

APS UNIT 28

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EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

OLD BUFFALO CITY HALL COVERS APPEALING

By Alfred Carroccia

Buffalo postal history is an interesting collecting area not only for its cancellations, but also for the advertising covers that were prevalent in the early part of the twentieth century. Different images of the city with its grand hotels was the hallmark of the majority of the covers and are very appealing.

The old city hall appeared on advertising covers. Most were business related as many city and county offices were located in the building. These covers portrayed the façade of the building with its clock tower which was the tallest building in Buffalo from 1876 to 1912.

The granite structure was designed by Rochester architect Andrew Jackson Warner and constructed between 1871 and 1875. The site was on old Franklin Square which contained the graves of those Buffalo residents who died when the British burned the Village of Buffalo during the War of 1812. The graves were relocated during construction.

The building would serve as home of the city and Erie County municipal offices until 1936 when a new city hall was built off Niagara Square. The county would maintain offices until its new building would be built adjacent to the old building. Old County Hall, as it is now called, maintains the courts and the office of the Erie County Clerk. ■

