

PH035 4473

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 30 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 24 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *MA* **

Governor William King House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Whiskeag Road

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bath

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st Hon. David Emery

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Sagadahoc

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

__YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

see letter

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Aitken

STREET & NUMBER

Whiskeag Road

CITY, TOWN

Bath,

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bath,

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It is indeed appropriate that Governor William King, the father of Maine statehood, should have been the first to introduce the Gothic Revival style to the state. His stone farm house of c.1812 in Bath displays large lancet windows which represent the earliest appearance of medieval architectural forms in Maine.

Governor King's house is rectangular in shape, stands two and a half stories high, and has a gable roof. It is constructed of granite blocks with wooden trim.

The facade or east wall consists of three bays. The central bay contains a simple doorway slightly to the left of center with granite steps leading up to it. Above the door, just below the eaves, is a small window. To the left of the door is a floor to ceiling window, and to the right is a more normal size window. Both have many small lights with wooden mullions, and each is topped with a glazed lancet arch with intersecting tracery which extends to the eaves. Two more of these windows are located on the rear or west wall of the house.

The side or north and south walls of King's farm house each have two symmetrically placed windows on the first and second stories and an off-centered one in the half story.

The other major exterior features of the King house are located on the gable roof. A pair of dormer windows project from its facade and from its rear. At the center of the ridge is a small "widow's walk" which has a window on its front and rear just below the platform level. At either end of the ridge, the roof sprouts a square brick chimney.

The interior of Governor King's house reflects a traditional 18th and early 19th century plan with a central hallway flanked on either side by two rooms. This symmetrical arrangement holds true for the second and half stories as well as the first. Woodwork throughout the house was executed in a restrained Federal style manner.

Governor William King's farm house has been surrounded since the early 20th century by a pleasing asymmetrical placement of trees, shrubs, and vines. The tasteful landscaping owes much to the English picturesque tradition and is a particularly appropriate enhancement of this first Gothic Revival dwelling in Maine.

*Demolished, Bath, Building Bureau House,
Location 3187
Local of Governor
Wm King*

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES c.1812

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William King House, sometimes referred to as the "Stone House", draws significance not only from the fact that it was built by Maine's first governor and principal architect of statehood but also because it represents one of the earliest known examples of Gothic Revival architecture in New England and the first in Maine.

Born at Dunstan Landing in Scarborough, Maine, in 1768, William King received only a modest formal schooling. Yet his natural abilities in business and politics overcame any deficiencies in education. In 1787 at the age of 19 he moved to Topsham and established himself in a sawmill, a general retail business and shipbuilding, all of which brought him financial success. Three years later he moved to Bath, which became his principal residence for the remainder of his life.

In Bath he quickly developed into one of the business leaders of the community with interests in shipping, shipbuilding and real estate. During the War of 1812 he served as a Major General in command of a newly established military district in Maine. He also became deeply involved in politics as an adherent of the emerging Democratic Party. He was an early advocate of separate statehood for Maine, which was then a part of Massachusetts, was instrumental in the formation and adoption of the state constitution, and was elected the first governor of the new state in 1820. From 1829 to 1834 he was Collector of Customs at Bath.

Unfortunately, the close of his life was marred by financial reverses and domestic problems. In addition, his mind as well as his body failed him in the end. He died June 17, 1852, receiving full military, Masonic and civil honors at his funeral.

Governor King's principal residence in Bath was a large house on Front Street, on the site of the present Custom House, which he occupied from the time of his arrival in the city. In addition, he maintained a home in Kingfield which he built during the 1820's and from which he managed his extensive holdings in the area.

Between 1809 and 1813 he acquired a property of about 100 acres in separate purchases from John Peterson and John Tarp on the Whiskeag Road about two miles north of the center of Bath. On this land, which contained an orchard of 500 trees, he replaced an earlier frame farm house with the present substantial stone structure of c.1812. He maintained the property as a commercial (See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical Encyclopedia of Maine of the 19th Century, Boston, 1885

Owen, Henry Wilson, History of Bath, Bath, 1936

City of Bath Tax Records

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 ac.

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | |
|---|------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 9 | 4 3 3 9 0 0 | 4 8 6 4 5 2 0 |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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, Historic Preservationist
Mark Wilcox, Student Assistant

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE December 1975

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue

TELEPHONE 207-289-2133

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

H. Sawn Ricketts

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 1/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Noting

Sam L. Lewis

DATE 5/24/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Cheryl Abbott

DATE 5-21-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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| RECEIVED | JAN 30 1976 |
| DATE ENTERED | MAY 24 1976 |

CONTINUATION SHEET Governor King ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

farm, shipping some of the produce in his own vessels until 1821 when the farm was leased to Nathan Lovel. At the time of King's death it was sold to B. F. and J. A. Emory, who occupied it for many years.

As one of the earliest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in New England and as the creation of the "Father of Maine Statehood", the William King House is a structure of unique importance.