

# Houlton Post Office Water Street

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**Early postcard view of the New Post Office and Customs House on Water Street**

The construction of Houlton's first government owned post office and custom hose was authorized in 1890 and appropriations made in 1890, 1891, and in 1893. The appropriation made by Congress was \$66,000; it was built within that amount.

The contractors for the erection of the building were M. C. Foster & Son of Waterville, Maine.

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James McPartland of Houlton had the contract for the plumbing; Albert B. Franklin of Boston for the heating; Waldo G. Brown of Houlton was superintendent of construction; and George A. Gorham, Jr., assistant superintendent.

The post office was moved to the new building in 1895, On March 31, 1897, the post office was raised to third class to second class; March 31, 1898, it was changed from second to third class; and on March 31, 1899, raised again to second class.

The post office was moved to the 8 Water street location in 1895.

The records indicate that the building completed in 1894 was sold by the Federal Government on April 28, 1937 to the Catholic Society for \$15,000.

**Taken from the Illustrated Souvenir edition of the  
Aroostook Pioneer dated 1895:**

Houlton's new government building is now completed and occupied.

This building was begun in the spring of 1893. It is situated on the west side of Water St., not far from Market Square. It is built of brick with granite foundation, and is a solid looking structure and city-like appearance of the village.

The appropriation made by Congress was \$60,000, and, strange to say, it has been built within the appropriation. Of course the furnishing, electric lights, heating, etc., have been exclusive of the above named sum.

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The contractors for the erection of the building were M. C. Foster & Son of Waterville. The foundations of the building rest for the most part on the ledge which underlies all the eastern portion of Aroostook County. The dimensions of the building are 50 feet by 60, two stores in height.

**JAMES H. McPARTLAND,**  
**PLUMBING,**  
**Steam and Hot Water**  
**HEATING**

MR. McPARTLAND did the  
Plumbing in all the Brick Blocks  
built in 1894, in Houlton, also in  
the new Government building.—  
He put in the heating in the  
Browne, Perks and French Bl'ks.  
Also in F. B. French's and S.  
Friedman's residences.

He did the Plumbing and Heat-  
ing in Parker P. Burlaigh's house,  
also in A. A. Barleigh's house.  
Does work all over the county.  
Will give estimates. All work  
guaranteed.

WORK PROMPTLY DONE, AND  
PRICES REASONABLE.

Office opposite the New Government  
Building, Water St.

The walls are 26 inches in thickness from basement to attic. The work of construction was most thoroughly performed and reflects credit upon the contractor's. The interior finish is of quartered Oak throughout, and the windows are of plate glass. In basement is the apparatus for heating, which is done by means of hot air. The whole of the lower story is devoted to post office uses. There might possibly be some criticism as to the size of the lobby, the limited number of boxes and the general arrangement of this part of the building, although such criticism would avail nothing now, but when we find the building piped for gas and realize the fact there are no gas works in the Aroostook county, and in all probability never will be, we are naturally led to inquire in the language of the dance.

The postmaster's private room is a large and elegant apartment with an open fire place surrounded by black marble from Glenn's Falls, Mass., and a mottled fire frame of Tennessee marble. There is a large fire-proof

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and burglar-proof vault, and tables, desks, racks for mail matter, etc., in ample abundance.

These commodious and finely furnished post office apartments are occupied at present by the following official and assistants: James Gillin, Jr., Postmaster. John McCluskey, Clerk. Maggie Atridge, Clerk. Percy Rideout, Clerk.

The second story is entirely devoted to customs, and is wholly separated from the post office, the flight of stairs leading to the second floor being outside the post office rooms.

There are five rooms on the floor quite conveniently arranged, and very tastily furnished with quartered oak desks, tables, counters, etc. The rooms are as follows: Custom house, special deputies' room, inspector's room, collector's room and a toilet room.

The collector's room has an open fire place similar to the one in the postmaster's room below. Three of the rooms are carpeted, and they all look as cosy and attractive as parlors.

The officials in this department are: H. J. Hatheway, Collector of Customs for Aroostook District; Deputy Collector, James Archibald, Benj. B. Felly, John McMennamin and Henry Gillin.



**New Post Office and Government building at 8 Water Street**





Only four carriers delivered mail to the residential section of the town when this picture was taken about 1906 inside the old Post Office in Water Street. Left to right are, Murdoch B. McKay, clerk; Miss Lily Perrigo, now Mrs. Charles W. Harmon, clerk; Ernest Donnelly, carrier; Harry Little, carrier, later clerk; Howard MacIlroy, carrier; Burns McIntire, clerk; Blinn Hunter, carrier and Frank O'Brien, clerk. Postmaster Frank M. Huine was not present for this picture.