

Replacing or Repairing Our Hemmingwood Victorian-Style Mailboxes

Jesse Gough

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Increasingly it seems that our Hemmingwood homeowners have need to replace their original Victorian-style mailboxes due either to something breaking or more typically to someone backing into the boxes and breaking the post off at the base. When these homeowners searched for duplicate replacements, they have usually been unable to find them. They have then contacted someone on the Board or Architecture Committee to seek help. This message is being written to alert you so that you will be ready if you find yourself with a broken mailbox that needs to be repaired or replaced.

Is Welding an Option?

If your mailbox post is broken, it may be able to be welded, but not just any welding company can do this welding since the box, post, and base are made of aluminum. If the post or other broken part can be welded, Mid-State Welding in Franklin can do the job, either onsite or at the welding shop if you take it there, Mid-State won't weld it unless they believe it will be strong and hold. The contact information for Mid-State Welding follows:

Mid-State Welding (Mike is the owner)
1513 Sunset Drive, Franklin, TN 37064
[615-595-0771](tel:6155950771) (office)
[615-400-8662](tel:6154008662) (cell)

If the mailbox cannot be welded, will not likely hold up if it were to be welded, or the cost for welding is too much in comparison to the cost for a new mailbox, then you will want to replace it.

If Welding Is Not an Option . . .

If you must replace your mailbox, **ensure** that what you get is **cast aluminum with a powder-coat finish**. The AMCO Manufacturing Corporation Victorian-style mailbox meets these requirements and is the closest to our original Victorian-style Hemmingwood mailboxes that the Architecture Committee has been able to find. It is a quality box manufactured by a reputable company that has been in the business for quite a while. That mailbox has a "Letter" flap (on what is intended to be the front of the box) and a "locking" door (on what is intended to be the rear of the box). For Hemmingwood, it will need to be installed so that the "Letter" flap is at the rear and then the "locking" door will be at the street side. Another difference between the AMCO mailbox and the original Victorian-style single-door Hemmingwood mailboxes is the AMCO "Pony Express" design on the box. This is not a problem since to

the best that the Architecture Committee has been able to determine the original design is not available in a quality cast-aluminum, power-coat-finish mailbox.

Best Source and Ordering Specifications . . .

The best source for the AMCO product is

<https://www.mailboxworks.com/residential-mailboxes/mailbox-with-post/amco-victorian-pedestal.html>.

You may find others, but you should be very wary of any other visually similar or cheaper box for there are many that look similar to our Hemmingwood boxes and many that are much cheaper but which are inferior in material and/or workmanship. Indeed, some are steel and will quickly rust, and others are very thin aluminum.

When you order the box, you need to specify (1) the white finish option and (2) the “non-locking door” option. The white finish option is necessary since the *HHOA Architectural and Use Restrictions Guidelines Document* specifies that all Hemmingwood mailboxes must be painted white or off-white. The “non-locking” door option has a twist-latch latching mechanism instead of a lock. Since postmen hate latches because they slow them down in delivering the mail, you will need to disable the latch and install a magnet or catch to hold the door closed.

When You Get Your Replacement Mailbox . . .

When you get the new mailbox, Jesse Gough (Architecture Committee chairman) will be glad to show you how to disable the latch and install a door magnet if you should need that help. Also, when you get the new mailbox, take note of the base dimensions and distances between the mounting holes compared to what you have now. The new box may require that you install new mounting bolts into the concrete base, but that should not be necessary. The AMCO base dimensions are copied below for reference.

If you have need for further information or help, contact Jesse at [615-477-6399](tel:615-477-6399) or jesse@thegoughs.com.

The AMCO mailbox base/holes dimensions are shown in the following diagram.

