February 18, 1871
Grant, Arizona Territory
Postmark Pitzer-Meyer Type 1
Postmark Census 1 of 5 known

Postal Route 17211
Grant, Arizona Territory
Florence, A.T. 75 miles
McDowell, A.T. 35 miles
Phoenix, A.T. 25 miles
Wickenburg, Arizona Territory 55 miles
Ehrenberg, Arizona Territory 110 miles
Postal Route distance 300 miles

Westbound Endorsement due to Uncertainty of Postal Route

Likely endorsed by Postmaster Frederick Austin vertically at left, “Via San Fran co Cala”, due to uncertainty and danger along the shorter and faster postal route through Tucson, this cover travelled west across Arizona Territory to California.

Grant Arizona Territory Postmaster Newton Israel and party had recently been killed by Apache Indians on the postal route between Grant and Tucson. Knowledge of this tragedy by Postmaster Austin is a reasonable assumption why this cover was routed to the more secure but lengthy postal route westbound.

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.