

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only  
received **DEC 1** 1982  
date entered

1. Name

historic Dr. Louis J. Martel House  
and/or common 122-124 Bartlett Street

2. Location

street & number 122-124 Bartlett Street not for publication  
city, town Lewiston, N/A vicinity of congressional district  
state Maine code 23 county Androscoggin code 001

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard Theriault  
street & number 69 Dawes Avenue  
city, town Auburn, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04210

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Androscoggin County Courthouse  
street & number  
city, town Auburn, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes  no   
date  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dr. Louis J. Martel House was designed in 1883 in the Queen Anne style by the Lewiston firm of Stevens and Coombs. The house is a two and one-half story brick structure of square dimensions (3X3 bays) replete with oriel bay windows, and possessing a three-story corner turret. The walls are of rust-colored brick with pink mortar, the porches and roof trim are of pine-wood, and the roof is slated.

The house rests on a shallow granite foundation, topped by a brick course which starts at ground level. Above this is a thin course of gray granite. The remaining wall surface is brick. The first and second floors are separated by a raised brick course, and the eaves are set off by brick dentils.

The central bay of the facade is enclosed by a two-story open porch, each level supported by two pairs of thin columns with decorative wooden railings. The porch breaks the eave to form a peaked gable with a small round window. Doorways open into both porch levels.

The west bay of the facade and south bay of the east side contain two-story oriel bay windows. The wall surfaces break the eave above the bays to form peaked gables. All windows here and throughout the house, unless round, are double-hung sash with segmental tops and granite sills. The north bay of the east side contains a shallow, two-story rectangular bay, also topped by a peaked gable enclosing a small round window.

The most striking feature of the house is the octagonal turret at the southeast corner. The turret's three exposed sides below the eave form an oriel bay. The third story, above the eave, is a wooden porch, open on three sides corresponding to the three exposed sides below the eave. The sides adjoining the roof are slated. The turret is capped by a slated octagonal roof with a small metal finial.

The house's hipped roof is traced by a narrow wooden cornice, its line broken at numerous points by turret and gables.

The house was converted from a single to a multiple-family dwelling sometime in the present century, changes being made to the rear (north) and west sides. A three-story porch, corresponding in style to the front porch, was affixed to the house's rear, and two small dormers were added to the rear and west roof surfaces. An existing porch along the west wall had its roof extended.

The floor-plan follows an irregular pattern, confused due to later conversions. The front door opens into a narrow vestibule, and the front hall boasts a commodious staircase of dark, stained wood. The trim in most rooms is similarly of dark, stained wood, probably oak.

The house's brick walls and roof slating are in excellent condition. The original woodwork is in good condition. The three-story back porch is badly in need of repair, as are a number of windows. The original front steps have been replaced by modern pre-fabricated brick and cast-stone steps which don't detract from the house's appearance.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ethnic

**Specific dates** 1883 **Builder/Architect** Stevens and Coombs

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

From 1883 to his death in 1899, 122-24 Bartlett Street was the residence of Dr. Louis J. Martel, a leader in Franco-American political and social emergence. One of the first and foremost Franco-American journalists, politicians, and social organizers of the previous century, Dr. Martel has been described as "for some time...an official spokesman for all Franco-Americans in New England,"<sup>1</sup> (where the vast majority of America's French-Canadian population resided).

Dr. Martel was born in St. Hyacinthe, Quebec in 1850 and came to Lewiston as a medical doctor in December, 1873. Besides ministering to the city's poor and working-class French population, Martel established and published the city's first French-language newspaper, Le Messager, in 1880. Within a decade, Le Messager has become one of the most influential French newspapers in the United States, rivaled only by Le Travailleur of Worcester, Massachusetts. Le Messager was America's longest-lived French-language newspaper, ceasing publication in 1968.

Martel was also a trailblazer politically, being Maine's first Franco-American state legislator (1884). He was the first Franco-American President of the Lewiston Board of Aldermen, and the first Franco-American candidate for Mayor of Lewiston, losing narrowly in 1893.

Martel gained national prominence as an organizer and officer of leading Franco-American social and political groups. In 1886 he helped organize and served as vice president of the first State and General Convention of French-Canadians. He was elected president of the second Convention. He later served as President of the French-Canadian Alliance of the United States. In 1893 he was chosen General Delegate for the United States to the Alliance Francaise in Paris (an organization concerned with the world-wide propagation of the French language).

In Lewiston, Martel was instrumental in organizing St. Peter and Paul's Parish, and St. Mary's General Hospital, Maine's first Catholic Hospital. He also founded the city's premier Franco-American fraternal organization, L'Institute Jacques Cartier. Martel had no rivals in Maine, and few in the United States, as a pioneering Franco-American leader.

The house is also significant architecturally, as one of the city's earliest and most notable examples of Queen Anne architecture. The house is probably the only single-family brick residence constructed in the nineteenth-century in any of Lewiston's French districts. Virtually all other residential buildings in the French working-class neighborhoods are multiple-family wooden tenements.

<sup>1</sup>Paul Paré, "A History of Franco-American Journalism" in A Franco-American Overview, Vol. I, Renaud S. Albert, ed.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Chase, Henry. Representative Men of Maine. Portland: Lakeside Press. 1893. pp. 204-5.  
Hendrickson, Dyke. A Quiet Presence. Portland: Gannett Publishing Company. 1940.  
Paré, Paul. "A History of Franco-American Journalism" in Renaud S. Albert, ed.  
A Franco-American Overview, Vol. I.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property  $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Lewiston

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	9	4	0	3	0	7	0	4	8	8	3	0	4	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map #23B, Lot designated by street address.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Carole S. Heltman*

title S.H.P.O.

date

11/23/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*William Ryan*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

1/4/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration