

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 21 1986  
date entered APR 4 1986

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

**1. Name**

historic Philo Reed House

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number 38 Main Street **N/A** not for publication

city, town Fort Fairfield, **N/A** vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Aroostook code 003

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Walter Reed, Jr.

street & number 38 Main Street

city, town Fort Fairfield, **N/A** vicinity of state Maine 04742

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Aroostook County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Houlton, 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

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Philo Reed House, constructed of wood with shingle siding, is two-and-one-half stories high and has an attached carriage barn. Designed in a late Queen Anne style with asymmetrical massing and plan, the house has gable roofs with wide eaves, a corner tower and a large veranda. The windows consist of six-over-one double-hung sash which are square-headed, except for a single round arched stained glass stairhall window on the west side.

As was typical of the early twentieth century, the exterior ornament is largely Colonial Revival. This includes the Tuscan columns supporting the veranda (which has lost its roof balustrade, the pedimented dormer and the use of modillions beneath the eaves. An enclosed porch with neo-classical moldings is also located on the east side next to a two story bay window.

The interior of the house has Colonial Revival woodwork and remains largely unaltered. Especially distinctive is the front hall with panelled wainscot, turned balusters and newell post, and round arched closed door beneath the staircase. This woodwork continues on both floors and includes segmental and square-headed arches with fluted pilaster on posts supporting entablatures, cornice moldings and elaborate wood mantelpieces with bevelled glass mirrors. Several doors also feature bevelled glass in a variety of patterns.

The only significant alteration to the house is the removal of the balustrade on the roof of the porch. An early change was the conversion of the carriage barn doors from horses to automobiles.

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 1907 **Builder/Architect** Coombs and Gibbs

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecturally this distinctive Queen Anne house, probably the grandest in the town, is interesting as the work of Coombs and Gibbs, a Lewiston firm well known in southern Maine but whose work appears to be largely confined to Fort Fairfield in the northern part of the state. In this community they designed a number of buildings including a library, two schools, two banks, and a hotel.

The reason for this concentration of their work so far distant from their office apparently was due to the approval and influence of the owner of this house, Philo Reed, who came to Fort Fairfield in 1885 and died in 1926. He was one of the best known entrepreneurs in Aroostook County and a pioneer in the development of several potato seed varieties. The business which he founded, and which was later taken over by his son, Walter Reed, Sr., became "the largest potato seed company in the world". His grandsons, Walter, Jr. and John (a former Governor of Maine) continue the business, now known as Reed Farms.

Philo Reed also had an automobile agency, bred harness racing horses and constructed a race track in the rear of his house.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Reed Family Archives (two undated obituaries).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Fort Fairfield

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	9	5	9	0	1	1	0	5	1	7	9	7	8	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 26, Lot 1

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 Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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 *Eileen S. [Signature]*

title J.H.P.O. date 2/19/86

For NPS use only

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

*Patrick Andrews*

date 4/4/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Beth L. Savage*

date 4-4-86

Chief of Registration