

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 Daniel Coit Gilman Summer Home; "Over Edge"

AND/OR COMMON "Over Edge"

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Huntington Lane (private way off Huntington Road)

CITY, TOWN Northeast Harbor (Mount Desert) VICINITY OF 2nd
— NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maine CODE 023 COUNTY Hancock CODE 009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME William L. Van Alen (c/o Carroll, Grisdale, and Van Alen, Architects)

STREET & NUMBER 6 Penn Center Plaza
 CITY, TOWN Philadelphia VICINITY OF Pennsylvania
 STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, HANCOCK REGISTRY OF DEEDS
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER County Court House

CITY, TOWN Ellsworth STATE Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of Historic Assets

DATE 1974
— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maine Historic Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN Augusta STATE Maine

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

The Daniel Coit Gilman Summer Home, known as "Over Edge," stands east of Huntington Lane, a private way branching from Huntington Road in the village of Northeast Harbor at Mount Desert, Maine. The siting of the house on a high bluff above the western waterfront of Northeast Harbor affords an excellent view of the harbor itself and nearby Bear and Sutton Islands to the southeast. Property to the north and south of "Over Edge" is occupied by other summer cottages, while that immediately to the west remains undeveloped. Acadia National Park is located directly north of the Northeast Harbor community.

"Over Edge," constructed by Gilman in the late 1880's, is a three-story shingled building with gabled roof broken by interior brick chimneys. An open veranda runs across the eastern (front) elevation. The first floor contains a living room on the south (a large rectangular space with a bay window on the south wall, a fireplace on the north), an oval dining room on the north, and a kitchen at the rear (west) of the dining room. Both the second and third floors contain bedrooms. Open wooden porches are located on the north side of the dining room and the bedroom above it.

Still used as a private summer residence, "Over Edge" remains in excellent condition and is essentially unaltered. The only significant interior change has been the removal of some partitions to allow enlargement of the kitchen. On the exterior, some roofing material has been replaced, the front veranda has been extended some six feet to the south, and a metal fire escape has been installed on the north elevation next to the original porches.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES late 1880's to 1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Daniel Coit Gilman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Over Edge," a 3-story, shingled house at Northeast Harbor in Mount Desert, Maine, was for more than 20 years (until his death in 1908) the summer residence of Daniel Coit Gilman, the man who made graduate-level education a recognized responsibility of American universities. As president of Johns Hopkins University from 1875, the year of its founding, until 1902, Gilman set a national precedent in emphasizing post-graduate study; his success stimulated the rapid growth of similar programs at universities throughout the country. Still occupied as a private summer residence, "Over Edge" is in excellent condition and, with the exception of interior alterations which enlarged the kitchen, remains essentially as it was when built by Gilman.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Daniel Coit Gilman spent a lifetime in the field of education. Born on July 7, 1831, in Norwich, Connecticut, he entered Yale College in 1848 and was graduated in 1852. He sailed for Europe in December, 1853, spent two years there, and on his return renewed his association with Yale. Gilman's particular interest was the Sheffield Scientific School, which he helped to organize; upon its establishment, he became the school's librarian and secretary, as well as professor of physical and political geography. Gilman also supported public education, and accepted a position on the New Haven Board of Education. On December 4, 1861, he married Mary Ketcham. After her death in 1869, he married Elizabeth Dwight Woolsey on June 13, 1877.

Gilman's professional ability attracted wide attention. The University of Wisconsin offered him its presidency in 1867 but he refused the position, as he did the presidency of the University of California in 1870. When California repeated its offer in 1872, Gilman changed his mind and accepted the job. In going to California, Gilman hoped to transform the relatively new state university into a great institution and in his inaugural address at Berkeley emphasized that superior teaching was the greatest need of such a school. However, his high academic standards were opposed by various groups in California who placed more value on utilitarian courses

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	557275	4904300
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by S. S. Bradford, Historian, 7/26/65

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE
3/8/76

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE
202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C. 20240

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Landmark
Designated: DEC 21, 1965
date

Boundary Certified:
George F. ...
date
June 1, 1978 date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

11-11-78

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Daniel Coit Gilman Summer Home, "Over Edge"
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

than on a liberal arts education. After three years of turmoil, Gilman left California to head the new university being established with a bequest from Baltimore merchant Johns Hopkins.

In accepting the presidency of Johns Hopkins University on January 30, 1875, Gilman received a unique opportunity. The Hopkins bequest was large; the board of trustees gave him its complete confidence; and almost half a century of thinking about post-graduate study stimulated broad support for his ideas.

Despite some German influence, Gilman's ideas for Johns Hopkins stemmed largely from American educational experience and his own thought. The necessity of research ranked high in his mind. Through research, truth would be maintained. Furthermore, pure research would redound to the credit of the Nation. Gilman thus elevated scientific truth to a pre-eminent position, as well as insisting that the findings of study would contribute to national progress. But research should not know any restrictions, and the new president stressed the necessity of academic freedom. When the University opened, the professors concentrated on research to a degree new in America and in an atmosphere of complete freedom.

In keeping with his inaugural at the University of California, Gilman stressed at Johns Hopkins the importance of superior teaching, ranking it far above more other university needs. He spent most of the first year in his new position searching for qualified professors. Thus, when the institution opened, it included on its teaching staff an outstanding Greek scholar from the University of Virginia, a brilliant chemist from Williams College, and a promising young physicist from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. The support of the trustees is clearly shown by the fact that not one member of the original faculty came from Maryland.

Gilman advanced two other principles of education that were embodied in Johns Hopkins. First, he insisted that good teachers needed good students, and he created fellowships in order to attract bright young men to the university. Second, to insure that the search for truth would not be restricted in any way, Gilman insisted that Johns Hopkins be non-sectarian in character. This point of view led to the elimination of prayer and the presence of Thomas Huxley at the university's opening ceremony.

(Continued)

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Within a relatively short time after Johns Hopkins opened its doors in 1876, the school exercised national influence. By 1892, over sixty American institutions of higher learning had three or more faculty members with degrees from Johns Hopkins. Further, Hopkins' success stimulated numerous other American universities to develop similar post-graduate programs. With Johns Hopkins firmly established, Gilman resigned from the university presidency in 1902. He continued to be active following his retirement, serving three years as president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, from 1901 to 1907 as president of the National Civil Service Reform League, and giving his energies to numerous charitable organizations. Gilman died at Norwich, Connecticut, on October 13, 1908.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The boundaries of the national historic landmark designation for the Daniel Coit Gilman Summer Home ("Over Edge") at Northeast Harbor, Maine, are those of the 1.9-acre lot on which that building stands, as currently owned by William L. Van Alen. Specific lines are defined as follows (description from land records of the town of Mt. Desert, Maine, of which Northeast Harbor is a part):

Commencing at a point on the center line (produced) of a 24 ft. right of way leading in an easterly direction from Huntington Road, which point is 315.70 feet measured S80° 32'E along said center line from the easterly side of Huntington Road, thence N50° 3' E 26.75 ft. to a point; thence N35° 36'E 27.60 ft. to a point; thence N14° 56'E 52 ft. to a point; thence N3° 32'W 42.60 ft. to a point; thence N84° 52'W 38 ft. to a point; a corner of lands of the heirs of Daniel Kimball; thence N4° E along the line of lands of the heirs of Daniel Kimball aforesaid, 218.70 ft. to a point on the southerly side of a right of way shown on said plan; thence N86 E along lands of the heirs of Philip Schuyler Townsend 186 ft. to a point; thence still along said dividing line N86° 45'E 112.85 ft. more or less to a point; thence still along said dividing line N85° 45'E to high water mark of NE. Harbor; thence continuing along said dividing line in a general easterly direction to low water mark of NE. Harbor, thence in a generally southerly direction but always following said low water mark to a point in the dividing line between land of the grantors herein and land of the heirs of Loren E. Kimball; thence in a general westerly direction but always following said division line to high water mark of said NE. Harbor; thence N87° 30'W 16.80 ft. to a point; thence S40° W 87.10 ft. to a point; thence S70° W 50.80 ft. to a point; thence S83° 30'W 33 ft. to a point; thence S87° 15'W 93.45 ft. to the point of beginning.