

Fort McDowell is Accorded a Direct Postal Route to Maricopa Wells

December 6, 1872

McDowell, Arizona Territory

Postmark Pitzer-Meyer Type 1

Postmark Census 1 of 6 known

Postal Route

McDowell, Arizona Territory 

Florence, A.T.

Grant, A.T.

Tucson, Arizona Territory

Yuma, Arizona Territory

February 24, 1877

McDowell, Arizona Territory

Postmark Pitzer-Meyer Type 2

Postmark Census 1 of 17 known

Postal Route

McDowell, Arizona Territory 

Maricopa Wells, Arizona Territory

Tucson, Arizona Territory

Mesilla, New Mexico Territory



February 24, 1877

December 6, 1872

Postal Route 17211 (1870-1874) connected Tucson with Wickenburg via Grant, Florence, McDowell, and Phoenix. Once-per-week service was provided by Block & Helling Company's 4-mule coach. 1872 cover carried south to Tucson on this route, then west on Southern Overland Mail to Yuma, Arizona Territory.

Circa 1876 postal route to Fort McDowell was changed to a direct southwesterly route 64 miles to Maricopa Wells. This route crossed the Salt River at Whitlow's Ferry, current McDowell Rd, Mesa Arizona with a stop at Desert Station approximately Gilbert Rd at Baseline Rd.

1877 cover carried to Maricopa Wells on this route, then east to Tucson and onward to Mesilla, New Mexico Territory.