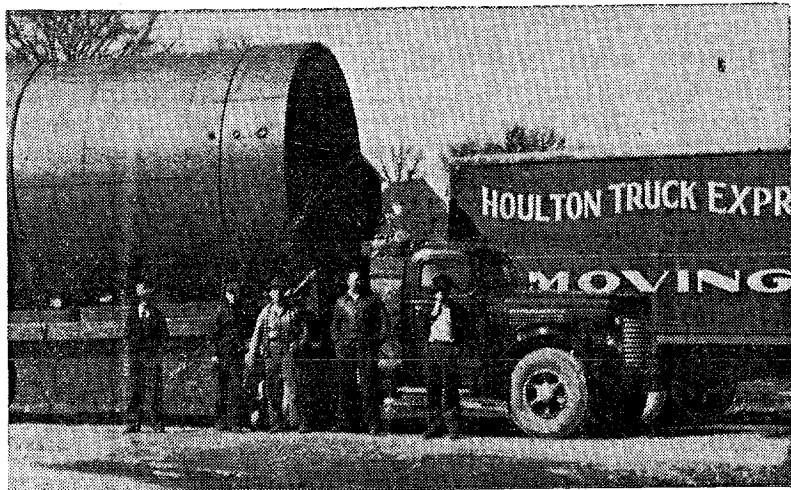


ley came next, remaining for only three years before resigning to accept a position with the State Baptist convention, a post he held un-



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We are pleased at  
this time to pause  
and offer our  
Best Wishes to HOULTON  
on its 150th BIRTHDAY . . .

HOULTON TRUCK  
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HOULTON

## Central Building One Of Finest In State When It Was Erected In 1890

The first brick school building to be erected in Houlton was built here in 1889 but it was only after some fast maneuvering that the town finally decided on brick instead of wood as the material to be used.

At the annual town meeting held March 24 in that year, an article in the warrant authorizing the appropriation of \$10,000 for a new school house in District One, was approved by the voters. The same article authorized that the money should be expended by a committee composed of Charles P. Tenney, A. A. Burleigh, Lewis B. Johnson, John B. Madigan and Almon H. Fogg.

### CONTROVERSY ARISES

A controversy arose very soon thereafter and, two weeks later, on the presentation of a petition signed by ten citizens, the Selectmen called a special town meeting to be held April 15th, the principal business of which was to rescind the previous vote and substitute different articles covering the same business.

til his death.

Rev. Percy Hayden started his pastorate here that same year and, when he retired from the active ministry last year, Dec. 31, 1956, he had concluded an all time record of 17 years of service to the Court Street Baptist Church.

Present occupant of the pulpit is Dr. Charles A. Oehrig who was installed Feb. 1, 1957.

This church can boast of establishing the first Sunday School in Houlton many years ago, an important department that has been nobly advanced by those consecrated teachers who have acted as instructors.

Before bringing this brief history to a close, it would be incomplete indeed if mention were not made of the long and faithful service of John Maxell as clerk of this church. His period of service began in and has not yet been completed. It is believed that no other church in Houlton and few in Maine can boast of as long a period of active church service by one of its members.

At the appointed time, although there apparently was considerable discussion pro and con, the special meeting not only voted to rescind the previous action but passed a new article under the terms of which \$15,000 was appropriated for a brick school house to be erected in district No. 1. It was stipulated that \$5000 was to be raised at the meeting and \$10,000 hired to complete construction. John Chadwick was added to the committee and Lewis B. Johnson was left off.

The newspaper report of the event said that Jabez Young, Edwin Low and Charles Gilman opposed the action while speeches in favor of it were delivered by John B. Madigan, Charles D. Merritt, and Don A. H. Powetrs. The affirmative vote was nearly unanimous.

### NOT THROWING MONEY AWAY

A newspaper comment on the action declared that "the building will be a permanent structure which will always be with us. It is far from throwing money away in building durable and substantial school buildings."

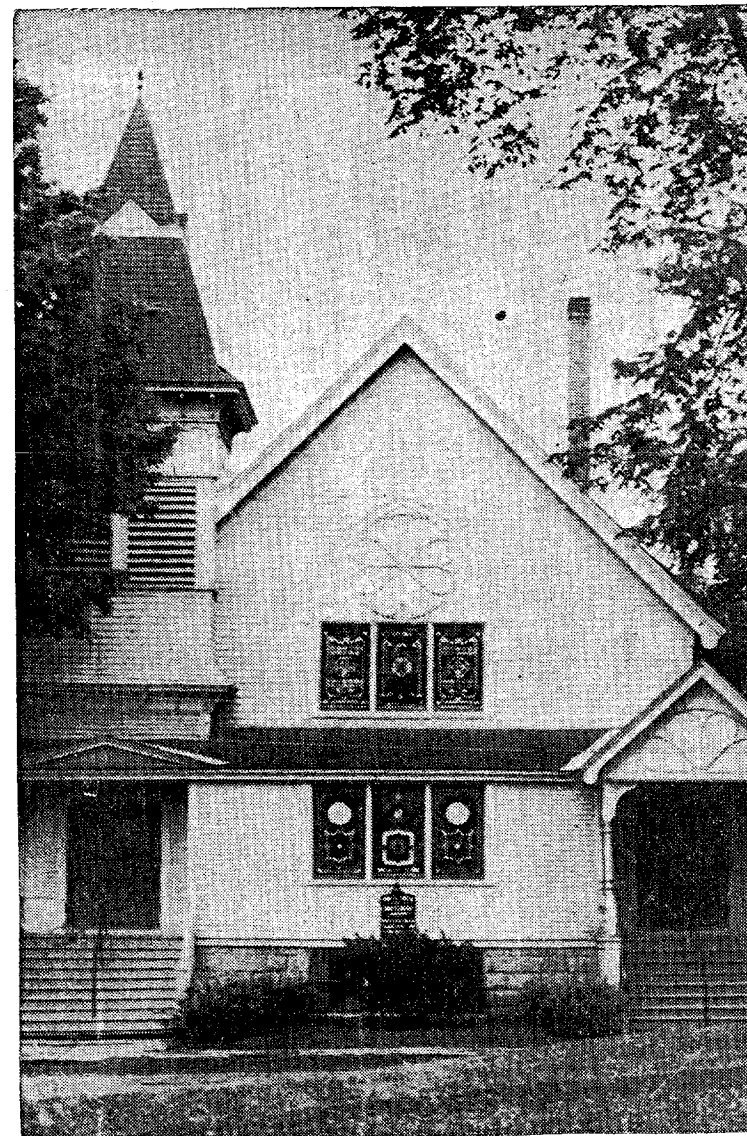
Ground was broken April 16, 1889 and work on the foundation was started soon thereafter. Contract for the brick work was awarded to B. F. Feeley.

It was known as the Central building for many years, and was completed in 1890, to be occupied by its first pupils in the fall of that year. It was located at the corner of Military and School streets, where it still stands and it has served well the educational needs of many thousands of Houlton boys and girls from the time it was first opened.

Then, as now, the building was two stories in height, with a commodious basement, the play facilities of which have long since been abandoned.

### ONE OF THE FINEST

At the time it was built it was described by school authorities elsewhere in Maine as one of the finest school buildings that could be built, at that time. It had two entrances, one for boys and one for girls, its finish was



Originally built by the Presbyterians, this church edifice at the corner of High and Military streets was purchased in 1920 by the Christian Science Society and has been their place of meeting since that time.

spruce and natural wood, with plenty of window area and excellent ventilation, so the description went.

The building was dedicated with appropriate exercises on the afternoon of May 27, 1890. It was described as "a model in its appointments, planned and finished in the most complete and thorough manner; an enduring monument to the public spirit, liberality, and far-sightedness of our people for generations to come. Well may our citizens ever take pride in this noble work."

Among those taking part in the program were, John B. Madigan, who presented the keys, R. W. Shaw, who presented the flag, Supervisor James P. Archibald who responded to both of these presentations; Lucy Francis Ten-

ney, whose reading was "The History of Our Flag"; Harry Ralph Burleigh, who delivered "Our Flag".

### NEW FLAG RAISED

During the exercises a new flag was raised over the building.

Remarks were made by several citizens and, the newspaper report of the event added, "earnest words of cheer and commendation" were given by several local ministers, Prin. A. W. Thomas and assistant principal Estes of Ricker, by Charles R. Foss, member of the Portland City Council, and others.

"These gentlemen spoke of the advancement made in educational matters in this town of late, of the advantages here presented for obtaining an education, of the means for moral culture and other

## EARLY HISTORY of HOULTON

### CHAPTER EIGHT

Reprinted verbatim in the exact form in which it appeared in the Aroostook Pioneer, July 6, 1858, from the pen of Joshua Kendall.—Ed.

## Flies, Insects Made Life Miserable

But to return to our juvenile hunters, who, for several days, traveling the forest in pursuit of various kinds of game, trapping

influences, patriotic and liberal; that those who go forth from its doors would be better fitted to assume the active duties of citizenship and responsibilities of life."

Thus was launched the most ambitious school building in Houlton's history, up to that point, aside, of course, from the Houlton Academy which had been established some 42 years before to stimulate secondary school education.

This building was to house only grammar school grades at the time it was built and it fulfilled this function until just before the turn of the century when Houlton High School came into being. The Central Building was the only one with facilities for handling high school classes and its second floor was taken over for this purpose.

### MOVE TO NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Until 1915, it served as a combination grammar school (on the first floor) and high school (on the second floor). In the summer of that year the new high school building was completed on the land adjoining, to the south, that had previously been a school playground for the central building. The entire four classes of high school, 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918, moved into their new quarters in the fall of that year.

The wooden frame building which this brick structure replaced, was purchased from the town by E. Merritt & Sons, then operators, among other things, of a feed and grain mill in Union Square. The building was moved to their land and was used for many years until the firm ceased its operations here. It was later used for various purposes, including a pool room and was destroyed by fire a few years ago. It was then the property of the late William Riley.

beaver, which was their principal object, they left for home, pretty well bled by the flies, and not a little fatigued from the jaunt, but proud of the trophies of their chase.

The gnats, as the Indians call them, all-feel-em no-see-ems, black flies and mosquitoes were a sore annoyance to the first settlers, during the summer months. They were obliged to make smokes in their door-yards, two or three hours before night to drive them from their houses and secure repose and sleep.

The woodsmen, while felling the trees, prepared cedar-bark smokes, in the form of a segar, about two feet long, fastened to their hats, lighted at one end, which served as a portable defense against them. At dry times, when dangerous to carry fire, they used fresh butter, where most exposed to their bites; the Indians applied bear's oil, which, though offensive, was allowed the best protection. The large horse-flies were so troublesome that it was not safe to leave horses fastened so they could not defend themselves, except in the shade or stable. In pastures where there was no shelter, people put up temporary covering to shield them from the heat of the sun, but left open to the circulation of the air on every side.

During the heat of the summer, the horses, cattle and sheep would feed in the cool of the morning and then flee to those shades where they would remain until four or five o'clock P. M. It was expedient to make smokes for the poor dumb beasts, to which they would flee, as by instinct, when they had no other protection from those troublesome insects.

Moses Bros. have put up and sent to market 37,000 cans of blueberries and 22,000 cans of corn at their Canning Factory in this town this season. — Aroostook Times Sept. 9, 1880.

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THE TELEPHONE COMPANY SALUTES  
A GREAT TOWN AND A GREAT NEWSPAPER  
*on their Anniversaries*

HOULTON  
SETTLED 1807

*150th Anniversary*



HOULTON PIONEER TIMES  
FOUNDED 1857

*100th Anniversary*

**I**n 1831, when Houlton was incorporated, the Bangor road was not yet complete and Houlton was a pioneer town, isolated along the Canadian border. As the years passed, the railroads came to Houlton and the town grew, becoming the Aroostook County Seat and the potato capital of the country.

During this period of rapid expansion, the Houlton Pioneer Times, founded in 1857, became the voice of a growing town and a prosperous county.

The Telephone Company is proud to have been a part of this fine community for many years and to have con-

tributed to its growth and development. And we have tried to help in ways other than just by giving good telephone service. We have shared in community enterprises — contributed our efforts in behalf of civic progress.

As a company, we pledge to the people of Houlton that we will continue to provide the best possible telephone service at the lowest possible cost.

And, as individuals, as your neighbors, we will continue to take an active part in the civic affairs of our home town. This is our *personal* pledge to every citizen of this wonderful community.

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