

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>New Hampshire</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Carroll</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**"Joy Farm"**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**E. E. Cummings House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Silver Lake**

STATE: **New Hampshire** CODE: COUNTY: **Carroll** CODE:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
**Mr. Robert L. Timmer**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Carroll County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:  
**Ossipe Village New Hampshire**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**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:  
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main house at "Joy Farm" is a one-and-a-half story, white clapboarded structure with two interior chimnies. Its modified gable roof is flattened along the ridge to form a deck enclosed by a railing. Its front, or east elevation, which faces uphill toward a clearing, has four bays, each with a gabled dormer. The most northern of the bays is recessed, giving the effect of a wing. The center most of the three southern bays contains the door, protected by a projecting flat roof supported by two square posts. The dormer above the doorway has a door opening onto this roof, which is enclosed by a railing to form a blacony. At the south side of this dormer, a wooden stairway leads up to the deck.

The north elevation has a projecting screen porch at its eastern corner. At its western corner is a projection whose second story overhangs its first. The south elevation has two windows on its first floor and four on the second.

On the west elevation, the roof slopes more gently from the deck, and there are no dormers. The second floor, which projects slightly over the floor below, has a central latheral window with six panes, flanked by two pairs of windows with three panes. A screen porch extends across the whole of the first floor, except at the northern end where there is a small walled section with two windows.

A barn stands near the north end of the house. Close to the northeast corner of the house is a well. A long pole mounted in the forked end of an upright pole provides leverage for drawing water. East of the house, and just beyond the edge of the clearing, is a small, shingled, two-story "tower". This structure is octagonal in shape, and its second story has a smaller circumference than its first,

The unspoiled wooded area surrounding the house is an important part of the historic setting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century **XX**  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Although E. E. Cummings first became known for his major war novel, The Enormous Room (1922), he made his greatest contribution as a poet. His verse represented a break with almost every grammatical and structural convention of the English language. He used few capitals, coined new words, used punctuation in unusual ways, and divided words at his own whim. All of this made him a highly personal, individualistic poet, unwilling to allow any language rules to channel his free expression. Kunitz and Haycroft place him in historical perspective when they say, "Cummings was in the vanguard of the ultra-moderns, experimental, radical, and eccentric both in technique and typography."<sup>1</sup> His innovations would be of little importance, however, if it were not for the fact that they were used in the service of a genuine poetic sensibility. His work was at bottom romantic and affirmative.

Cummings often visited "Joy Farm" as a boy. After 1923, he generally spent his summers at the farm and he died there in 1962. The exterior of the house and its surroundings appear little changed since that time.

BIOGRAPHY

Edward Estlin Cummings was born on October 14, 1894 in Cambridge, Massachusetts to Edward and Rebecca Cummings. His father, a Unitarian minister, had been an English teacher at Harvard. At age 17 Cummings entered Harvard himself, graduating magna cum laude in 1915 and receiving his masters degree the following year. He lived for a short time in New York, but in April 1917, he sailed to France as a member of the Norton-Hayes Ambulance Corps. He was arrested by French authorities for supposed treasonable correspondence in September of that year. Although he was innocent of all wrong-doing, it was only through his father's influence that he was released almost a month later. This experience formed the basis for his book, The Enormous Room, (1922) based on the entire episode and its various participants.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dupee, F. W. & Stude, George eds, Selected Letters of E. E. Cummings, N.Y: Harcourt & Brace, & World, 1969.

Hart, James, The Oxford Companion to American Literature, N.Y: Oxford University Press, 1965, p. 199.

Kunitz & Haycroft, eds. Twentieth Century American Authors, N.Y: H. W. Wilson Co. 1842, p. 339.

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 ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	43°	55'	12"	71°	11'	27"		
NE	43°	55'	12"	71°	10'	48"		
SE	43°	54'	47"	71°	11'	27"		
SW	43°	54'	47"	71°	10'	48"		

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: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION: Edmund Preston, Historian, and Christopher Redburn, Assistant  
Division of History, Office of Archeology and  
Historic Preservation, National Park Service DATE: 7/20/71

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

801 - 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Hampshire	
COUNTY	
Carroll	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

"Joy Farm" E. E. Cummings House

8. Significance (1)

He returned to New York after his release, but was drafted in the summer of 1918 and served in this country during the war. Cummings was discharged after the Armistice and returned once again to New York where for two years he pursued his talent in painting and developed a circle of friends centered around a new literary magazine, "The Dial".

From 1921 to 1923 he lived and studied art in Paris. In 1923 he returned to New York where he took up residence at 4 Patchin Place which remained his home base the rest of his life although he often vacationed at the family summer home, "Joy Farm" in Silver Lake, New Hampshire. He also traveled for extended periods in Europe on six different occasions before his death, as well as Mexico, Russia, and Tunisia. Tulips and Chimneys was published in 1923 to be followed by & (1925), XLI Poems (1925), and is 5 (1926). He won the "Dial" award in 1925

Marion Morehouse became his third wife in 1932, and this relationship endured until his death. The rest of his life was spent in writing and painting. He published several volumes of poetry and showed his art work first in 1931 in New York. The same year CIOPW appeared. It is a collection of paintings and drawings utilizing charcoal, ink, oil, pencil, and water-color.

He died September 3, 1962 at "Joy Farm". 73 Poems and several collected works as well as a volume of letters have been published since his death.