

TERRITORIAL COVERS

USED IN OREGON AND WASHINGTON

Purpose: This presentation shows covers used during the territorial period from Oregon and Washington. Where it can be determined, the routes that the cover traveled will be examined. The Oregon Territory was created on August 14, 1847, and it included what would become the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, as well as parts of Montana and Wyoming. Washington Territory was created on March 2, 1853 and included parts of Idaho and Montana. The first post offices were at Astoria and Oregon City and were authorized by the United States Government in 1847. When the territory of Washington was created 14 post offices were move into the Washington territory.

Scope: This exhibit is arranged in chronological order by the opening date of the post offices. The current county location is shown in parenthesis. Several post offices, are exhibited that were established prior to the formation of the Washington Territory in 1853. It is not always possible to represent these post offices with pre-1853 covers.

Harder to acquire
items framed in red

Towns formed in Oregon Territory,
and became part of Washington
Territory in 1853.

Abbreviations
USMSC – US Mail Steamship Co.
PMSS – Pacific Mail Steamship Co.

POSTAL RATES

Until June 30, 1851

Transcontinental letter rate ½ oz. 40 cents
West-coast rate ½ oz. 12 ½ cents
Unsealed circulars to 1 oz. 3 cents

September 30, 1852

Unsealed circulars, prepaid up to 3 oz. 1 cent
Unsealed circulars, unpaid up to 3 oz. 3 cents

July 1, 1851 – March 30, 1855

Transcontinental rate prepaid ½ oz. 6 cents
Transcontinental rate unpaid ½ oz. 10 cents
West – coast rate prepaid ½ oz. 3 cents
West – coast rate unpaid ½ oz. 5 cents

April 1, 1855 to Statehood

(All Mail Prepaid)
Transcontinental rate ½ oz. 10 cents
West – coast rate ½ oz. 3 cents

July 1, 1863 – September 3, 1883

To all parts of the United States, per ½ oz. 3 cents

October 1, 1883 – June 30, 1885

To all parts of the United States, per ½ oz. 2 cents

July 1, 1885 – November 2, 1917

To all parts of the United States, per 1 oz. 2 cents