

Houlton Postal History

Aroostook County, Maine

Last update for this page: 17 February 2024

This page is part of the Maine Postal History website, a project of members of the Maine Philatelic Society. For more information, see <http://www.mainephilatelic.org/mph>.

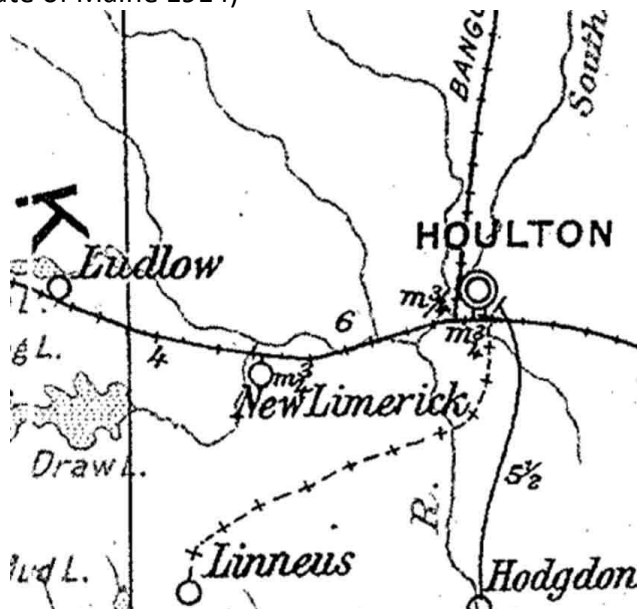
Houlton is a town in Aroostook County, incorporated on March 8, 1831, from Houlton Plantation. Aroostook County was formed in 1839 from parts of Penobscot and Washington counties. Thus, Houlton was part of Washington County until 01 May 1839.

During the history of Houlton, there have been three post offices.

Briefly, the history of these three is as follows:

1. Air Force Base S Houlton operated from 10 April 1943 to 15 February 1950.
2. Houlton Post Office opened on 23 May 1826 as part of Washington County. The county changed to Aroostook County on 1 May 1839, and that post office is still operating.
3. West Houlton post office opened on 29 August 1864 and closed on 14 June 1869.

In 1914, there was only one post office in Houlton: Houlton. (source: Post Route Map of the State of Maine 1914)



Post Offices from Houlton are listed below. In addition, postmarks that collectors have provided from the towns/villages associated with Houlton for this project have been included.

[Air Force Base S Houlton](#)

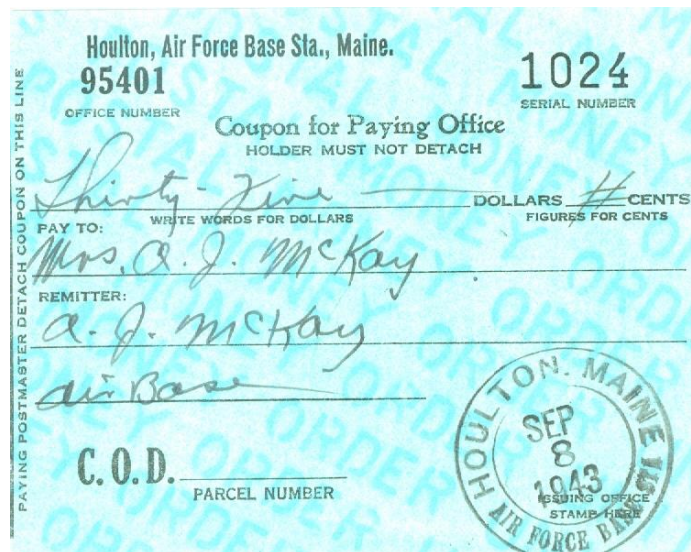
[Houlton](#)

[West Houlton](#)

Air Force Base S Houlton

10 April 1943:

Air Force Base S Houlton post office opened.



8 September 1943:
Money Order Air Force Base Houlton



29 January 1944:
Cachet Envelope from Air Force Base Houlton.

15 February 1950:

Air Force Base S Houlton post office closed.

Houlton

23 May 1826: as part of Washington County

Houlton Post Office opens.

23 May 1826:

Amos Pearce became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

13 July 1827:

Abraham Pearce became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



10 May 1828:
Manuscript postmark



29 August 1831:
Manuscript Postmark



19 February 1834:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter with a manuscript "killer." Similar postmarks in black ink dated 25 November 1839, with blue ink dated 14 February 1840, and with red ink 19 July 1850 are known.

23 July 1835:

Timothy Frisbie became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

1 May 1839:

Houlton Post Office became part of Aroostook County.

5 June 1841:

John F. H. Hall became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

1 July 1843:

Leonard Pierce became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



11 September 1846:

The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter. A similar postmark dated 6 August 1847 is known.

6 October 1848:

John V. Putnam became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

26 March 1849:

Harrison O. Hussey became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

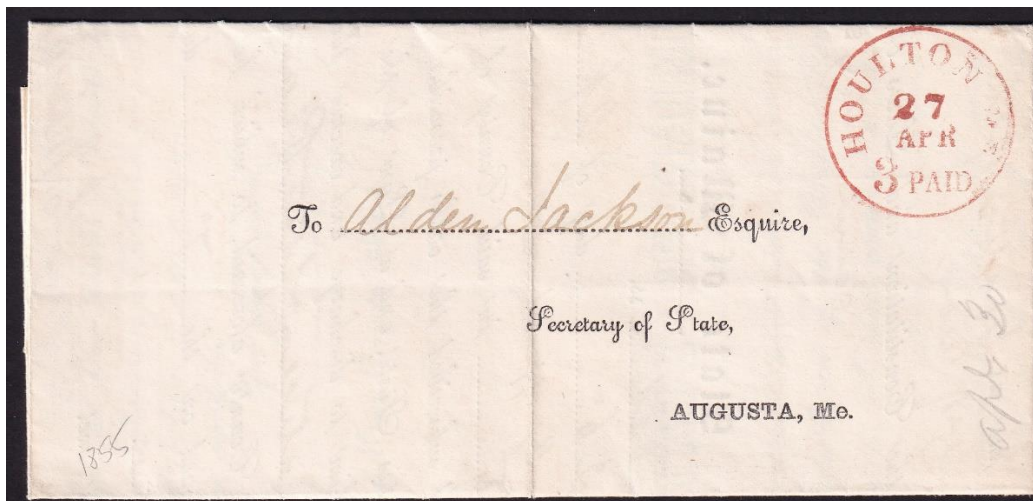


14 August 1851:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a "5" killer. Note that the E in Maine is now capitalized, and the period is after the E and not under it.

26 April 1853:

Thomas P. Packard became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



27 April 1855:

The circular postmark is 32 mm in diameter with a unique 3 PAID included in the postmark. Similar postmarks dated 7 June 1854 and 27 June 1863 are known.

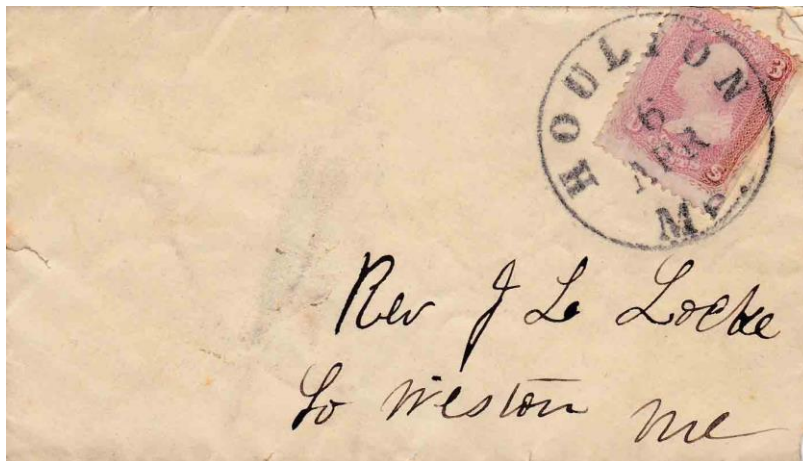


28 June 1858:

The circular postmark is 31 mm in diameter. The CDS is used as a killer.

14 November 1861:

Lyman O. Putnam became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



6 April circa 1865:

The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter.



10 June 1865:

The circular postmark is 25 mm in diameter with a hand-stamped PAID killer.

24 August 1866:

Thomas M. Bradbury became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



21 February 1867:

The circular postmark is 34 mm in diameter, and the e in Maine is now not capitalized, Cork smudge killer.

26 March 1867:

Lyman O. Putnam became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

8 June 1868:

Ebenezer Woodbury became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

19 April 1869:

Houlton Post Office became a Presidential Office.



2 March 1870:
The circular postmark is 23 mm in diameter with a cork killer.

22 May 1873:

Thomas P. Packard became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

17 December 1874:

Ebenezer Woodbury became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



14 January Circa 1875:
The circular postmark is 22–23 mm in diameter with a cork killer.

3 February 1875:

Thomas P. Packard became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

19 January 1876:

William L. Boyd became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

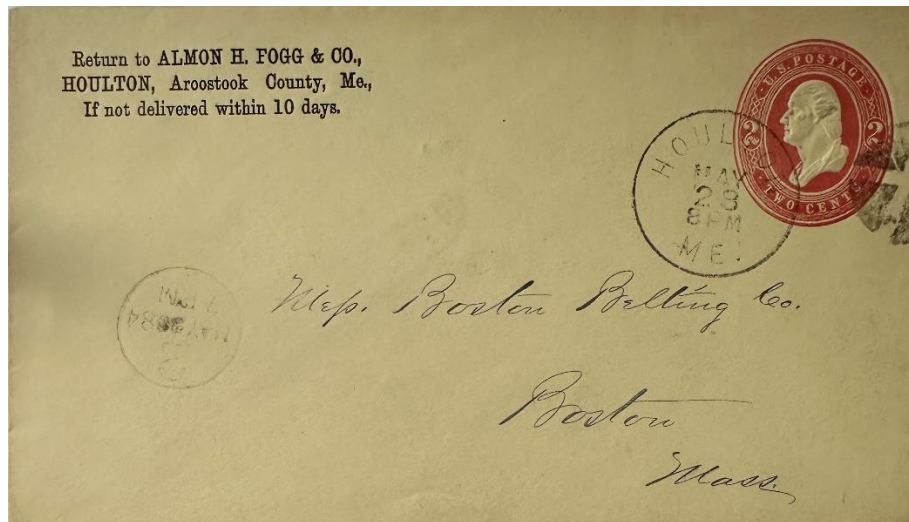
5 May 1881:

Ebenezer Woodbury became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



28 March 1881:

The circular postmark is 26–27 mm in diameter with a quartered circle cork killer. A similar postmark and killer dated 15 December 1881 is known.



28 May 1884:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a quartered circle cork killer.

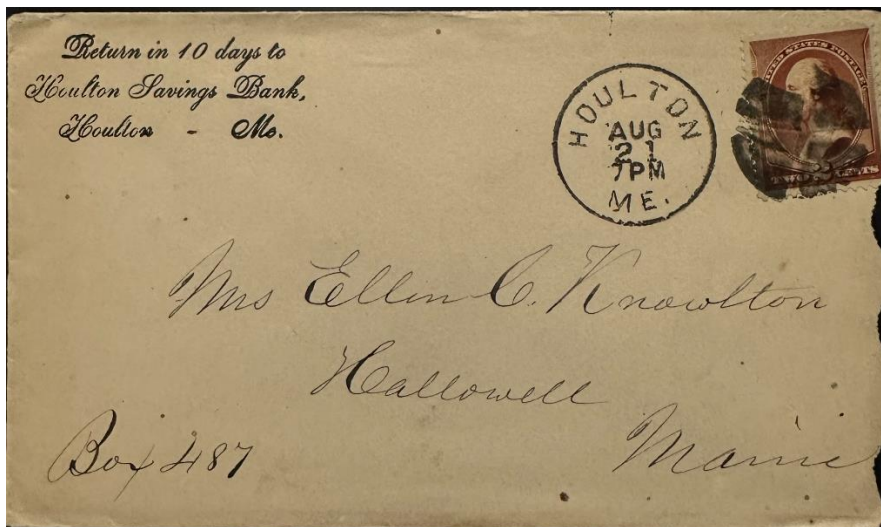
18 May 1885:

Albert B. Page became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



28 September 1885:

The circular postmark is 33 mm in diameter with a fancy shaded star killer.

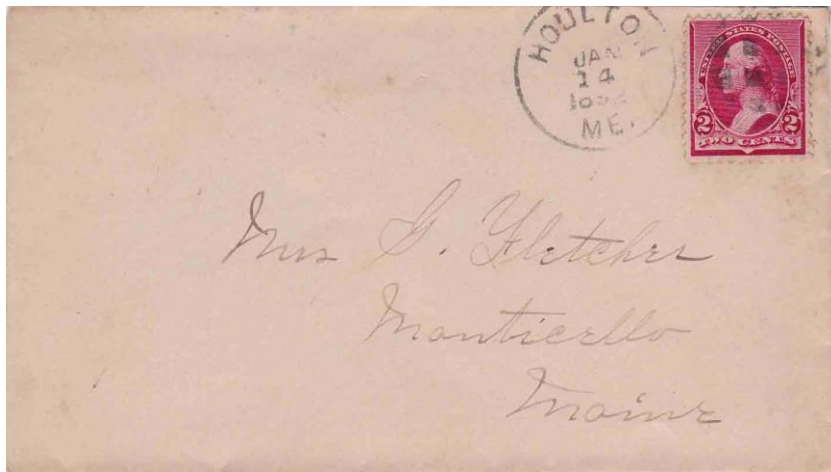


21 August 1886:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a quartered circle cork killer.

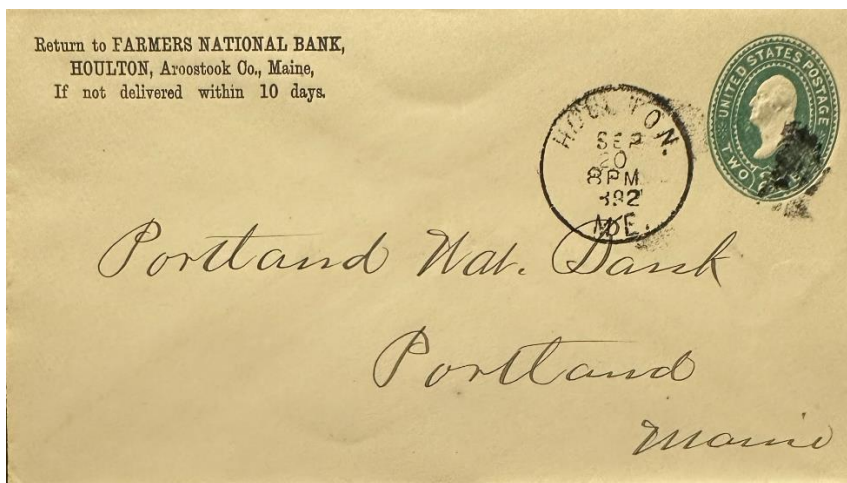
28 September 1889:

Ebenezer Woodbury became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



14 January 1892:

The circular postmark is 26.5 mm in diameter with a fancy geometric grid killer.



20 September 1892:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a smudged cork killer.



16 December 1893:

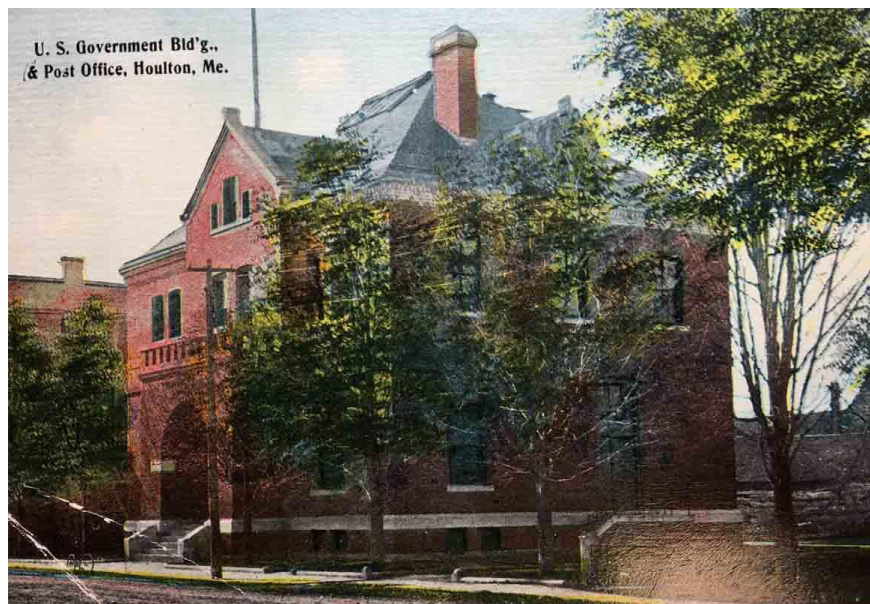
The circular postmark is 28 mm in diameter with the CDS used as a killer.

20 December 1893:

James Gillin Jr. became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



Circa 1900:
Houlton Post Office



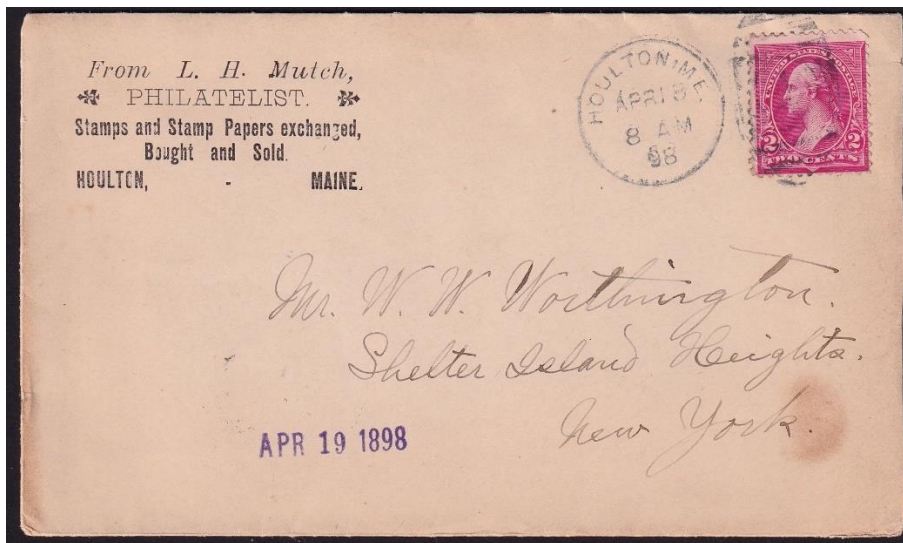
Date unknown:
Houlton Post Office

19 November 1897:

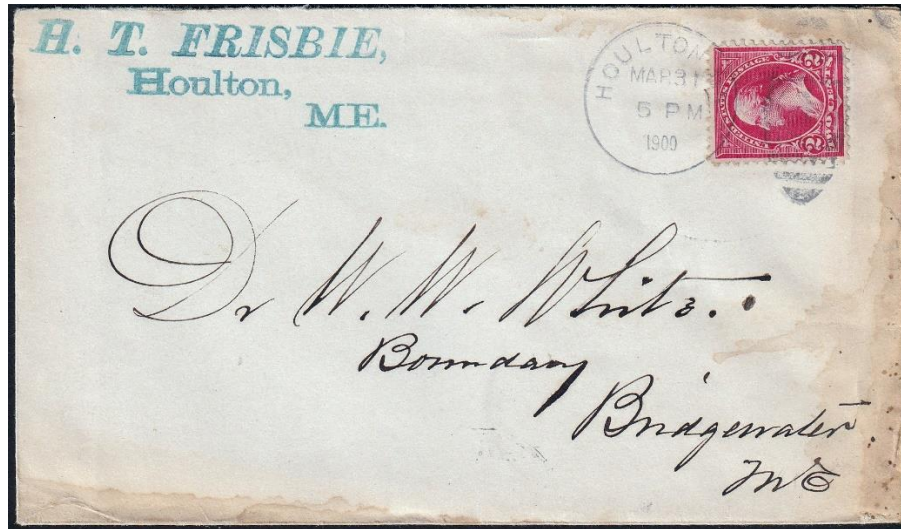
Frank M. Hume became the Postmaster of Houlton Post Office.



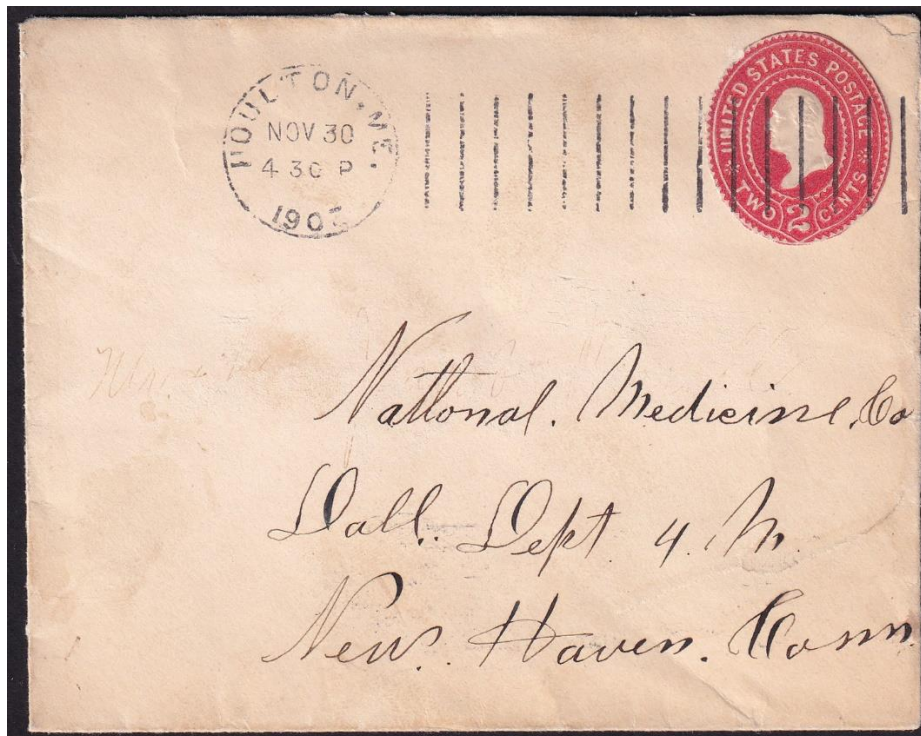
10 December 1897:
Straight line cancel. Also used as the killer.



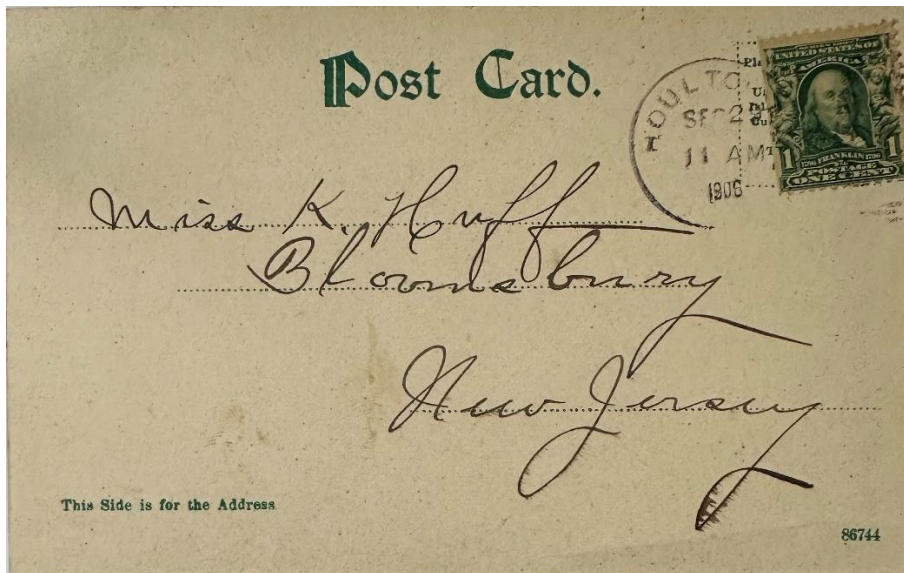
18 April 1898:
The circular postmark is 25 mm in diameter with an oval duplex/1 killer.



31 March 1900:
The circular postmark is 26 mm in diameter with an oval duplex/1 killer.

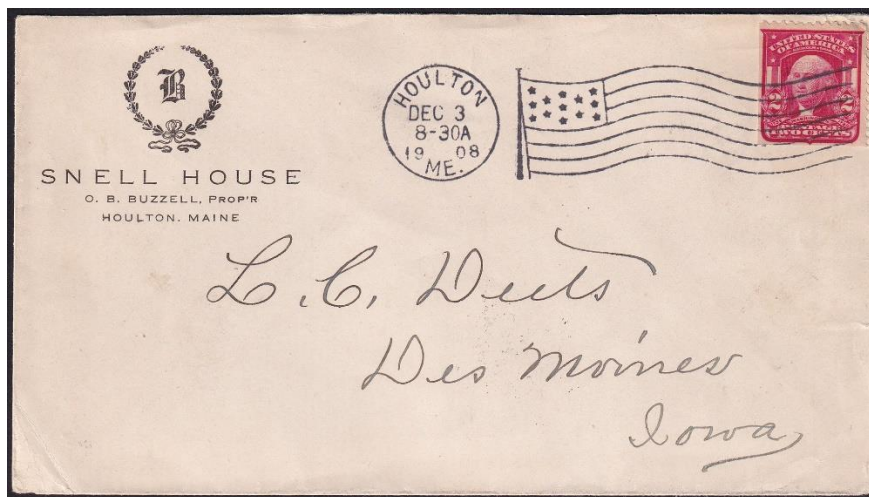


30 November 1903:
The circular postmark is 23 mm in diameter with a Doremus Type 'E' killer.



29 September 1906:

The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a faint duplex killer.



3 December 1908:

The circular postmark is 22 mm in diameter with a flag killer.

16 June 1914:

Dennis Sheehan became the Postmaster of Houlton Post Office.

4 December 1922:

Preston N. Burleigh became the Postmaster of Houlton Post Office.

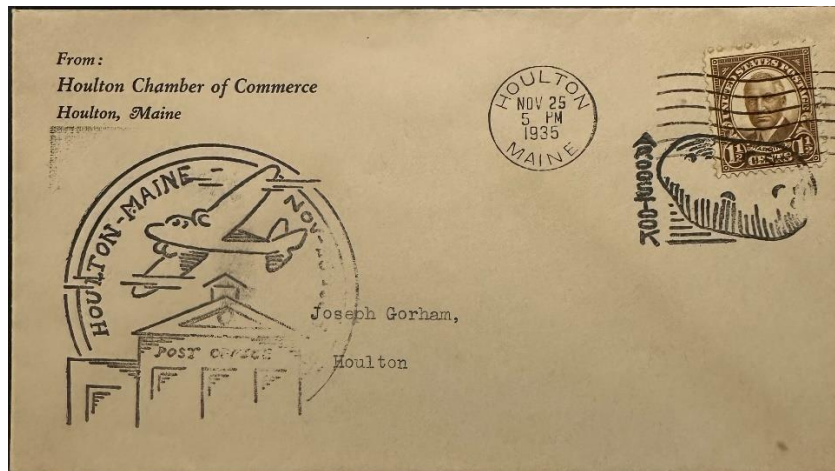


19 December 1931:

The circular postmark is 21 mm in diameter with an international machine seven-wavy line killer. Another similar postmark dated 14 March 1925 is known.

31 January 1935:

Marita E. Peabody became the Acting Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

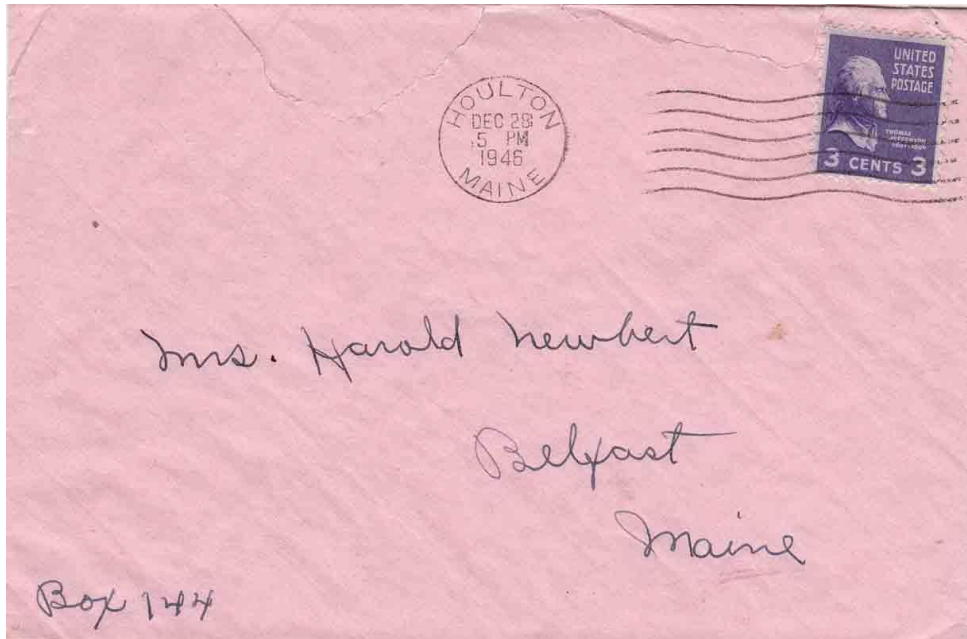


25 November 1935:

The circular postmark on this special event cover is 21 mm in diameter with an International machine seven-wavy line killer and a hand-stamped Aroostook Potato.

21 April 1936:

Marita E. Peabody became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



28 December 1946:

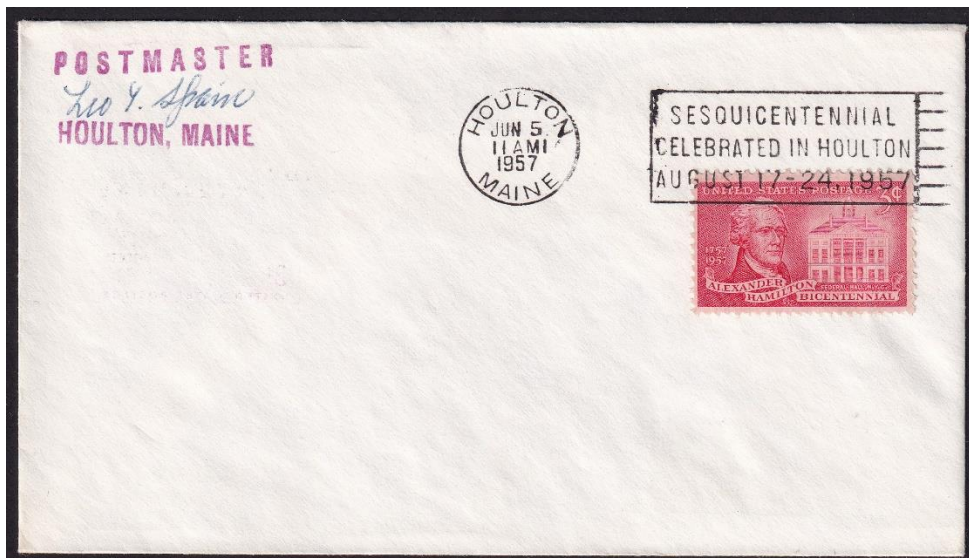
The circular postmark is 20.5 mm in diameter and uses an International Machine six-way line killer.

30 June 1953:

Leo T. Spain became the Acting Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

24 August 1954:

Leo T. Spain became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



5 June 1957:

The circular postmark is 21 mm in diameter with a slogan in a box killer. A similar postmark and killer with the same date is known.

31 July 1968:

George E McGillicuddy became the Acting Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

17 January 1969:

George E. McGillicuddy became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

31 August 1977:

Marguerite F. Brown became the Officer-In-Charge of the Houlton Post Office.

28 December 1977:

Carroll A. Nevells became the Officer-in-Charge of the Houlton Post Office.

8 April 1978:

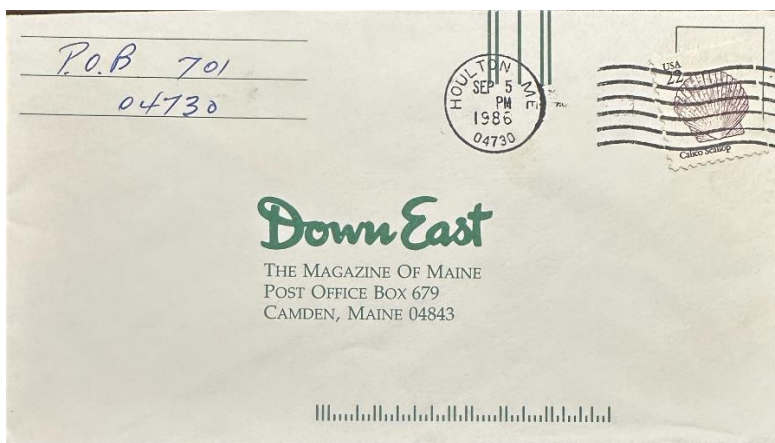
Richard L. Niles became the Postmaster of Houlton Post Office.

4 January 1986:

Arnold Scott became the Officer-in-Charge of the Houlton Post Office.

19 July 1986:

Leigh E. Cummings Jr. became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.



5 September 1986:

The circular postmark is 20 mm in diameter with a machine six-wavy line killer.

3 January 2008:

Kimberly R. Seeger became the Officer-in-Charge of the Houlton Post Office.

29 March 2008:

Frederick L. Workman became the Postmaster of Houlton Post Office.

18 March 2010:

Henry J. Gartley became the Officer-in-Charge of the Houlton Post Office.

16 July 2011:

Henry J. Gartley became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

21 October 1921:

Morgan B. Deane became the Officer-in-Charge of the Houlton Post Office.

4 December 1921:

Morgan B. (Deane) Cotton became the Postmaster of the Houlton Post Office.

2020:



2020:

Houlton post office. 39 Court Street; Houlton, Maine 04730. Lat./Long.: N 46°07'25" x W 67°50'25"

2023:

Houlton Post Office is still in operation. Zip Code 04730

West Houlton

29 August 1864:

West Houlton Post Office opened.

29 August 1864:

Charles E. Mansur became the Postmaster for the West Houlton Post Office.



29 June 1865:
Manuscript postmark on a patriotic cover from West Houlton.



1 July 1865:
The circular postmark is 27 mm in diameter with a manuscript killer on a patriotic cover.

14 June 1869:
The West Houlton Post Office closed.

Credits:

This document is based on the original web page compiled by the V. F. Thomas Co. (2021), with revisions and additions by James Husson and Brian Damien (2024).

Thank you for the contributions to this page by the Strout Family, James Husson, and Max Lynds.

Thank you to the Waterville Stamp Club (<https://thewatervillestampclub.com>) for helping ensure this project's continuity.

Sources:

The Post Offices of Maine 2022, Maine Philatelic Society:

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/TPOOM>

Houlton [map] from the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine:

https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/20/

Houlton and Hodgdon Villages [map] from the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine:

https://digitalmaine.com/atlas_aroostook_1877/21/

Additional material, including links to official records of postmaster appointments, can be found at Sources for Researching Maine Post Offices, Postmasters, and Postal History:

<http://www.mainephilatelic.org/books/post-office-sources.pdf>.

National Archives Catalog Postmaster Appointments for Aroostook County, Maine [1832-1971]

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/78746425>

Postmaster Finder by City:

<https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/postmaster-finder/postmasters-by-city.htm>