxes and the increased activity by Corp of Engineers at Center Dam should be included with Lancaster because Lancaster is the closest facility to them.

The temporary suspension of services in 2003 should never have occurred because an employee requested a transfer and no notification in any form was given to the citizens of Lancaster. I read about the closing in the local newspaper and I'm the property owner. All the citizens in this area believe our rights were violated and our legal counsel is trying to determine if policy and procedures were not followed and if any laws were broken.

The Closing of the Lancaster Post Office that you are proposing would place hardships upon the citizens of Lancaster and the customers on Lancaster route. You state that the Hickman facility is nine miles away and that means it would be an eighteen mile round trip to go to that facility. There several elderly citizens that will only drive to church and local visiting. They have to get someone to take them elsewhere.

Your main concerns seem to be the status of the building and revenue. The building deficiencies are being taken care of as stated earlier and the revenue will be generated when the sale of postal supplies will be returned to the Lancaster facility instead of Hickman.

From a business point of view, if you are determined to close a facility it should be the Hickman facility because the Gordonsville facility is only 1.9 miles away. The closing of the Lancaster Post Office would mean that no postal facility would be located in the entire eastern part of Smith County. It just doesn't make sense from any perspective to close a facility that is nine miles from another facility and keep one that is only 1.9 miles to closest facility.

You, Ms. Sandra Quick, stated at the very first meeting in Hickman "I am going to close the Lancaster Post Office" before any discussion or questionnaires had taken place or filled out and that has been your response in letters and conversation since then. I really don't understand what you have against the Lancaster community and its citizens, but I hope that you take all the aspects of this decision into consideration. If nothing else, please consider leaving the Lancaster Post Office on temporary suspension of services until more thought, understanding, and research can be done in making the best decisions for the USPS and the citizens of Lancaster Community and Lancaster route.



BUTLER & ASSOCIATES

PROPERTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

PO Box 747, Smithville, TN 37166 · Phone: 615-215-1212 · Fax: 615-215-1224 · Email: g_butler@blomand.net

June 23, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Highland Cove Condominiums currently has 56 boxes dedicated for mail delivery. Each condominium has a designated box assigned to them.

Cove Hollow Bay has more than 120 boxes dedicated for mail delivery. Each lot owner has a designated box assigned to them.

It is in the best interest of the community, with so many mail recipients on Dale Ridge Road, to keep the post office open in Lancaster.

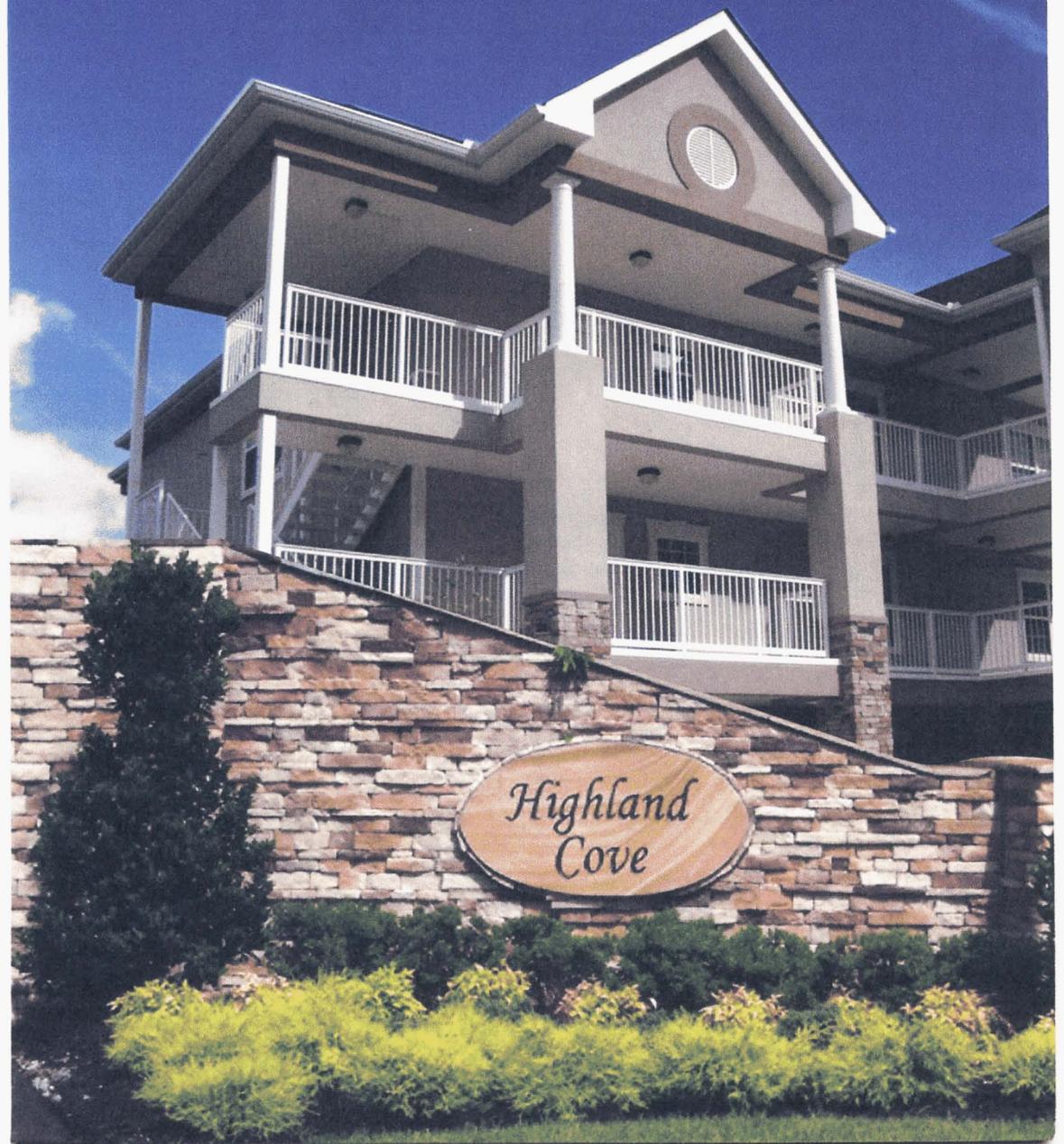
We kindly appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gina Butler

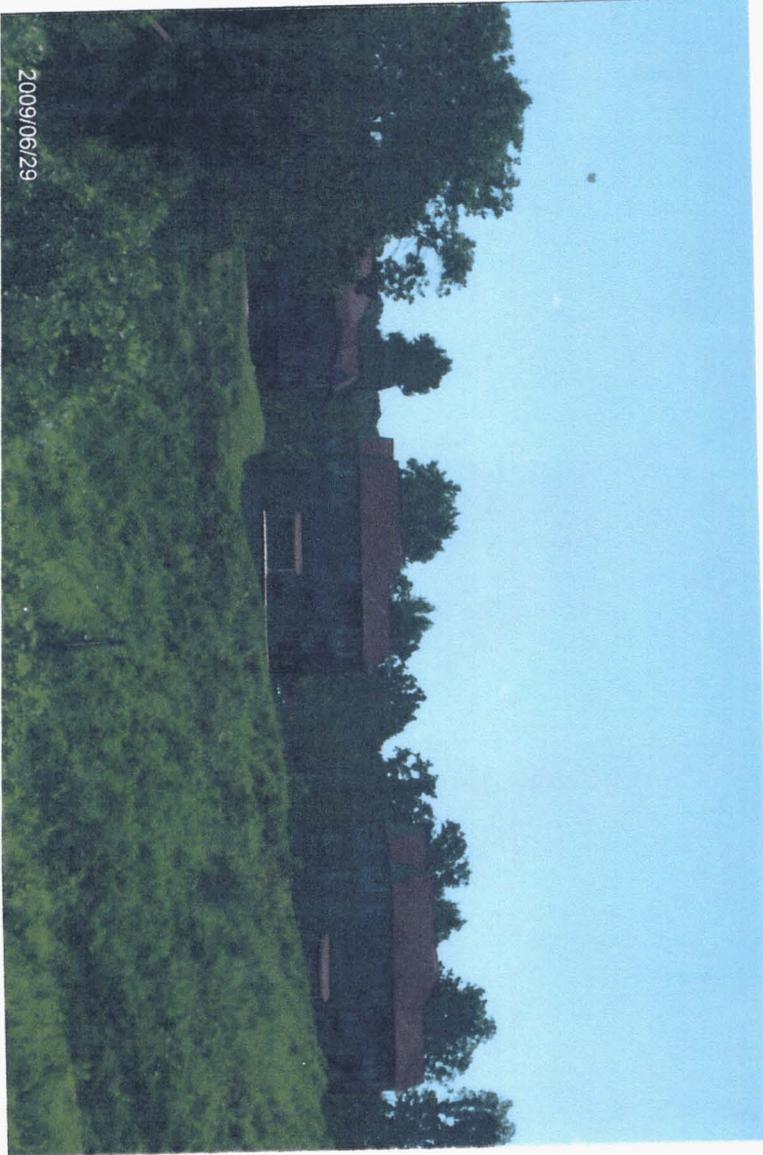
Highland Cove Condominiums

On Center Hill Lake, Tennessee

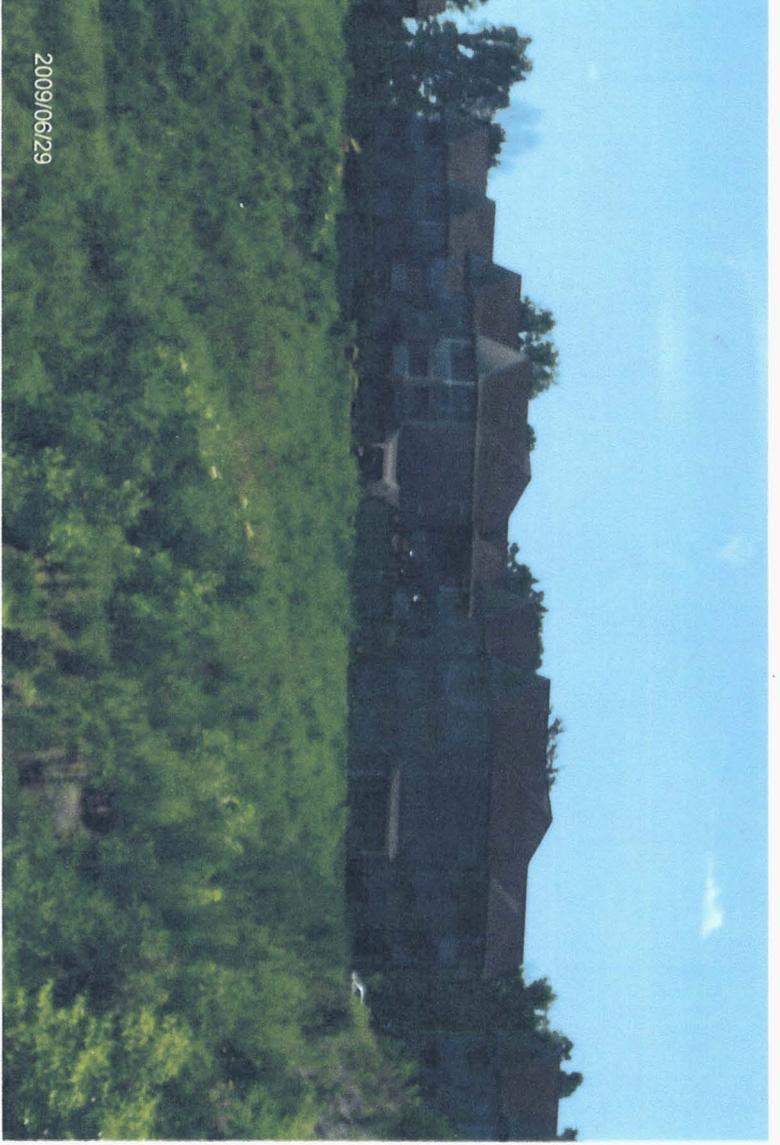




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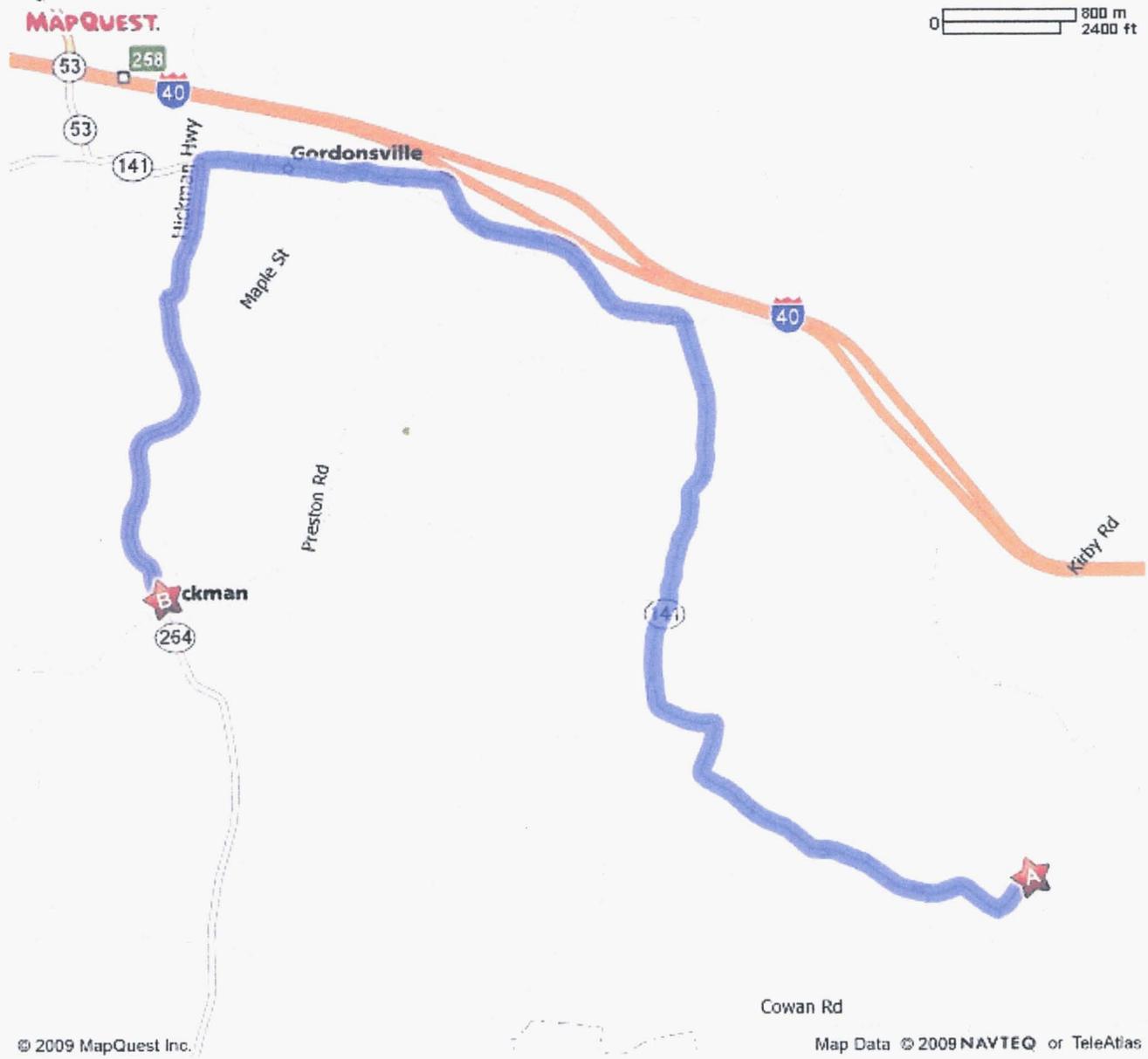


2009/06/29

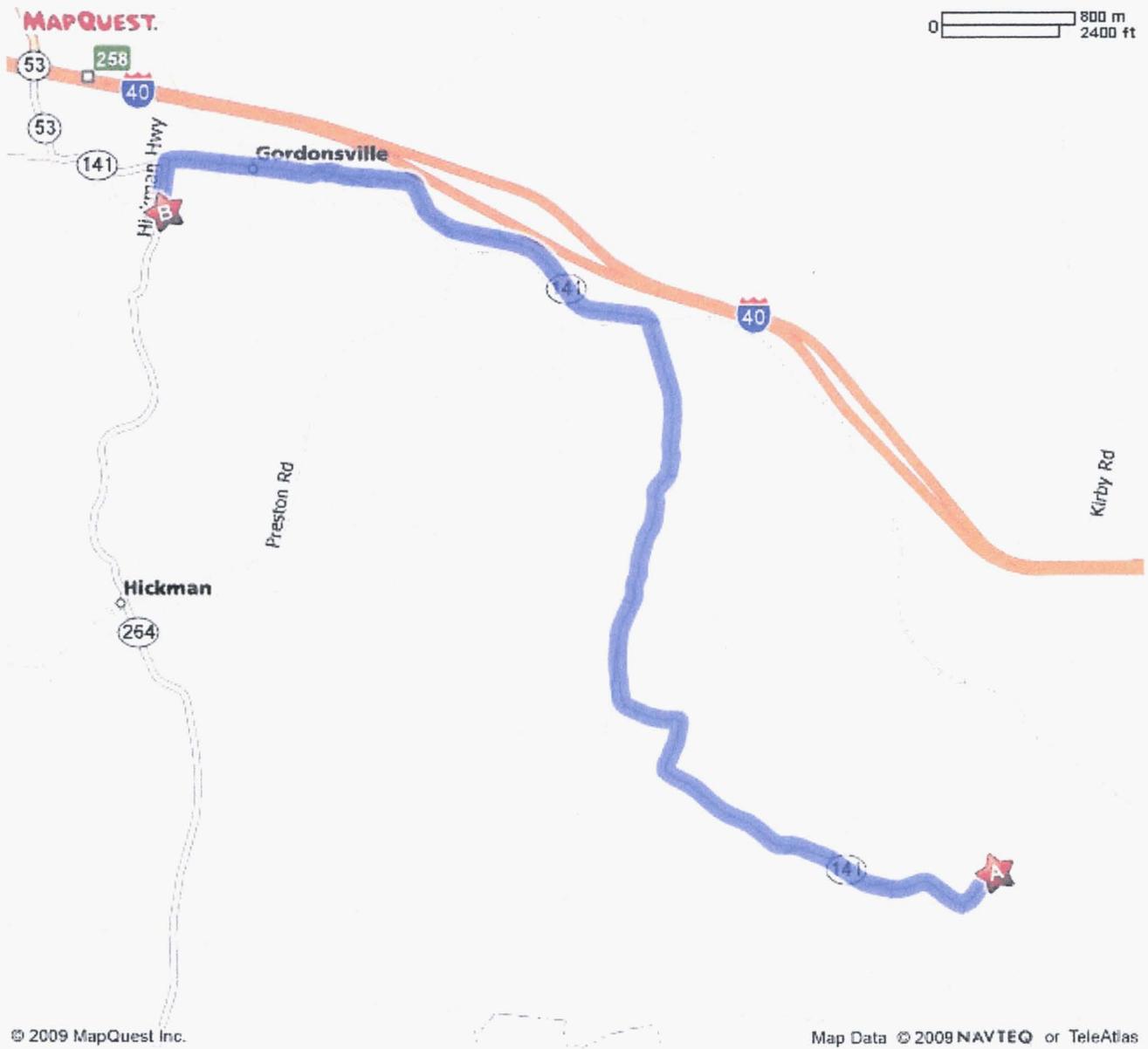


LANCASTER POST OFFICE

Abner Lacke	May 18, 1821
Alfred Vannerson	Jan 10, 1833
William D. Lester	Oct 28, 1835
William Lancaster	Jan 23, 1839
John Lancaster	Sept 8, 1842
Thomas C. Marchbank	Apr 17, 1844
Michael Lancaster	Aug 16, 1852
Discontinued	Sept 22, 1866
Reestablished	Oct 13, 1874
Jesse D. Fisher	Oct 13, 1874
James C. Prichard	July 12, 1878
Discontinued	July 28, 1879
Reestablished	Oct 27, 1885
Charles S. Kinslow	Oct 27, 1885
Discontinued	Oct 28, 1887
Reestablished	Sept 28, 1888
William B. Reynolds	Sept 28, 1888
Jesse D. Fisher	Aug 15, 1896
William Lancaster	Mar 7, 1898
Harrison Starnes	Sept 19, 1903
James F. Ash	Oct 20, 1904
Henry C. Lancaster Jr.	Sept 24, 1910
Edgar D. Robinson	Apr 21, 1914
Mrs. Jessie M. Burton	Aug 31, 1954
Carlene Helm	Dec 19, 1979
Candy Clark	1999
Temporary Suspension Of Services	March, 2003



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Courier
LAND RIVER

A
PRIZE-WINNING
NEWSPAPER
UT-TPA PRESS AWARDS
2008

37030

28 pages

Single Copy 50¢

Lancaster residents voice opposition to postal closing

Meeting held in Hickman

By Eddie West

Staff Writer

The Lancaster community has had a post office since 1821, but that is likely to change in the near future.

Service at the post office, which was made available on a part time basis, has been suspended since April of 2003.

While residents of the community retained a Lancaster address, mail is sorted and delivered out of the Hickman post office.

When service was suspended in 2003, a cluster box was set up between the town's fire hall and the building which housed

Please See Page A - 8



EDDIE WEST/COURIER

Residents concerned about the potential closing of the Lancaster post office met with postal officials, Thursday, at the Hickman post office. Mail for Lancaster has been sorted at the Hickman office since the Lancaster post office operations were suspended six years ago.

Concerns voiced about post office closing

From page - A1

the post office located on Highway 141.

Residents who attended an hour plus meeting with postal officials sensed the post office will be closed.

The meeting was held at noon, Thursday, at the Hickman post office.

Postal officials who spoke at the meeting insisted they would be relaying residents' comments on to postal officials in Washington D.C. where the main decision would be made.

Postal officials at the meeting maintained residents would continue to receive their mail, if the post office is closed, under the same address.

Residents at the meeting were skeptical as to how long this would continue.

Postal officials have cited the lack of running water and no bathroom facilities in the building which housed the office as reasons for temporary suspension of service, which

is expected to result in the closing of the facility.

The building's owner, Allen Mason, who attended the meeting, said he would add both if the postal service asked him to.

In addition, postal officials cite the number of post offices within ten miles of the community as another reason the office could be closed. Those post offices include Hickman, Gordonsville, Chestnut Mound, Elmwood and Buffalo Valley.

Residents at Thursday's meeting asked why mail was being distributed through the Hickman post office when they had to pass the Gordonsville post office to reach Hickman.

Postal officials said they were unaware of this and would look into it.

Postal officials also noted another reason for the suspension in service and possible closing is the billions of dollars in revenue lost each year by the postal service.

Residents attending the

meeting cited a need for the post office and fear the community will lose its identity if the facility is closed.

Beneath threatening skies, some 25 or so residents stood in the Hickman post office parking lot and exchanged comments with four postal officials for well over an hour.

A notice of the meeting was recently posted at the Hickman post office.

Residents felt they should have received a notice of the meeting through the mail, rather than word of mouth.

Also, residents questioned why the meeting was not held in the Lancaster community and after work hours so more residents could attend.

Postal officials responded they were simply following postal guidelines.

Throughout the meeting postal officials re-iterated a decision whether to continue service at the post office on a part time basis had not been made, but residents felt otherwise.

"You're trying to justify a

decision which has already been made," commented one concerned citizen.

"We're here to listen to the community. We review the situation and it's up to headquarters to make the final decision," commented a postal official.

Residents have signed a petition against closing the office and filled out questionnaires.

County Mayor Michael Nesbitt said he had written letters to state and national legislators asking the post office remain open.

Billy Smith, a representative from Congressman Bart Gordon's office, also attended the meeting.

The building which housed the Lancaster post office was once Dr. Johnny Mason's office.

The last full-time postmaster at Lancaster was Carlene Helm. When Helm retired, individuals from other post offices came in for a couple of hours each day to sort the mail and left.

Petition

We the undersigned object to the closing of the Lancaster Tennessee post office. We believe there are other options that will meet the objectives of the postal service.

	Signature	
1	Melanie Bennett	
2	Melinda McDermott	
3	Nathan Williams	
4	Opheal Page	
5	Loyce Page	
6	Sheela Gullett	
7	Luan Gullett	
8	Beth Bennett	
9	Paulette Bennett	
10	James Bennett	
11	Mike E. Johnson	
12	Julie Williams	9
13	Keith Williams	9
14	Sandra Linton	
15	Nanda Williams	
16	Paula Williams	
17	Holly Williams	
18	Katie Williams	
19	Keith Williams	
20	Keith Williams	
21	William Mason	
22	Sam Weaver	
23	James F. Bach	
24	Paul Martz	
25	Jan W	

Petition

We the undersigned object to the closing of the Lancaster Tennessee post office. We believe there are other options that will meet the objectives of the postal service.

	Signature	Address	Zip Code	Phone Number
51	Austin Moore			
52	Kathy B.			
53	Kathy B. <small>manager</small>			
54	Carolyn Allen			
55	Julie Thomas			
56	Laura K. Bunker			
57	Heim Wood			
58	Christy Wade			
59	Tommy Wade			
60	Albert Moss			
61	Denise Moss			
62	Wendy P.			
63	Rob J.			
64	Genevieve VanVoorst			
65	Pete VanVoorst			
66	Joe Hubbardston			
67	Nancy Tower			
68	Don Thor			
69	Lisa Moss			
70	Judy Bates			
71	Patricia Bates			
72	Sabrina Gentry			
73	James Gentry			
74	Picky Zell			
75	Lizabett moss			

Petition

We the undersigned object to the closing of the Lancaster Tennessee post office. We believe there are other options that will meet the objectives of the postal service.

	Signature	Address	Zip Code	Phone Number
76	Tim Bates			
77	Franklin Jones			
78	Matthew Mays			
79	Donnie Bates			
80	Jimmy Kelley			
81	Robert Jones			
82	Gary Moss			
83	Steve Moss			
84	Keith Hester			
85	Shelley Butts			
86	Stacy Wood			
87	Ann Duke			
88	Lora Reynolds			
89	Jimmy Jenkins			
90	Valerie Jenkins			
91	Bebbie Wood			
92	Darla Cowan			
93	Wendy Saur			
94	Wendy Saur			
95	Beteena Sims			
96	Karen A. Carter			
97	Walter A. Cowan			
98	Christy Hill			
99	Tonya Goddard			
100	Sarona Thomas			

Petition

We the undersigned object to the closing of the Lancaster Tennessee Post Office.

	Signature	Address	Zip Code	Phone Number
101	Wallace Bennett			
102	Vivian Montgomery			
103	Mattie S. Munn			
104	Paula Baker			
105	John F. Smith			
106	Jama Dinkler			
107	Tyler Dinkler			
108	Ray L. Tidwell			
109	Alton Wood			
110	Pat Wood			
111	Phyllis Baker			
112	Wm. H. Bass			
113	Larry Watts			
114	Ruby Watts			
115	James Hentz			
116	[Signature]			
117	Lancaster Fire Dept			
118	Ellie Gullett			
119	Alli O. Mann			
120	Jelly Parkerson			
121	Joyce Parkerson			
122	Michael J. North			
123	Jay LaVade			
124	Jimmy Norris			
125	Mary Owsen			

Petition

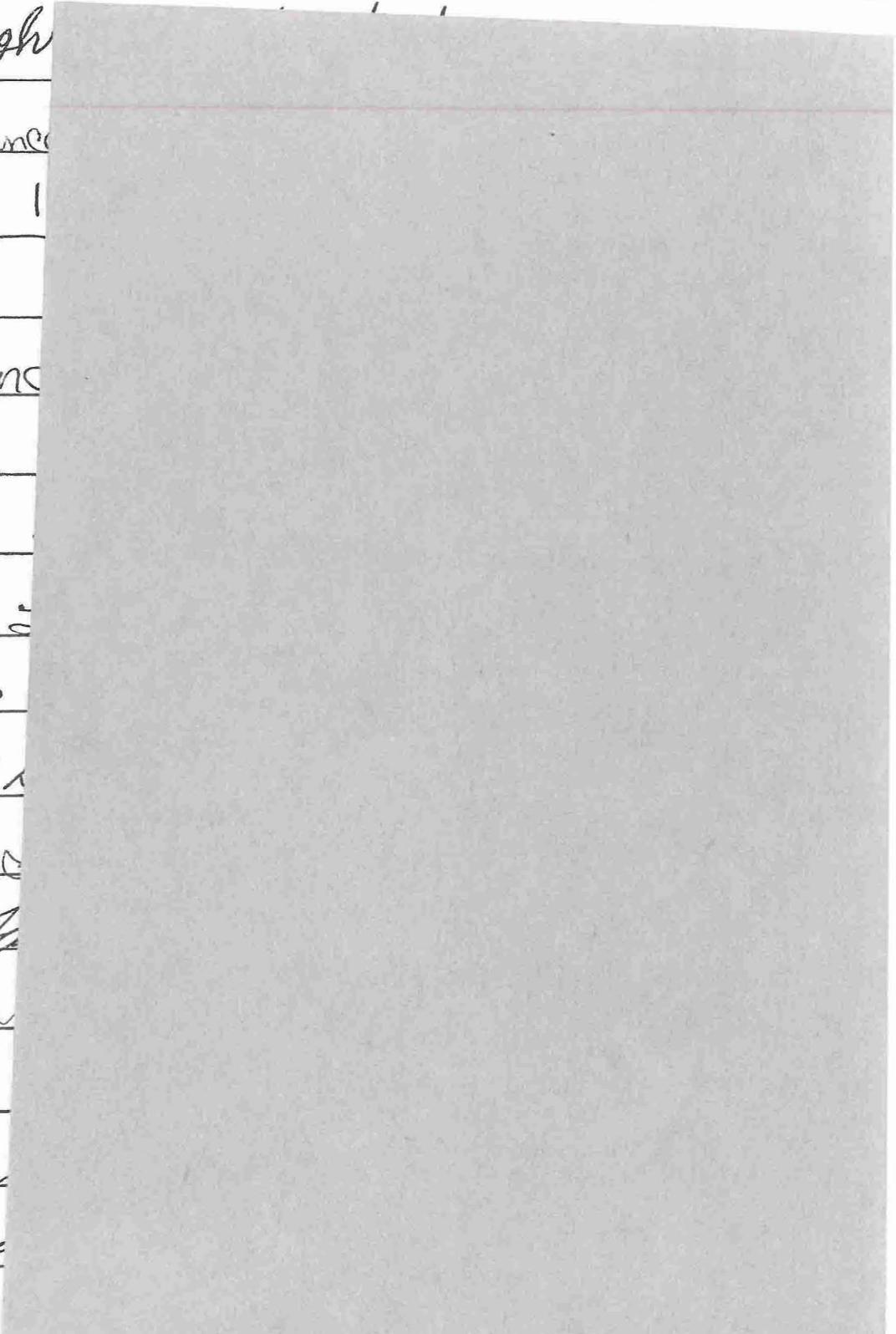
We the undersigned object to the closing of the Lancaster Tennessee Post Office.

	Signature	Address	Zip Code	Phone Number
151	Michael Wood			
152	Evelyn Keelley			
153	Mike Weaver			
154	Mat Beck			
155	Lina Butters			
156	Bobby Mason			
157	J. Reynolds			
158	Michael Miller			
159	Janna Gillard			
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WE THE UNDERSIGNED OBJECT TO THE REMOVAL OF
THE LANCASTER POST OFFICE.

*-----

1	David McCullough
2	Mary Hale Lane
3	Wend Word
4	Kevin Word
5	Kim Judd Lane
6	Tom Judd
7	Sam A. Bost
8	Paul L. Sanders
9	Jason A. Sanders
10	Diana Subb
11	Robert Hughes
12	Kenny Hughes
13	Darlene Cole
14	Bill Cole
15	David Denton Lane
16	Bonnie Denton Lane



36	HARRY JENNINGS
37	BRENDA JENNINGS
38	MH JENNINGS
39	NANCY JENNINGS
40	JEFF JENNINGS
41	JOHN JENNINGS
42	JOHN WILLIAMS (J)
43	LUCINDA SHARP
44	
45	
46	
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