

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

ROOM 307 GILMAN HALL, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

AND/OR COMMON

SAME

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Campus, University of California, Berkeley

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Berkeley

VICINITY OF

007

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Alameda

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The University of California at Berkeley

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Berkeley

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Alameda County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Oakland

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Room 307 Gilman Hall is part of the attic of Gilman Hall, and is still used as a research laboratory. The building and the room derive their importance only from the events which transpired within during the late 1930's and early 1940's. Nothing remains from that period in the room which would suggest a connection with the discovery of Plutonium. The room has been refitted many times, with more and more advanced experimental equipment, while a partition which had divided the space into rooms 307-A and 307-B was removed when the National Landmark designation was made in March 1966. Gilman Hall stands near the center of the campus of the University of California at Berkeley.

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 checked="" 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 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 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

February, 1941

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Irrelevant

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In this small research laboratory at the University of California at Berkeley, the man-made element Plutonium, was first identified. From that day in February 1941, atomic research continued until ultimately a new source of energy had been developed. Had it not been for the momentous discovery here, neither the atomic explosives used in 1945 to end the War with Japan, nor the subsequent development of nuclear energy reactors would have been possible.

History

Although the possibility of extending the periodic table of elements had been considered many times, the hope of extension did not become realistic until 1934, when artificial radioactivity was discovered.

Ninety-two elements were then known, but in 1940, the first of the man-made elements was developed by bombarding uranium with neutrons until it captured a neutron and released an electron, thereby producing a new element, #93, Neptunium, an isotope of Uranium.

A few months, later, five co-workers shared in the discovery of element 94, Plutonium, by the same process. They were: Arthur Wall, Edwin MacMillan, Glenn Seaborg, Emilio Segre, and J.W. Kennedy. By using a cyclotron to bombard uranium oxide with neutrons, they created another isotope, and the one which has been far more important than any other. Plutonium, used in a nuclear fission process, can be and has been used for both power-generation in a nuclear reactor, and as an atomic explosive. Doctors Seaborg and MacMillan later shared a Nobel Prize for their work in this field.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Encyclopedia Britannica
National Historic Landmark File Report, 1965.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 56520 4191740
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Room 307 Gilman Hall, consists quite simply of a room in the attic storey of this science building at the University of California at Berkeley.

The physical aspects of neither the room nor the building are of any great consequence, other than as the site of certain important experiments early in the history of the development of atomic energy. The accompanying site map, entitled

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

Landmark	CODE
Designated: <u>Dec 21, 1965</u>	

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Dillon, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Historic Landmarks

STREET & NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN

date

Boundary Certified:

DATE:

TELEPHONE

STATE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

4/24/79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

(SYMBOLIC) HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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"University of California, Berkeley, Central Campus Area" copyright 1965, The University of California, shows Gilman Hall encircled in red pencil. The accompanying USGS map also shows the location of Gilman Hall within the University Campus. The acreage of Gilman Hall, the logical boundary for the room within, is less than one acre.

The boundary of the landmark is coterminus with that of Gilman Hall. Beginning at a point approximately 100' from the southeast corner of Le Conte Hall, proceed in a northwest direction approximately 150'; thence northeast approximately 60'; thence southeast 150'; thence southwest approximately 60' to the point of origin.