

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Edwin Arlington Robinson House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
67 Lincoln Ave.

CITY OR TOWN:
Gardiner

STATE: Me.	CODE	COUNTY: Kennebec	CODE
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<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 type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" 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:
Harold Holt

STREET AND NUMBER:
67 Lincoln Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Gardiner	STATE: Me.	CODE
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta	STATE: Me.	CODE
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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
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(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 Edwin Arlington Robinson House is a two-story, white clapboard house with a gable roof and two interior chimneys. It has four bays on its east, or front elevation. The doorway is in the south elevation, which has two bays and single window in the gable end. A single-story wooden porch with ten square columns extends across both the east and south elevations, and has entrance steps on both sides. The most northern section of the porch is enclosed in screening. The first floor has full length windows on the east and south elevations. The most conspicuous feature of the north elevation is a two-story bay window. The rear of the main section of the house has two shed dormers.

Projecting from the rear of the house is a long, one-and-a-half story ell with a gable roof and one interior chimney. On its south elevation, this ell has five bays on its first floor and two gabled dormers on the second floor. At the end of the ell is attached a barn, now used as a garage, with a cross gable roof.

The main entrance is a double door with twin panes of ornamented red glass, one of which is original. It opens into a small stair hall leading north. The front, or east, portion of the first floor is occupied by double parlors with matching marble mantels. Above the mantel of the northeastern parlor is a needlework picture by Eben Haley, showing Robinson's birthplace at Headtide. To the west of this parlor is a small study with a bay window. Behind this, in the ell, are the dining room and kitchen.

On the second floor, to the right of the stairway, is a bathroom newly converted from the bedroom, which was used by Edwin Arlington Robinson's brother, Dean. At the southwest corner of the house is the bedroom which belonged to the parents of the poet. At the northeast corner is a similar bedroom. Both of these rooms have fireplaces with matching wooden mantels. On the north side of the main section is a small room with a bay window which serves as a study, in which Robinson did some of his writing. West of the stairway is a small room with a single window, which was the bedroom of the poet. It now functions as a sitting room, and contains a sketch and photograph of Robinson. From this room, a narrow passageway leads past a back staircase to another small bedroom, which contains furniture believed to have belonged to the Robinson family. Behind this is a storage room. On the attic floor of the main section is a large bedroom finished since the poet's residency, and a bathroom installed by the present owners.

Edwin Arlington Robinson's family moved into this house in 1870, when he was less than a year old, and it remained his home until his departure for college in 1891, as well as the period 1893-1896. He subsequently returned for visits until 1903, when the house was sold by his brother Herman. The poet continued to return frequently to the Gardiner area, and is buried in a cemetery several hundred feet west of the house. In 1903, the house was bought by a man named Hanley, and subsequently inherited by his daughter. In 1954, it was purchased by Harold Holt, whose wife is the poet's niece. The Holt's rented the house to other until 1965, when they moved into it themselves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Edwin Arlington Robinson was one of America's major poets. His subject was the human condition, which he likened to a pervading darkness penetrated by rare points of light. In such poems as "Cliff Klingenhagen" and "Miniver Cheevy", Robinson provides character studies both unique and universal. His longer works reveal a matching insight and fidelity to the highest artistic objectives. A complete individualist, Robinson followed his own vision unhesitatingly, becoming "the solitary poet who absorbed into his thought and art the best of the old in American poetry, and became the first of his generation to understand, however darkly, the new."

Robinson lived in the house at 67 Lincoln Avenue from infancy until his departure for college in 1891, as well as during the period 1893 to 1896. Here he doubtless wrote much of the poetry included in his first two volumes, which contained some of his best work. Gardiner was the model for the fictional "Tilbury Town," which served as the backdrop for many of his characterizations. The Robinson House itself has been somewhat altered, but retains its essential integrity and is strongly evocative of the poet.

Biography

Edwin Arlington Robinson was born in 1869 at Healdtide, Maine, and the next year moved with his family to Gardiner. Their new home was near a cemetery, and the spectacle of the passing funerals made a deep impression on the boy. Young "Win" attended the public schools, began to write verse, and fell under the tutelage of a local poet, A. T. Schumann. By 1889, or perhaps earlier, he had definitely determined to devote his life to poetry. In 1891, he entered Harvard University, which he attended two years as a special student. He then returned to Gardiner and wrote verse, some of which he published privately in The Torrent and the Night Before (1896). The next year he republished many of these poems, as well as several new ones, in The Children of the Night.

After a period on the administrative staff of Harvard, Robinson went to New York. He published a third volume, Captain Craig (1902), and for a time supported himself as a time-checker for the subway construction project. In 1905, he benefited from the sympathetic interest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who wrote an enthusiastic review of his work in The Outlook and appointed the poet to a Customs House sinecure which he held until 1909.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Franchere, Hoyt C., Edwin Arlington Robinson, N.Y.: Twayne Publishers, Inc., 1958.

Smith, Chard P., Where the Light Falls, N.Y.: The Macmillan Company, 1965.

Spiller, Robert E., Literary History of the United States, N.Y.: The Macmillan Company, 1960.

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 ' "		44° 13' 20 "	69° 46 ' 25 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Edmund Preston, Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings DATE: 8/23/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
801-19th Street, N.W.

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

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

<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>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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Edwin Arlington
Robinson House

(Continuation Sheet)

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Maine	
COUNTY	
Kennebec	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Continued (first sheet)

The major structural change which appears to have been made since Robinson's residency was the substitution of the present porch for the small entrance porch which stood on the south elevation. It is possible, however, that this alteration occurred before the poet's departure. Other changes include: the installation of a new lavatory under the front staircase, in addition to the two new bathrooms previously mentioned; the enlargement of the kitchen; opening of the fireplaces in the eastern bedroom (perhaps closed subsequent to Robinson's time); blocking of a window at the rear of the main section; strengthening the roof and floor of the barn, and installation of a cement basement under it; and the conversion of the horse yard behind the barn into a patio.

1. Smith, p. 209.

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8. Biography continued (first sheet)

In 1911, Robinson spent the first of many summers at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire, and began his lifelong habit of dividing his years between the Colony, New York, Boston and Gardiner. Beginning in 1917, he received an annual grant from anonymous donors, but by 1922 his income from royalties was sufficient to support him.

During his years with the Customs House, Robinson devoted his creative efforts primarily to drama, but without great success. Returning to poetry, he published The Town Down the River in 1910, and won wide acclaim for The Man Against the Sky (1916). Robinson made effective use of the Arthurian legends, especially in Tristram (1927), which was a popular as well as a critical success. During his later years he received many honors, including three Pulitzer Prizes. He died in New York in 1935.

1. Spiller, p. 1170.