

Fort Kent Public Library (Fort Kent, Me.) photograph collection, 1882-1928

MCC-00178

Finding Aid

**Prepared by Lisa Ornstein, 1996; updated by Kathryn Donahue, March 2011
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Fort Kent Public Library (Fort Kent, Me.) photograph collection

Creator/Collector: Fort Kent Public Library (Fort Kent, Me.)

Collection number: MCC-00178 Shelf list number: UM-178

Dates: 1882-1907

Extent: 1 folder (.05 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from the Fort Kent Public Library, 1996. The Acadian Archives produced copy negatives and prints of five photographs which remain part of a small collection donated to the Fort Kent Public Library by a number of individuals. The Fort Kent panoramic view was donated by S.E. Dunn.

Language: English.

Conservation notes: Photographs placed in archival photograph sheets.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: None.

Copyright: Copyright has not been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes

Citation: Fort Kent Public Library (Fort Kent, Me.) photograph collection, MCC-00178, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

Separated materials: The copy negatives used to create the prints were separated and added to the collection's administrative file.

Related materials: Not applicable.

Location of originals: Originals in the possession of the donor as of 1996.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Organizational history: The first Catholic church in Fort Kent was constructed in 1882-3 by resident pastor Father Cléophas Demers. The church, a 90 x 45 foot building, was built on the south side of Main St. on the site of the present-day St. Louis Convent. Father

Demers said the first mass in the new church before leaving for a new assignment on September 3, 1882, but the interior of the building was not completed until 1883 by the new pastor, Father F.X. Burke. When the church burned in 1907, Fr. Burke immediately initiated groundwork for a temporary chapel, using the foundations of the burnt church. The new building included a temporary church-chapel, as well as classrooms and quarters for the Little Franciscan Sisters of Mary. In 1909-1910, the present-day St. Louis church was constructed across the street from the convent.

In 1878, the Maine State Legislature made provision for the establishment of a training school for teachers among the French-speaking people of northeastern Maine. In 1887, the school was permanently located in Fort Kent. The first buildings were erected at the present location of the Fort Kent High School. In 1889, a building was completed on the grounds of the present site of the University of Maine at Fort Kent. In 1893, the first building was moved back to allow for the construction of the main building. A second story was added to the old part. This building, except for the addition of a library room in 1910, remained intact until 1932 when it was entirely rebuilt. The entire structure was demolished in 1959 upon completion of the new Cyr Hall, the first building on the “new section” of campus.

Scope and content:

This collection consists of four photographs taken of locations in Fort Kent, Maine, 1882-1907, and one photograph taken circa 1928. Two of the photographs are of St. Louis Catholic Church, interior and exterior. One photograph depicts a panoramic view of the town of Fort Kent. Another image depicts the Madawaska Training School, taken between 1893 and 1907. The fifth photograph depicts Main Street in Fort Kent during the 1928 flood season. All five photographs are black and white.

Inventory:

- Item 1: Exterior, St. Louis Catholic Church, Fort Kent, Maine. Taken ca. 1882-1907.
- Item 2: Interior, St. Louis Catholic Church, Fort Kent, Maine. Taken ca. 1882-1907.
- Item 3: Panoramic view, Fort Kent, Maine. Taken ca. 1882-1907.
- Item 4: Madawaska Training School, Fort Kent, Maine. Taken 1893-1907 (image missing, noted March 2011).
- Item 5: Main Street, Fort Kent, Maine. Taken ca. 1893-1907.