

Early Madison County Post Offices and Postmarks

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Madison County was created in 1808 as part of the Mississippi Territory. In 1819, Alabama became a state. Stampless covers postmarked during the territorial period have been found from Huntsville, Hazel Green, and Triana from 1812 to 1819. A November 21, 1816 stampless cover from Huntsville, Mississippi Territory is shown below.

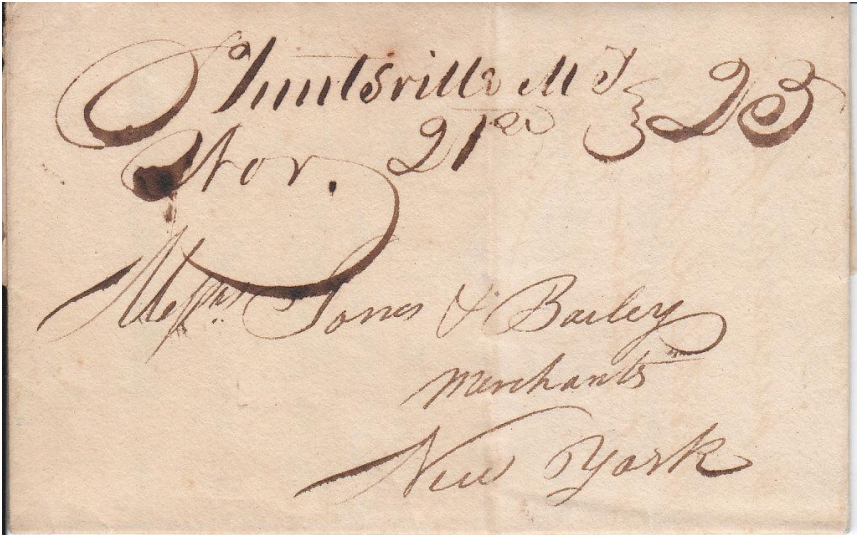


Photo courtesy of Mike O'Reilly

Various circular postmarks were used from 1819 to 1858. A fancy negative five in a star and a negative 10 in a circle rate markings can be found on letters from Huntsville between 1845 and 1853.

Manuscript postmarks – simply the town name written out – used by smaller towns in Madison County appear on mail from Hazel Green (1820-21), Whitesburg (1828), Triana (1839 and 1845), Meridianville (1840), New Market (1845-54), Maysville (1851), and New Hope (1853). Huntsville is known for its Big Spring, and there is at least one cover postmarked from Big Spring, Alabama. But that location is not in the Huntsville; it is in western Alabama near Tuscumbia.