

Mailbox Website Info

Origins of the Pineapple Mailbox Post

In 1998 the new Islands of Beaufort (SC) development, which used the low country antebellum home designs of William Poole as the theme of the community, chose the custom built pineapple mailbox post as the official mailbox post for the neighborhood. In 1999 Berkeley Park was established, also with the initial intent to feature the southern traditional home designs of William Poole. The developers likewise chose the pineapple post as the iconic standard for our neighborhood. And while there are a number of William Poole designed homes in Berkeley Park, the demand eventually outpaced the ability of the original builder to keep up and other builders were permitted to build homes by other designers. However, the pineapple post remained the unique and constant symbol to present a neat, uniform, and attractive appearance of the neighborhood.

History of the Berkeley Park Pineapple Mailbox Post

That is not to suggest that the current version of the post is exactly as it was in the beginning. The level of customization required expensive woodworking equipment and materials, and the complicated manufacturing process for the original model required significant labor and tool work to build. It also created unnecessary stress on the wood causing early failure and cracking. In an attempt to reduce some of the difficulty of building and maintaining the posts, some minor but important evolution has occurred. Over time our Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has re-engineered the original design to maintain the same look while eliminating: 1) the sandblasting of numbers; 2) electroplating the pineapple with gold leaf; 3) unnecessary joints; and; 4) other minor improvements.

Through it all homeowners have repeatedly affirmed that they want to keep the pineapple mailbox post rather than change to another style which would distract from the aesthetics of our neighborhood but it has almost always been a source of tension. In 2011 homeowners voted, by a narrow margin, to keep our custom mailbox design rather than replace them it with a readily available, maintenance free design similar to those in Bridgemore, The Battery, and other surrounding neighborhoods. And that has led to a recurring downward spiral of upkeep and maintenance issues.

Without question, the iconic BP pineapple posts were beautiful when they were new but now they are showing their age. Homeowners have frequently complained about the high cost and difficulty of maintaining, repairing, and—finally—replacing our mailbox posts. Many of the wood mailbox posts have already been replaced once and many more are in serious disrepair. The wood version is susceptible to insect damage from termites and rot from wicking water.

Currently there are two (2) versions of the pineapple post approved by the Board of Directors (BOD): 1) the wood version; and 2) a composite material similar to synthetic boat dock planks, which has the appearance of wood, and which is now available from the BOD.

The Mailbox Committee has recently ordered a prototype aluminum post which will look very similar to the existing wood versions and will be powder coated. The prototype should be in our hands in time for the Annual Meeting in October. If it is approved by the BOD it is expected to be priced fairly close to that of the composite post.

As is delineated elsewhere in the Declarations of Covenants & Restrictions (DCRs) section of this part of the website, the DCRs stipulate that mailboxes will be uniform and only one per lot. Other designs of mailboxes and posts not obtained from the HOA are NOT permitted.