

PETITION TO TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & CAMPO

We, the following petitioners, insist that the MAD 4 designation for Hamilton Pool Road, from RR 12 west to the county line, be changed back to comply with the language in the 2005 Travis County Bond Election Project description: "Design only of upgrade to 2 lane Hill Country roadway". See *accompanying documents for more detail.*

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CONTACT: texann@hughes.net

Rationale for Petition against MAD4 on Hamilton Pool Rd from RR 12 to the Travis County line.

We, the following petitioners, insist that CAMPO's MAD 4 designation for HPR from RR 12 west to the county line be changed back to the original "improved 2 lane with shoulders" road improvements for the following reasons:

1. THE VOTERS WERE MISLED.

- a. The 2005 citizen bond committee, after much study, recommended funding the design of road improvements for Hamilton Pool Road from RR12 to the Blanco county line. Those improvements were to be a 2 lane road with shoulders, NOT 4 LANES, NOT 3 LANES, just 2 lanes with shoulders.
- b. Committee members, with that understanding, campaigned for passage of the bonds.
- c. Now Travis county officials have taken it upon themselves to expand the scope of what the voters approved in 2005 and they plan to design for a MAD4 (4-lane, divided highway) for Hamilton Pool Road from RR12 to the Blanco county line.
- d. THE VOTERS DID NOT APPROVE DESIGN OF A MAD4.

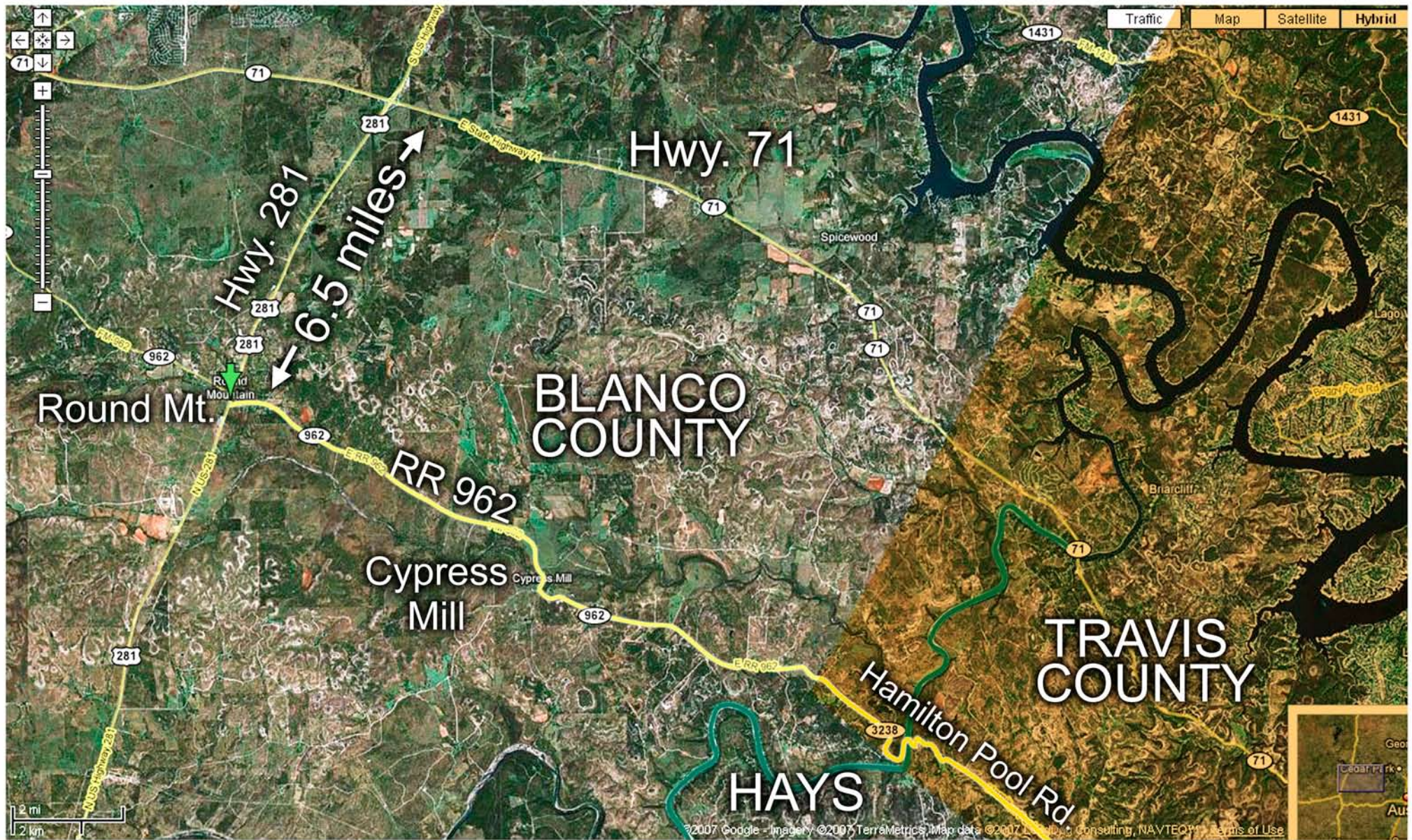
2. IT IS UNNECESSARY.

- a. There are a maximum of 18 Travis County homes served by Hamilton Pool Road west of the Pedernales River. At a generously-estimated 2.5 persons per household (the approximate county average) that's 45 people (.0005% of the Travis County population of 921,000).
- b. Economic trends show that TxDOT travel models, forecasting suburban sprawl, ignore changing demographic patterns. Because of traffic congestion and the rapidly increasing costs of driving, home buyers prefer to live closer to the cores of cities.
- c. Hamilton Pool Road, west of the Pedernales River, might be called a "road to nowhere".
 - i. Cypress Mill, a ghost town in Blanco County, lies approximately 8 miles from the river.
 - ii. Beyond that, another 7 miles, lies Round Mountain, a small truck stop and cattle auction barn on Hwy. 281.
 - iii. Round Mountain is 6.5 miles from the intersection of Hwy 71 and Hwy. 281. In other words, this section of 281 is easily served by the existing 4 lane highway 71.
- d. The majority of the residents along this stretch of Hamilton Pool Rd/962 chose this area in which to reside for its peaceful country nature and beautiful, winding 2 lane country road.
- e. Tourists come here for the scenic country roads including the hills and curves. They drive for pleasure, not speed, nor to go to any destination.

3. IT WOULD BE DESTRUCTIVE OF THE FRAGILE AND UNIQUE BEAUTY OF THE RIVER VALLEY.

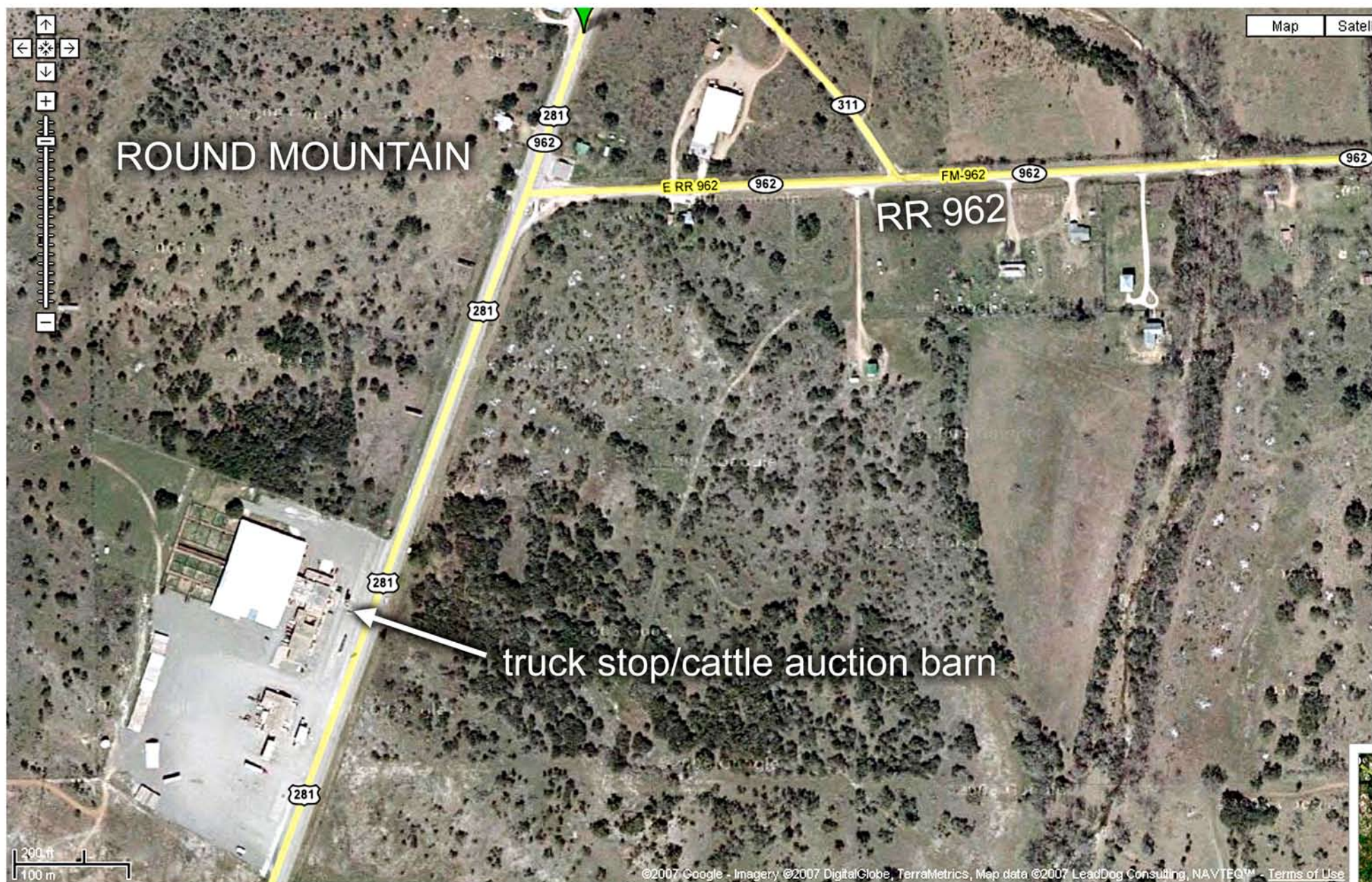
- a. The road cut on the west side of the river on Hamilton pool road provides a good exposure of the Sycamore Formation, which local university geology classes come to study, as does the Austin Geological Society on its field trips.
- b. Even small construction projects, no matter how well planned, often have a deleterious effect on the environment. Witness the recent damage to Hamilton Pool by private road construction. Even a little damage to our precious Pedernales River or its valley would be too much.

In sum, it is unconscionable to take on thirty years of new debt for an unnecessary, unwanted, destructive, major construction project. MAD 4 is not appropriate for Hamilton Pool Road west of RR 12. MAD 4 designation from the Pedernales River to the Travis/Blanco county line is ridiculous. Return the plan to the 2 lanes with shoulders which the 2005 bond committee recommended, supported and promoted to the voters.



Road to Nowhere





Round Mountain is a truck stop and cattle auction barn on Hwy. 281 near RR 962.

“Booming” Cypress Mill



CYPRESS MILL STORE
US POST OFFICE

252





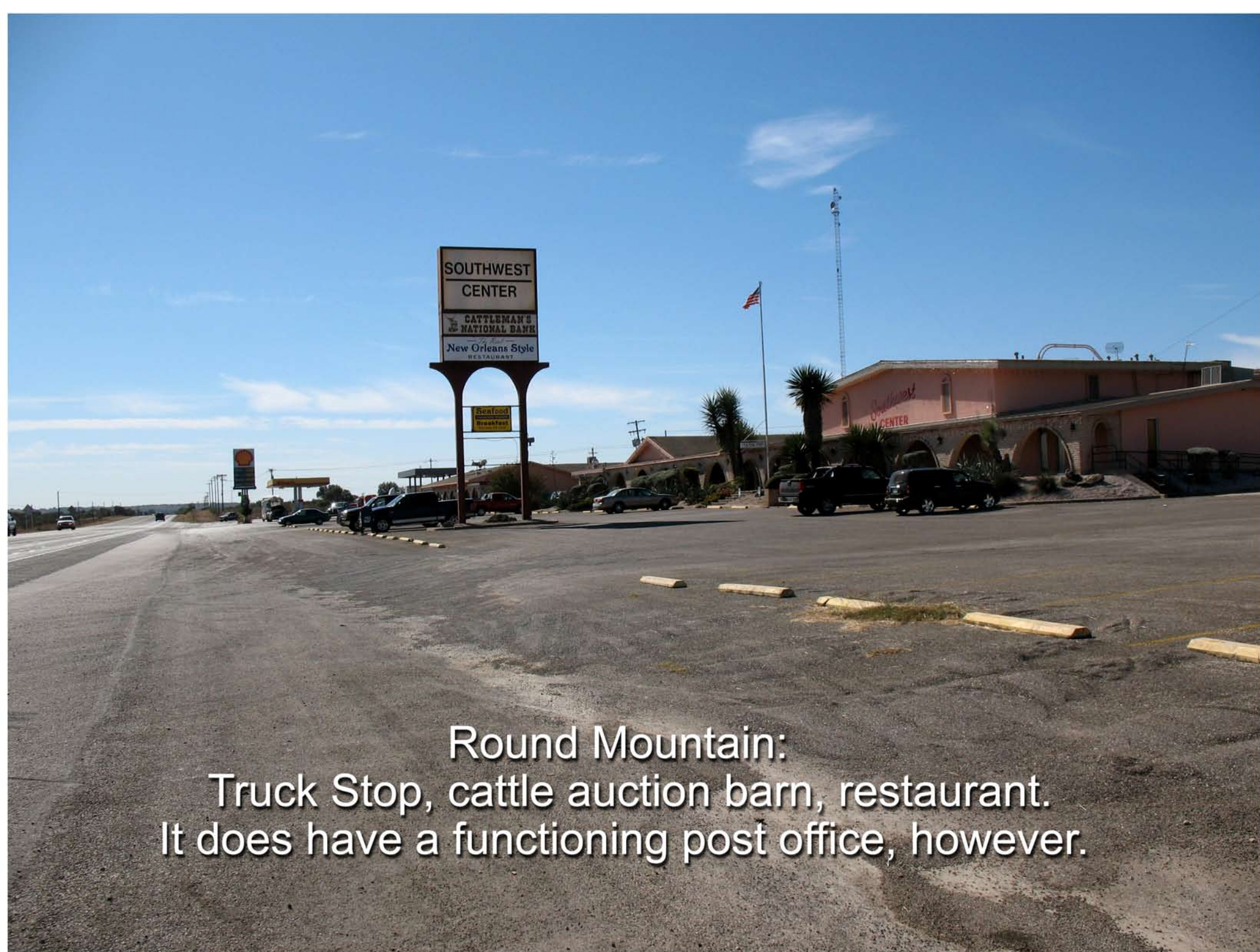
ROUND MOUNTAIN

CITY LIMIT

POP. 111



Cypress Mill consists of one church,
one defunct post office & 2 broken gas pumps.



Round Mountain:
Truck Stop, cattle auction barn, restaurant.
It does have a functioning post office, however.





Dr. DeHon's Geology class from Texas State University