

First U.S. Post Offices by State

Below is a list of the first U.S. Post Office(s) within the present-day boundaries of the 50 U.S. states, along with their establishment dates. The final names of Post Offices are listed; original names follow in parentheses, if applicable. Further details on each office are available in [Postmaster Finder](#), the Postal Service's online record of Postmasters by Post Office.¹

The appointment date of the first Postmaster is generally considered to be the establishment date of an office; exceptions are noted.² Where Post Offices originally operated under the authority of another nation — in Hawaii, Vermont, and the original 13 states — the establishment date represents when the U.S. assumed control of the postal system. In the case of the original 13 states, July 26, 1775, is considered to be the establishment date. On that date, Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first American Postmaster General under the Continental Congress. Offices that never operated under the U.S. are not listed.

Many postal records were lost in a fire at headquarters in 1836; the information below may be incomplete. As new information is brought to light, this list will be updated.³

State	First U.S. Post Office(s) Within Present State Boundaries	Date Established
Alabama	Fort Stoddert, Saint Stephens (originally "Fort Saint Stephens")	10/23/1804
Alaska	Sitka	07/23/1867
Arizona	Fort Defiance (listed under New Mexico in Postmaster Finder)	04/09/1856
Arkansas	Jackson (originally "Davidsonville")	06/28/1817
California	San Francisco	11/09/1848
Colorado	Denver (originally "Auraria"), Platteville (originally "Saint Vrain")	01/18/1859 ⁴
Connecticut	Fairfield, Hartford, Middletown, New Haven, New London, Stamford	07/26/1775
Delaware	New Castle, Wilmington	07/26/1775
Florida	Saint Augustine	07/20/1821
Georgia	Savannah	07/26/1775
Hawaii	On June 14, 1900, the U.S. Post Office Department officially subsumed the Republic of Hawaii's Post Offices. A list of those offices is included in the endnotes. ⁵	06/14/1900
Idaho	Lewiston	07/25/1862
Illinois	Kaskaskia (originally "Kaskaskias")	11/28/1799 ⁶
Indiana	Vincennes	Feb. 1798 ⁷
Iowa	Dubuque (originally "Dubuque Mines")	05/27/1833
Kansas	Fort Leavenworth (originally "Cantonment Leavenworth")	05/29/1828
Kentucky	Danville	08/20/1792
Louisiana	New Orleans	02/04/1804
Maine	Portland (originally "Falmouth")	07/26/1775

Maryland	Annapolis, Baltimore, Bladensburg, Charlestown, Chestertown, Easton (originally "Talbot" or "Talbot Court House"), George Town, ⁸ Harford, Queens Town, Upper Marlboro	07/26/1775
Massachusetts	Boston, Ipswich, Marblehead, Newburyport, Salem, Springfield, Worcester	07/26/1775
Michigan	Detroit	09/07/1802
Minnesota	Fort Snelling	08/21/1827
Mississippi	Natchez	11/29/1799
Missouri	New Madrid, Sainte Genevieve, Saint Louis	1804 ⁹
Montana	Missoula (originally "Hell Gate")	11/25/1862
Nebraska	Centoria (originally "Fort Kearney")	07/07/1849
Nevada	Genoa (originally "Carson Valley")	12/10/1852
New Hampshire	Portsmouth	07/26/1775
New Jersey	Elizabeth (originally "Elizabethtown"), Newark, New Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton, Woodbridge	07/26/1775
New Mexico	Santa Fe	10/01/1849
New York	Albany, New York	07/26/1775
North Carolina	Bath, Edenton, New Bern, Wilmington	07/26/1775
North Dakota	Pembina	05/18/1850
Ohio	Cincinnati, Marietta	June 1794 ¹⁰
Oklahoma	Miller Court House (listed under Arkansas in Postmaster Finder)	09/05/1824
Oregon	Astoria	03/09/1847
Pennsylvania	Bristol, Chester, Lancaster, Philadelphia	07/26/1775
Rhode Island	East Greenwich, Newport, Providence, South Kingston (originally "Tower Hill"), Warren, Westerly	07/26/1775
South Carolina	Charleston, Georgetown, Purysburgh	07/26/1775
South Dakota	Sioux Falls City	06/15/1858
Tennessee	Rogersville (originally "Hawkins Court House")	1792 ¹¹
Texas	Miller Court House (listed under Arkansas in Postmaster Finder)	09/05/1824
Utah	Salt Lake City (originally "Salt Lake")	01/18/1849
Vermont	Brattleboro, Rutland, West Bennington (originally "Bennington"), Windsor	1791 ¹²
Virginia	Alexandria, Colchester, Dumfries, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Hobbs Hole, Newcastle, Norfolk, Petersburg, Port Royal, Smithfield, Suffolk, Urbanna, Williamsburg, Yorktown	07/26/1775
Washington	Olympia (originally "Nesqually"), Vancouver	01/08/1850

West Virginia	Martinsburg, Shepherdstown	06/12/1792
Wisconsin	Menominee (originally "Green Bay")	12/06/1821
Wyoming	Fort Laramie	03/14/1850

¹ United States Postal Service, Postmaster Finder, <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postmasterfinder/welcome.htm>.

² Establishment dates do not represent when Post Offices opened for business, which may have been weeks or months later. Following their appointment, Postmasters generally had to post a bond, submit a signed oath of office, and await the receipt of their commission before assuming office.

³ Please contact phistory@usps.gov if you have questions or suggestions.

⁴ On the same day, two additional Post Offices were officially established in present-day Colorado — Lancaster, in Nebraska Territory, and Montana, in Kansas Territory. Both offices were discontinued the same year; they apparently never operated.

⁵ Below is a list of the Hawaiian Post Offices subsumed by the U.S. Post Office Department on June 14, 1900. In the case of delayed Postmaster appointments, the *Postal Bulletin* was used to confirm whether or not a Post Office was subsumed or newly-established. Final Post Office names are listed below, followed by the island location. Original Post Office names follow in parentheses, where applicable.

Aiea, Oahu	Kamalo, Molokai	Mountain View, Hawaii (<i>formerly Olaa</i>)
Eleele, Kauai	Kamuela, Hawaii (<i>formerly Waimea</i>)	Naalehu, Hawaii
Ewa Beach, Oahu (<i>formerly Honouliuli</i>)	Kaneohe, Oahu (<i>formerly Heeia</i>)	Nahiku, Maui
Haiku, Maui (<i>formerly Pauwela</i>)	Kapaau, Hawaii (<i>formerly Kohala</i>)	Napoopoo, Hawaii
Hakalau, Hawaii	Kapoho, Hawaii (<i>formerly Pohoiki</i>)	Ookala, Hawaii
Hamakuapoko, Maui	Kaunakakai, Molokai	Paaulo, Hawaii
Hamoia, Maui	Kaupo, Maui	Pahala, Hawaii
Hana, Maui	Kawaihae, Hawaii	Paia, Maui
Hanalei, Kauai	Keaau, Hawaii (<i>formerly Olaa Plantation</i>)	Papaaloa, Hawaii
Hanapepe, Kauai	Kealakekua, Hawaii	Papaikou, Hawaii
Hauula, Oahu	Kealia, Kauai	Peahi, Maui
Hawaii National Park, Hawaii (<i>formerly Volcano House</i>)	Keauhou, Hawaii	Pearl City, Oahu (<i>formerly Ewa</i>)
Hilea, Hawaii	Kekaha, Kauai	Pukoo, Molokai
Hilo, Hawaii	Keokea, Maui	Punaluu, Hawaii
Holualoa, Hawaii	Kihei, Maui	Puunene, Maui (<i>formerly Spreckelsville</i>)
Honokaa, Hawaii	Kilauea, Kauai	Ulupalakua, Maui (<i>formerly Makena</i>)
Honolulu, Oahu	Kipahulu, Maui	Ulupalakua, Maui
Honomu, Hawaii	Koloa, Kauai	Wahiawa, Oahu
Honuapo, Hawaii	Kukuihaele, Hawaii	Waialua, Oahu
Hookena, Hawaii	Lahaina, Maui	Waianae, Oahu
Hoopuloa, Hawaii	Lanai City, Lanai (<i>formerly Keomuku</i>)	Waikane, Oahu
Kahuku, Oahu	Laupahoehoe, Hawaii	Wailuku, Maui
Kahului, Maui	Lihue, Kauai	Waimanalo, Oahu
Kailua Kona, Hawaii (<i>formerly Kailua</i>)	Mahukona, Hawaii	Waimea, Kauai
Kalapana, Hawaii	Makawao, Maui	Waiohinu, Hawaii
Kalaupapa, Molokai	Makaweli, Kauai	Waipahu, Oahu
Kalawao, Molokai	Mana, Kauai	

⁶ A letter from Postmaster General Joseph Habersham dated November 28, 1799, indicates that the first Postmaster served by that date; his appointment date is unavailable.

⁷ A letter from Postmaster General Gideon Granger dated December 7, 1802, indicates that the first Postmaster was appointed by February 1798; his appointment date is unavailable.

⁸ The George Town Post Office that operated in present-day Maryland was located in Kent County. Prior to 1800, another Post Office by the name of Georgetown operated in Maryland — it was referred to as “George-Town at the Falls of the Patowmack” and was subsumed by the District of Columbia in 1800.

⁹ The New Madrid, Sainte Genevieve, and Saint Louis Post Offices were established in 1804; establishment dates are unavailable. The Cape Girardeau Post Office may also have been established that year; available records are inconclusive.

¹⁰ The first Post Offices in present-day Ohio — at Cincinnati, Gallipolis, and Marietta — began operating around August 1794. Postmasters were appointed at Cincinnati and Marietta in early June 1794, making these the first two Post Offices to be officially established. A Postmaster for Gallipolis was selected by late July.

¹¹ Joseph Rogers, the first Postmaster, served as Postmaster by November 25, 1792; his appointment date is unavailable.

¹² The first four U.S. Post Offices began operating in Vermont after the state joined the union in March 1791. They were apparently originally established by the independent State of Vermont around March 1784.