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INTEGRITY Altered Dundtered E Moved Original Site EX DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL ( <i>Il known</i> ) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Of modified Georgian style, the three story building is well preserved. Ther is a two story ell attached to it on the northwest corner. Behind the ell is a barn that houses carriages and harnesses, in addition to a building for sleighs. Two small out buildings complete the original complex. At the sout ern boundary of the property the family tomb is located. The main house and grounds are in excellent condition. The contents of the house constitute a living example of 19th century leisure living. The content of the house remain the same as when the last Black died in 1928, so entering the house is like stepping back at least one hundred years in time. Many of the furniture and glass pieces found in the twenty rooms of the house are extremely valuable. Nearly all of the house over the past one hundred years has been the addition of a modern heating system. The barn is smaller than the original, but the remaining portion is in good condition.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Shortly after the Revolutionary War, William Bingham, a banker in Philadelphia, bought a large tract of land in Maine and employed General David Cobb as his agent to sell the land to settlers. General Cobb was a prominent man. He had served on Washington's staff for four years, and in this capacity had been present at the surrender of Cornwallis and afterward lived at Mt. Vernon as a member of Washington's Military Family. He went to Gouldsborough, Maine, in 1795.

During the panic of 1792 Bingham sold half of his Maine holdings to Hope and Company of London. This firm presently employed an English boy, John Black, then only eighteen years old, to be General Cobb's assistant. Black arrived in Gouldsborough in 1799.

In 1802 Black married the General's daughter, Mary. He moved to Ellsworth and built a combined office and residence on a 300 acre plot, the gift of his father in law. Bricks for the house came by sea from Philadelphia, and tradition affirms that it took skilled workmen from Boston three years to complete the work. The resulting edifice is the now famous and much visited Black House, which was lived in by three generations, and which remains completely furnished and equipped, just as it was used by members of the family as long as they survived.

SEE INSTRUCTION

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Black Mansion "Woodlawn" extensive newspaper clippings from the Maine State Library Collection

J. D. Durnbaugh, The Black House, Down East Magazine, July 1956 pp. 28-31 Newspaper article, The Christian Science Monitor, Feb. 12, 1932

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