

# NEW HAMPSHIRE



**“Official Business”**  
**State Departmental Offices**  
**Illustrated Covers**  
**1860 - 1960**

Compiled by Mike Ludeman



Hosted in the Stamp Smarter Library

<https://stampsmitter.org/learning/StateGovCovers.html>

# NEW HAMPSHIRE: “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

## NEW HAMPSHIRE: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

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 digital 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

**NEW HAMPSHIRE: “Official Business” Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards**

**State Capitol – Concord, ME**

**Constructed 1819**

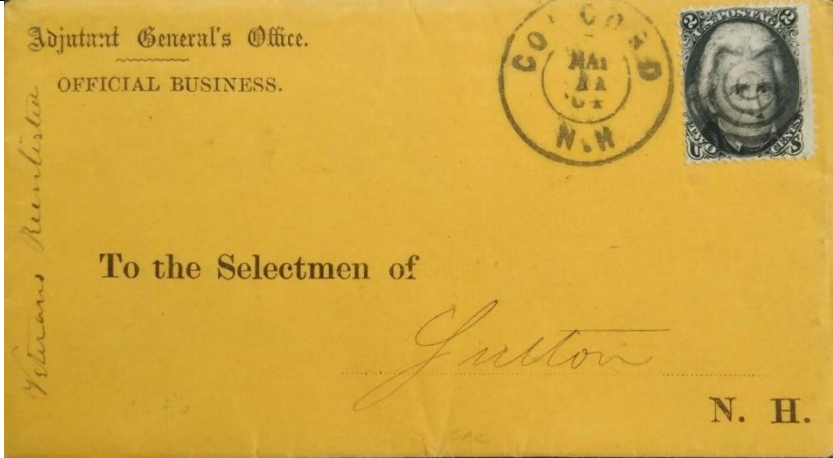


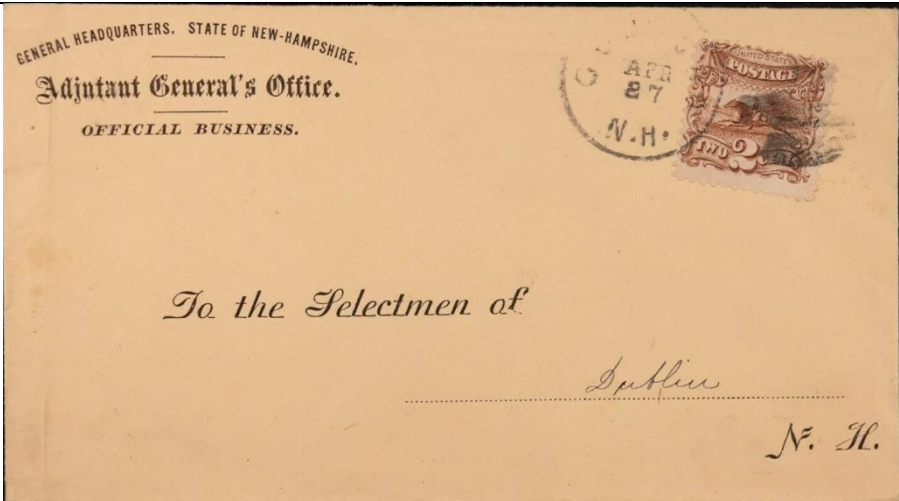
**The Capitol – rear view**



Both postcard images courtesy eBay seller a1bookdealer, July 2021.

# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 11 May 1864	<b>Color:</b> Black on yellow	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Adjutant General's Office."			
<b>Notes:</b> Two lines preprinted: "To the Selectmen of" and "N.H."			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021.			
			

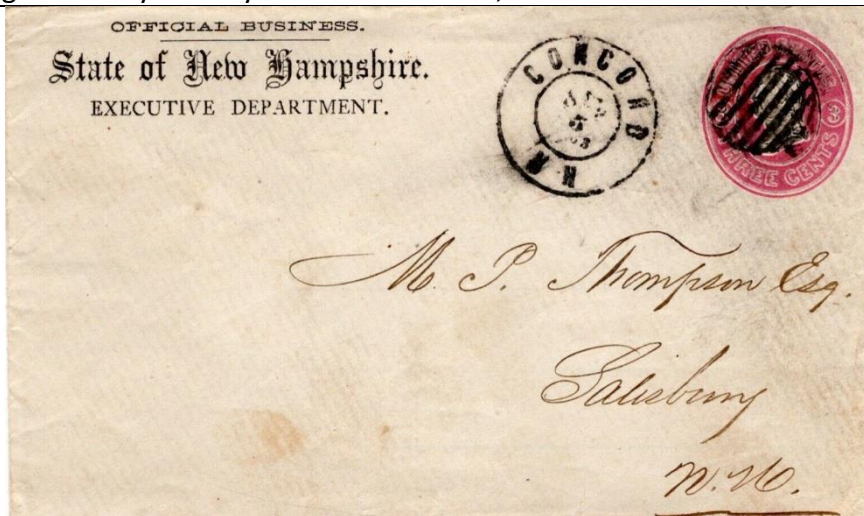
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 27 Apr 1869	<b>Color:</b> Black on buff	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Adjutant General's Office."			
<b>Notes:</b> Two lines preprinted: "To the Selectmen of" and "N.H."			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021.			
			

# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 23 Dec ~1870s	<b>Color:</b> Black on buff	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Adjutant General's / OFFICE."			
<b>Notes:</b> Added the Seal inside a shield.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021.			



<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 5 Sep 1863	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Executive Department,"			
<b>Notes:</b> Printed on 3 cent PSE.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller weiszcovers, June 2021.			

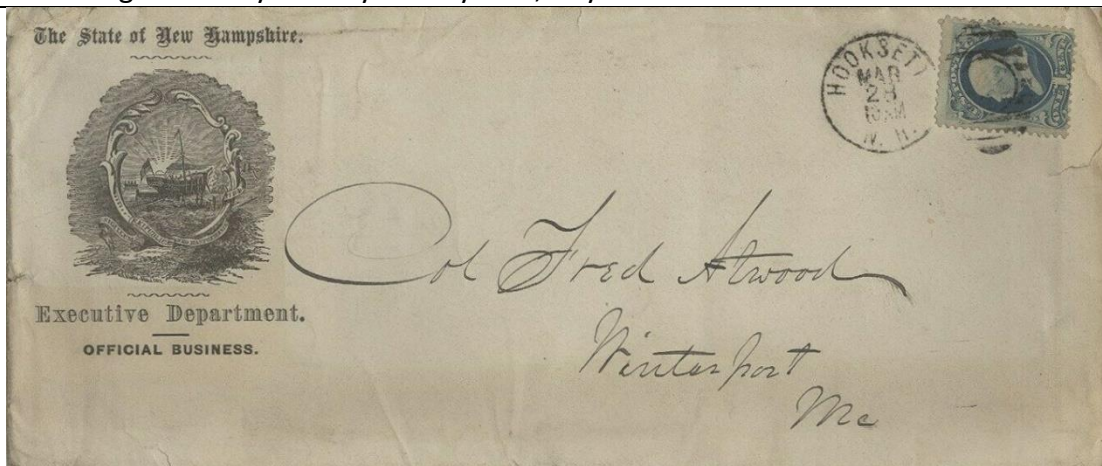


# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 17 June ~ Late 1860s	<b>Color:</b> Black on yellow	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Executive Department,"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller northstamps, June 2021.			

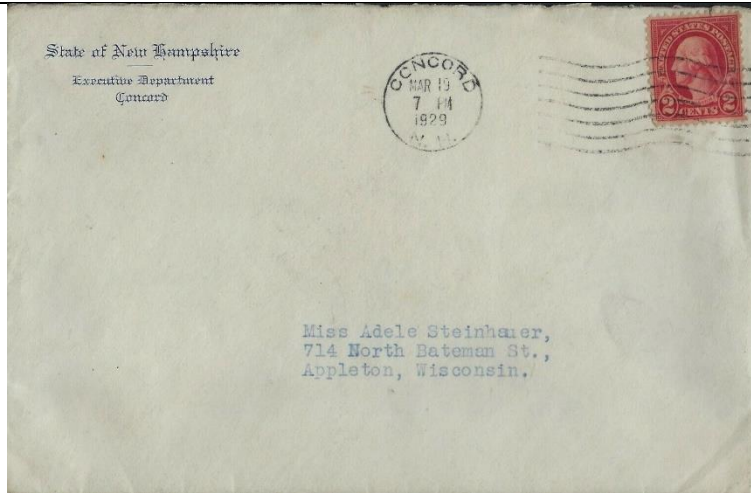


<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 1880s	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Legal	
<b>Office:</b> "Executive Department,"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller yefzin, July 2021.			

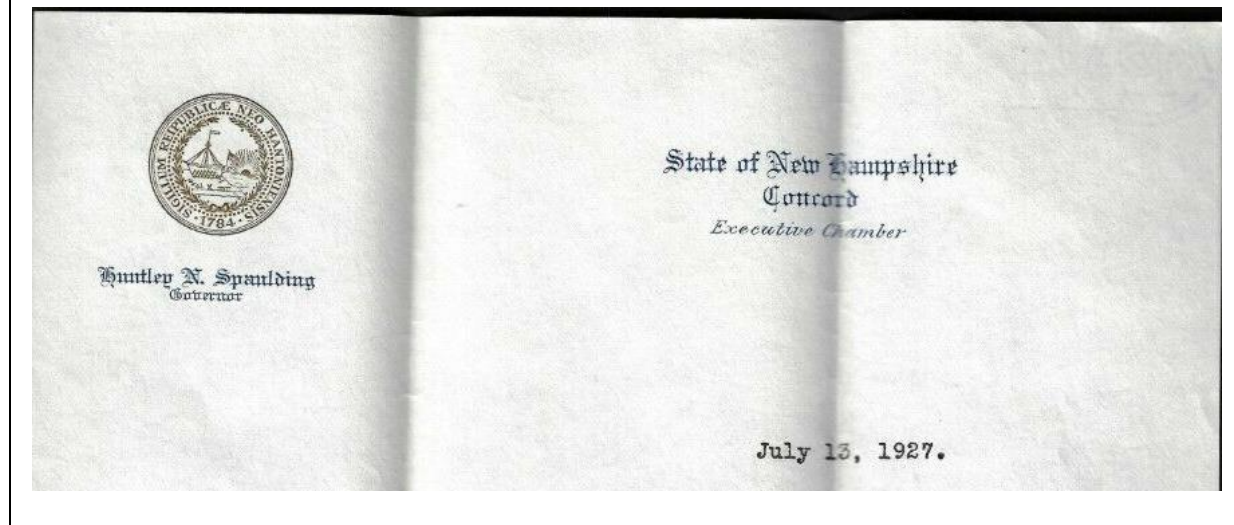


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<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 15 July 1927	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Executive Department"			
<b>Notes:</b> Envelope and stationery used during term of Governor Huntley N. Spaulding, term of office Jan 6, 1927 to Jan 3, 1929.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller jeneezirish35, June 2021. From the Adelle Steinbauer Autograph collection.			



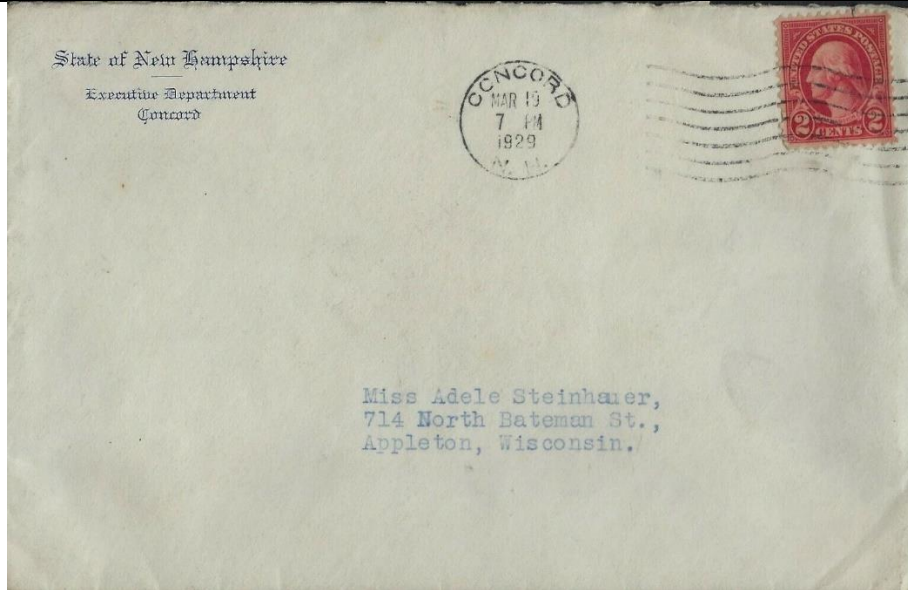
Letterhead



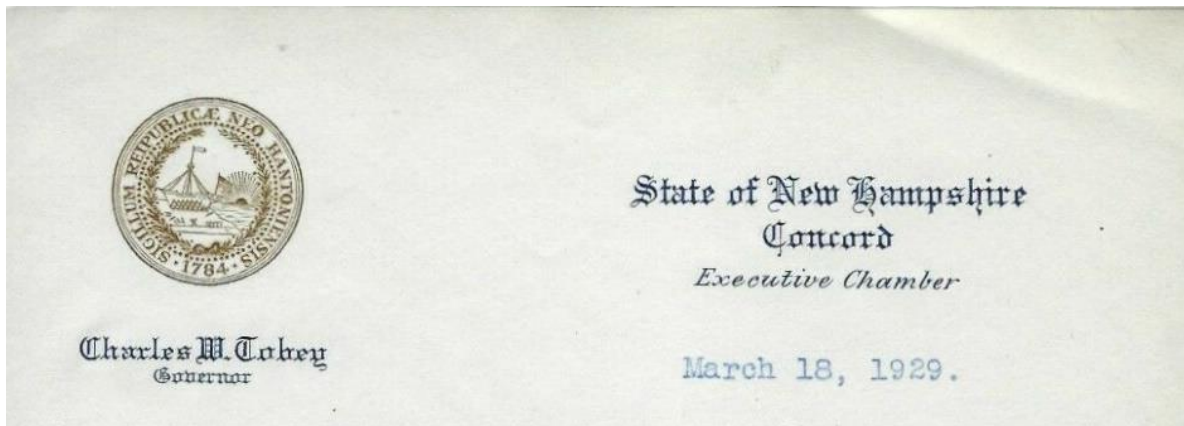


# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 19 Mar 1929	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Executive Department"			
<b>Notes:</b> Envelope and stationery used during term of Governor Charles W. Tobey, who served Jan 3, 1929 – Jan 1, 1931.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller jeneezirish35, June 2021. From the Adelle Steinbauer Autograph collection			

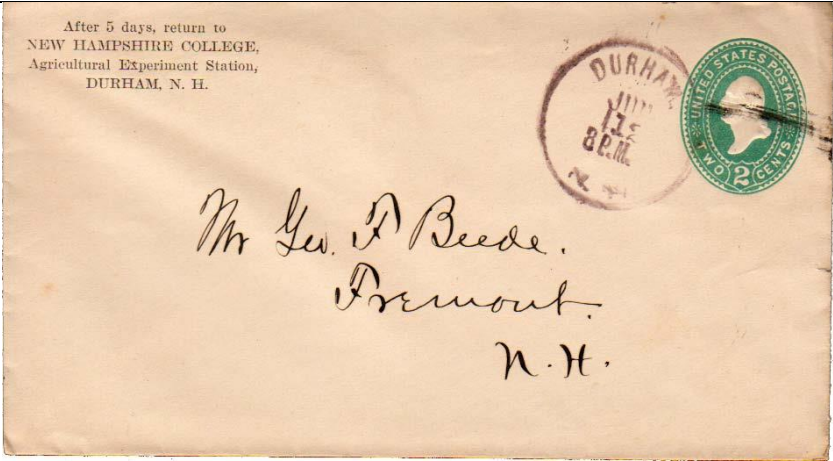


Letterhead



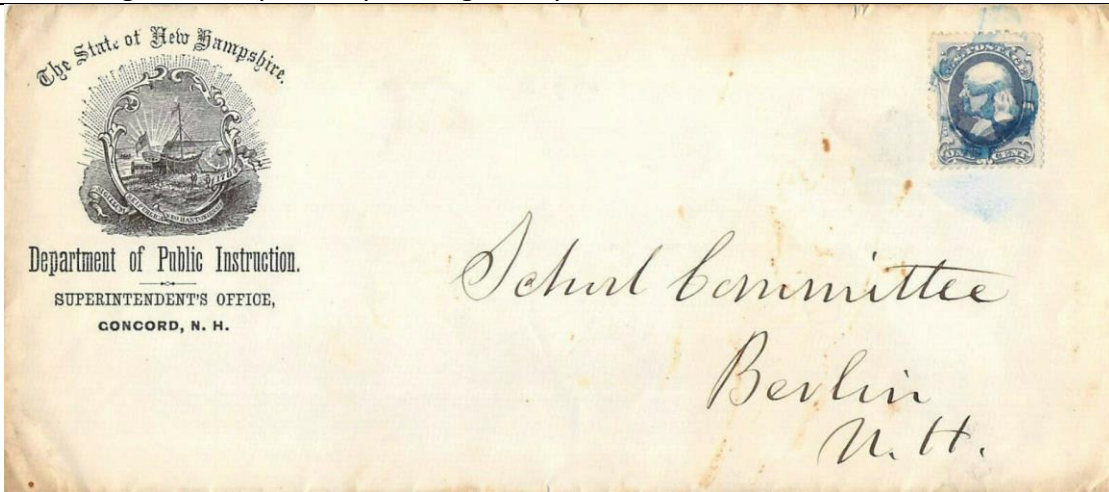
# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 11 June 1894	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "BUREAU OF LABOR"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller covercrazy2, June 2021.			
			

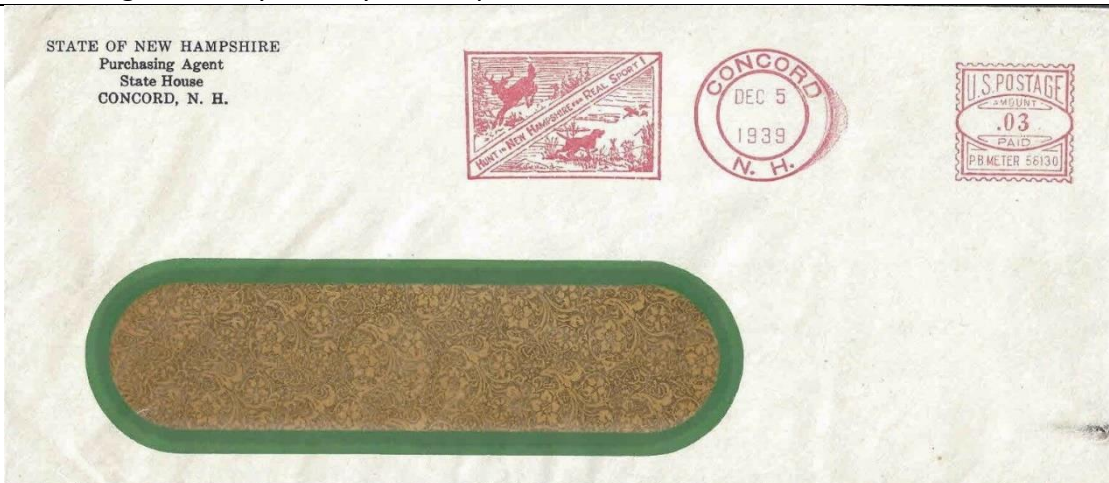
<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 12 June ~1890s	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE, / Agricultural Experimental Station"			
<b>Notes:</b> Established as the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanical Arts in Hanover, NH in 1866, it was moved to Durham, NH in 1893.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller Stamps-plus, June 2021.			
			

# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> ~1880s	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Department of Public Instruction. / SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE,"			
<b>Notes:</b> Education			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller gold-myna, June 2021.			

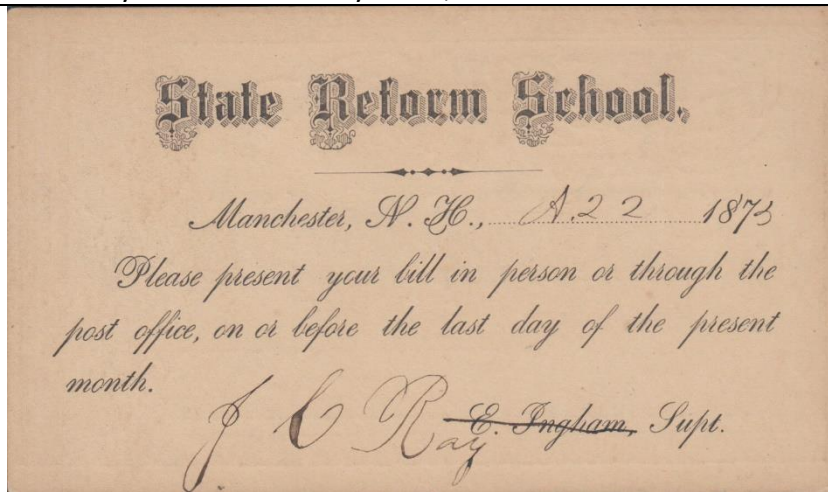


<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 5 Dec 1939	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Purchasing Agent / State House"			
<b>Notes:</b> Postage meter			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller ephemeraand, June 2021.			

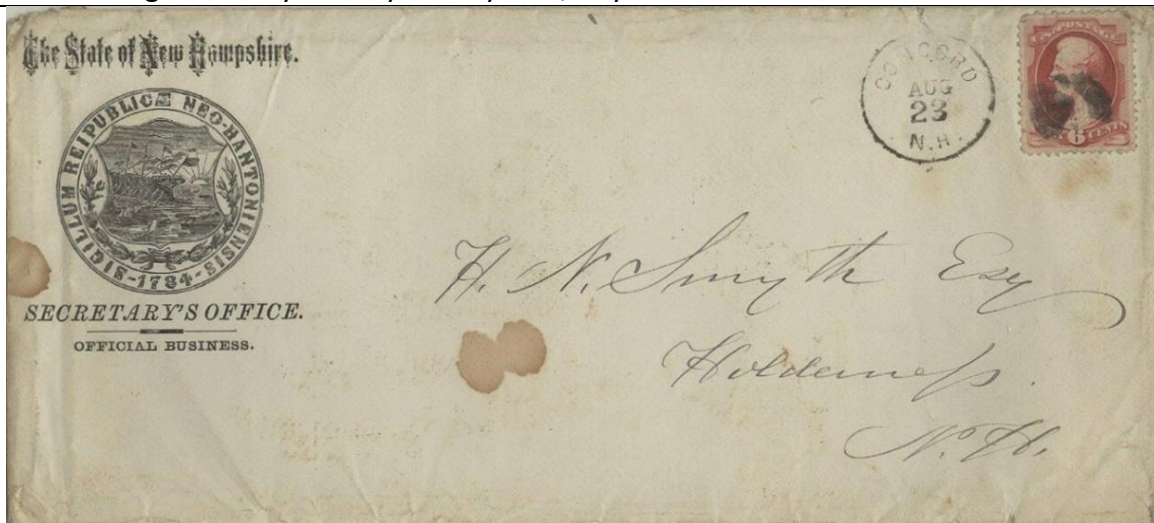


# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 22 Aug 1873	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Postal Card	
<b>Office:</b> "State Reform School"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of unknown eBay seller, June 2021.			



<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 1870s	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Legal	
<b>Office:</b> "SECRETARY'S OFFICE,"			
<b>Notes:</b> Secretary of State			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller yefzin, July 2021.			



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<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 3 Jan 1881	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE / SECRETARY'S OFFICE,"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller halfmoon28a, July 2021.			

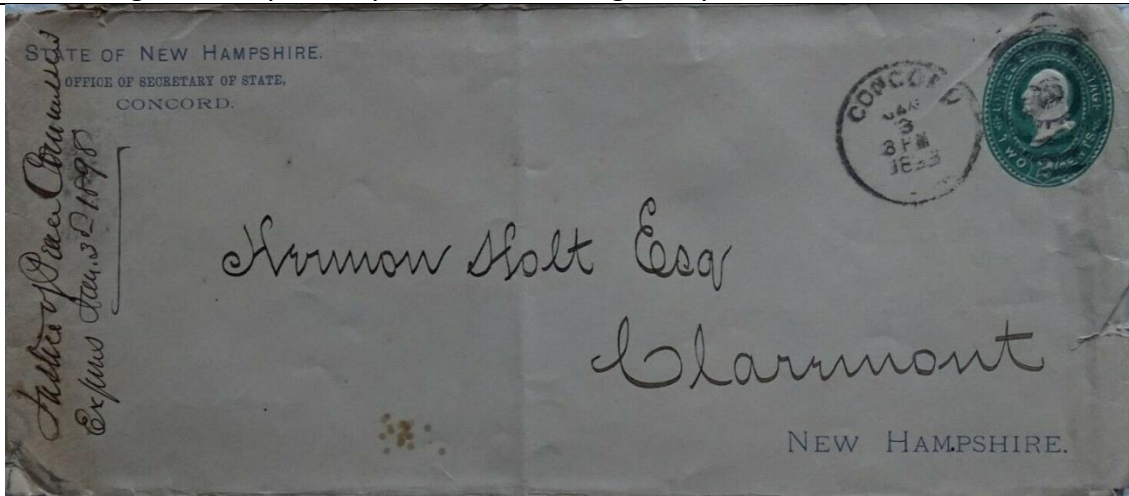


<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 24 May 1894	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE / OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller soundnostalgia, June 2021.			

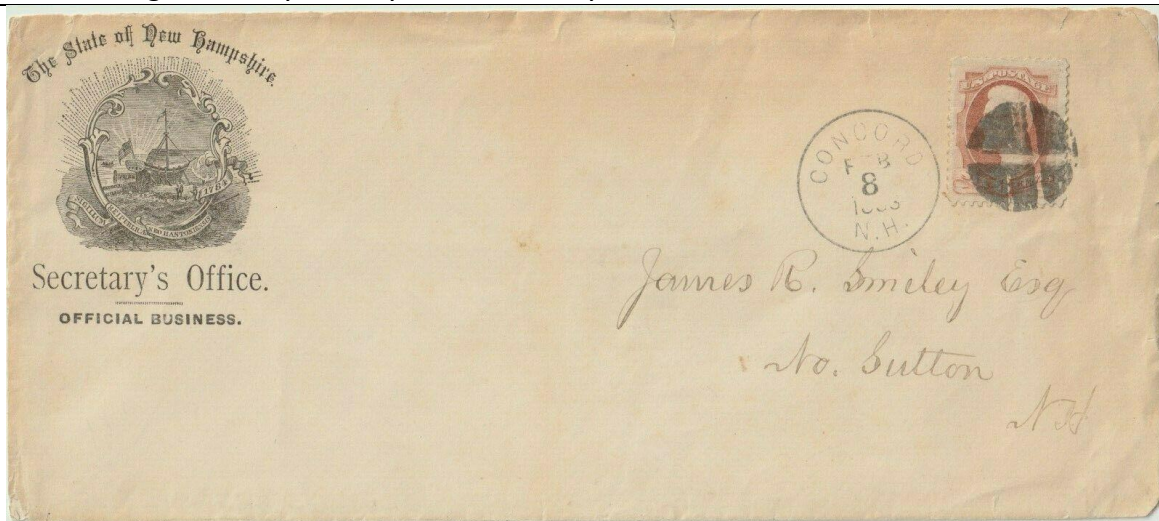


# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 3 Jan 1883	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Legal	
<b>Office:</b> "STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE / OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller Hallsnostalgia, July 2021.			



<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 8 Feb 1883	<b>Color:</b> Blue	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE / SECRETARY'S OFFICE,"			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller klez, July 2021.			



# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 29 Oct 1945	<b>Color:</b> Black		<b>Size:</b> Regular
<b>Office:</b> "STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE / The Secretary of State,"			
<b>Notes:</b> Special Delivery with postage due.			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller zuluwar24, July 2021.			



**Part 2**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**County & City Agencies**

**“Official Business”**

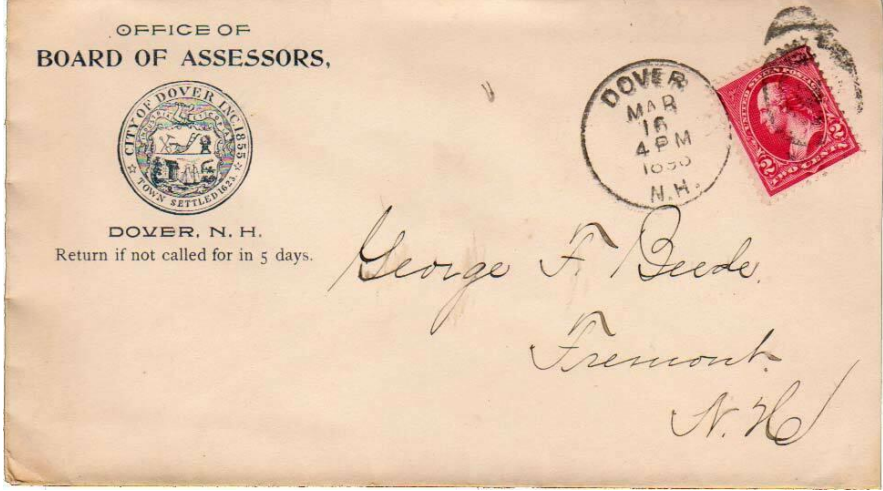
**Envelopes**

**Arranged by County and City**



**NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards**

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 16 Mar 1896	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "OFFICE OF / BOARD OF ASSESSORS."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, May 2021.			



## Part 3

# NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Arranged by County and City

**No covers identified.**

## **Part 4**

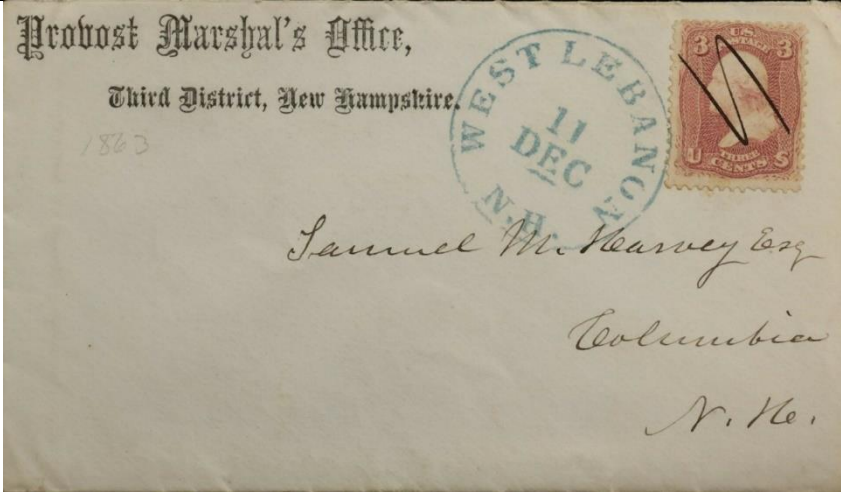
# **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## **Federal Department & Agency Envelopes**

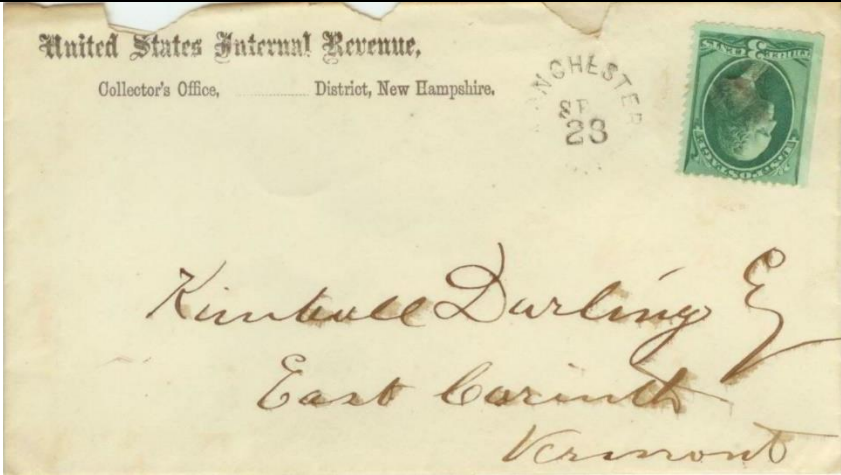
### **Used within the State**

**Arranged by County and City**

# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Grafton	<b>City:</b> West Lebanon
<b>Dates:</b> 11 Dec ~1860s	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "Probst Marshal's Office, / Third District, New Hampshire."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of unknown eBay seller, July 2021.			
			

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<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Hillsborough	<b>City:</b> Manchester
<b>Dates:</b> 23 Sept ~1870s	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "United States Internal Revenue, / Collector's Office, _ District, New Hampshire."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller postchris, July 2021.			
			

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# NEW HAMPSHIRE: "Official Business" Illustrated Covers and Corner Cards

<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Merrimack	<b>City:</b> Concord
<b>Dates:</b> 28 Jan 1882	<b>Color:</b> Black	<b>Size:</b> Regular	
<b>Office:</b> "United States Internal Revenue, / Collector's Office, 2d District, N.H."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of US Cancellation Club News, Feb 2014, Whole No 290, p19.			



<b>ID:</b>	<b>State:</b> New Hampshire	<b>County:</b> Rockingham	<b>City:</b> Portsmouth
<b>Dates:</b> 30 June 1898	<b>Color:</b> Black on buff	<b>Size:</b> Legal	
<b>Office:</b> "Treasury Department, / OFFICE OF COLLECTOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE."			
<b>Notes:</b>			
<b>Source:</b> Image courtesy of eBay seller stamps-plus, June 2021.			

