MICHIGAN





"Official Business" State Departmental Offices Illustrated Covers 1860 - 1960

Compiled by Mike Ludeman



Hosted in the Stamp Smarter Library

https://stampsmarter.org/learning/StateGovCovers.html

INTRODUCTION

Mike Ludeman

Although the use of an envelope to securely enclose a letter sent through the mails has been around for many centuries, it was not until the 1840s when several events occurred that brought them into widespread use in the United States. The first was the invention of manufacturing equipment which could mass produce the envelopes inexpensively, and the second was the change in how the United States Post Office Department calculated the way it charged for the postage to carry a letter through the mails. The early rates were based on the number of pieces of paper that made up the letter, and since the envelope was considered a separate sheet, the rate would automatically be doubled for a letter sent in an envelope. This occurred as the result of the Postal Act of March 3, 1845, when rates were changed to consider the weight of the letter rather than the number of sheets comprising the mail piece. This law became effective on July 1, 1845.

By the early 1860s, several state governments had begun to produce decorative envelopes with an all-over background design for use in their "Official Business" correspondence. The typical design included some representation of the official state seal in the upper left corner, together with the name of the individual department or agency, either as part of the design with the seal or in the background of the entire envelope. As these envelopes were often printed in bright colors, they no doubt readily caught the attention of their recipients.

Eventually the local governments (county and city) began to emulate the state government, and some prepared illustrated envelopes for use in their departments and agencies.

The present monograph is an initial effort to document and illustrate these envelopes which were used at all offices within the current state. It is not intended to be complete in all respects, such as one might expect in a formal handbook or catalog but has been prepared to provide the reader with an introduction to a representative sample of the styles and varieties of envelopes that were used during this period, and perhaps educate the collecting community as to the possibilities that could exist in collecting them.

The initial section will include those envelopes used by the state agency and departmental offices, which are typically located at the state capitol. The state department envelopes have been organized into an alphabetical order based on the agency or department name. These department names were not always consistent, as they evolved over time, and therefore, these are usually grouped by what the compiler believed was the most obvious choice. Within the envelopes from a specific

A second section was prepared to include envelopes from agencies and departments prepared for and used by the county and other local (city) governments. The organization of this section was arranged in alphabetical order by county, then by county seat, and finally by date, with any envelopes from a city office in the county to follow.

Only the illustration of front side of these envelopes has been included, unless there is some significant postal history element present on the reverse. When the envelope illustrated also included contents related to the purpose of the office, the contents, or at least the illustrated portion of the letterhead or billhead, were also included. As the search for relevant envelopes proceeded, other state

and county documents with "interesting" billhead type illustrations were encountered, and because I found these interesting in terms of explaining the purpose for the use of these envelopes, they were included as well.

THE FUTURE PLANS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The complete series of these monographs has been hosted on the Stamp Smarter website through the courtesy of Don Denman. These are not intended to be an active project of the original compiler, but the source documents (a simple Microsoft Word file) can be made available to other collectors who would be interested in taking responsibility to add new materials to them.

For the immediate future, the compiler solicits the contribution of digitals scans that illustrate envelopes which are not present in these monographs, including those present but were used with different dates. Preference will be given to those envelopes with the all-over illustrations, and the state/local buildings and seals, and those used prior to 1920. Contributions of envelopes from any state will be welcome. It is requested that the submitted envelopes should be scanned at 300dpi and provided in the JPG format when possible. Images of envelopes created with a camera or iPhone are not really useful unless they are carefully focused and prepared with no angular distortion. If contributing more than a small number, please contact me to discuss options other than email.

All contributors will be acknowledged in the monograph(s) for which they submit examples unless requested otherwise. Any errors are the sole responsibility of the compiler, and please bring any errors found to my attention.

Mike Ludeman

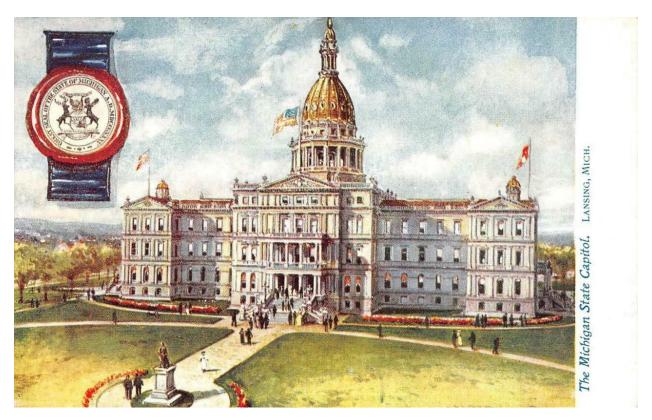
mike@ludeman.net

July 2021

V3

State Capitol Building

Construction completed 1878



Postcard image courtesy of eBay seller walkerspostcards, June 2021

ID: State: Michigan County: Ingham City: Lansing

Dates: ~1850sColor: Red on buffSize: Regular

Office: "AUDITOR GENERAL'S / OFFICE"

Notes: Red cameo on back flap.

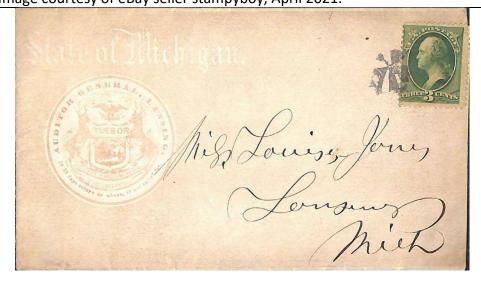
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, May 2021.

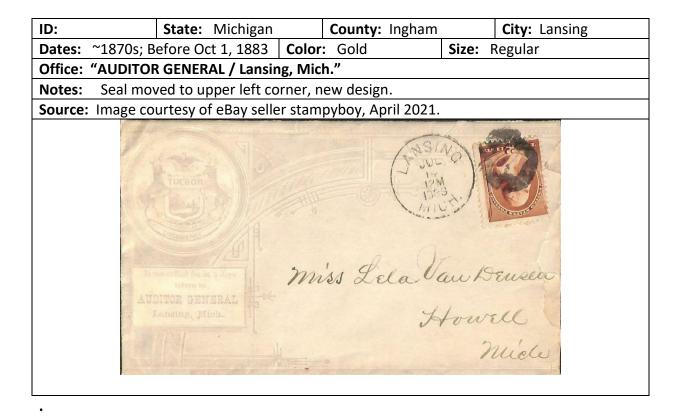


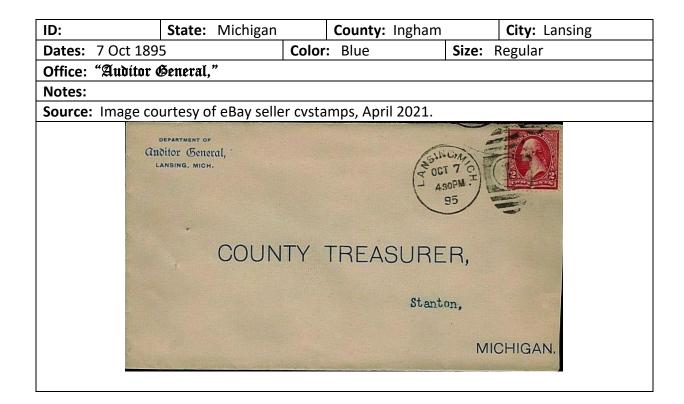
ID:State: MichiganCounty: InghamCity: LansingDates: ~1870s; Before Oct 1, 1883Color: GoldSize: RegularOffice: "AUDITOR GENERAL, LANSING" in circle around seal.

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, April 2021.







ID: County: Ingham City: Lansing State: Michigan **Dates:** 27 Mar 1897 Color: Violet Size: Regular Office: "AUDITOR GENERAL'S / OFFICE" **Notes:** Additional "Return" for Auditor General looks like a handstamp. Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller ricksauctions, April 2021. After A dept return to CHARLS, STERN & CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y. If not called for severe to AUDITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE, Lausing. - - Mjeft. Mochester

Notes: Used **Five** days later, now with a different US flag design. The "CO" in COUNTY now printed on flag.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, April 2021.

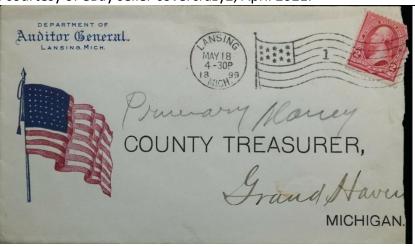


ID: State: Michigan County: Ingham City: Lansing

Office: "DEPARTMENT OF / Auditor General,"

Notes: Same US flag as used on April 10. No part of COUNTY printed on flag.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, April 2021.



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ID: County: Ingham City: Lansing State: Michigan **Dates: 26 Apr 1905** Color: Black Size: Postal card Office: "STATE OF MICHIGAN / AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT" **Notes:** Receipt for tax payment. Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller brainyeros, April 2021. STATE OF MICHIGAN AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT Sir: - Yours of the ures as stated has been received. If your remittance is not sufficient we will advise you in a very few days. If you do not receive such notice you may assume that the amount sent will cover our estimate of the amount required and that the papers will be sent you as soon as possible in the regular order of business. Very respectfully, JAMES B. BRADLEY, Auditor General.

Dates: 26 Apr 1905

Color: Blue

Size: Regular

Office: "AUDITOR GENERAL"

Notes: With "Return to Writer" and pointing hand.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller brainyeros, April 2021.

AUDITOR GENERAL

LANSING, MICHIGAN

RETURN IN B DAYS

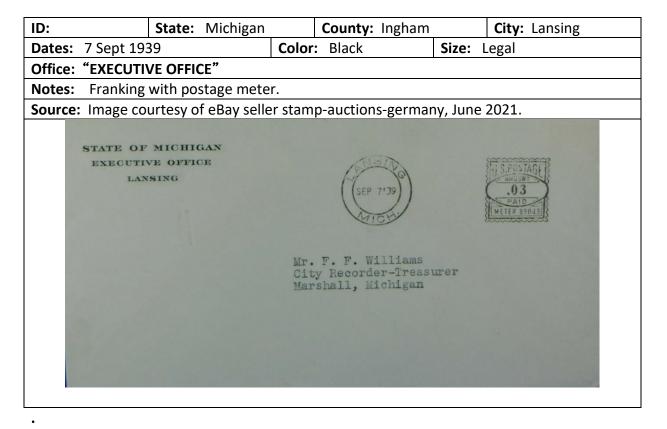
Alfred Lehto,

685 Division St.,

Marquette, Michigan.

Duplicale sheef issued teasled 5-14-20

Original turned over the African 27-26 April



ID: State: Michigan County: Ingham City: Lansing

Dates: ~10 Aug 1887 Color: Gray Size: Regular

Office: "State Land Office, Lansing, Mich."

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, April 2021.



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ID: State: Michigan County: Washtenaw City: Ypsilanti

Office: "STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,"

Notes: The State Normal School was established in 1849 by an act of the Michigan Legislature, and the community of Ypsilanti offered money, land and temporary building space for the school.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covermuseumannex, May 2021.



ID: State: Michigan County: Washtenaw City: Ypsilanti

Dates: 26 Jan 1917 Color: Black Size: Regular

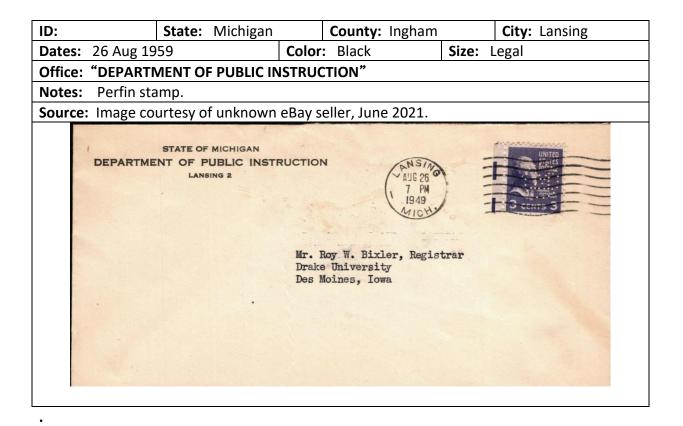
Office: "MICHIGAN STATE NORMAL COLLEGE"

Notes: The name was changed to the Michigan State Normal School in 1899. In 1956, the

name was changed again to Eastern Michigan College.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, June 2021.







ID: State: Michigan County: Ingham City: Lansing **Dates:** 4 Jan 1952 Color: Black Size: Regular Office: "DEPARTMENT OF STATE" **Notes:** Driver's License division. Franking by postage meter. Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller customimpressions, June 2021. MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANSING 18, RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED REMINDER This is your Driver License. Always carry it with you when Driving. F. M. ALGER, Jr. Secretary of State

ID: State: Michigan County: Washtenaw City: Ann Arbor

Office: "UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN"

Notes: Shows five campus buildings.

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021.



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ID: State: Michigan County: Washtenaw City: Ann Arbor

Dates:5 Apr ~1879Color:BlackSize:Regular

Office: "School of Medicine"

Notes: University of Michigan

Source: Image courtesy of Triple-S website, item a68802, June 2021.

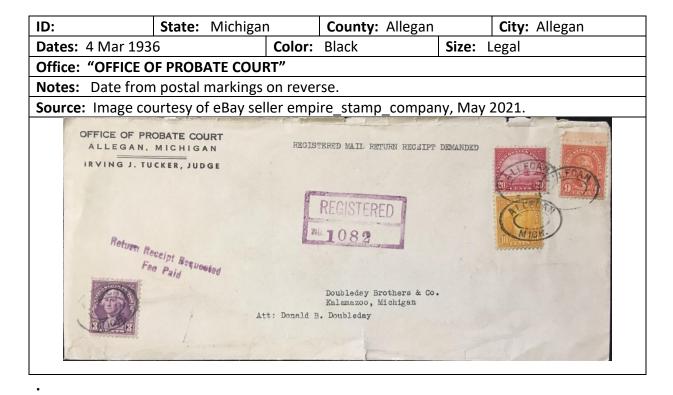


Part 2

MICHIGAN

County & City Agencies "Official Business" Envelopes

Arranged by County and City



ID: State: Michigan **County:** Clinton City: St. Johns Dates: 13 Jan 1938 Color: Black Size: Regular Office: "OFFICE OF / Township Treasurer" **Notes:** Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller bargainhuntersfriend, June 2021. After 5 days return to OFFICE OF Township Treasurer 1938 OLIVE TOWNSHIP GRACE V. MAHAR, Treasurer ST. JOHNS, MICH.

ID: County: Geneese City: Flint State: Michigan 27 Feb 1942 Color: Black Size: Regular Dates: Office: "PROBATE COURT / THE COUNTY OF GENESEE" **Notes: Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller mayfairstamps, June 2021. PROBATE COURT THE COUNTY OF GENESEE FLINT, MICHIGAN Howard Jackson, 2560 Tyrone St., Flint, Michigan.

Dates: 27 Mar 1900 Color: Blue Size: Regular

Office: "Board of Assessors,"

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller oldcrow74, June 2021.

Board of Assessors,

CRAND RAPIDS, MCH.

Decept for Carner of Size Size: Regular

County: Kent City: Grand Rapids

Size: Regular

Office: "Board of Assessors,"

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller oldcrow74, June 2021.

Carner of Assessors,

Dates: 11 Dec 1893 Color: Black Size: Regular

Office: "OFFICE OF THE / County Superintendents of the Poor,"

Notes:

Source: Image courtesy of Jerry Login collection, June 2021.

OFFICE OF THE County Superintendents of the Poor,

OFFICE OF THE County Superinte

ID: State: Michigan County: Muskegon City: Muskegon

Dates: 10 Oct 1904 Color: Black Size: LEgal

Office: "ROLLA R. PAYNE / Sheriff Muskegon County"

Notes: Registered letter to Mexico, routed through St Louis, Missouri where it received the red/white exchange label (fewer than 20 known), then reregistered and forwarded three times in Mexico, and finally returned to the United States, where it was sent to the Dead Letter Office, then eventually returned to the sheriff.

Source: Image courtesy of Author's collection, June 2021.



ID: State: Michigan County: Newaygo City: Newaygo Dates: 2 June 1866 **Color:** Black on gold Size: Regular "County Treasurer's Office / WILLIAM D. FULLER / DEPUTY COUNTY TREASURER," Office: Notes: **Source:** Image courtesy of eBay seller halfmoon28a, June 2021. County Treasurer's, Office. WILLIAM D. FULLER, DEPUTY COUNTY TREASURER, AND LICENSED LAND AGENT, Newaygo, Newaygo County Michig

Part 3

MICHIGAN

Private Business's Using designs similar to the "Official Business" Envelopes

Arranged by County and City

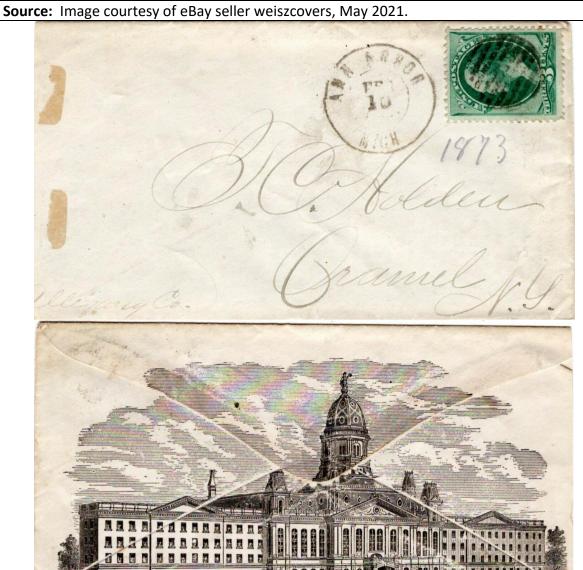
ID: State: Michigan **County:** Washtenaw City: Ann Arbor

Dates: ~15 Feb 1873 Color: Black Size: Regular

Office: "AUDITOR GENERAL'S / OFFICE"

Notes: All-over view of Capitol building on the reverse. Not an "official" cover but a

commercial one intended for public trade.



Monograph [US-02(MI)]

Part 4

MICHIGAN

Federal Department & Agency Envelopes

Used within the State

Arranged by County and City