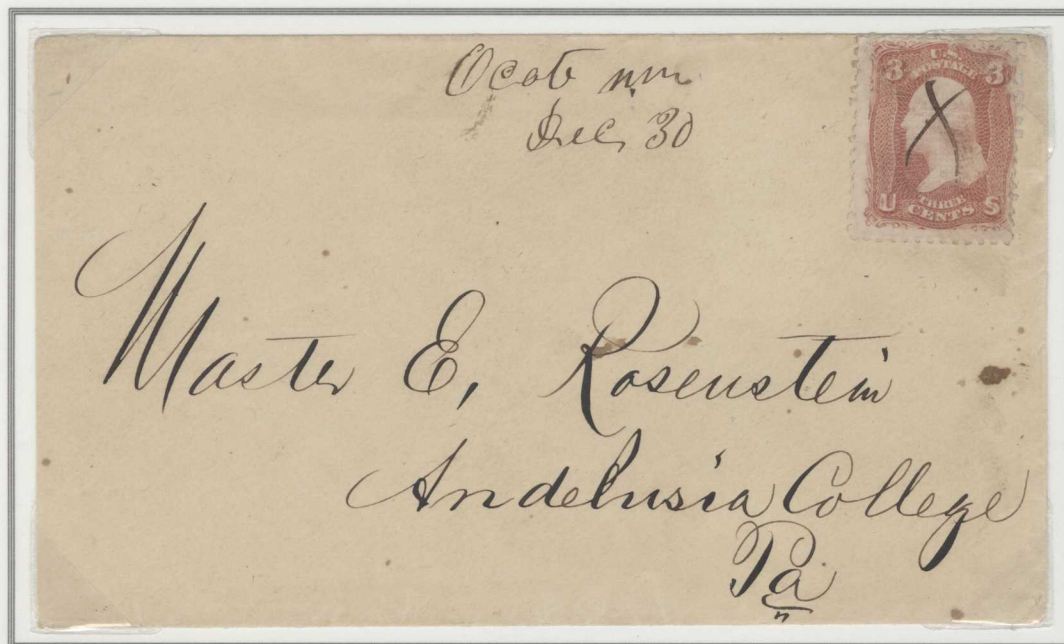


New Mexico Territory

Ocate, Mora County

In 1866, on the south side of Ocate Creek stood the Barlow & Sanderson Company station at Calhoun's Crossing, the seven-room station included a hotel. It was reported that Wild Bill Hickok drove a stagecoach over Raton Pass for the company. The creek crossing is located six miles east of the village of Ocate on a private ranch. Santa Fe Trail wagon ruts are still visible at the crossing. This location was in use until the Santa Fe Trail traffic stopped when the railroad was completion in 1879.



December 30, 1866 Ocate, N. M. To Master E. Rosenstein at Andelusia College Pennsylvania with manuscript postmark and 3 cent rose pink #65 with pen X cancel.

The name was likely derived from the Spanish word "ocote", which was a type of pine tree. The town itself is mostly a semi-ghost town with most of the buildings abandoned, however the post office building still remains. The post office opened for business on August 2, 1866, and as the town declined closed on August 9, 1869. Then reopened again on January 10, 1870 operating till May 9, 1878.

A secondary trail went northwest from Ocate Crossing, northwest into Manueles Canyon to Black Lake and on to Taos. Ocate had a reputation as being an important exchange point for the transit of merchandise by wagons, with some goods on the Ocate Trail to Taos, other wagons going onto Las Vegas and Santa Fe.



The Ocate Crossing on the Santa Fe Trail