Riverside is the neighborhood in Buffalo, NY where I was raised. It currently is serviced by the ZIP Code 14207 post office. Riverside and the adjacent neighborhood of Black Rock combine to form nearly all of ZIP Code 14207 today. This presentation presents a quasi-philatelic account of ZIP Code 14207 and its antecedents. Key areas of focus include the evolution of the local geographic area, representative postmarks on cover of most of the post offices that serviced the area, key events in the history of the area and a sampling of philatelic activity in the area.

The red lines delineate ZIP Code 14207 as well as the Riverside-Black Rock boundary.

The exterior of the ZIP Code 14207 Post Office in January 2014.

The interior of the ZIP Code 14207 Post Office in January 2014.

This and the following eight slides show county maps of then-current boundaries, outlined in black, overlaid on today's boundaries as published in the decennial Federal census.

In 1793 Robert Morris sold roughly 3.5 million acres of land to a Dutch syndicate known as the Holland Land Company. By 1836 the Holland Land Company had sold its entire holding.

When settlement of the Holland Land Company territory began a new county, Genesee, was formed on March 30, 1802 with Batavia as its capital.
Slide 22
A seminal event on the Niagara Frontier was construction of the Erie Canal. Buffalo and Black Rock, bitter rivals (other than when the area was under siege during the War of 1812 and in an effort to improve the local transportation network), competed for the opportunity to become the western terminus of the Erie Canal. Black Rock emerged as the early favorite because it had a suitable harbor created from a natural black rock outcrop situated on the Niagara River adjacent to what is now the Peace Bridge. Buffalo Creek, also a suitable site for a harbor, emptied into Lake Erie to the south of the black rock outcrop; however, a sandbar at its mouth prevented suitable navigation. Buffalo subsequently dredged the sandbar and the battle for the Erie Canal was on. Political heavyweights - Peter B. Porter for Black Rock and Joseph Ellicott & Paul Busti for Buffalo - took sides. The question of which town would be selected was in doubt until 1822 when Buffalo was selected, but the question wasn’t finally settled until October 1823 when the state ordered the resumption of construction. It is my opinion that this event is why Black Rock is a part of Buffalo today and not the other way around.

Slide 23
Upper left: Canal Boat stamp First Day Covers depicting a canal boat drawn by a horse with man on the canal towpath
Lower Right: Map showing the principal canals in the northeast.

Slide 24
Upper Left: Black-Rock, N.Y. / June 9, 1826 / black 34×13mm double-lined box / FREE rate. Sent by J. Barton, P.M.
Lower Right: Upper Left: Black-Rock, NY / August 8, 1826 / black 34×13mm double-lined box / 56¼¢ rate / Sent by Donald Fraser Canal Collector.

Slide 25
Upper Left: Black Rock, N.Y. / November 10, 1827 / black 34×12mm double-lined box / 18¾¢ rate / Sent by Love & Tracy.
Lower Right: Black Rock, N.Y. / June 11, 1831 / red 33×13mm double-lined box / FREE rate / Sent by E. H. Barnum, P.M.

Slide 26
Upper Left: Black Rock, N.Y. / June 18, 1831 / red 33×13mm double-lined box / 12½¢ rate / Sent by Gibson, Johnson and Ehls.
My Little Town Notes

Slide 27
Upper Left: Black Rock, N.Y. / December 23, 1848 / blue 30mm CDS / 10¢ rate / Sent by W. A. Bird.
Lower Right: manuscript Black Rock with (certified) pointy finger / June 16, 1833 / black 30mm CDS / 25¢ rate / Sent by Matilda Pratt.

Slide 28
Enlargement of manuscript Black Rock with (certified) pointy finger.

Slide 29–34
Self-Explanatory

Slide 35
Canadian and American First Day Covers commemorating 50th anniversary of the Peace Bridge, located approximately where the 17th Century boundary between Buffalo and Black Rock was drawn.

Slide 36-37
Self-Explanatory

Slide 38
These are interesting covers because their cancels bear the Station B postmark. The Pan-American Exposition, as was common practice for events like it, had its own postal station that Pan-American Exposition covers received. Station B shared a border with the exposition and, rather than posting the letters on the exposition grounds where they would have received the event cancellation, they were posted possibly a few steps away from the exposition grounds.

Slide 39–41
Self-Explanatory

Slide 42
This is an interesting cover because everything about it – including a “Station B” mark – suggests it originated in Buffalo, NY. But a closer look reveals that the cover originated in Atlanta, GA where Haas & Haas agents mailed it.

Slide 43–44
Self-Explanatory

Slide 45
Although this cover does not explicitly bear a 14207 postmark, I know it was mailed from that ZIP Code because it was sent to me from my aunt who was still residing in my childhood house.

Slide 46–48
My Little Town Notes

Philatelic activity in ZIP Code 14207: this and the following four covers was issued by the Polish Cadets at POLKAPEX on March 7, 1987 in ZIP Code 14207.

Slide 49
Philatelic activity in ZIP Code 14207: these two covers were issued by the Polish Cadets at POLKAPEX on March 4, 1984 and March 2, 1986 in ZIP Code 14207.

Slide 50
Self-Explanatory
My Little Town
Zip Code 14207

Riverside

Black Rock

Rochester Philatelic Association • January 23, 2014
George T. Fekete
ZIP Code 14207
Post Office

725 Hertel Avenue • Buffalo, NY
ZIP Code 14207
Post Office
New York Counties
1830 Federal Census
New York Counties
1840 Federal Census
New York Counties
1850 Federal Census
Holland Land Company Purchase
1793–1836
Western New York Counties
1808 - 1821 & After 1841
Erie County Towns
Chronology

Clarence created 1807
Buffalo 1810 from Clarence
Amherst 1818 from Buffalo
Willink 1807

Hamburg 1812 from Willink
Eden 1812 from Willink
Concord 1812 from Willink
Wales 1818 from Willink
Holland 1818 from Willink

Boston 1817 from Eden
Evans 1821 from Eden
Sardinia 1821 from Concord
Collins 1821 from Concord
Western NY Postal Routes
Pre-1812

Postal Routes in Western New York Before the War of 1812
Western NY Routes & Post Offices
~1840
Black Rock Post Office Changes
1817 – Present

- 1817: Black Rock
- 1854-1857: Black Rock Dam
- 1870: North Buffalo
- 1873: Petri
- 1873-1877: Smith & Kay
- 1873: Other
- 1873: Midway
- 1873: Buffalo
- 1885: Black Rock Station
- 1894: Station B
- 1894-1929: Station B
- 1929: Zone 7 -> ZIP Code 14207
- 1930: Present
Erie Canal

- Proposed in 1807
- Under Construction from 1817 to 1825
- Western Terminus Awarded to Buffalo in 1822
- Opened October 26, 1825
Erie Canal
October 26, 1825

1880’s Canal Boat
These vessels were key to America's westward expansion.
Black Rock
January 29, 1817 – September 1, 1869

[Image of historic envelopes]
Black Rock
January 29, 1817 – September 1, 1869

[Image of handwritten envelopes with postal markings and hand-written text]

E.H. Bluntman
P.M.

Surveyor General's Office
Albany, N.Y.
Black Rock
January 29, 1817 – September 1, 1869
Black Rock
January 29, 1817 - September 1, 1869
I have no covers...but I have cash... :o)
North Buffalo
February 10, 1857 – March 18, 1870
Purportedly, North Buffalo became Midway; further research is required to resolve the issue.

But, I have cash if this is true… :o)
Apparently there was no post office designated during this period to indicate processing in Black Rock or Riverside.

Additional research is required to resolve this issue and, if so, acquire covers with Buffalo postmarks that can at least imply processing in the area.
Station B
December 1894 – July 1929

The Peace Bridge
Symbol of Abiding Friendship
FORT ERIE, ONTARIO—BUFFALO, NEW YORK

Canadian

1927

First Day of Issue
First Day of Issue
Jour d’Amissé
August 4, 1977

The Peace Bridge
Symbol of Abiding Friendship
BUFFALO, NEW YORK—FORT ERIE, ONTARIO

American

1927

First Day of Issue
First Day of Issue
Jour d’Amissé
August 4, 1977

Peace Bridge

Some see that nations are composed of people who have common illusions about their past and a common dislike for their neighbors. Nevertheless, the friendship between Canada and the United States is so strong that it has become the standard of enlightened international relations—-a standard symbolized by the Peace Bridge which connects Fort Erie, Ontario, and Buffalo, New York. Commercial considerations aside, promoters of the structure visualized it as a monument to the peaceful years since the War of 1812. On August 7, 1977, an all-star cast assembled to dedicate the bridge. The Governor of New York, the Premier of Ontario, the United States Vice President and Secretary of State, the Canadian and British Prime Ministers and the Prince of Wales participated. Prime Minister Mackenzie King observed that the years of peace between Canada and the United States had taught Europeans a great lesson. There was tremendous jubilation that the Buffalo and Fort Erie bridge terminals stood on ground previously occupied by fortresses, and that more than a century had passed without a shot being fired. The new structure was not only a memorial to peace, but also a symbol of the new spirit in Canadian-American relations, for the nineteenth century had not been a golden age of international unity. The magnificent span on the Niagara River illustrates how friendship has replaced suspicion.

Peace Bridge

In large measure, the 400-foot-long steel bridge that spans the Niagara River from Fort Erie, Buffalo, New York, to Fort Erie, Ontario, where the first shots of the War of 1812 were exchanged, is a monument to an almost-forgotten past of the early United States. Richard Rush, born in 1752, was a physician and statesman. When the United States would agree as well, Rush was eventually successful in convincing the United States government to place ensigns on the ships to signify a willingness to end the war. Today, the United States and Canada celebrate the Niagara Bridge as a testament to the fact that two great nations can live together in peace.
Station B
December 1894 - July 1929
Station B
December 1894 – July 1929
Union Avenue is the main automobile highway through Havre De Grace from Philadelphia to Baltimore on U. S. 40. Many beautiful houses are located on this street.

Dear family, we are in Maryland again. Washington & Baltimore yesterday. Will get for all something in New York tomorrow. Hope you are all well & believing we will be home soon. Love to all. Mother.

Miss Betty Read
Missent to Sta. B, Buffalo, N. Y.

Mr. Edwardes S. Petze
C/o DuPont Rayon Company
Buffalo, N. Y.

(Please forward)
Station B
December 1894 - July 1929

HAAS & HAAS, Agents
100-14 4th NATIONAL BANK BLDG.
ATLANTA, GA.

United States Postage

AIR MAIL

Hotel Easton,
Easton, Pa.

Buffalo Insurance Co.
BUFFALO, N.Y.
Note: Station B cancellations appeared in Zone 7 after it was formally established on July 1, 1963.
ZIP Code 14207
1963 – Today

Helen Schabek
189 Baxter St.
Buffalo, N.Y.
14267 - 1139

Mr. George T. Sekete
111 Dela Road
Rochester, N.Y.
14625
The Bicentennial

Northwest Territory

with future state boundaries as specified by the Ordinance of 1787

The First Colony of the United States

Here, with America's start westward to the other sea, was born a colonial policy unique in all the world; One of America's contributions to Governmental progress.
ZIP Code 14207 Philately
POLKAPEX - Northwest Ordinance of 1787

The Bicentennial

with future state boundaries as specified by the Ordinance of 1787

NORTHWEST ORDINANCE of 1787

The Bicentennial

with future state boundaries as specified by the Ordinance of 1787

NORTHWEST ORDINANCE of 1787
ZIP Code 14207 Philately
POLKAPEX - Northwest Ordinance of 1787

The Bicentennial

with future state boundaries as specified by the Ordinance of 1787

Northwest Territory

The First Colony of the United States

with America's past and future, the United States, as envisioned in the Ordinance of 1787.
ZIP Code 14207 Philately
POLKAPEX – Duck Stamp & Alamo

POLKAPEX 84
COMMEMORATES

50th Anniversary of the Duck Stamp

Commemorating
The 150th Anniversary of the Fall of the
ALAMO

BUFFALO, NY 14207
MAR 2 1986

Polkapex Station