

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

For NPS use only

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

received NOV 27 1985

date entered

DEC 26 1985

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

1. Name

historic Marcotte Nursing Home

and/or common Marcotte Home/Maison Marcotte

2. Location

street & number 100 Campus Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Lewiston, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Androscoggin code 001

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 type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: Health Care |

4. Owner of Property

name Sisters of Charity, c/o Shelter Group, Incorporated

street & number 650 Main Street

city, town Lewiston, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04240

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Court Street

city, town Auburn, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Marcotte Home is located in an urban area surrounded by Bates College, a hospital and turn-of-the-century residential buildings. In front of the structure is a lawn with a circular driveway and to the rear is a parking lot.

The Marcotte Home is a T-shaped, five story building with full basement. Exterior measurements provide a maximum width of 287 feet and a depth of 136 feet. The foundation and wall materials are brick, and the roof is flat. The windows are of French-style, as they open both up and down, and in and out. The structural system incorporates brick bearing walls with interior iron columns and beams. All floor joists and sub-floor materials are wood. Interior finishes are typically plaster on wooden lath. Steel stair towers are constructed and enclosed with masonry to act as required fire egress. Two cable elevators also offer circulation between the basement and all upper levels.

Designed in the Tudor style, the Marcotte Home has decorative cast stone balustrades, quoins, and window trim. Also cast stone are the round arched porticos over each of the three principal entries and the three story bay windows. Ornamented cast stone spandrels between the first and second story windows and on the bay windows also provide decorative relief. Attached to the north and east sides are five story brick porches.

A two story c. 1975 brick wing, which is non-historic, extends from the east side of the structure.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1927–28 ~~Builder~~ **Architect** Miller, Mayo and Beal, Architects, Portland

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Opened in 1928, the Marcotte Home represented a great leap forward in the care of the homeless in the Lewiston area. The facility contained space for over 300 patients, making it the largest institution in New England at the time. It was also recognized for its modern design, containing such features as modern ventilation, refrigeration and Maine's first forced hot water system for heating. These technical innovations, along with its size, helped make the Marcotte Home a pre-eminent name in the care of the homeless and sick, aged and young, throughout New England.

The impetus for the construction of the institution came from the leaders of the Franco-American community in Lewiston, notably Francois Marcotte and the Society of the Sisters of Charity. The institution, which combined several uses including nursing home and boarding facilities for the elderly and a girl's orphanage, was named after Marcotte due to his planning assistance and large financial contribution. Marcotte contributed \$125,000 towards the \$500,000 cost of the facility, reportedly the bulk of the fortune he made in Lewiston. he also helped organize the fund-raising which paid for the cost of construction.

Marcotte was one of the leading figures in the early development of the French-speaking community in Lewiston. Following the Canadian migration to Lewiston, which occurred after the Civil War, Marcotte arrived in 1878 and proceeded to become an influential businessman after he opened the F. X. Marcotte Furniture store. Marcotte also played a prominent role in civic affairs. He founded the St. Vincent de Paul Society which provided relief to the poor and newly arrived immigrants. Marcotte belonged to other charitable Catholic organizations, including the Sacred Heart and Circle Lacordaire which like the St. Vincent de Paul Society still exist today.

Marcotte recognized the problem concerning the care of the elderly in Lewiston which was growing during the 1920s. For the elderly person unable to afford personal care, health services were limited to a single geriatric ward at St. Mary's Hospital and the sparsely maintained Lewiston Poor Farm. This neglect of the aged was especially abhorrent to the Franco-Americans who had lived in Canada where care for the elderly was much more progressive. The Canadians had developed a semi-socialized method of health care called "hospice". The "hospice" was the forerunner of the contemporary nursing home system which was non-existent sixty years ago. Under the "hospice" system, a small monthly fee ensured that the health needs of the elderly would be provided. With this in mind, Marcotte set out in 1926 to improve the standards of elderly care in Lewiston.

In 1926, Marcotte announced his plans for a modern nursing home. From the beginning, he envisioned the institution being administered by the Sisters of Charity, and with them, Marcotte developed the facility. The final plans called for the institution to hold an orphanage, a nursing home, and the Marcotte Apartments. The Apartments were a particularly unique arrangement.

(see continuation sheet)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lewiston Journal, March 14, 1928

Four Centuries of Medical History in Canada, John J. Heagerty, Toronto, 1928.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 1/2

Quadrangle name Lewiston

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map, 24C, 100 Campus Avenue

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 Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian, Don Peterson (Shelter Group, Inc.)

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1985

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 *Ernest S. Peterson*
title S.H.P.O. date 11/22/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 12-26-85

Alfred Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

MARCOTTE NURSING HOME

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Conceived by Marcotte, space for twenty poor Franco-American elderly was set aside. A perpetual trust donated by Marcotte ensured that the Franco-Americans would be cared for as long as the facility was in operation. The Apartments essentially provided free boarding and nursing care if required. Marcotte, himself, would move into these apartments with his wife and live there till his death in 1942. Through the efforts of Marcotte and the Sisters of Charity, this unique institution was built, and the first progressive nursing home facility brought to Lewiston.

The architectural firm responsible for the design of the building, Miller, Mayo and Beal, had a large practice in Portland, Maine. Originally the senior partner, William R. Miller, began his career in his native Lewiston. The building represents a late phase in the career of Miller, once one of Maine's most flamboyant architects.