

att: Secretary Postal Regulatory Commission

RECEIVED

Re: Docket # A2012-48 ~~affected~~ of the Postal Service's  
Determination to Discontinue the Elmo, Mo. Post Office  
Elmo, Missouri 64445

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(I request a grant of waiver from filing on line)

Enclosed is a copy of the Optional Comment Form, we  
were ask to fill out and send in after our 1st  
town meeting, when all this started.

I got this answer to my question or statement, I  
made at the meeting, back in July 2011. (Next Page over)

OK Now enclosed is the original article, in the  
St. Joseph News Press Tues. Jan. 3, 2012.

What did the postal dept. buy these big buildings  
for in St. Joseph, except to try and rent out space  
and make money. They didn't need a four story  
building for a post office.

Our small towns have to suffer, because of greed.  
If you don't call this trying to capitalize on the  
Real Estate Boom, what was it? Postal Service got  
in on the (bust.)

Our Congressman Sam Graves, has as  
you can read marked in (Red Ink) his office  
on the top floor.

He is from Tarkio Missouri, 16 miles  
from Elmo, Mo.

Answer to my  
Optional Comment Form

~~Can't be possible roads to Bad & Not enough time in day~~  
Special Services: Special services—such as Certified, Registered, Express Mail, Delivery Confirmation, Signature Confirmation, and COD—may be obtained from the carrier by leaving a note in the mailbox along with the appropriate payment. The carrier will provide the services that day and leave a customer receipt in the mailbox on the next delivery day.

~~Not true~~  
Holding Mail: Customers who will be away for an extended time, such as a vacation, may request that their mail be held at the Post Office during their absence. Upon return, the customer asks the Post Office to resume delivery. We have to drive 25 miles round trip to get mail held, 20 out of town. Doesn't get held at Elmo, Mo. But in Burlington, Mo. 25 miles away.

Additionally, Ms. Ecker mentions Real Estate investments made by the Postal Service. The USPS is not in the Real Estate investment industry; however, USPS does own some of its mail processing and Post Office facilities.

Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused your Elmo constituents. If I may be of further assistance in other Postal matters, please do not hesitate to contact me at (816) 374-9186. My direct line below is available for your office use also.

Sincerely,  
He never even signed this is just a form letter.  
Darrin R. Gadson  
USPS

Manager Consumer & Industry Contact  
300 W. Pershing Rd Ste. 207  
Kansas City, MO 64108-9631

~~This is also not true I have personally talked to the person in charge of selling this real Estate. He is based at the Western Facilities Service Office Englewood, Colo. Not in Missouri~~

This may not look very neat. I have sent several neat, official looking letters to your office. Haven't got any action. Maybe this will get your attention.

Joyce Ecker  
Elmo, Mo.

We really need help for the Younger oil Company

Re: Rocket # A2012-48

Elmo is on Highway C about 12 miles east of Westboro Missouri. Westboro was on the original closing list, even a little before Elmo. Smaller town than Elmo, no big business like Elmo's Younger oil Company.

All at once Westboro is off the closing list and, the mail truck that has went by from Highway 71 for 40 yrs, and dropped off mail in Elmo, and on to Westboro. Still goes by everyday, but can't drop mail off in Elmo.

We have to get our mail in afternoon, Post office open 12:15 - 4:15 cut to  $\frac{1}{2}$  day, which is O.K, but needs to be 8AM - 12PM (example) and could be if this truck could leave it.

Westboro is operating as always.

Sam Graves is 5 miles from Westboro, it is in his back door. All his farmers friends would get their mail at the Westboro, Mo. address.

Since he is a renter from the Postal Service, where they need renters bad, looks like this is why, Westboro got taken off the list immediately.

If the Postal Service, has this much real estate in every town the size of St. Joseph. Pretty obvious what amount of Money that entails.

We need our post office open  $\frac{1}{2}$  day in morning

We don't need favours shown in our closest town  
Election is coming up.

Would like to hear an explanation to all this.



Joyce Ecker  
PO Box 36  
Elmo, MO 64445-0036

Thank you

Joyce Ecker

(I request a grant of waiver from filing on line) (Docket # A2012-48)

# What will happen to building?



MATT REID/St. Joseph News-Press

A view is shown of the front doors facing Eighth Street of the U.S. Postal Service main post office in Downtown St. Joseph.

## Postal Service says current space too large for office

By **KRISTIN HOPPA**  
St. Joseph News-Press

After the announcement of the U.S. Postal Services' plan for the sale of three post offices within the city, the location of the U.S. post office Downtown remains in limbo.

The four-story building, located at 201 S. Eighth St., was once a hub of Downtown activity with a thriving post office with other federal operations: Agricultural, Civil Service, Defense, Interior, Justice, Labor and Treasury departments. While foot traffic remained active with the first floor's mail service operations below

a series of murals on St. Joseph history, upper floors primarily remained vacant with hallways lined by locked rooms.

"Obviously, the (U.S. post office) building is a major asset to us Downtown," said Becky Boerkircher, executive director of the Downtown Partnership. "It's a historic building that has been here forever, and it's a very viable building for Downtown."

Dedicated in 1939, the federal structure housed previous tenants such as the local divisions of the U.S. District Court, the Internal Revenue Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Congressman Sam Graves has a dis-

trict office on the top floor. While the U.S. Bankruptcy Court operates docket dates about once a month, the roughly 90,000-square-foot structure remains primarily empty.

"At one time, there were also several attorneys in there because a lot of law firms got their start there," said Ray Sisson, a Coldwell Bank Realtor who once leased office space in the building. "We had the building listed for lease for two years ... tenants would want renovations, but (the federal post office) couldn't get the dollars to do that."

Please see **WHAT/Page A5**

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

St. Joseph News

# What will happen to building?

CONTINUED FROM Page A1

Mr. Sisson said that the building remained a sturdy, well-maintained property, but lack of modern amenities, security improvements and basic property upgrades could not be completed. The value of the building in 1940 was \$775,000 and about \$11.8 million in 2009.

"The sale price of the building really depends on the commercial market today," said Richard Watkins, spokesman for the Postal Service, adding that there is no current estimated value for the property.

While the U.S. Postal Service delayed the closing of hundreds of mail processing centers and thousands of smaller post offices until mid-May, it announced intentions to close and sell the Pony Express Station, 1519 S. 10th St., and the Wyatt Park Station, 2403 Olive St., and sell and possibly relocate the Downtown Post Office to another Downtown location.

Citing an "excess of capacity," Mr. Watkins said the 201 N. Eighth St. location is too much space for the postal service. Mr.

Sisson said if a private buyer invested money for updates and renovations, the potential of the Downtown building could be unlimited.

"The post office basically said they couldn't do what was needed to be done to lease it, so they took it off the market a few years ago," he said. "Parking service is somewhat limited up there, but if the right person bought the building, it could be turned into housing, residential use or better office spaces. It's a great old building."

Mr. Sisson added that the commercial real-estate market in the St. Joseph area has grown to the point where real-estate agents are running out of inventory. While the future of the location will remain unknown until at least May 15, Downtown supporters hope the building remains in the St. Joseph landscape.

"All we can do is hope for the best," Ms. Boerkircher said. "We've lost too many historic assets in our Downtown."

Kristin Hoppa can be reached at [kristin.hoppa@newspressnow.com](mailto:kristin.hoppa@newspressnow.com).  
Follow her on Twitter: SJNPHoppa.