

"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. With the Postal Act of March 3, 1845, the rates were changed to be based on the weight of the letter rather than the number of pieces of paper 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 agencies and departmental offices, which are typically located at the state capitol. The state departmental 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 agency or department, the envelopes are arranged in chronological order.

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.

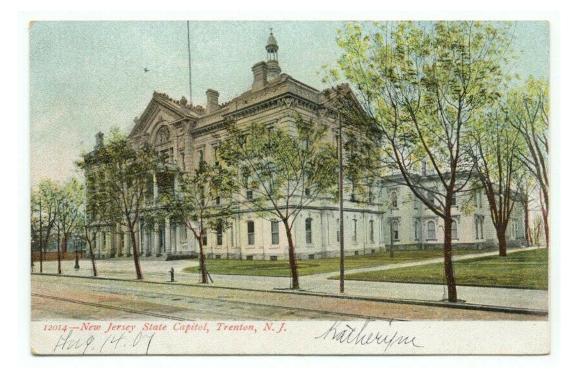
All contributors will be acknowledged in the monograph(s) for which they submit examples unless requested otherwise. Any errors are the sole responsibility of the compiler, and please bring any errors found to my attention.

Mike Ludeman mike@ludeman.net July 2021

V4

Capitol Building

Constructed 1904

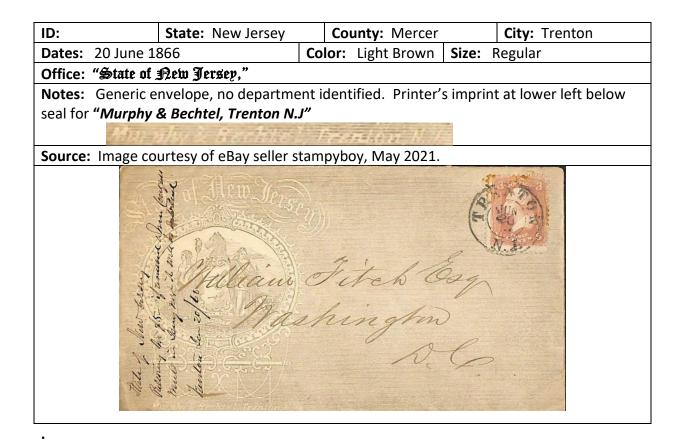


Postcard Image courtesy eBay seller sellmeless, June 2021.

ID:	State: New Jersey		County: Mercer	City: Trenton							
Dates:30 Mar 1860Color:GraySize:Regular											
Office: "State of	Office: "State of New Jersey,"										
Notes: Generic envelope, no department identified. Seen with and without printer's											
imprint on back fl	ap: " DAVID CLARK, ST	ATIC	ONER, TRENTON, N	NJ".							
	DAVID CLARK, S	TAT	IONER, TRENTO	X X .							
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay seller s	tam	pyboy, May 2021.								
	ale of stew ste CERCE		16. Patte New PM	How E. musunck							

ID:	State: New Jersey		County: Mercer		City: Trenton					
Dates:26 July ~1860sColor:GraySize:Regular										
Office: "State of	Office: "State of Rew Jersey," above seal in arc.									
Notes: Generic envelope, no department identified. Mailed from Six Mile Run, NJ.										
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay seller s	tam	pyboy, May 2021.							
	test flew des	A	Mr. J. Calvin o Marshall	Hoage Henry	and, y. uty, y,					

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ID:	State: New Jersey		County: Mercer		City: Trenton					
Dates:3 Dec ~1860sColor:GraySize:Regular										
Office: "State of New Jersey," in arc above seal, and "Adjutant-General's Office /										
OFFICIAL MAIL", in red print at top right.										
Notes:										
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay seller st	tam	pyboy, May 2021.							
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ID:	State: New Jerse	ey	County: Mercer		City: Trenton					
Dates: 13 June 1	863	Color:	Rose on cream	Size:	Regular					
Office: "State of New Jersey, /Adjutant-General's Office."										
Notes:										
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sell	er scano	diman, June, May 2	2021.						
	tate of Jlew Z Ichiutaut General's O 2103		largaret 40 10 Montgo Kue su	jer gten Phe	atterenter la Par					

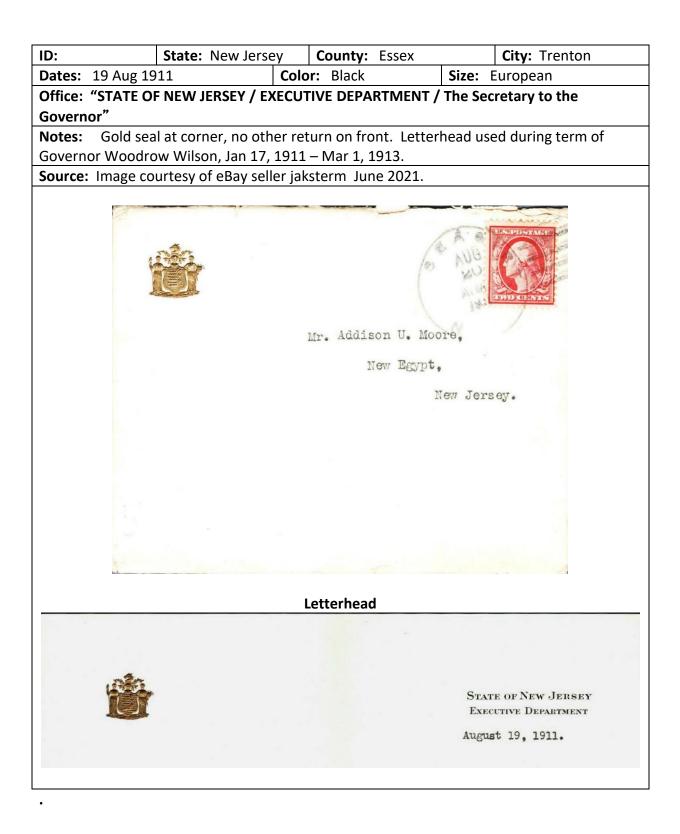
ID:	State: New Jerse	ey County:	Essex	C	City: Trenton					
Dates: 14 April 1	881	Color: Black		Size: Re	gular					
Office: "State of	Office: "State of New Jersey / OFFICE ADJUTANT GENERAL"									
Notes:										
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sell	er yefzin, July 2	2021.							
Un Mr. S. Muchan 200	Official E	m Insey.)) Intersey.)) Interse Contraction Justices Per	kins.	and a.						

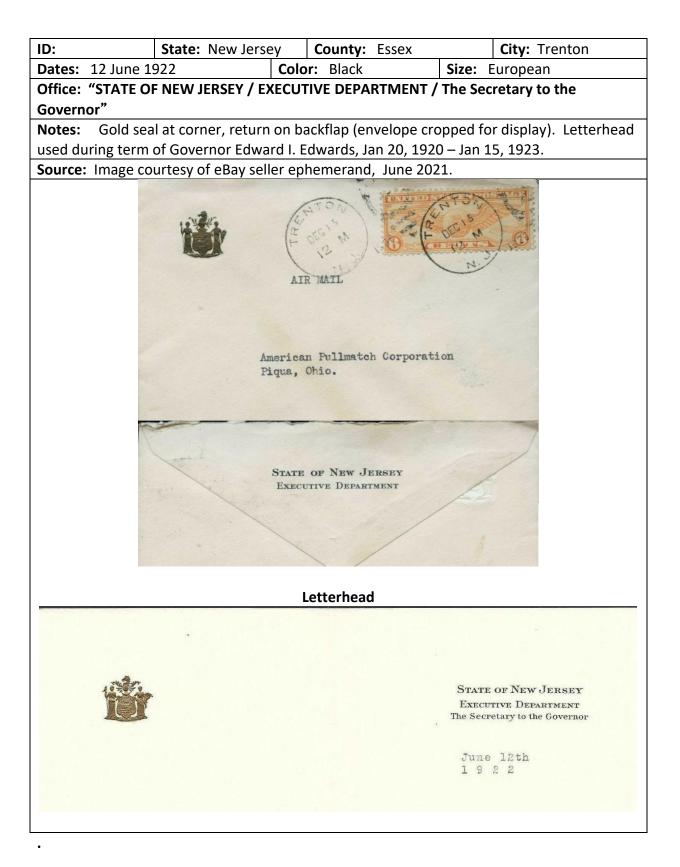
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ID:	State: New Jerse	ey .	County: Essex	_	City: Trenton						
Dates: 2 Jan 1952	2	Size: F	Regular								
Office: "DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY / DIVISION OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY"											
Notes:											
Source: Image co	Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller soundnostalgia, June 2021.										
DEPARTMENT OF DIVISION OF EM TRENTON	OF NEW JERSEY PLABOR AND INDUSTRY (PLOYMENT SECURITY N 8, NEW JERSEY JAL BUSINESS		2 Son PM 1952 W.J.		Employment Security Mail United States Postage Cocounted for Under Sec. 35.4 (P)(1), P. L. & R.) B ATTLE OF TRENTON						

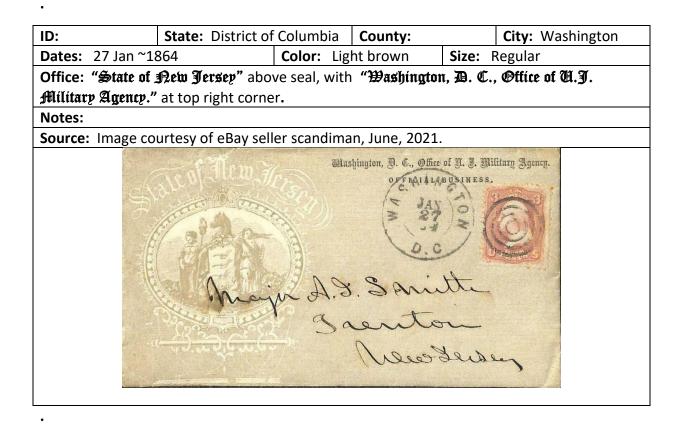
ID:	State: New Jerse	ey County: Es	sex City: Trenton								
Dates: After Oct 1, 1883Color: BlackSize: Regular											
Office: "STATE O	Office: "STATE OF NEW JERSEY, / EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, / Official Business"										
Notes:											
Source: Image co	Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller empire_stamp_company, June 2021.										
	STATE OF NEW EXECUTIVE DE Official Busi Official Cut Manual Berg	PARIMENT,	Bedrum Esy ver Vale M. J.								

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ID:	State: New Jerse	ey County: Essex	City: Trenton							
Dates: ~1900	S	Color: Black	Size: Regular							
Office: "Spea	Office: "Speaker of House of Assembly,"									
Notes: Return envelope on 2 cent red PSE.										
Source: Image	e courtesy of eBay sell	er citystamps, June 20	21.							
		•	E CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR OF TO CONTRACTOR OF TO CONTRACTOR OF TO CONTRACTOR OF TO CONTRACTOR OF							
	To the 1	Honorable FRANK B.	JESS,							
	Speak	er of House of Assem	bly,							
	State House,		Trenton, N. J.							



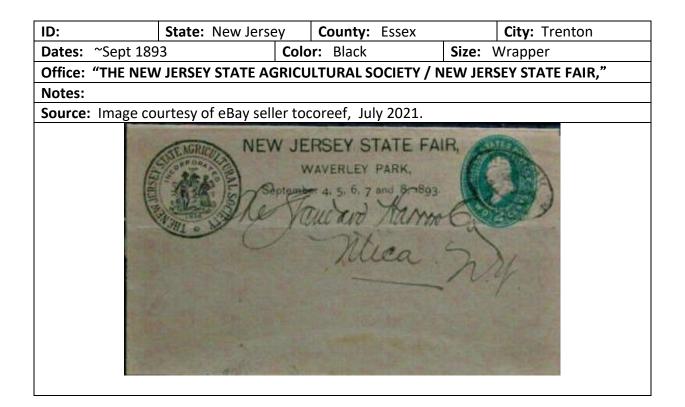
ID:		State:	New Jerse	ey 🛛		County:	Essex	x	City:	Trenton	
Dates: ~:	1870s			Color:	Gra	ay & Red	••	Size: L	egal		
Office: "ĝ	State of g	Rew Je	rsey / Dep	partment	t of s	State"					
Notes: R	eturn co	orner in	red, vertic	ally at le	eft e	dge.					
Source: In	nage co	urtesy o	f eBay sell	er tohno	cove	rman, July 2	2021				
Li not called for within 10 days, return to P. O. Box 396, Trenton, N. J.	draf-	flew A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Marsey of	àn.	NV l	in 11. De	t la Nei	erpa 2 o 1m v bu	et men	t of Stat	27

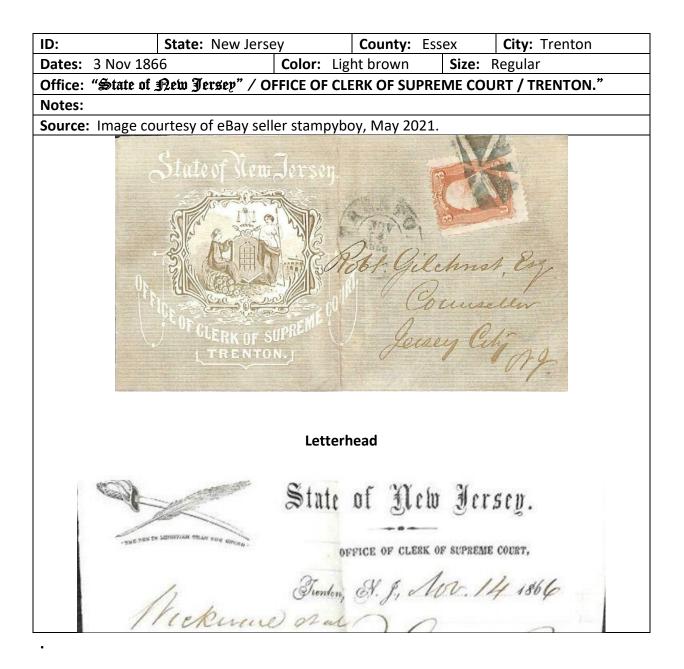
	State: New Jersey	County: Essex	City: Trenton								
ID:											
Dates: 15 Aug 1	894 – 3 Nov 1894 Co	lor: Black on white	Size: Regular								
Office: "State of	Office: "State of Rew Jersey / DEPARTMENT OF STATE."										
Notes:											
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller postcardduster, June 2021.											
Mar albert C. Pedrick, Mewark, Mewberg, Mewberg, Mewberg,											
		Letterhead									
Tenten Aug.15th, 1894.											

ID:		State:	New Jerse	ey	County:	Essex		City: Trenton
Dates:	7 Feb 189	8–16 N	/lar 1899	Color	🕆 Black d	on gold	Size:	Regular
Office:	"State of j	Rew Je	ersey / DEF	PARTM	IENT OF S	TATE."		
Notes:								
Source	Image co	urtesy o	of eBay sell	er star	nps-plus,	June 2021		
	enton		nf New ARTIMENT DR	STATE.		RENTO MARIA 3-3JP 18 99 NJ 18 16 18 16 19 19 NJ 18 16 19 18 16 19 18 19 19 18 19 19 18 19 19 18 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19	Peale Juand	Jo, J.D. St. 2. St. 2. Po.

ID:	State: New Jerse	y	County: Essex		City: Trenton					
Dates:2 Jan 1906Color:Black on creamSize:Regular										
Office: "State of New Jersey / DEPARTMENT OF STATE."										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, June 2021.										
Il'not delneredin 5 diyesretum to Tradan	DEFENSION OF		1906							

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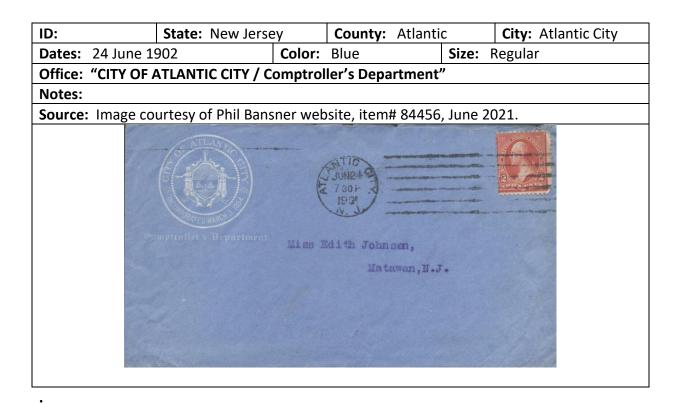
ID:	State: New Jerse	еу	County: Es	sex	City: Trenton
Dates: 1 June 18	89	Color: Ye	llow	Size: l	egal
Office: "Clerk of	the Supreme Cour	t / TRENTO	N, N.J."		
Notes:					
Source: Image co	ourtesy of eBay sell	ler rcl, May 2	2021.		
If not called for in 5 days, return to Clerk of the Supreme Court, TRENTON, N. J.	Меязг	s.Smith,Bown # 38 Pa			AIN I 2 PM 89

Part 2

NEW JERSEY

County & City Agencies "Official Business" Envelopes

Arranged by County and City

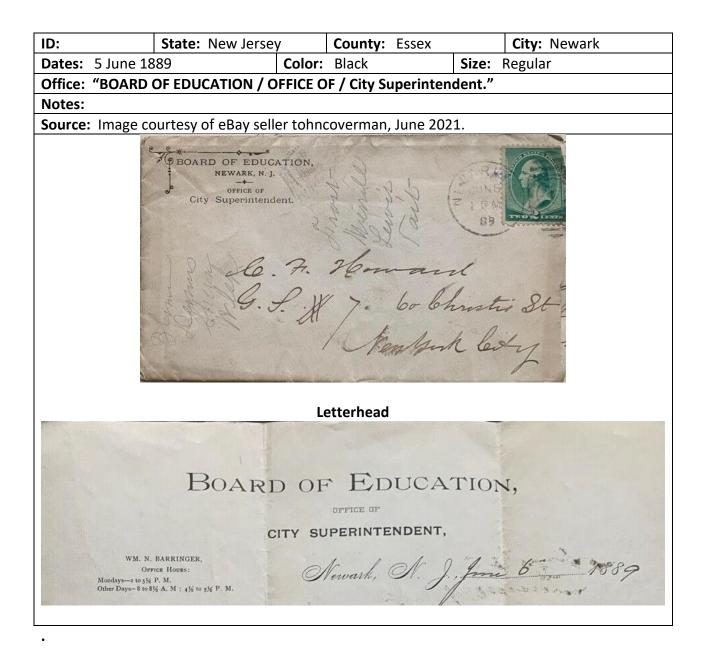


ID:	State: New Jerse	ey	County: Atla	ntic	City: Hammonton					
Dates: 26 Dec 19	57	Color:	Black	Size:	Regular					
Office: "GEORGE	Office: "GEORGE ELVINS / Collector & Treasurer"									
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller Aztec-collectibles, June 2021.										
After 5 days, return to GEORGE ELVINS Collector & Trocaurer Central Ave. & Vine St. HAMMONTON, NEW JERSE CERTIFIED M No. 940			Ar Jam 10 Atlantin Atlantin Atlantin M.J	ann City	THE ALL ALL ALL ALL ALL ALL ALL ALL ALL AL					

ID:	State: New Jerse	ey .	County:	Camde	n	City: Gloucester				
Dates: 18 Sep 18	Dates:18 Sep 1893Color:BlackSize:Regular									
Office: "CITY TREASURER"										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller taverntrove, June 2021.										
CI	A days, return to TY TREASURER, CESTER CITY, N. J.	ĥ (Hone Redley	tes Pa Pa	er,					

ID:	State: New Jerse	ey	County:	Camde	n	City: NA				
Dates: 9 Jan 189	tes: 9 Jan 1899 Color: Black Size: Regular									
Office: "Clerk of County of Camden, NJ – Notary statement										
Notes: With embossed seal.										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller sweet-orr, June 2021.										
	whom the a taking such the County o and sworn. the signature said IN WII the seal day of	to said ac nnbxed ac doknowledg f Camden, That I an to said ac TNESS WH. of said Gun ndred and	f Camden, in sa knowledgment r ment, a NOTA in said State of r well acquaints knowledgment, f EREOF, I have ty of Camden, th	uid State o RY PUB f New Jer ed with th purporting kereunto s vis hereunto s	RBER, Cler of New Jers of New Jers of New Jers is sey, duly e he handwri and verili § to be the is genu con hand four Lord of	before the time of two Jersey, of commissioned iting of said y believe that signature of vine. I and affixed one thousand				

ID:	State: New Jerse	ey	County:	Cape		City: Cape May				
Dates: 31 Dec 1	tes: 31 Dec 1901 Color: Black Size: Regular									
Office: "COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE / CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE"										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller jrstamps, May 2021.										
c	IL NOT DELAYERED WITHIN FUTUR DAYS. RETERN RO COUNTY CLERRY'S OFFICE, CAPE MAY OURT HOUSE. NEW JERSEY.									
	This. D. Rambank Eog.									
27 William St.										
7	new Yoke City,			n.	Y.					



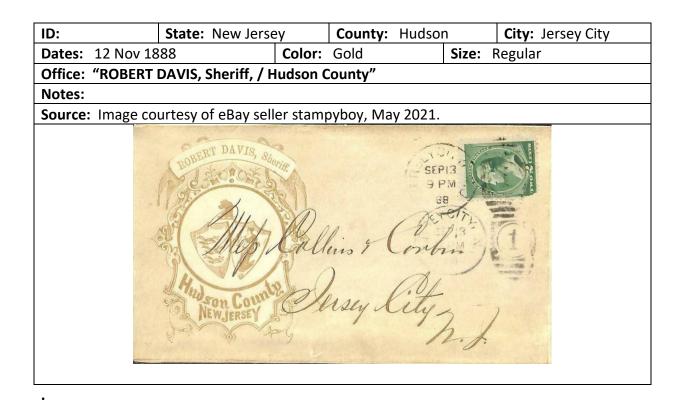
ID:	State: New Jerse	еу	County: Essex	City: Newark						
Dates: 6 June ~:	1880s	Color:	Gold	Size: Regular						
Office: "OFFICE	Office: "OFFICE / OF THE /Street Commissioner."									
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, May 2021.										
S	Treel Of Other	en 53 arlee 9:	Hayes 22 Broz	ad the						

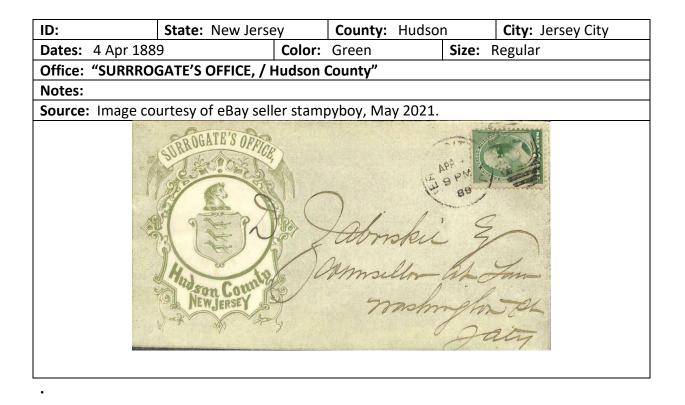
ID:	State: New Jerse	ey	County: Glouce	ster	City: Clayton					
Dates:25 July 1900Color:Black on goldSize:Regular										
Office: "BENJAMIN M. TURNER / JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, COMMIS / SIONER OF DEEDS,										
REAL ES- / TATE, CONVEYANCE, / AND INSURANCE"										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller 920bas, May 2021.										
Jus Pro	Ar Deluvered in the bars, network to BENJAMIN M. TURNE BTICE OF THE PEACE, COM SIDNER OF DEEDS, REALE TATE, CONVEYANCING, AND INSURANCE, MAT ATENTION GIVEN TENTS COLOCITION OF RETTS AND CO CLAYTON, NEW JERSEL W. J. & SEASHORE R. H Me Table to and from Philadelphilt th, Tils. 008, 105. 405. 617. 732. Th. 717, 843, 125.40, 420, 515. 645, 10.38 Fare, excursion, 90 cents.	R, IMIS- IS- LAIMS. a, Pu.	Sarah Beckley, Clayton,	S LAY Ju 25 1900 N. J.						

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ID:	State: New Jerse	≥y	County: Hudson	n City: Guttenberg					
Dates: 12 Nov 18	ates: 12 Nov 1889 Color: Light Brown Size: Regular								
Office: "Township of Union / CLERK'S * OFFICE,"									
Notes:									
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, May 2021.									
	F NOT CALLED FOR IN 19 OF FORT CALLED FOR IN 19 OF FORT SALE FOR SALE CULTURE SALE FOR CO., NEW JERSON CO., NEW JERSON	Jan	inel & and 4 court An Brooklyn .	es rect the					

ID:	State: New Jerse	ey	County: Hudson	า	City: Jersey City					
Dates: 2 Feb 190	Dates:2 Feb 1901Color:GoldSize:Regular									
Office: "JAMES C. CLARKE, REGISTER. / Hudson County, / N.J."										
Notes:										
Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, May 2021.										
	FROT DELIVERED IN FIVE DAYS RELIX	11. 9.73. 9.73.	(SFEB - 1 P 1901 baufield huison	J.						





ID:	State: New Jerse	зу	County: Hudsor	า	City: Hudson				
Dates:17 Nov 1869Color:Light BrownSize:Regular									
Office: "City Hall, City of Hudson"									
Notes: Hudson became part of Jersey City on May 2, 1870.									
Source: Image co	Source: Image courtesy of eBay seller stampyboy, May 2021.								
	ity Ball,	City In the 750 C	Roman Jeacha Briad Keirad	on g	in the second seco				

ID:	State: New Jerse	Jersey County: Hudson		City: Hudson				
Dates: 15 Sept 1870 Color: Gray Size: Regular				Regular				
Office: "MAYORS OFFICE / CITY OF HUDSON, N.J."								
Notes: Hudson l	pecame part of Jer	sey City	on May 2,1870.					
Source: Image co	urtesy of Philame	cury Cov	ver Census, entry#	3589 <i>,</i> O	wnerID=kamila, April			
2021.								

NORSOFF Mrs. E. P. Mason Care of bapt. Appleton Oaksmith "The Marchins" Gravel Lane Chigevell - Essex England HUDSONIN

.

ID:	State: New Jerse	зу	County: Monmo	outh	City: Freehold				
Dates: 8 Dec 1	Dates:8 Dec 1914Color:GraySize:Postal card								
Office: "Superintendent of Schools / County."									
Notes: Notice of distribution of funds to public school.									
Source: Image	Source: Image courtesy of ebay seller ephemerand, June 2021.								
	\$250,000 School Fund \$ 477. 09 [Form No. B 10-1-12-14-1M]								
	State Appropriation, \$		Superintendent	of Sch	lools				
	Reserve Fund, \$ Manmanth County.								
	Railroad Tax, &	1. 19a	huhold h.f.	Dec.	8, 19,14				
			District Clerk, HUHH	d,	N. J.				
	Sir :—I have this day issued my order on the County Collector, and in favor of your Custodian of School Moneys, for the amount due your district for the School Year beginning July I, 19/4, as indicated above.								

ID:	State: New Jersey		County:	Union		City: Elizabeth
Dates: 15 June 1893 Color			Black		Size: Regular	
Office: "Court of Common Pleas, Union County, N.I."						
Notes:						
Source: Image courtesy of unknown ebay seller, June 2021.						
	nut at Canmar Fleas. Union County N.J. Josefre	ls K All	tuck orris M.J	ABE JJUNI 93 eccae	eue (Contraction of the second seco

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Part 3

NEW JERSEY

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

Arranged by County and City

No covers identified.

Part 4

NEW JERSEY

Federal Department & Agency Envelopes

Used within the State

Arranged by County and City

Monograph [US-02(NJ)]

ID:	State: New Jersey	y County: Essex	City: Trenton			
Dates: 12 Nov 18	370	Color: Light brown	Size: Regular			
Office: "Clerk's Office of the U.S. Circuit Court. / OFFICIAL BUSINESS"						
Notes: Return corner vertically at left edge.						
Source: Image co	ourtesy of eBay selle	er stampyboy, May 2021	•			
Chritics of the St. S. Circuit Court. OFFICIAL BUSINESS.						

ID:		State: New Jersey		County: MErcer		City: Trenton
Dates:	22 Sept 1	897	Color:	Black	Size: Legal	
Office:	Office: "S. D. OLIPHANT / CLERK / U. S. CIRCUIT COURT"					
Notes:						
Source	: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler mdki	rkham, June 2021.		
S. D. OLIPHANT, DLEBER, U.S. CRCUIT COURT. Tension, N.J.						

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ID:	State: New Jerse	ey County: Essex			City: Newark		
Dates: 2 July 192	ates: 2 July 1926 Color:			Size: F	Regular		
Office: "UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT / DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY / JUDGE's							
CHAMBERS"							
Notes:							
Source: Image co	urtesy of eBay sel	ler oldpa	aperchaser, June 2	021.			
	UNITED STATES DISTRICT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEN JUDGE'S CHAMBERS NEWARK, N. J.	Joseph 0 974		MENT OF JU			