

ARKANSAS

Town Postmark

Dates Seen

Size • Color • Value

ARKANSAS AS TERRITORY OF LOUISIANA

July 4, 1805 - December 6, 1812

In 1686 the French built a trading post near the confluence of the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers. By 1751 they had erected a fort about 30 miles up the Arkansas River which, because of flooding, was moved in 1756 to a spot six miles above the mouth of the River and named Fort Desha. Following the 1763 Treaty of Paris the Spanish took control of the post, renaming it Fort Carlos III. By 1779 flooding again forced the removal of the fort to its old location 25 miles up river. In 1791 the post was renamed Fort San Estevan. When Major George B. Armistead took control in 1804 he renamed it Fort Madison. Authorities disagree as to whether the post was abandoned in 1808 or 1812, but after 1808 (the date that a second Ft. Madison was constructed in what is now Iowa) the name of the post became "the post on the Arkansa" or "Arkansas Post".

"Arkansas, 1806" Addressed to Christopher Kaufmann, Ouachita. Hand carried, as there was no postal service. Earliest reported letter from Arkansas.

"Fort Madison 30th Novr 1808" dateline on letter of Major George Armistead to Frederick Bates, Sec. of the Territory of Louisiana at St. Louis. This letter was probably carried by military courier to the Chickasaw Agency in Mississippi Territory where it entered the U. S. mail Feb. 9, 1809 --

AS MISSOURI TERRITORY

December 7, 1812 - July 4, 1819

The first post office established within the boundaries of present day Arkansas was "Arkansa" (also called Arkansas Post). The first returns from this office are dated July 1, 1817 so it was probably established in 1816. The 1817 "Table of Post Offices" lists this office as being in Arkansas County, Mo.T., Eli J. Lewis, P.M. Also established no later than 1817, and thus operational under the jurisdiction of Missouri Territory were Cadron, Davidson(ville), Little Red River and White River.

*Arkansa Mo.T.(Aug. 1, 1817;Ms;Free Eli J.Lewis Post Master Arkansa[ms];Black) --
*Arkansa(Nov. 25, 1818;Ms;Free[ms];Black) On letter to John Scott at Washington City --
*Arkansa MoT(Nov. 25, 1818;Ms;Free[ms];Black) On letter to former President Thomas Jefferson --

ARKANSAS TERRITORY

July 5, 1819 - June 14, 1836

POPULATION

1810 – 1,062	1840 – 97,000
1820 – 14,255	1850 – 209,000
1830 – 30,388	1860 – 435,000

Cut from Missouri Territory. Originally in the Louisiana Purchase. Created by Act of Congress March 2, 1819, effective July 5, 1819. The Territory was larger than the state, initially including most of present day Oklahoma. The area to the west left over after Indian cessions of the 1820s and Arkansas statehood (1836) had post offices which, because of Post Office Department administrative attachment to Arkansas, continued to use Ark. abbreviations for many years although really in the Indian Territory. See introduction to Oklahoma.

Little Rock Post Office established 1820. In 1820 the Arkansas Gazette listed offices as follows: Ark. Post, Cadron, Clark Court House, Crystal Hill, Davidsonville, Fourche de Thomas, Hempstead Court House, Hopefield, Little Rock, Mississippi, Mount Praval, Point Chicot, White Run.

An * before a listing denotes institutional ownership. These markings are not priced unless similar, privately owned markings are known.

*Arkansa(E)(1818;Ms;Black) See Missouri Territory	--
*(L)(Nov. 16, 1820)	--
Arkansa(April 4, 1820;Ms;Red)	1,500
Arkansas(E)(May 18, 1820 Ms;Red)	1,500
(L)(Jan. 3, 1834)	1,000
Arkansas Post A.T.(E)(Dec. 30, 1832;Ms;Black)	750
(L)(Jan. 3, 1834)	750
Arkansas Post(Sep. 22, 1835;Ms;Black)	750
*Arkopolis(Sept. 30, 1821;Ms;--)	--

The town of Little Rock was first staked out in 1820 by St Louis land speculator William Russell. The same year a rival group, led by James Bryan and William O'Hara, laid out a town over the Russell tract which they called Arkopolis. The first setback for the Bryan-O'Hara group and the use of the name Arkopolis came on April 10, 1820 when the community's first postmaster, Amos Wheeler, was appointed for the town of Little Rock. Later, the Territory's superior court also recognized the Russell claim so it is not clear why the name Arkopolis was used as a postal town marking as late as September 1821. The absence of any recorded Little Rock postmarks prior to October 20, 1821, leaves open the possibility that Postmaster Wheeler, contrary to Post Office Department records used the name Arkopolis from the very beginning. What can be said for certain is that Little Rock became the second capital of Arkansas Territory on June 1, 1821, and that Henry W. Conway, the community's second postmaster(appointed October 17, 1821), never used the old name in his markings.

Bartholomew AT(March 3, 1835;Ms;Black)	450
*Batesville AT/A.T.(E)(Nov. 21, 1821;Ms;Black)	750
*(L)(Dec. 21, 1835)	250
*Batesville(E)(Sept. 22, 1824;Ms;--)	--
*(L)(June 22, 1830)	--
Batesville A.Ty(May 18, 1830;Ms;Black)	250
*Cadron(E)(Dec. 9, 1822;Ms;--)	--
*(L)(Dec. 30, 1822)	--
Caldwellton,AT(Jan. 19, 1835;Ms;Black)	450
*Cane Hill A.T.(E)(Dec. 22, 1831;Ms;Black)	--
(L)(April 23, 1834)	--
Cane Hill Ark.(Aug. 26, 1835;Ms;Black)	500
(1)Cant.Gibson Ark.Terr.(E)(Sept. 25, 1827;Ms;Black)	750
*(L)(March 1, 1828)	450
*(1)Cant.Gibson A.Ter.(E)(Oct. 23, 1827;Ms;Black)	--
(L)See Oklahoma	--
(1)CANT.GIBSON/A.T.(E)(April 22, 1828;C-30;Red)	750
(L)(May 20, 1828) + See note below	750

Modern reproductions of the cover bearing this marking exist. They are lithographed on paper with watermark reading "Weston/ Hampshire Bond/100% New Rag".

(1)Cant.Gibson A.T.(1828-29;Ms;Black) See Oklahoma	--
(1)Cant.Gibson(1828-32;Ms;Black) See Oklahoma	--
(1)C Gibson(1833;Ms;Black) See Oklahoma	--
Columbia A.T.(May 24, 1835;Ms;Black)	350
See note under Villemont, this section.	
Columbus A.T.(May 23, 1834;Ms;Black)	350
*Conway Lafayette Cty A.T.(Sept. 17, 1830;Ms;--)	--
Crawford C House A.T.(June 10, 1823;Ms;Black)	500

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Town Postmark	Dates Seen	Size • Color • Value	Town Postmark	Dates Seen	Size • Color • Value
Crawford C.H. Ar.Ter(Jan. 6, 1826;Ms;Magenta)	450	Same(Nov. 11, --;Red)	.....	800
Crawford C.H.A.T.(E)(April 15, 1825;Ms;Black)	400	HEMPSTEAD C.H./Ar.T.(E)(Mar. 21, 1835;C-30;FREE,		
*(L)(May 20, 1832)	400	D.T.Witter P.M.[ms frank];Black)	.....	475
*Crawford CHATy(E)(Oct. 28, 1825;Ms;Black)	--	(L)(May 23, 1835)	.....	450
*(L)(Nov. 25, 1825)	--	(L)(Red) See State	.....	--
*Crawford Ct H Ark Ter(E)(Aug. 4, 1826;Ms;--)	400	*Hot Springs Ark.T.(July 17, 1833;Ms;politeness Genl		
*(L)(July 6, 1827)	400	Houston[ms];Black)	.....	--
*Crawford CoH AT(Jan. 26, 1830;Ms;Black)	400	*Izard CH AT(E)(July 1, 1829;Ms;Black)	.....	--
*Crawford C.Ho AT(Feb. 13, 1835;Ms;Black)	400	(L)(Aug. 4, 1832)	.....	500
*Crawford Ct Ho AT(Feb. 21, 1835;Ms;Black)	400	*Jackson Ark Ter(Oct. 6, 1830;Ms;--)	.....	500
*Dardanelles, A.T.(E)(Nov. 29, 1824;Ms;Black)	--	*Jackson A.T.(E)(Nov. 15, 1834;Ms;Black)	.....	500
*(L)(June 9, 1827)	--	(L)(Feb. 9, 1836)	.....	500
Dardenelle Ak(Aug. 10, 1828;Ms;P.M.frank;Black)	400	Kidron Ark.Ter(1835;Ms;Black) See Oklahoma	.....	--
*Davidsonville Arks T(Aug. 31, 1821;Ms;--)	--	Lakeport A.T.(E)(July 14, 1834;Ms;Black)	.....	550
*Same(free Hy Sandford P.M.DavidsonvilleAt[ms]; Black) Used from Jackson, Mo., June 1, 1826	--	Lewisburgh A.T.(E)(April 6, 1834;Ms;Black)	.....	550
(L)	--	(L)(Jan. 16, 1835;Ms;--)	.....	550
*Davidsonville Arkansas(1822-24;Ms;--)	--	*Litchfield A.T.(July 24, 1834;Ms;Black)	.....	--
*Dwight, Cherokee Nation,Arks.Tery(Nov. 25, 1823;Ms; Free[ms];Black)	--	Little River Lick/Ark.Ter.(Mar. --, 1832;sawtooth box 32x15,YMDD below,inside box;Black)	.....	1,600
			Lit Rive Lic A.T.(Dec. 6, 1832;Ms;Black)	.....	750
			See note under Ultima Thule, this section.		
*Little Rock A.T.(E)(Oct. 20, 1821;Ms;Black)	600	*Little Rock A.T.(E)(Aug. 31, 1831)	.....	250
*(L)(Aug. 31, 1831)	250	(E)(Oct. 9, 1827;Ms;Red)	.....	400
(E)(Oct. 9, 1827;Ms;Red)	400	(L)(Oct. 1837)	.....	250
*Little Rock(E)(July 21, 1822;Ms;Black)	400	*Little Rock(E)(Aug. 11, 1834)	.....	250
*(L)(Aug. 11, 1834)	250	*Little Rock(Sept. 29, 1822;Ms;--)	.....	400
*Little Rock(Sept. 29, 1822;Ms;--)	400	LITTLE ROCK/ARKS.(Oct. 7, 1829;C-31;Red)	.....	400
			(E)(Nov. 29, 1832;FREE;Black)	.....	250
			*(L)(as Ark.Terr.)(April 23, 1836)	.....	150
			(L) See State	.....	--
			See note under Arkopolis, this section.		
LITTLE ROCK/A.R.K.S.(Sept. 9, 1830;fancy shield in box 28x21,YMDD in shield;Black)	5,000	LITTLE ROCK/A.R.K.S.(Sept. 9, 1830;fancy shield in box 28x21,YMDD in shield;Black)	.....	5,000
Same(Sept. 30, 1830;fancy shield in semicircle 27x19.5;Red)	3,500	Same(Sept. 30, 1830;fancy shield in semicircle; Black)	.....	1,750
			(L)(June 21, 1832)	.....	1,200
			*Logan AT(May 24, 1834;Ms;--)	.....	--
			(2)Miller C.H.Ark.Terr.(E)(June 24, 1832;Ms;Black)	.....	800
			(L)(Oct. 15, 1825)	.....	750
			(2)Miller CH.Ark.Ty(June 24, 1824;Ms;Black)	.....	--
			(L)(Oct. 15, 1825) See Oklahoma	.....	--
			(2)Miller CH(E)(July 22, 1826;Ms;Black)	.....	650
			(L) See Oklahoma	.....	--
			(2)Miller CH AT(1828-36;Ms;Black) See Oklahoma	.....	--
			*Morrison Bluff Ar T, or AT(E)(July 5, 1830;Ms;--)	.....	--
			(L)(Dec. 10, 1832)	.....	--
			Mouth of Arkansas(--;Ms;Black)	.....	500
			Mo (Mouth of) Cache, A.T.(May 22, --;Ms;Black)	.....	400
			*Mouth White River(April 2, 1832;Ms;Black)	.....	--
			*New Gascony Ark. Territory(July 9, 1833;Ms;Black)	.....	--
			*Pine Bluffs A.Ty(June 22, 1829;Ms;--)	.....	450
			*Pine Bluffs Jeff Cy A Ty(Aug. 10, 1831;Ms;Red)	.....	375
			(L)(Aug. 16, 1831)	.....	375
			*Pine Bluffs Jeff Cty Ark Ty(Jan. 24, 1832;Ms;Black)	.....	375
			Pine Bluff(Aug. 30, 1835;Ms;Black)	.....	250
			*Pine Bluff A.T.(E)(Jan. 15, 1834;Ms;Black)	.....	250
			(L)(Aug. 30, 1835)	.....	250
			*St Francis(E)(Nov. 27, 1828;Ms;--)	.....	--
			(L)(June 2, 1833)	.....	350
			*St Francis A.T.(Nov. 24, 1832;Ms;--)	.....	--
			*Scotia AT(Dec. 31, 1832;Ms;--)	.....	--
			*Short Mountain A.T.(E)(Nov. 11, 1832;Ms;G. Marshall P.M.frank;--)	.....	--
			(L)(Dec. 5, 1833)	.....	--
			Strawberry River A.T.(July 5, 1834;Ms;Black)	500
			*Tekatoka A.T.(E)(Nov. 6, 1829;Ms;P.M.frank;Black)	--
			(L)(Jan. 26, 1830)	--

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*Same(Free E.W.duVal Post Mr Tekatoka A.T.[ms]; Black) Used from Phila.,Pa.,July 28, 1828	--		EL DORADO/Ark.(1850-55;32;5,10,PAID;Black)	45
*Same Used from Louisville,Ky.,Dec. 22, 1828	--		FALCON/ARK(1850s;30;PAID/3[C];Black)	. . . . .	50
*Same Used from Arkansas Post,Jan. 19, 1829.	--		FAYETTEVILLE/Ark.(1839-51;30;Black,Red)	. . . . .	35
*Ultima Thule(Dec. 4, 1834;Ms;Black)	--		Fort Gibson Ark. See Oklahoma.	. . . . .	--
First established as Little River Lick, December 6, 1828, name changed to Ultima Thule December 9, 1833.			FORT GIBSON/Ark. or ARK. See Oklahoma.	. . . . .	--
Van Buren A.T.(E)(--;Ms;Black).	500		FORT SMITH/Ark.(1843-53;30;FREE,PAID;Black)	. . . . .	50
(L)(Aug. 21, 1835).	400		FORT TOWSON/Ark. See Oklahoma.	. . . . .	--
*Van Buren(E)(Dec. 22, 1832;Ms;Black)	--		FREEO.ATK.(1848-49;SL-27x3;FREE;Red)	. . . . .	550
(*)(May 18, 1833)	450		Same/ARK.(1850;30;Black)	. . . . .	75
Villemont,A.T.(E)(Jan. 9, 1832;Ms;Black)	450		GRAND LAKE/ARK.(1850s;29;PAID/3[C];Red)	. . . . .	100
(*)(Oct. 18, 1832)	450		GREENOCK/Arks.(--;--;--)	. . . . .	--
First established October 21, 1829 under the name Columbia, name changed to Villemont on unknown date.			HELENA/Ark.((1839-54;30;PAID;Red)	. . . . .	35
*Vineyard A.T.(E)(Jan. 7, 1831;Ms;P.M.frank;Black)	500		Same/ARK.(1853-55;32;3,5,PAID;Black)	. . . . .	35
(*)(L)(May 13, 1834)	--		Same(1859;32;YD;PAID 3;Black)	. . . . .	50
Vine Yard A.T.(E)(Sept. 1, 1835;Ms;Black)	--		HEMPSTEAD C.H./Ar.T.(statehood use)(1836-38;30;FREE;Red)	. . . . .	75
(*)(L)(Dec. 1, 1835)	--		HOT SPRINGS/Ark.(1850-54;34;5,FREE;Blue,Black)	. . . . .	50
White River(E)(Nov. 12, 1832;Ms;Black)	450		HUNTSVILLE/ARK.(1854;31;5[C];Black)	. . . . .	125
(*)(L)(April 22, 1833)	--		LARKSVILLE/Ark.(1848;--;Blue)	. . . . .	30
(1) On May 28, 1828 transferred to Cherokee Nation, an area that later became Indian Territory (Oklahoma).			LITTLE ROCK/ARkS.(1836-48;32;5,10,X,FREE,PAID;Black,Blue,Red)	. . . . .	35
(2) On May 28, 1828 transferred to Choctaw Nation, an area that later became Indian Territory (Oklahoma).			Same(1841-47;32;10,PAID;Green)	. . . . .	50
Indian Nation markings used during the Arkansas territorial period are listed both here and under Oklahoma for convenience. Cross references are used for the few Indian Territory towns that used the Ark. Terr.(or some variety of this) in cancellations that were used after Arkansas became a state. These are notlisted here in detail.			Same(1849;10[32x15];Blue)	. . . . .	50
STATEHOOD PERIOD			Same/Ark.(1848-55;30;5,10,FREE;Black,Blue,Red)	. . . . .	25
State created June 15, 1836			Same/ARK/5(c1852;--;Blue)	. . . . .	30
HANDSTAMPED TOWN MARKINGS			Same/ARK/3PAID(1850s;--;PAID;Blue)	. . . . .	30
(Circle handstamps unless otherwise noted.)			Same/ARK(1864-65;DC--;DUE/2[C],Due 3[SL];DUE/6[C];Black)	. . . . .	30
ARKADELPHIA/Ark.(1848;30;Red)	45		MAYSVILLE/ARK(1854;--;5[C];Brown)	. . . . .	60
Same(1853;32;5,PAID/3[arc];Black,Magenta,Red)	35		MONTICELLO/ARK.(1850s;31;5[C];Red)	. . . . .	75
BATESVILLE/Ark.(1839-44;31;Black,Brown)	35		*NAPOLEON/Arks.(1843;--;--)	. . . . .	--
Same(1844-50;30;3,5,10,PAID;Black,Blue,Red)	30		Same/Ark.(1855;--;FREE;Black)	. . . . .	30
BEATON/Ark.(BENTON misspelled)(1849;33;Black)	150		NAPOLEON,ARK(1845;SL-29x3;Black)	. . . . .	600
BENTON/Ark.(1844;34;Black)	50		NAPOLEON/ARK.(1858;--;YD;PAID;Black)	. . . . .
Same(1850s;29;PAID/3[C];Red)	50		Translantic use to Italy	. . . . .	80
Same ARK(1848;34;Black)	40		ODEN/ARK.(1855;Oval-44x25;postmaster's name below town;Black)	. . . . .	500
BENTONVILLE/Ark.(1850s;26;Black)	50		PINE BLUFF/Ark.(1840-47;31;5,PAID;Black,Blue,Red)	. . . . .	50
Same/ARK(1850s;--;--)	30		POCAHONTAS/ARK(--;32;PAID;Black)	. . . . .	75
BOONESBORO/ARK(1850-55;--;P.O.Business[ms];Black)	50		PRINCETON/Ark.(--;34;Brown)	. . . . .	75
CAMDEN/Ark.(1845-54;30;5,5[C],10[C],PAID;Black;Blue)	35		SEARCY/ARK.(1854;30;5[C];Gray)	. . . . .	50
Same(1853;30;10[C];Green)	100		TALEQUAH/ARK See Indian Territory	. . . . .	--
CANTONMENT GIBSON/Ar. See Oklahoma	. . . . .	--	VAN BUREN/Ark.(1840-50;30;5,10,X,Free;Black,Red)	. . . . .	35
CHEROKEE/CHER.NATION.(E)(1843-44;C-29,NOR, YMDD;Black)	1,200		Same(1845;FREE;Green)	. . . . .	75
See note under this listing in Oklahoma.			Same(1852;10 over 5[revalued];Black)	. . . . .	40
Choctaw Agency/Arks. See Oklahoma	. . . . .	--	WASHINGTON/Ark.(1841-50;30;10,FREE,PAID;Black,Red)	. . . . .	35
CLARKSVILLE/Ark.(1845-50;30;10,10[C],FREE,PAID;Black,Blue,Red)	50				
COLUMBIA/Ark.(1843-45;30;5[box];Black,Red)	40				
Same(1846-50;31;5,10[box-18x14];Red)	35				
DOAKESVILLE/Ark. See Oklahoma	. . . . .	--		

MANUSCRIPT TOWN MARKS

Antoin	1839,1849	75/50
Arkadelphia	-1844-48	50
Arkansas Post	1838-39	80
Askew	--	--
Augusta	1849	40
Bartholomew	1850-51	100
Batesville	1841	50
Bartons	1836	40
Beaties,Beatties or Bates Prairie	1840-47	50
Benton	1838-44	50
Bentonville	1845	40
Berlin	--	40
Blues Point	1845	50
Bolivar	1853	50
Boonsboro	1845-47	70
Bradford	1853	30
Brownsville	1852	40
Camden	--	40
*Cane Hill	1836	--
Caney	1851	60
Canton	1852	40
Carrollton	--	40

ARKANSAS

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Centerpoint	1853	45	Osage C.H.	1839	--
Chickalah	--	45	Owensville	1844	100
Choctaw Agency Arks	1847	375	Ozark	1839-42	50
Clark C.H.	1838	75	Paracliffta	1838-50	40
*Clarksville	1844	--	Park Hills Arks	1843	650
Clinton	1856	20	Paris	--	40
Cochrants Mill	1839,1850	40	Pettit Jean	1858	50
Cockatoo	1837	70	Pine Bluff	1838	50
Coldwater	1858	75	Planters	1850	125
Collegeville	1839	75	*Pleasant Hill	1844,1852	75
Columbia	1836-41	50	Pleasant Island	1842	75
Core A Fabre	1838	125	Plum Bayou	1844	75
Creek Agency Arks	1843-44	250	Pocahontas	1844-46	75
Crooked Creek	1845-49	50	Princeton	1840s-54	45
*Crosson's Store	1861	--	Red Fork	1852	50
*Danville	1844	--	Reifs Bluf	1855	40
Dardenelle	1836-44	50	Richland	1840	80
Darysaw	1851	60	Rob Roy	1850s	50
Denmark	--	--	Rock Point	--	45
Des Arc	1851	50	Rockport (Rock Port)	1850s	75
*Dry Ridge	1848	--	St.Francis	c1850	40
*Dwight	1839	--	Searcy	1849	40
Eagle Creek	1855	50	Smithville	1838-48	70
Eagleton Ark	1838-55	300	South Bend	1850-54	40
El Dorado	1846-50	40	Spring Hill	1836-52	75
Elizabeth	1843-49	40	Steam Mills	1839	100
Ellington	1842	40	*Sulphur Rock	1849	--
*Evansville	1851	--	Sylvia	1839-45	75
*Fayetteville A.T.(State use)	1836	--	*Terrenoir	1855	--
Fayetteville	1836-39	100	Three Creeks	1850-51	60
Florence	1858	40	Tulip	1854	60
Fort Smith	1837-50	65	Ultima Thule	1851-54	100
Fulton	1843	40	Union C.H or Ct House	1840-44	50
Gaines Landing	1840,1852	50	Valley Grove	1845-51	40
Grand Lake	1847	50	Van Buren	1836-45	50
Green Plains	1848	40	Vinyard	1848	40
Greenville	1840-41	40	War Eagle	1856-57	80
Grennock	--	60	Warren	1844-45	40
Hamburg	1852	50	Wellington	1842	50
Helena	1836-37	40	White River	1842-48	40
*Hempstead CH Ar T. (State use)	1836	--	Wild Haus	1851	50
Hickatoo	1838	--	*Wileys Cove	1850	--
Hickman's Bend	1850s	60	Wilmington	1849-51	40
Hillsboro	1848-49	40	Yellville	1839-51	50
Horse Head	1846	60			
Hot Springs	1850	65			
Huntsville	1842-49	75			
*Jackson	1838	--			
Jacksonport	1855	40			
*Jasper	1844	--			
Kenyon	1855	40			
Kidron Ark	1838-39	See Oklahoma			
La Grange	1850s	45			
Lafayette C.H.	1842	45			
*Langville	1836	--			
Lawrenceville	--	40			
Lewisburgh	1840	45			
Lisbon	1853	40			
*McLeans Bottom	1848	--			
Magnolia	1846	50			
Marion	1840-42,1851	40			
Metton	--	40			
Mill Bayou	--	40			
Mill Ridge	1851	40			
Miller CH Ark	1837	See Oklahoma			
Millville	--	40			
*Mouth Cache	1836	--			
Mount Olive	1848-52	30			
*Mount Vernon	1844-45	--			
Mt. Pleasant	1850s	35			
Napoleon	1841-51	40			
Natural Dam	1850	75			
New Gascony	1836-37	50			
New Market	1845-54	30			
Norristown	1850	40			
Oldham	1848	40			
*Old Town	1841	--			
Orion	1853	40			

*indicates institutional ownership.

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