



**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

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THE RICHLAND—PULASKI POST OFFICE TRANSITION

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Postal history collectors often focus on the period from 1851 to 1855 when letters changed from folded letter sheets (FLS) to envelopes. During this time a lower rate first was used for prepayment of postage and the use of adhesives was optional. Of course it was possible to prepay postage without stamps through deposits with the postmaster.

The challenge of collecting covers from this period is enhanced when a post office existed for only a portion of the time. Such is the history of the Richland post office, which had its name officially changed to Pulaski on Jan. 27, 1853. It goes without saying that postal officials would continue to use auxiliary markings other than the post office name. Richland existed for only 20 months of the prepayment option period and Pulaski for 26 months before compulsory prepayment was adopted.



TRANSITION COVERS — April 6, 1851 Richland CDS “5” due FLS, upper left; Oct. 21, 1851 or 1852 Richland CDS “Paid 3” envelope, lower left; April 29, 1853 straight line Pulaski “Paid 3” FLS, upper right, and May 17 (?) Pulaski CDS with “Paid 3” in arc. [Todaro collection]