March 30, 2012

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern for the abandonment of the Greenwood Post Office in Greenwood, Albemarle County, Virginia.  Located at 788 Greenwood Road, the small circa 1940 post office building is a contributing resource in the Greenwood-Afton Rural Historic District that was established in 2011. The work was completed by Arcadia Preservation, historic preservation and architectural history consultants.

The current building was designed by Stanislaw Makielski, an architect of noted local significance.  His design of the post office was praised in the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the district under Criterion A for "Work of a Master" under Criterion C.

Significantly, the post office has served as one of the social centers of the rural Greenwood community since the arrival of the railroad in 1853. The original post office was located just north of the current location at Greenwood Depot.  In the 1940s, the "village center" migrated from the depot area after its closure to the crossroads at County Store. The current post office has remained the central social center of the community since then.

Socially and historically the Greenwood Post Office is an important part of the Greenwood community. Deacquisition by the post office may also lead to the building's abandonment and possible deterioration and loss.  The loss of such important resources greatly diminishes the integrity of the nationally-recognized rural historic district.

As a preservationist and historian, I am hopeful that you will take the importance of this building and the role the post office plays in the community into account in your decision.  I hope you will find a way to keep it open and the Greenwood Post Office will continue to serve the needs of the community as it has since 1853.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Hallock
Arcadia Preservation
Owner/Architectural Historian