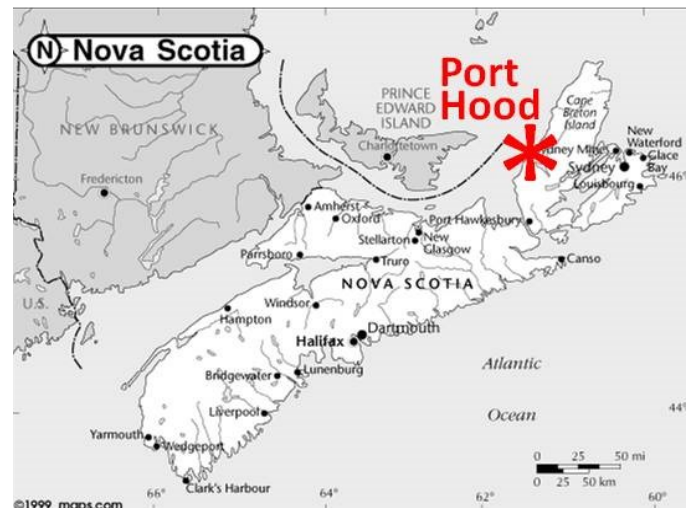


# The Postmarks of Port Hood

Port Hood is located on the western side of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia (see Figure 1). It is the shire-town for Inverness County, and a way office was opened in 1829, but no hammer was provided until a post office was established in 1841.



While it is a small community, it has had many postmarks since the first hammer was sent from London England on 12 November 1841. The first broken circle mark was provided before confederation although research has not provided a proof date. The first post-Confederation mark was a broken circle proofed on 23 November 1876. Various other marks including MOONs (Money Order Office Numbers) and POCONs (Post Office Computer Organization Number) have used up to the current round commemorative marks and rectangular "winged" markings (POCONS). This exhibit shows how even a small community could have many marks throughout its history, right up to modern times.

The term "Recorded Date" denotes references provided in texts. "Known Date" denotes items that the exhibitor has seen or owns.

This exhibit is the result of over 30 years of collecting and detailed research into these marks. The exhibit contains many new discoveries and unique items. These items have been marked with a red dot. Rarer material has been denoted with a blue dot.

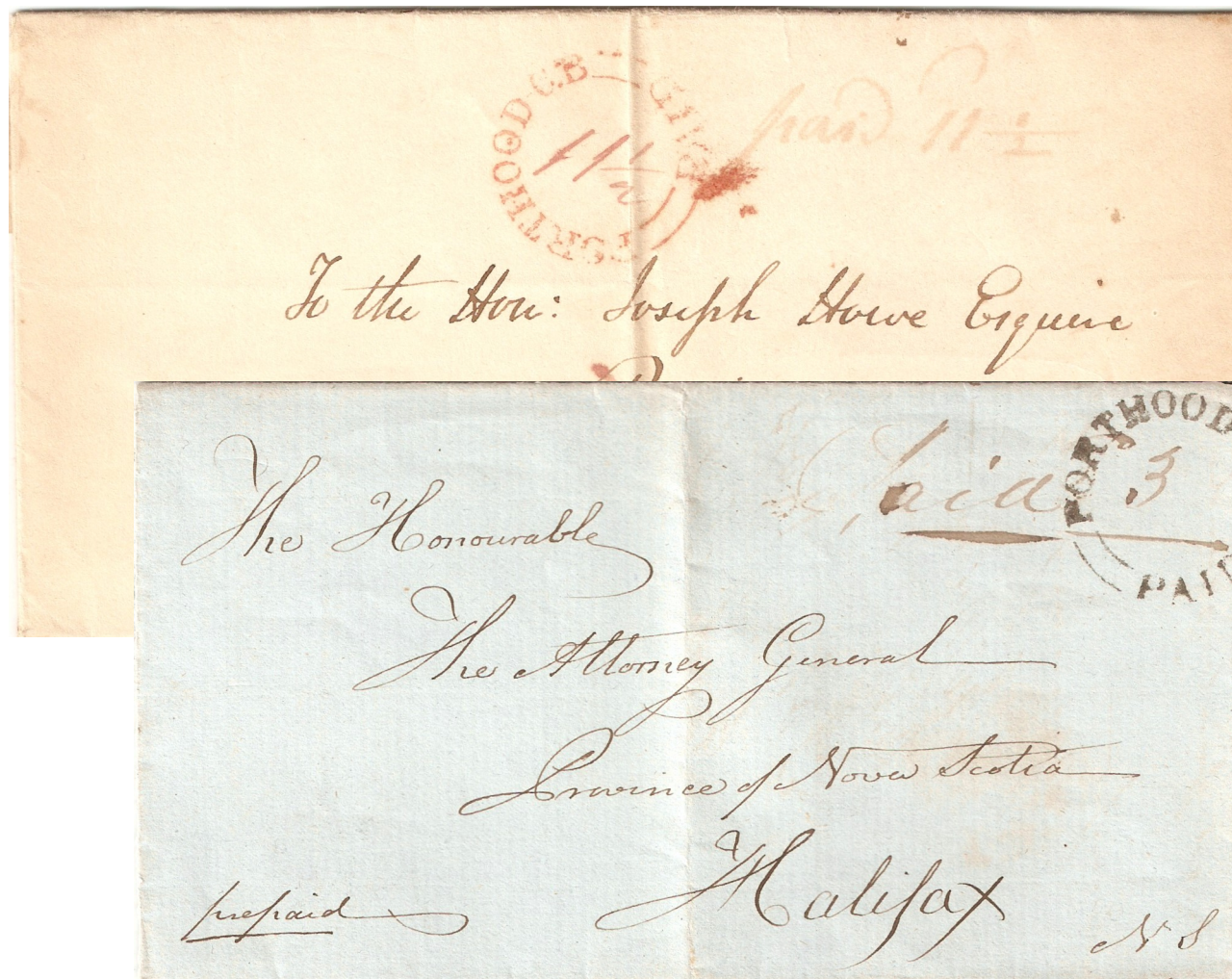
## Exhibit Layout

Frame 1		Frame 2		
Title Page	Pre-Confederation Double Circles	MOONs	POCONs	
Split Ring Cancellations		POCONs		
Fancy Cancels	Duplex Cancellations	Commemorative Markings	Combined Marks	
Duplex Cancellations	Full Circle Cancellations	Registration Handstamps	Postage Labels	References

## Pre-Confederation Double Circle Cancellations

Mark Type	Illustration	Description	Notes
Double Broken Circle Paid		Proof strike illustrated in Munden, 1987 (illustration reduced to 90%) diameter = 29mm	This instrument was sent to the Secretary, General Post Office for Dispatch from London to Halifax on 12 Nov. 1841. When the instrument was received is unknown, but was unlikely to be, before January 1842 (MacDonald 1985). Robson Lowe (1973) reports use of this mark to 1867.
Double Circle Crown		diameter = 31mm (illustration reduced to 90%) Postmark illustrated in MacDonald, 1985.	Recorded period of use: 14 Mar. 1842 to 28 Dec. 1842 (MacDonald, 1985)
Broken Circle Double Circle		diameter = 29mm (measured from postmark) (illustration reduced to 90%) Proof strike illustrated in Munden, 1987. Also in MacDonald, 1985, without denotation as proof strike.	Munden (1987) illustrates 2 similar proofs of this mark. When overlaid, they are virtually similar, with the exception of the dot after the "S" in the earlier mark. In reviewing a half a dozen copies of this relatively rare mark, the exhibitor has not seen any with the dot following the "S". Earliest Possible Use: 23 Feb. 1843 (MacDonald, 1985) Latest Known Date: 10 Feb. 1864 (collection of exhibitor)

## Double Broken Circle Paid Mark - 1841



Mark in red, posted 18 Jan. 1849.

Manuscript "Paid 1 1/2" to right of mark represents properly paid amount for a half oz. inland letter.

MacDonald, 1985 notes only 10 or less known copies of this mark. This is the only mark in red of which the exhibitor is aware.

Mark in black, posted 15 Oct. 1854 paying 3d. cy. for a half oz. letter addressed within the colony.

This is an unusual piece, because at the time, postal regulations stated that prepaid letters were to be struck in red. The manuscript "prepaid" in the lower left appears to be in the hand of the writer who may have inscribed this before taking it to the post office. The postmaster likely inscribed the "Paid 3" in the upper right and then applied the postmark. It is possible that the postmaster ran out of red ink and applied the postmark in black. In any case the 2 manuscripts and the postmarks should have made it clear that this piece was prepaid!