

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Rockingham
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Cincinnati Memorial Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Ladd-Gilman House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Governors Lane and Water Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Exeter

STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 03833      COUNTY: Rockingham

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Society of Cincinnati in New Hampshire

STREET AND NUMBER:  
% Mr. Lawrence Shirley, West Side Lumber Company, 168 South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Manchester      STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 03102

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Exeter      STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 03833

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

Theme:  
Signers of the Constitution

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original portion of the Ladd-Gilman House was built by Nathaniel Ladd, a descendant of one of the earliest families to settle in Exeter. In 1721, on a rise overlooking the Squamscott, Ladd erected a dormered five-bay brick home with a central entrance, narrow hallway, and steep enclosed stairway. In 1747, Ladd sold this house to Daniel Gilman, to whose family he was related by marriage. Five years later, Gilman's son Nicholas married Ann Taylor of Milton, Massachusetts, bringing his bride home with him. At this time, he had the house substantially enlarged and altered. He removed the wall separating the two right-hand rooms downstairs, as well as the entire north wall, and added the right portion of the house with its two additional bays and enclosed portico.

The north door opens on a square entrance-hall and a three-run stairway, which is set against a chimney having a fireplace for each of the major rooms in the addition (now named the Major General Sullivan Room and the John Harvey Treat Room). In the course of making his 1752 alterations, Gilman clapboarded the brick walls of the original house to match the addition. The discrepancy in the depth of the window openings between the old and new portions of the house is but one aspect of its asymmetry, another being the longer 9 over 6 and 9 over 9 windows of the right side. Nicholas Gilman, Jr., was born in this house shortly after his father finished enlarging it, and occupied it for much of the rest of his life, a bachelor to the end.

Impressive interior features include the deep window-seats, the fluted pilasters, the paneled wainscoting, the huge fireplaces, and the dimensions of the Long Parlor, the Tap Room, and the Council Room. While by no means elegant, the exterior is exceptionally well preserved, and alterations from the late 18th-century appearance are minimal. There are six rooms upstairs and five down, in addition to an 18- by 36-foot piazza at the rear. The interior appears much as it must have in Nicholas Gilman's time, as does the exterior, except that there is now a caretaker's ell, set against the southeast corner on the same axis. This is an addition made subsequent to the acquisition of the house by the Society of Cincinnati in New Hampshire, which has owned and maintained it since 1902.

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ladd-Gilman House (Cincinnati Memorial Hall) was the birthplace and residence of Nicholas Gilman, Jr., a New Hampshire political figure for nearly three decades, and one of its two delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Gilman was not otherwise a figure of national significance, although, as the French Minister Otto wrote to Montmorin in Paris in 1788, he did possess "the advantage of having represented his State at the great Convention in Philadelphia and of having signed the new Constitution." Charles Beard is evidently correct, however, in his assessment of Gilman as a man who "does not seem to have been ... of much weight either in private life or the convention." Cincinnati Memorial Hall is a well-preserved rambling frame house from the mid-18th century which now sees use as a meeting place and is open to the public at set hours or by appointment.

Biography

Nicholas Gilman, Jr., was born in 1755 in the Exeter house now known as Cincinnati Memorial Hall. Most of his career in politics was relatively undistinguished. William Pierce of Georgia, though unable to discern anything "brilliant or striking in his character," did regard him as "modest, genteel, and sensible." On the other hand, the French Minister, who also recorded character sketches of the delegates to the Philadelphia Convention, dismissed Gilman as "a pretentious young man; little loved by his colleagues." In any event, Charles Beard is evidently correct in his judgment that Gilman "does not seem to have been a man of much weight either in private life or the convention."

Gilman attended the common schools of Exeter, then worked in his father's store before joining the army in 1776. After serving as adjutant to Alexander Scammell, he again kept store until 1785. The next year he was chosen a delegate to Congress, and the year after that he was picked to attend the Constitutional Convention. Gilman did not reach Philadelphia until after the business of Constitution-making had been virtually completed, however, and his only noteworthy association with that document is the appearance of his signature upon it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Beard, Charles A., An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States (New York, 1913).

Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce, The Exeter New Hampshire Story (Exeter, 1968).

Federal Writers' Project, New Hampshire: A Guide to the Granite State (Boston, 1938).

(continued)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "	42 ° 58 ' 54 "	70 ° 56 ' 57 "		
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Robert C. Post, Survey Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service**      DATE: **6/28/73**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 L Street, N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D. C.**      CODE:

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>      State <input type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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8. Significance (page 1)

Cincinnati Memorial Hall

Elected a Representative to Congress in 1789 and thrice re-elected, Gilman then served 2 years in the State Senate, and finally, after one unsuccessful try, he was elected to the United States Senate in 1805. By then, he had switched his allegiance from the Federalists to the Republicans. He was re-elected in 1811, but died midway through his second term. Rarely did his political concerns appear to transcend purely local matters. Summing up Gilman's life in politics, William A. Robinson writes that "It was his good fortune to be associated with great men and great events throughout his career, but his reputation derived from that association rather than from his personal contributions to history."

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9. Bibliographical References (page 1) Cincinnati Memorial Hall

Garvin, James, and Nancy Merrill, "Exeter: Its Architectural Heritage--  
Cincinnati Hall," New Hampshire Profiles, June 1971, pp. [10-11].

Robinson, William A., "Nicholas Gilman," Dictionary of American  
Biography, VII, pp. 304-305.

Stearns, Foster, "The Society of Cincinnati in New Hampshire,"  
Exeter Historical Society Bulletin No. 7 (Exeter, 1962).

Van Doren, Carl, The Great Rehearsal: The Story of the Making and  
Ratifying of the Constitution of the United States (New York, 1948).