

## Old County Jail and Barn Sold to Second Owner

The Old Jailer's House and Barn on 45 Congress Street in Belfast passed into the hands of a new owner for the first time since they were built in 1887. Both buildings were constructed for just under \$3,000.00 and have been the property of the County of Waldo over 130 consecutive years.

During the summer of 2017, the County completed remediation of hazardous materials in the Old Jailer's House, Barn and Old County Jail after obtaining Brownfields Cleanup Grant funds. After remediation, the Commissioners held an open house. Many of the neighbors were surprised to find that the Old Jailer's House had been remodeled in several different decades of styles, especially during the years when it served as both the County Dispatch and Sheriff's Office. Later in 2017, the County placed a "For Sale" sign on the front lawn of the Old Jailer's House. After several months and a few brief inquiries, long-time Belfast resident Michael Hurley purchased both the Old Jailer's House and Barn on June 1, 2018 for \$75,000.00. This is the first time these buildings will be on Belfast's tax rolls.

The Commissioners retained the Old County Jail, constructed in 1852, for future use as a climate-controlled Archive for County records. The inside has been emptied and painted, and a new ceiling installed to cover the charred remains of rafters from a fire that occurred decades ago. Externally, some brick has been repointed, and the granite has been cleaned and fresh paint applied to the metal grates over the window. The building is solid and straight, and its loft ceiling and large open floor space make it the perfect place for an Archive.

County staff are excited and looking forward to the eventual housing of all Waldo County records under one roof - and, fittingly - in the oldest County-owned building.

Old Jail before "spruce-up"    Old Jail "after" photo

