

# LOUISIANA



**“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>

# Louisiana: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

## 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

## Louisiana: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

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

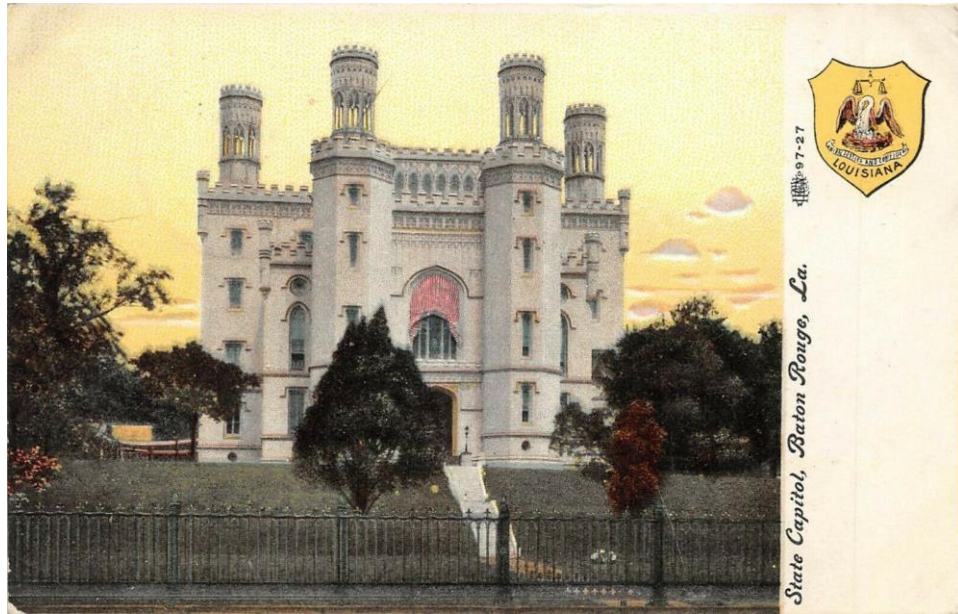
[mike@ludeman.net](mailto:mike@ludeman.net)

July 2021

v3

# Louisiana: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

## State Capitol – Constructed 1904



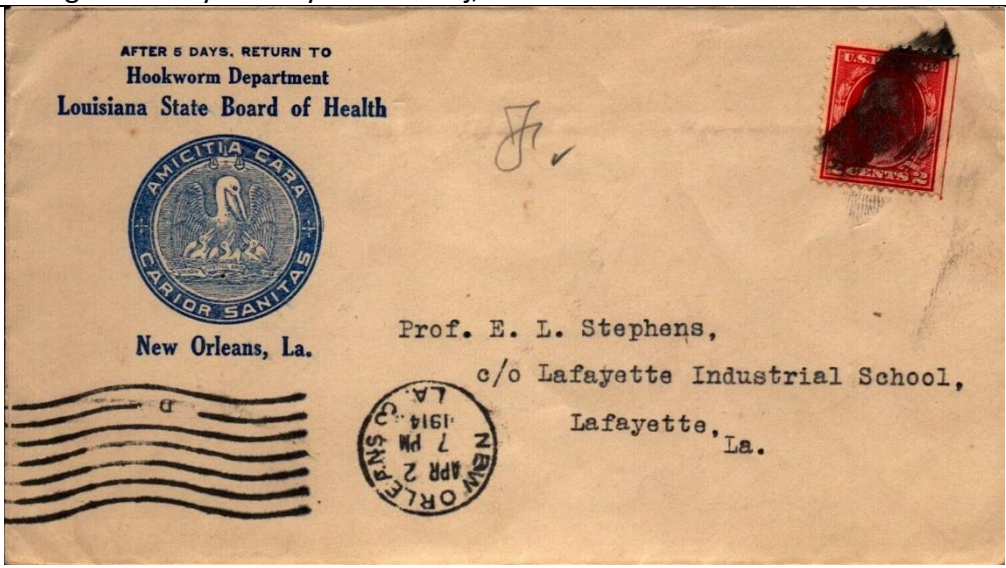
Postcard image courtesy of eBay seller smithcastle, June 2021.

## State Capitol – Constructed 1931



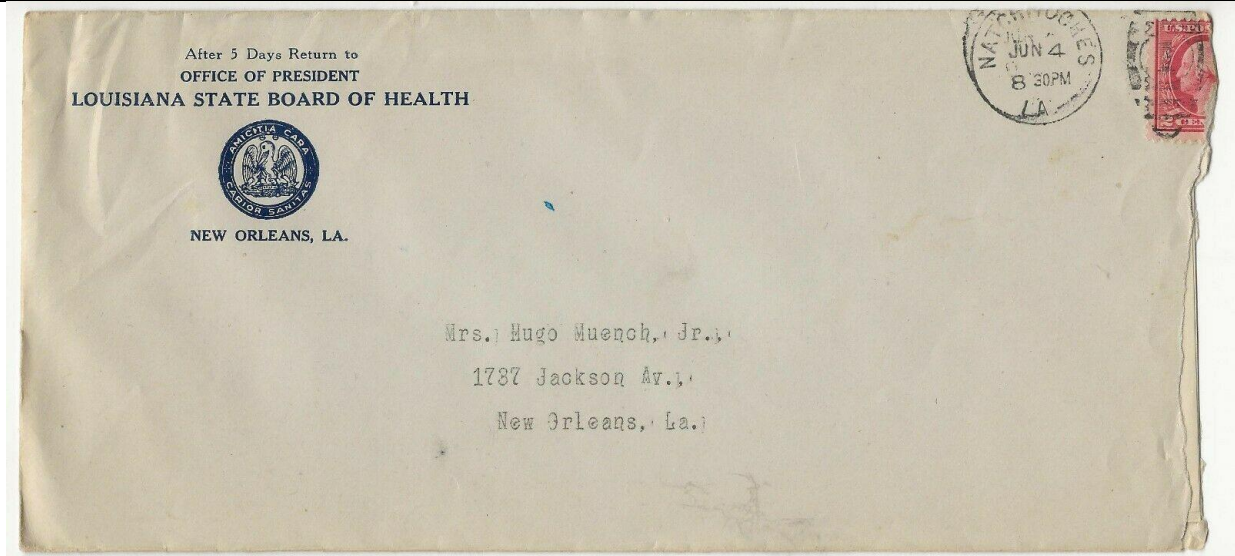
Postcard image courtesy of eBay seller josell-7753, June 2021.

## Louisiana: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

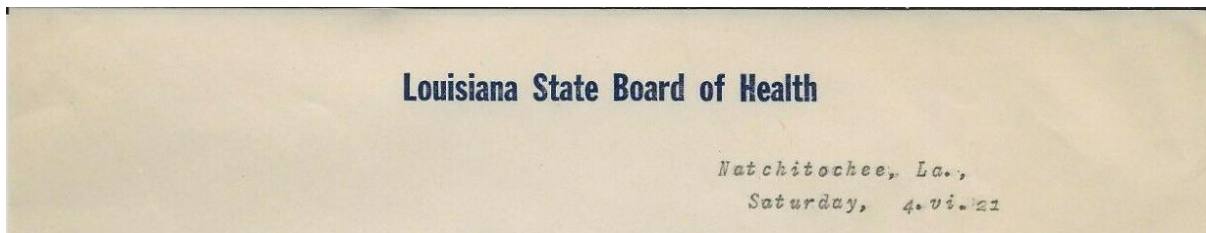
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> East Baton Rouge	<b>City:</b> Baton Rouge
<b>Dates:</b> 2 Apr 1914	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Hookworm Department / Louisiana State Board of Health"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller millsj, June 2021.			
 <p>The image shows a vintage envelope with a blue circular postmark from New Orleans, Louisiana, dated April 2, 1914, at 7 PM. The envelope is addressed to Prof. E. L. Stephens, c/o Lafayette Industrial School, Lafayette, La. It features the Louisiana State Board of Health logo and a return address in New Orleans, Louisiana. A red postage stamp is visible in the top right corner.</p>			

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<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> East Baton Rouge	<b>City:</b> Baton Rouge
<b>Dates:</b> 4 June 1922	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Legal	
<b>Office:</b> "OFFICE OF PRESIDENT / LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller civil_war_photos, June 2021.			



Letterhead



# Louisiana: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

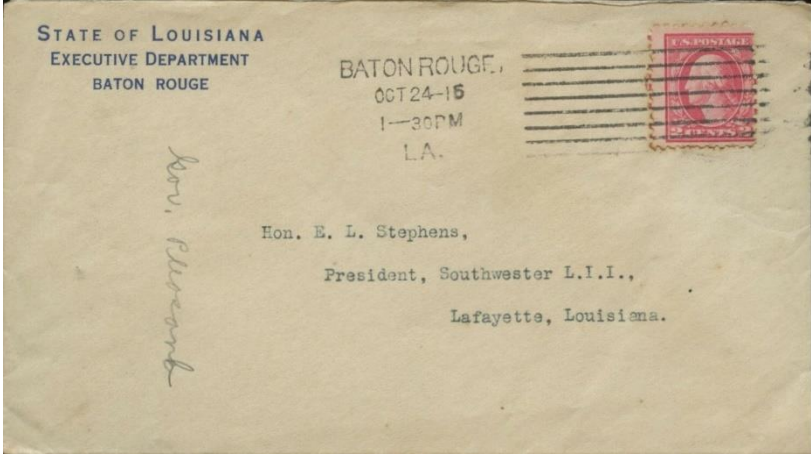
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> East Baton Rouge	<b>City:</b> Baton Rouge
<b>Dates:</b> 17 June 1872	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT"			
<b>Notes:</b> Embossed printer's imprint on reverse: "WEED & KELLY / STATIONERS, NEW ORLEANS".			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller covermuseumannex, June 2021.			

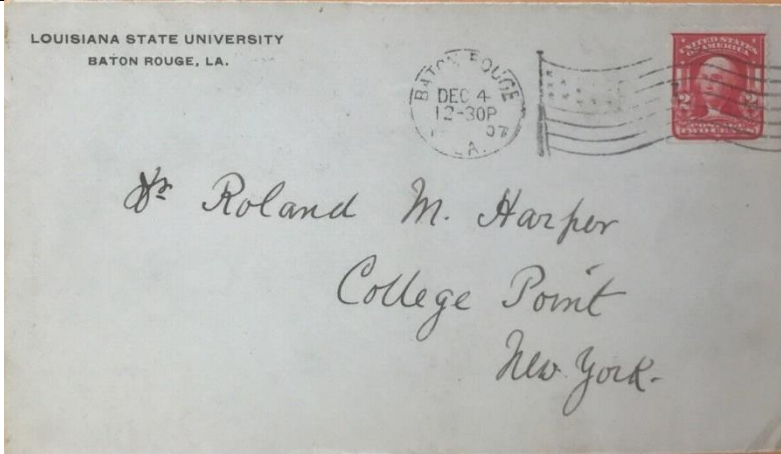


Letterhead



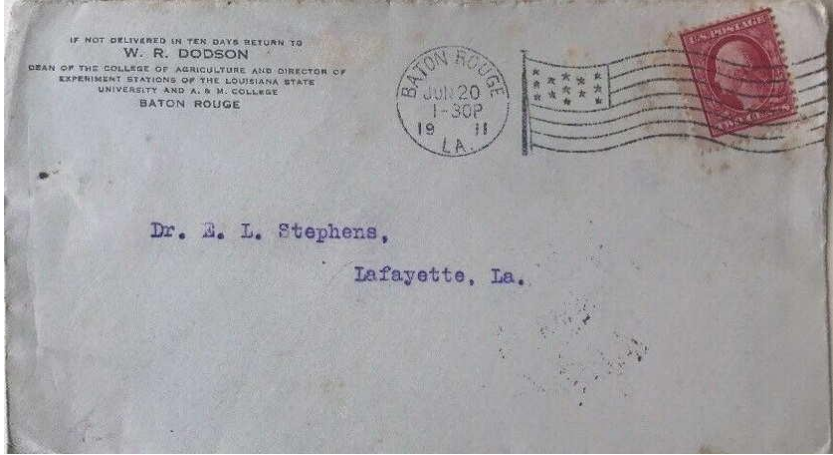
## Louisiana: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

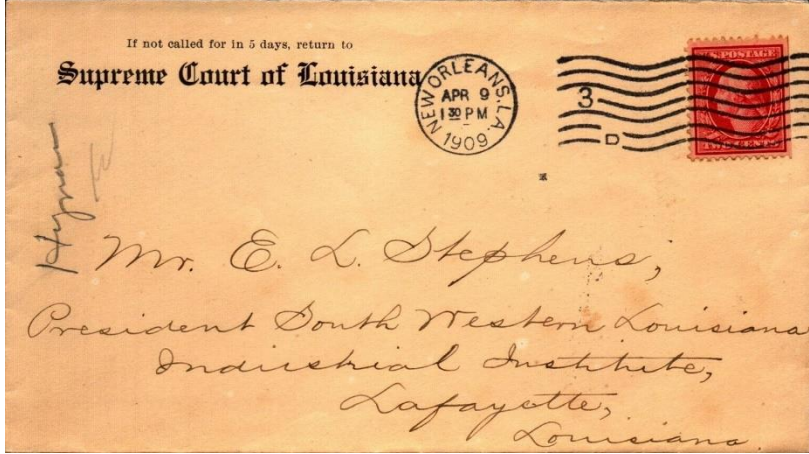
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> East Baton Rouge	<b>City:</b> Baton Rouge
<b>Dates:</b> 24 Oct 1915	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller covermuseumannex, June 2021.			
			

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> East Baton Rouge	<b>City:</b> Baton Rouge
<b>Dates:</b> 4 Dec 1907	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERISTY"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller calloohcallay11, June 2021.			
			



## Louisiana: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> East Baton Rouge	<b>City:</b> Baton Rouge
<b>Dates:</b> 20 June 1911	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "W. R. DODSON / DEAN OF COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE ..."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller calloohcallay11, June 2021.			
 <p>IF NOT DELIVERED IN TEN DAYS RETURN TO W. R. DODSON DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND DIRECTOR OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND A. &amp; M. COLLEGE BATON ROUGE</p> <p>BATON ROUGE LA. JUN 20 1-30P 19 11</p> <p>Dr. E. L. Stephens, Lafayette, La.</p>			

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> East New Orleans	<b>City:</b> New Orleans
<b>Dates:</b> 9 Apr 1909	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Supreme Court of Louisiana"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller millsj, July 2021.			
 <p>If not called for in 5 days, return to</p> <p>Supreme Court of Louisiana</p> <p>NEW ORLEANS, LA. APR 9 3 30 PM 1909</p> <p>3</p> <p>Mr. E. L. Stephens, President South Western Louisiana Industrial Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana.</p>			

## Part 2

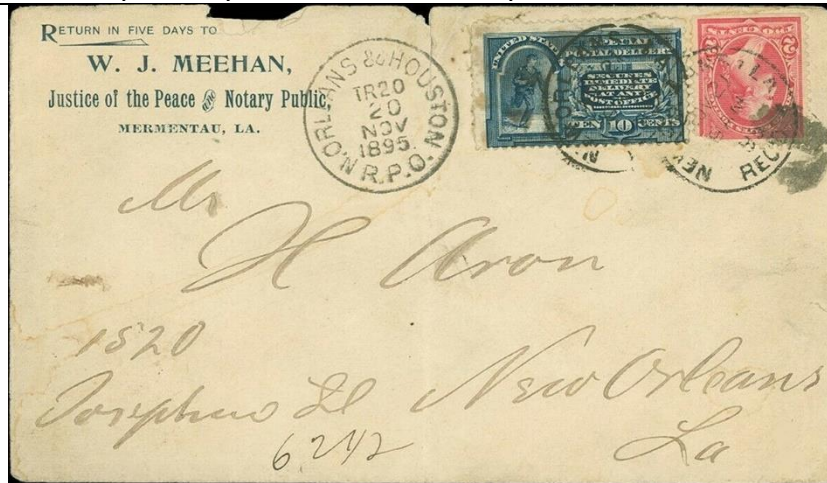
# LOUISIANA

## County & City Agencies “Official Business” Envelopes

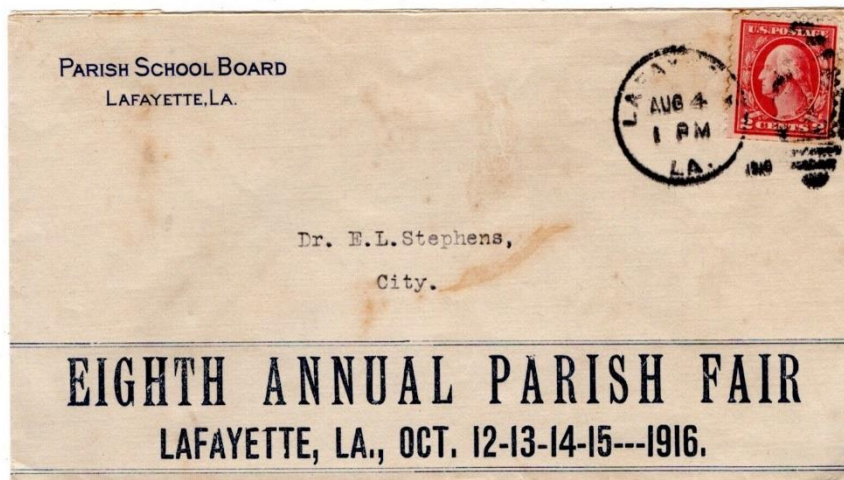
Arranged by County and City

## Louisiana: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

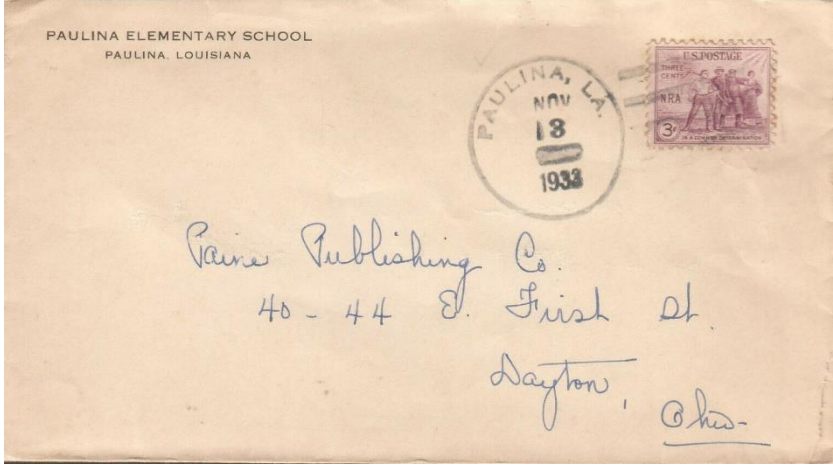
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> Acadia	<b>City:</b> Mermentau
<b>Dates:</b> 20 Nov 1895	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "W. J. MEEHAN, / Justice of the Peace & Notary Public."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller dave-katz, May 2021.			

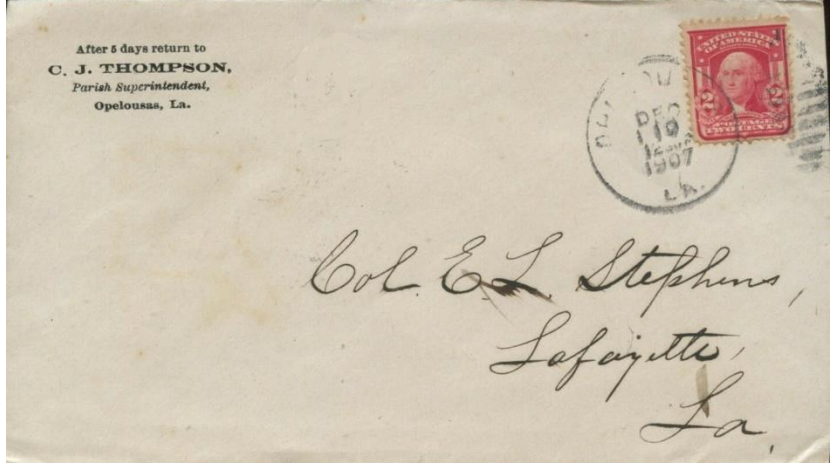


<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> Lafayette	<b>City:</b> Lafayette
<b>Dates:</b> 4 Aug 1910	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "PARISH SCHOOL BOARD / LAFAYETTE, LA"			
<b>Notes:</b> Ad for Eighth Annual Parish Fair.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller weiszcovers, June 2021.			



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<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> St. James	<b>City:</b> Paulina
<b>Dates:</b> 18 Nov 1933	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "PAULINA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL / PAULINA, LOUISIANA"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller weiszcovers, June 2021.			
			

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> St. Landry	<b>City:</b> Opelousas
<b>Dates:</b> 10 Dec 1907	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "C. J. THOMPSON, / Parish Superintendent,"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller covermuseumannex, June 2021.			
			

## Louisiana: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> St. Landry	<b>City:</b> Opelousas
<b>Dates:</b> 2 Mar ~1920s	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "CHAS. THIBODEAUX / SHERIFF / And Ex-Officio Taz Collector Parish of St. Landry"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller calloohcallay11, June 2021.			

## Part 3

# LOUISIANA

## Private Business’s Using designs similar to the “Official Business” Envelopes

Arranged by County and City

**No covers identified.**

## Part 4

# LOUISIANA

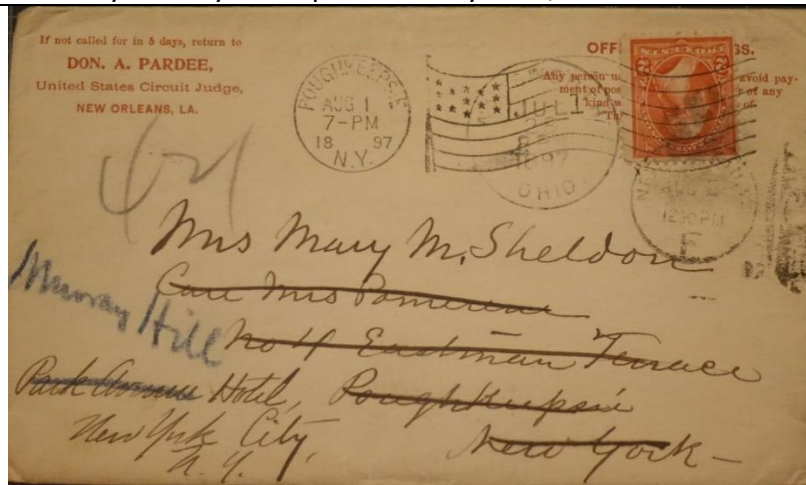
## Federal Department & Agency Envelopes

### Used within the State

Arranged by County and City

## Louisiana: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> East New Orleans	<b>City:</b> New Orleans
<b>Dates:</b> 1 Aug 1897	<b>Color:</b> Red on tan	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "DON. A. PARDEE, / United States Circuit Judge"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller postalhistorystore, June 2021.			



<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> Louisiana	<b>Parish:</b> Caddo	<b>City:</b> Shreveport
<b>Dates:</b> 12 July 1940	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT / WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA / J. M. GRIMMET, REFEREE."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, May 2021.			

