

WEST TOWN SCHOOL



**PHILATELIC SOCIETY
OF LANCASTER COUNTY**

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WEST TOWN SCHOOL

Established in 1799 by the Religious Society of Friends, West Town School in Chester County, Pennsylvania, is one of the oldest operating coeducational boarding schools in the country. A daily stage would deliver mail between the school and the post office, a roughly eight mile round trip. Originally letters were mailed in West Chester. After March 4th, 1859, the letters were sent from Street Road Post Office, located at the railroad station. This would later become the Westtown Post Office.



1840 PAINTING OF WESTTOWN SCHOOLHOUSE
AND GARDENS BY JOHN R. SMITH

In 1853, the school authorities ruled that all outgoing letters carried by stage would require a 2¢ fee. Stamps were made available at the school to prepay and were usually attached to the reverse of letter sheets or envelopes. Stamps were not cancelled by the school - any postmarks on existing stamps were applied by accident. These small stamps were used until around 1878, when the 2¢ fee was revoked.

The West Town stamps have been classified into two designs and seven different Types. There are also further differences in plate positions and printing variations.

STREET ROAD, PA – GERMANTOWN, PA



STREET ROAD, PA – GERMANTOWN, PA



Westtown, Westtown, Pa.

The Westtown School at Westtown, Pa., is the oldest of the secondary schools in America, managed by the Society of Friends. It was established in 1799. In 1853 the school authorities decided that all outgoing letters carried by stage should pay a fee of 2 cents. Prepaid stamps were placed on sale at the school. Stamps were usually affixed to the reverse of the letter sheets or envelopes.

At first, letters were usually mailed at West Chester, Pa. After March 4, 1859, letters were sent from Street Road Post Office, located at the railroad station. Later this became the Westtown Post Office. The larger stamp was the first used. The smaller stamp came into use about 1867.



L277 - Type I



L277 - Type II



L277 - Type III



L277 - Type IV



L277a -
Type V



L277a -
Type VI



L277a -
Type VIII