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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story, hipped roof, Federal style dwelling sits on high ground just north of Jay Hill in the Town of Jay, Maine. The structure is in fair condition and has been used as a residence since its construction (ca. 1820) until just recently. The year 1820 is as far back as the house can be traced and verified. Some old newspaper clippings in the town state that the house was built in 1803 but so far no corroborating evidence of this fact can be found.

The main house and the attached ell are done in clapboard style with many of the original feathered clapboards remaining. All of the original windows remain on the house as also most of the original panes of glass in the windows. The windows are 12 over 12 on the first floor, and 12 over 8 on the second floor. There are five windows on the second story facade and four windows on first floor facade.

The main entrance is a single door trimmed with a hand carved panel over the door and the sidelights. The sidelights at the door are actually double hung 8 over 8 windows that can be opened.

There are two chimneys on the main house towards the rear.

Upon entering the house one finds him self in a large entrance hall with a staircase leading to the second floor. On each side of the hall is a large room. The room to the left has a fireplace with bake oven and warming oven. The chimney on this side of the house is the original chimney. In the room to the right of the hallway, one sees the original mantle but the fireplace was closed up when the chimney was rebuilt. The kitchen was originally in the ell of the house but ceased being used for that purpose many years ago. What was the borning room in the main house has been converted into a kitchen, and the cupboards were built from the paneling that was in the Meeting House on Jay Hill. This Meeting House was built in 1807 and was demolished about thirty years ago.

The second floor of the house consists of one small, and two large bedrooms. The two large bedrooms have fireplaces that have been closed up. Through the closet in the left bedroom, one enters the attic which is over the ell of the house.

Some of the timbers used in the construction of this house were hand hewn. The floors are made of wide pine boards and most be //the original hardware remains on the house.



EE INSTRUCTIONS

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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TATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Holmes-Crafts House is a fine example of a piece of sturdy Federal style architecture that has managed to survive to the present day. This is a simple rendering of the Federal style in a house that was built to withstand the rigors of a Maine winter and yet be comfortable for the occupants.

James Starr, who bought the property on Nov. 13, 1820, was one of the area's most prominent citizens. He was not only a lawyer and judge but was one of the most capable surveyors in the area. He was the first settler of Jay Hill, having arrived there in 1802. He was owner of the tavern in the village of Jay Hill which served as the stopover for the stagecoach heading north from Portland and Hallowell. He also operated the Town's first Post Office which opened in 1814. Mr. Starr was a representative to the Massachusetts General Court, having been first elected in 1804.

On April 14, 1833, the property was bought by Aruna Holmes, the husband of Starrs daughter, Louisa. Aruna Holmes was a well known cabinet maker in the Jay area. Mr. Holmes had a two story cabinet shop which was attached to the ell of the present house. Attached to the shop was a barn. These two portions of the structure have since been removed. The evidence for their existance is an early photograph of the property.

At the death of Aruna in 1876, the property was inherited by his son, Henry, also a cabinet maker. Delia Holmes inherited the property in 1912 and sold it to Leroy Crafts in 1928.



9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL R	EFERENCES										
Lawrence, Benjamin F. (Rev.). History of Jay, Maine. 1912												
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