

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Michaud, Fortunat O., House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 231 Main Street  not for publication  
city, town Van Buren  vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Arroostook code 003 zip code 04785

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 12/15/89  
Signature of certifying official  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 1/26/90  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Hotel

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Wood/WeatherboardWood/Shingleroof Asphaltother Corner Tower &Wraparound Porch

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Fortunat O. Michaud House is an intact two-and-a-half-story Queen Anne style frame residence featuring a round corner tower and wrap-around porch. Like the exterior, the interior is virtually unaltered. It stands at the southwest corner of Main and Poplar Streets in downtown Van Buren.

Facing east, the T-shaped Michaud house is comprised of a hipped roof front block with the round tower at the northeast corner and a rectangular gabled block at the rear. The porch, whose roof is supported by eleven Tuscan columns, encircles the tower and extends along the front and south sides where it meets the projection of the rear block. Trios of double-hung sash windows are located on the first and second stories of the domed tower, whereas four nine-over-six windows are arranged across the third level. This upper level is shingled. The porch shelters a center door and paired one-over-one windows. A single window is located on the second story below the broad bracketed eaves. There is also a small hip roofed dormer on axis with the door, and a door and window on each of the narrow projecting walls of the wing.

The north side elevation has paired windows on both stories of the front block and a gabled overhang whose lancet arch frames a single attic window. Fenestration on the secondary block consists of four windows in the first story, two in the second and a Palladian window below the gable peak. This pattern varies on the south side with two widely separated windows on each level of the main house, three openings on the first level of the rear block, two on the second and another Palladian window. A porch is attached to the rear elevation, the balance of which features a door and window on the first story and three on the second. A pent gable with a louvered vent is centrally located on the elevation in front of the brick chimney.

The interior presents a variety of finishes typical of the early twentieth century. An open string stair rises from the front hall through one inter-story landing to the second floor. It features square paneled newel posts and turned balusters. An elaborately ornamented arcade separates the parlor and dining room and a round arched brick mantel is featured in the living room. The wide molded door and window surrounds have corner blocks and a light stain finish. Well preserved metal ceilings of multiple patterns adorn the dining room, living room and kitchen, whereas plaster ceilings appear in the parlor and hall. The wall surfaces of the living room and

 See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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kitchen are also covered with metal.

A two stall garage stands behind the house. Its front (east) elevation has a broad pent gable whose tympanum features a tri-partite window imitating a Palladian form. Like the main building the garage is covered with weatherboards.

There is evidence in the attic of the house that the rear section may predate the front block. This is indicated by the shingled roofing material that now exists under the connecting roof from the front. How much earlier this section may have been erected is uncertain. Sanborn maps do show that in 1911 a long, narrow one-and-a-half-story house occupied this lot. By 1917 the existing building was in place, but it is not clear whether some portion of the earlier house was utilized in the new one.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c. 1912 - 1917  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c. 1912 - 1917  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed between 1911 and 1917, the Michaud house is a remarkably intact Queen Anne style frame residence. It was built for local merchant and former state legislator Fortunat O. Michaud. The local significance of the house, however, derives from its architectural prominence in a community dominated by much more modest dwellings, a great many of which have been substantially altered. For this reason the building is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C.

The Michaud house stands on an elevated corner lot at the north end of Van Buren's commercial district. From this vantage point it is a conspicuous landmark, a fact that is enhanced by the corner tower and expansive footprint. The local architectural significance of this building can be judged in the context of its neighbors. Despite the fact that Van Buren experienced a great period of growth during the early years of the twentieth century, its housing stock is primarily of vernacular origin with only a handful of stylish examples of contemporary architectural fashion. Fortunately, this dwelling has retained its historic integrity, unlike many of its neighbors.

As shown on the 1911 edition of the Sanborn Insurance map, the property on which the Michaud house stands was previously occupied by a narrow rectangular dwelling. In 1912 it came into the possession of Fortunat O. Michaud who, at that time, was a dealer in shoes and boots. Michaud and his wife Emily Farrell, a descendent of the pioneer Farrell family who held this property, built the existing house by 1917 as shown on Sanborn maps. By then Michaud had served his first term (1915-16) as a Representative in the State Legislature. He was elected to a second term in 1941-42. They lived here until they died, and it then passed to their daughter Constance. The house was subsequently sold out of the family.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Pelletier, Martine A. and Ferretti, Monica Dionne. Van Buren History. 1979.  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Editions of 1912 and 1917 for Van Buren,  
Maine.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than 1

**UTM References**

A 19 58105110 522130310  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Van Buren tax map 14, lot 124A.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire city lot historically associated with these two buildings.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
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