

Census of Austin, Texas, Postmaster's Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Markings



The Austin provisional adhesive (left) and marking (right)

The Austin provisional was prepared by removing the date logos from the office canceller and replacing them with “PAID” and “10” markings. The marking was then struck on sheets of paper with faint ruled lines to make the adhesive. The same marking was also used to stamp envelopes for the provisional envelope.

All recorded uses of the provisionals fall between July and September 1862 with one outlier in December 1862.

NOTE: The inclusion of an item in this census is not a guarantee of authenticity.

Description and Count

Provisional	CSA Cat No	Scott Cat No	Covers
10c black on white	AUS-TX-A01	9X1	2
10c black on white, with added “PAID”	AUS-TX-A01x		-- ¹
10c black on buff	AUS-TX-A02	9X1	2
5c black	AUS-TX-E01		-- ¹
5c black, revalued “10” (ms)	AUS-TX-E01a		1
5c black, revalued “PAID 10” (E02 marking)	AUS-TX-E01b		3
10c black	AUS-TX-E02	9XU1	13

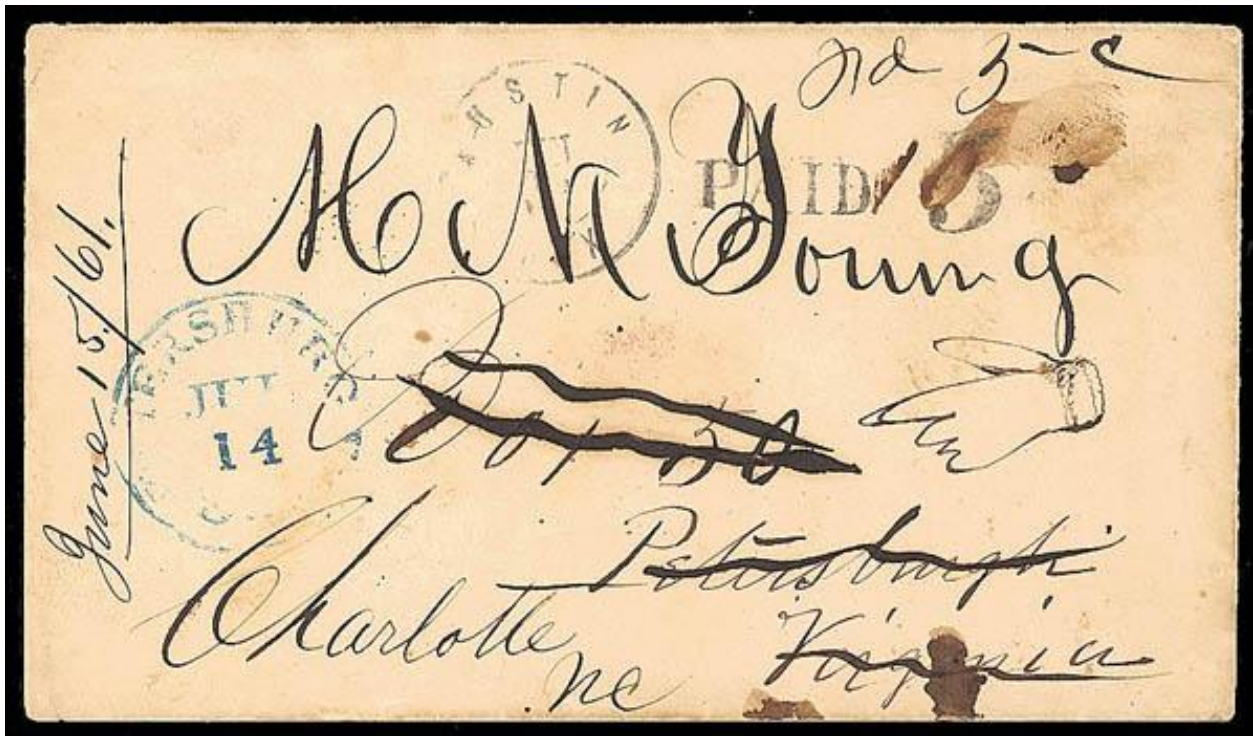
1. None found in the preparation of this census.

Notes for the Collector

Provisional or Not?

The cover below is included in the 2012 CSA Catalog as a provisional (AUS-TX-E01a). However, there is no control or other identifying characteristic that would make it a provisional. Instead, it appears to be a "PAID 5" stampless cover with the rate revalued to "10" for a distance greater than 500 miles.

Why was it considered a provisional? The answer probably lies with the 5c black marking revalued by the 10c marking (AUS-TX-E01b). These covers were apparently stamped with the "PAID 5" marking before the rate change on 1 July. When used in August and September they had to be rerated to reflect the correct rate. The fact that they were rated at one rate and then re-rated later at the correct rate indicates prepayment for the 5c rate. The same logic would apply to the cover in question. However, the "PAID 5" marking on the cover below is the same marking used on stampless covers (Type B). Is it a provisional or a stampless cover?



Courtesy Schuyler Rumsey Auctions

References

- Dietz, August ed., "Austin, Texas: Adhesive Provisional" *Stamp and Cover Collector's Review* 3:4 (October 1939): 215-217.
- Green, Brian M., "An Adhesive Variety Comes to Light" in *Opinions: Philatelic Expertising – An Inside View* (New York; Philatelic Foundation, 1983): 80-82.

Full Census Austin, TX, Provisional Covers

Austin, TX -- 10c black on white, on cover - AUS-TX-A01 (9X1)

Illegible Date

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Corner card envelope of "J. T. Hallett.",

Address: Doctor Clark / Hempstead / Austin Co / Texas

Provenance: Erivan

References: SCRE-Oct1939(3:4)-215; HRH-26Jan2022(3055-6)-92*

Cert: PF-29892

Image: H R Harmer Auctions [004]



Illegible Date

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Added "PAID" at LC.

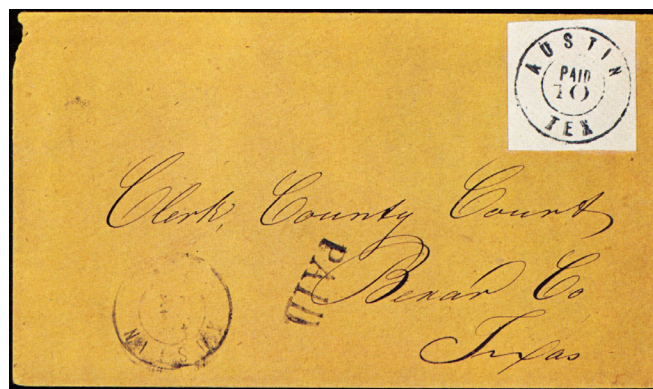
Address: Clerk, County Court / Bexar Co / Texas

Provenance: Haas

References: JWK-1Dec1980-358*; RCF-22Feb1986(27)-105

Cert: PF-94464

Image: John W Kaufmann Auctions [003]



Austin, TX -- 10c black on buff, on cover -- AUS-TX-A02

23 Aug 1862

Postmark: "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: None.

Address: Mr. E. S. Matthews / San Antonio / Texas

Provenance: Caspary, Corwin, "Magnolia"

References: SPB-9Mar1978(4091)-2011; RAS-25Mar2026(1372)-2160*

Cert: CWPAS-00178, PF-27538

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [001]



Austin, TX -- 10c black on buff, on cover -- AUS-TX-A02

Illegible Date

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: None.

Address: H. M Alford / Capt Fishers Co / Garlands
Regt / Little Rock / Ark

Provenance: None

References: RAS-23Apr1983(618)-285*

Cert: PF-97834

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [002]



Austin, TX -- 5c black, revalued "10" (ms) -- AUS-TX-E01a

1- Jun 1861

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Cover forwarded from Petersburg with manuscript "Pd 5c."

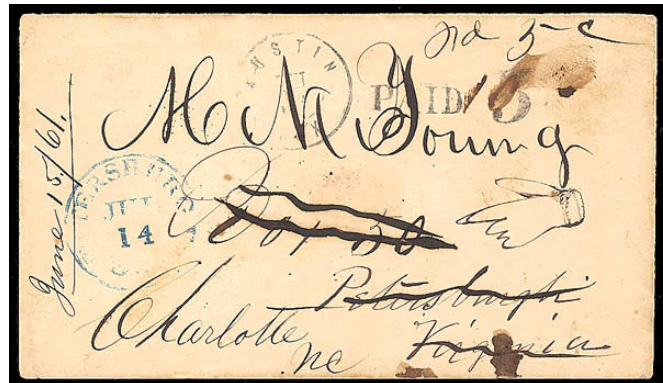
Address: H M Young / Box 50 [LO] / Petersburg
[LO] / Virginia [LO] / Charlotte / N C

Provenance: King

References: SR-24Apr2014(56)-2475*

Cert: None

Image: Schuyler Rumsey Auctions [016]



Austin, TX -- 5c black, revalued "10" (E02 marking) -- AUS-TX-E01b

8 Aug 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: "PAID 5" over provisional marking.

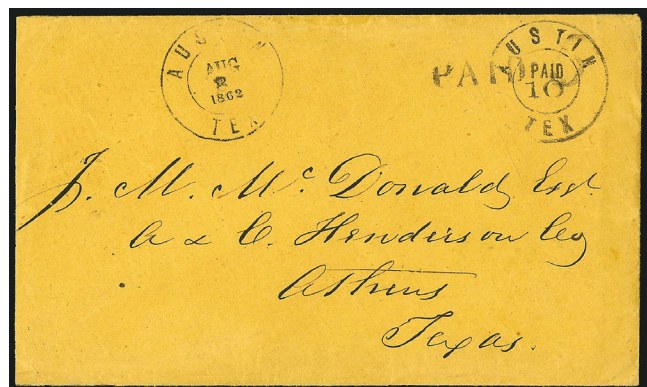
Address: J. M. McDonald Esqr. / A & C. Henderson
Co / Athens / Texas

Provenance: Moody, Murphy, Brandon, "Magnolia"

References: RAS-24Jun2014(1073)-210; RAS-
16Sep2026(1386)-31*

Cert: CWPAS-03117*

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [010]



Austin, TX -- 5c black, revalued "10" (E02 marking) -- AUS-TX-E01b

16 Aug 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: None.

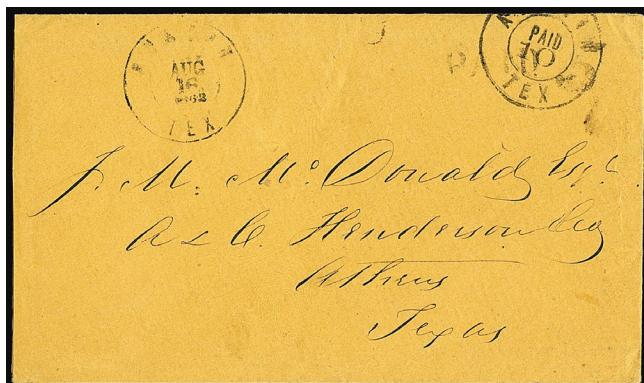
Address: F. M. McDonald Esq / A & C Henderson
Co / Athens / Texas

Provenance: "Magnolia"

References: RAS-16Sep2026(1386)-32*

Cert: CWPAS-03117*

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [021]



4 Sep 1862

Postmark: "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Soldier's endorsement and date docket UL

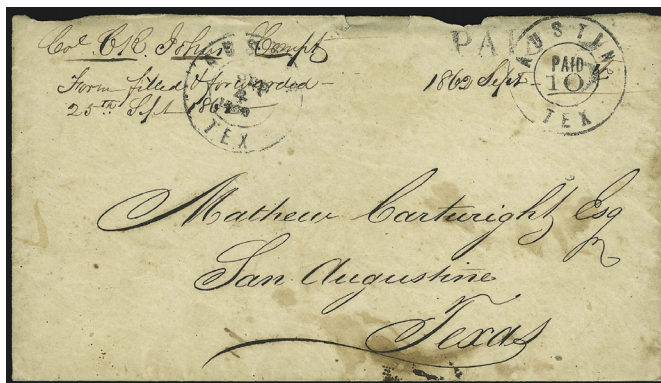
Address: Mathew Cartwright Esq / San Augustine /
Texas

Provenance: Camina

References: RAS-24Feb1994(757)-607; RAS-
16Mar2006(907)-2630*

Cert: CWPAS-01363*

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [013]



Austin, TX -- 10c black -- AUS-TX-E02 (9XU1)

11 Jul 1862

Postmark: "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Folded letter.

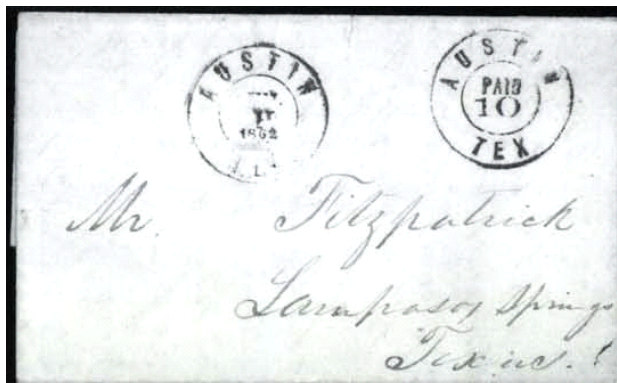
Address: Mr Fitzpatrick / Lampasas Springs / Texas.

Provenance: None

References: RAS-27Apr1999(810)-1840

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [007]



Austin, TX -- 10c black -- AUS-TX-E02 (9XU1)

18 Jul 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Docketed "Official Business" at UC.

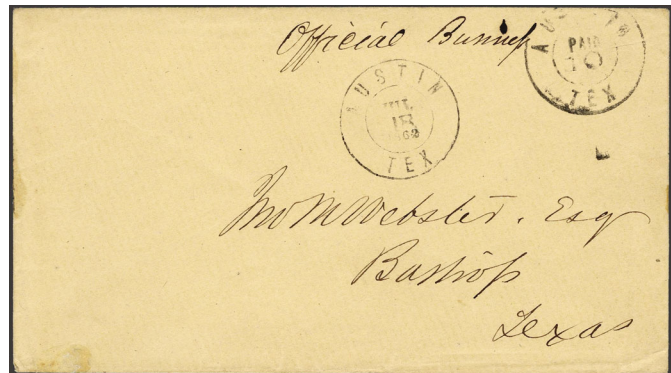
Address: Mr M Webster Esq / Bastrop / Texas

Provenance: Kilbourne; Haub, "Magnolia"

References: HRH-24Jun2021(3040-5)-64*; RAS-16Sep2026(1386)-30*

Cert: None

Image: H R Harmer Auctions [008]



23 Jul 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Tear into provisional marking. Docketed "charge to R. T. P. Allen" at UL-UC.

Address: Mrs. H E Jordt / Frelsburg / Colorado County / Texas.

Provenance: None

References: Private

Cert: None

Image: Private [018]



26 Jul 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: None.

Address: K. Watkins Esq. / Dist. Collector. / Palestine. Anderson Co.

Provenance: None

References: None

Cert: PF-507646*

Image: Philatelic Foundation [005]



Austin, TX -- 10c black -- AUS-TX-E02 (9XU1)

5 Aug 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Semi-official envelope of "State of Texas."

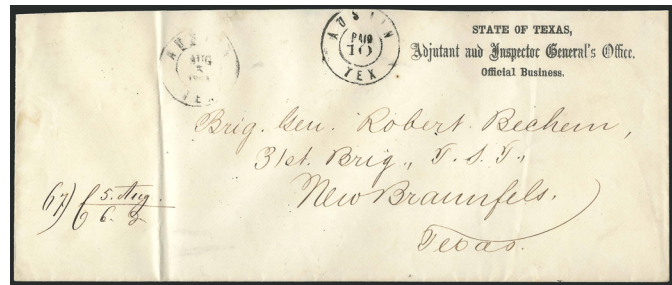
Address: Brig. Gen. Robert Bechem, / 31st Brig., T.
S. T., / New Braunfels, / Texas.

Provenance: Corwin, "Magnolia"

References: RAS-24Jun 2015(1104)-2088*; RAS-
16Sep2026(1386)-31*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [009]



12 Aug 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Missing top back flap.

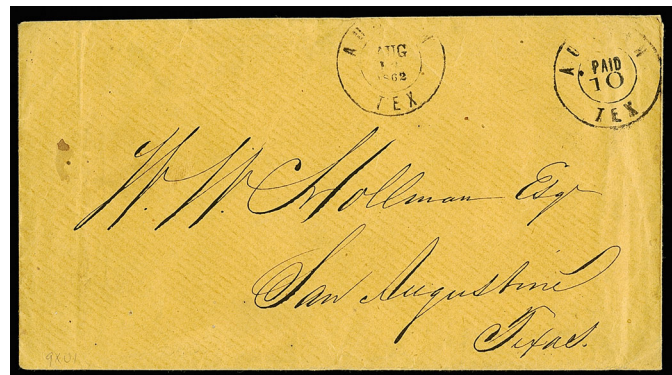
Address: W. W. Hollman Esq / San Augustine /
Texas.

Provenance: King

References: RAS-16Mar2006(907)-2629*; RAS-
5Nov2025(1364)-1060*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [006]



19 Aug 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Imprint envelope of "Head-Quarters
Conscript Service."

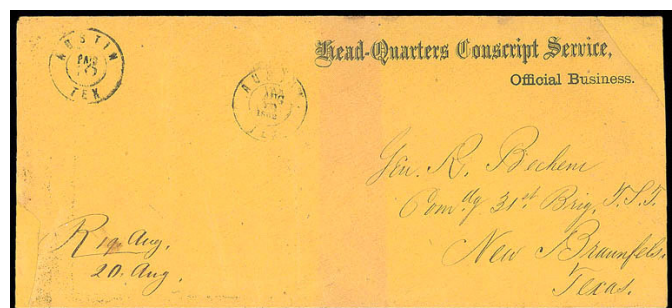
Address: Gen. R. Bechem / Comdg. 31st Brig. T. S.
T. / New Braunfels / Texas

Provenance: None

References: SR-25Apr2009(34)-3272

Cert: None

Image: Schuyler Rumsey Auctions [012]



Austin, TX -- 10c black -- AUS-TX-E02 (9XU1)

1- Aug 1862

Postmark: "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Semi-official envelope of "State of Texas."
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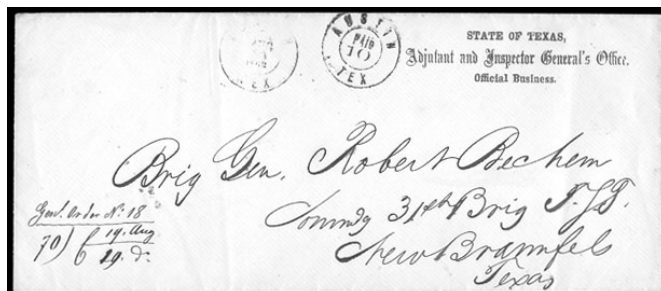
Address: Brig Gen. Robert Bechem / Commdg 31st
Brig T. S. T. / New Braunfels / Texas

Provenance: Agree

References: RAS-25Sep2002(850)-5664

Cert: CWPAS-02364

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [019]



23 Aug 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Semi-official envelope of "State of Texas." ug. / J." at LL. Cover folded at left.

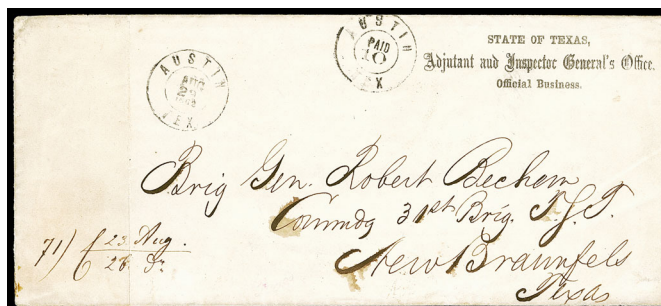
Address: Brig Gen. Robert Bechem / Commdg 31st
Brig T. S. T. / New Braunfels / Texas

Provenance: King, :Magnolia"

References: SR-10Mar2014(55)- 2237*; RAS-
16Sep2026(1386)-)29*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [011]



4 Sep 1862

Postmark: "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Very weak strike of postmark. Semi-
official envelope of "State of Texas,"

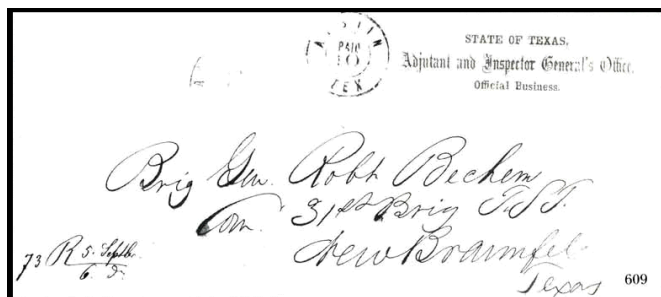
Address: Brig. Gen. Robt Bechem / Com. 31st Brig
T. S. T. / New Braunfels / Texas

Provenance: Camina

References: RAS-24Feb1994(757)-609

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [014]



Austin, TX -- 10c black -- AUS-TX-E02 (9XU1)

6 Sep 1862

Postmark: Black "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Provisional marking off cover at top.

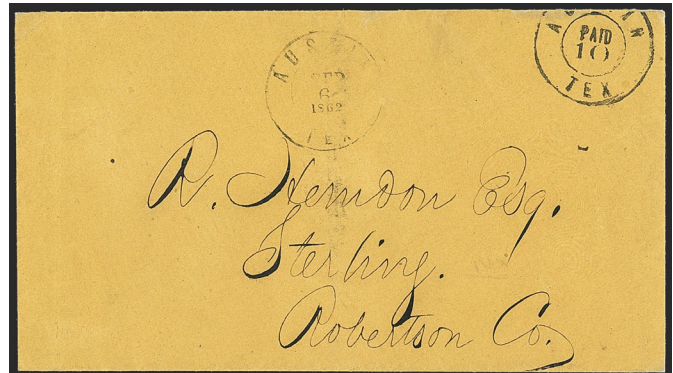
Address: R. Herndon Esq. / Sterling. / Robertson Co.

Provenance: Camina

References: RAS-24Feb1994(757)-606; RAS-22Jun2016(1132)-3041*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [015]



16 Sep 1862

Postmark: "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Semi-official envelope of "State of Texas."

Address: Brig Gen Robert Beahem [sic] / Com 31st Brig T. S. T. / New Braunfels / Texas

Provenance: Walcott

References: RL-23May1923-11; RCF-25Jan1991(45)-599

Cert: None

Image: Richard C Frajola Auctions [020]



2 Dec 1862

Postmark: "AUSTIN / TEX" (DC)

Notes: Partial image of full cover.

Address: Sam S. Smith Esq / San Antonio. / Texas.

Provenance: Caspary, White

References: MB-27Jun2002(248)-357*

Cert: CWPAS-02928

Image: Matthew Bennett Auctions [017]

