

PHO 366344

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: **New Hampshire**

COUNTY: **Rockingham**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE: **4/27/1976**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: **The Gilman "Garrison" House**

AND/OR HISTORIC: **The Gilman "Garrison" House**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **12 Water Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Exeter** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **First**

STATE: **New Hampshire** CODE: **33** COUNTY: **Rockingham** CODE: **015**

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):

Agricultural Government Park Transportation Comments
 Commercial Industrial Private Residence Other (Specify)
 Educational Military Religious Scientific
 Entertainment Museum

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities**

STREET AND NUMBER: **141 Cambridge Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Boston** STATE: **Massachusetts** CODE: **025**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Hampton Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Exeter** STATE: **New Hampshire** CODE: **03883** COUNTY: **Rockingham**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **See Continuation Sheet 1**

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **New Hampshire**

COUNTY: **Rockingham**

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Present Physical Appearance: Exeter's Gilman "Garrison" House, located on a 3/10 acre lot on the corner of the busy intersection of Water, Franklin, and Clifford Streets near the Exeter River, is in a neighborhood consisting primarily of one- to three-story commercial buildings, some restored. Its lot is bounded on the east by Clifford Street, on the north by Water Street, on the south by a fence, and on the west by a line approximately fifteen feet to the west of the house's west elevation, the latter bound separating the Gilman "Garrison" House from a two-story Greek Revival period house owned by The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA), as is the "Garrison" House itself.

The two-story Gilman "Garrison" House is "T" shaped, the stem of the T being its earliest section, a rectangular "garrison" with an east-west medium gable roof running parallel to Water Street, and with its gabled east end bounding on Clifford Street. The top of the T is composed of two wings. The north wing has a north-south medium gable roof running at right angles to Water Street, whose north end bounding on Water Street is hipped, and whose south end intersects the "garrison"'s roof and ends in a plane coincident with the "garrison"'s south, back elevation. The southern wing has a gable roof of the same orientation as, and connecting with the northern wing. Together the two wings are five bays long.

A one-story, two-bay addition, attached offset left to the north wing's west elevation has a shallow hip roof; another two-story porch extension offset left on the south wing's back elevation has a lean-to roof at right angles to the wing's gable roof.

The whole house is clapboarded and painted red except the south elevation of the "garrison" section, where the clapboards are unpainted. The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation of the house is both granite and fieldstone, with the exception of the "garrison"'s east end, which has a high brick elevation. Two interior brick chimneys are located on the "garrison"'s roof ridge, offset right and offset left. A third brick interior chimney is located on the north wing's gable ridge. All three chimneys have two projecting courses near the top and a fourth brick chimney at the south wing's south end has an arched cap.

The five-bay "garrison" facade faces northerly toward Water Street and is separated from it by a small foreyard enclosed by a red wooden fence on a cut-stone foundation. The central unpainted wooden door has six raised and beveled panels, is framed with plain wooden surrounds, and its architrave consists of a five-pane recessed transom panel and Tuscan pilasters with no embrasure. Other entrances are located on the north wing's east wall, opening into the foreyard, and offset left on the west wall of the west wing addition, as well as on the south wing's east elevation, offset left.

See Continuation Sheet 2

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **c.1700, c.1772**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" 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

Architecture:

The Gilman "Garrison" House is primarily important in the area of architecture, where its significance is at least on a state level. Architectural and documentary evidence indicates the earliest section of the Gilman "Garrison" House, the "garrison" section, was constructed in the late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century.¹ It is one of a handful of log buildings standing in New England and it is the largest domestic log structure of the period; as such it is a major example of the log building in the Piscataqua region of Maine and New Hampshire.² It is especially interesting as a technological document since the house contains the two major techniques of log construction: the logs are slotted into the corner beams of the first story while dovetails join the corners at the second story.³

The two-story northwest wing was made to the "garrison" circa 1772, and contains panelled walls, window seats, bolection mouldings around the doors, as well as cabled and stop-fluted pilasters at the fireplace and a full classical entablature, and thus it is representative of eighteenth-century academic architecture in Exeter.⁴

Ebenzer Clifford, Esq., master carpenter, architect, legislator, inventor, and owner of the Gilman "Garrison" House from 1793 until his death in 1821, is an important figure in New Hampshire's architectural history.⁵ Among his other efforts, he participated with Bradbury Johnson in the design of the

See Continuation Sheet 4

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bell, Charles. H.. History of the Town of Exeter, New Hampshire. Exeter: the author, 1888.

Candee, Richard M.. Early Vernacular Architecture of Maine and New Hampshire. Ph.D. thesis, University of Pennsylvania, in preparation.

Dudley, W. P.. "The Garrison House, Exeter, New Hampshire," Antiques, (August, 1960), 131-133.

See Continuation Sheet 8

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "	42° 58' 41"	70° 56' 42"		
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/10

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Barbara Chapin**

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: **May 21, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Codman House, Codman Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lincoln** STATE: **Massachusetts** CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: [Signature]

Title: **NH State Historic Preservation Officer**

Date: **July 7, 1975**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: **9/27/76**

ATTEST: [Signature]
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: **9/27/76**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Rockingham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER SEP 27 1970	DATE

(Number all entries)

Gilman "Garrison" House, Exeter, N.H.

6. Representation in existing surveys, continued

Title of Survey:

Historic American Buildings Survey

Date of Survey: 1935 x Federal

Depository for Survey Records:

Library of Congress

Street and Number:

10 First Street, SE

City or Town:

Washington

State:

DC 20540

Code:

11

Title of Survey:

New Hampshire's Historic Preservation Plan

Date of Survey: 1970 x State

Depository for Survey Records:

State of New Hampshire

Department of Resources and Economic Development

Street and Number:

P.O. Box 856

State House Annex

25 Capitol Street

City or Town:

Concord

State:

New Hampshire 03301

Code:

33



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) 2

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Rockingham	
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Gilman "Garrison" House, Exeter, N.H.

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Present Physical Appearance, continued:

The fenestration of the "garrison"'s facade and east elevation and the wings' east and north elevations consists of regularly placed eighteenth-century double-hung sash windows. These all have yellow plain wooden surrounds, slip sills, and wooden muntins. The windows on the foreyard side of the "garrison" and wings have horizontal caps on the first story, while those on the second have caps which are contiguous with the plain moulding of the cornice frieze. The windows of the west elevation of the wings and addition include (12/12) and (6/6) double-hung sash windows and fifteen-pane single-sash windows.

The fenestration of the "garrison"'s back, south elevation is irregular and includes, on the first story, a variety of eighteenth and nineteenth-century double-hung sash windows and a lead casement window with HL hinges restored to one of the original seventeenth-century window openings.

A yellow wooden boxed cornice and frieze, both with plain moulded trim, circumscribe the house excepting the "garrison"'s south elevation which is unornamented, and the south wing's south gable end which has close verges.

Also located on the Gilman "Garrison" house lot, to the south of the house, is a two-story red-clapboarded barn, probably dating to the nineteenth-century, with a southeast facade facing Clifford Street. Its steep hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles and is surrounded with cornice and fascia alone. A hinged green batten hay-door is located above the central wooden wagon-door, having six raised panels, and ornamented with a lintel and decorative side brackets. Double-hung sash windows of (6/6) panes are located in the facade.

Original Physical Appearance: The first conclusive evidence relating to the date of the Gilman "Garrison" House is found in 1719.¹ Architectural evidence primarily consisting of the re-use of seventeenth-century materials in the "garrison"'s cellar, suggests the date of the "garrison"'s construction was somewhat earlier, from the late seventeenth- to the early eighteenth-centuries.² At that time it was a rectangle constructed on 9" hemlock logs sawn at the Gilman mills.³ It had such seventeenth century elements as small windows, a portcullis door, a gable roof more steeply pitched than the present one, and overhangs projecting from both the back and front of the house.⁴
See Continuation Sheet 3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Rockingham	
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Gilman "Garrison" House, Exeter, N.H.

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Original Physical Appearance, continued:

Originally, decorative sawn and carved brackets beneath the front and rear overhangs were morticed into the first-story posts; one bracket survives beneath the later boxing of the southeast rear corner.⁵ The back overhang is currently visible on the "garrison"'s south elevation and part of the front overhang may be seen inside the house at the junction of the "garrison" and the west wing.

About 1772, a two-story wing was added to the west side of the "garrison".⁶ It had a single great room on the first story, and a chamber above. The walls of the great room are panelled with window seats and have bolection mouldings around the doors. Cable or stop-fluted pilasters are at the fireplace with a full classical entablature. Edwin Whitefield shows the south wing addition was made by 1886.⁷

¹Richard M. Candee, Early Vernacular Architecture of Maine and New Hampshire (Ph.D. thesis, University of Pennsylvania, in preparation).

²Ibid..

³Ibid..

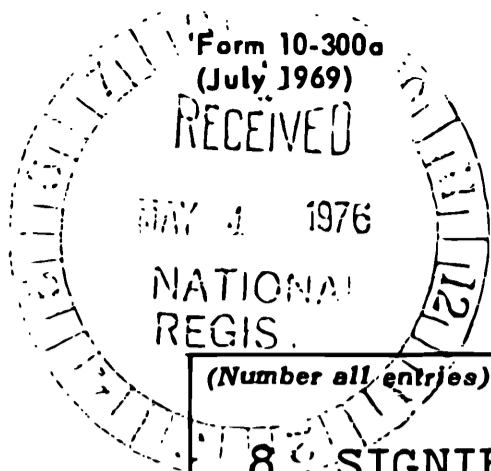
⁴Ibid..

⁵Ibid..

⁶James L. Garvin and Nancy C. Merrill, "Exeter: Its Architectural Heritage", New Hampshire Profiles, (June, 1970), p.38.

⁷Edwin Whitefield, The Homes of Our Forefathers. (Reading, Mass.: the author, 1886) pages unnumbered.





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE	New Hampshire	
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Gilman "Garrison" House, Exeter, N.H.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

second Philips Exeter Academy building (1794), of Exeter's First Parish Meeting House (1798), and the Dr. Samuel Tenney House (c.1800).⁶

Political:

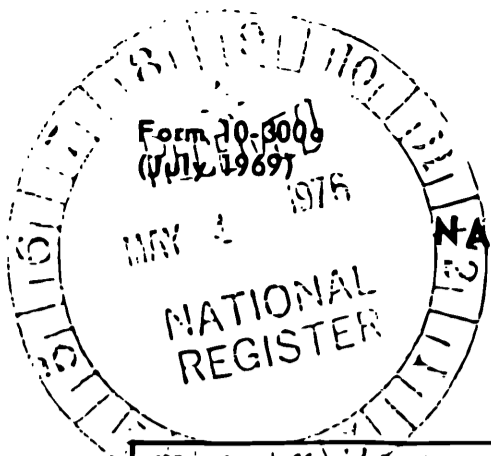
The Gilman "Garrison" House was probably built before Councilor John Gilman's death (1624-1708), and so it is likely that this man, important in Exeter's seventeenth-century government, was the first to occupy it.⁷ He was Selectman eleven out of thirty-five years between 1652 and 1687, and Exeter's Representative in 1693.⁸ Councillor John's son, Colonel John Gilman (1676-1742), was the next owner and carried on his father's civic tradition by serving as Selectman in at least 1711 and 1714, and as Representative from 1716 to 1722.⁹ Peter Gilman (1705-1788), the house's last Gilman owner, was perhaps the most illustrious of the family in local and provincial government.¹⁰ Town Moderator in 1742, 54, 55, 60-68, 70-73, and 76, he was Representative sixteen times between 1733 and 1768. He was also Speaker of the House of the Assembly.¹¹

Daniel Webster, when he attended Exeter Academy, boarded in the oldest section of the Gilman "Garrison" House in 1796, then in possession of Ebenezer Clifford.¹²

Military:

Constructed by the Gilmans while the threat of Indian attack in Exeter was still real, an original purpose of the Gilman "Garrison" House, as its name implies, was quasi-military. There is no indication the house itself was attacked, but it probably served as a refuge during times of seige in the area.¹³ Its first occupant, John Gilman, was Exeter's Lieutenant after 1669, and his son, John Gilman, Jr., earned the rank of Colonel in

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See Continuation Sheet



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Gilman "Garrison" House, Exeter, N.H.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued
the militia in 1711.¹⁴ His grandson, Peter Gilman, became a
Brigadier General through his exploits during the French and
Indian Wars, including his command of a regiment at Crown Point
in 1755.¹⁵

Invention:

Ebenezer Clifford (1746-1821) is legendary for having been an
ingenious mechanic, and documentation has survived for some of
his inventions, the most renowned being the diving bell which he
constructed with Richard Tripe of Dover.¹⁶ The bell measured
5'9" high and 5' across and weighed about two tons. Clifford
and Tripe made their first descent in the Piscataqua River in
1803.¹⁷ The bell allowed them to remain submerged for an hour
or more, although at least twenty minutes of that time was for
gradual descent and ascent. The swan weathervane currently on
the Gilman barn is said to be a copy of the decoy which Clifford
and Tripe used to signal their above-water companions when they
were submerged in the bell.¹⁸

Commerce:

The first documentary references definitely known to apply to
the Gilman "Garrison" House, in 1719 and in 1720, are in a
commercial context. Colonel John Gilman was granted licenses
by the provincial Assembly to keep a place of public entertain-
ment in his "Loghouse by ye bridge".¹⁹ Thus, the building is
the earliest surviving place of business in New Hampshire, all
earlier structures in the state being exclusively residential.²⁰
A 1732 deed from John Gilman, Jr. to his son Peter Gilman
equates the "Logg House" with the "old House of Shop" and since
Peter's occupation is listed as "shopkeeper", it can be inferred
the house remained partially in commercial use at least into the
next decade.²¹

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE New Hampshire	
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Gilman "Garrison" House, Exeter, N.H.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

The Gilman family also constructed important seventeenth-century mills on the Exeter River which Ebenezer Clifford then purchased with the house in 1793.²² After his death in 1821, Clifford's daughters, Eunice and Elizabeth, ran a successful millinery business, an occupation continued by Asenath Darling as late as 1893, possibly in the house.²³

¹Richard M. Candee, Early Vernacular Architecture of Maine and New Hampshire (Ph.D. thesis, University of Pennsylvania, in preparation).

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴James L. Garvin and Nancy C. Merrill, "Exeter: Its Architectural Heritage", New Hampshire Profiles. (June, 1970), 38.

⁵James L. Garvin, "Bradbury Johnson, Builder-Architect" (unpubl. M.A. thesis, University of Delaware, 1969), Appendix II, 167.

⁶Ibid, 175.

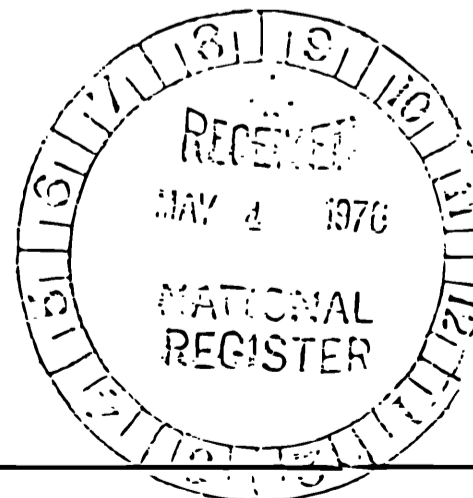
⁷Candee, op. cit.; William Gilman Perry, M.D., "The Garrison House and Its Neighborhood", Exeter in 1830 and Exeter in 1876, (Exeter, N.H.: Peter E. Randell, 1972), 22-29.

⁸Charles H. Bell, History of the Town of Exeter, New Hampshire (Exeter: the author, 1888), 148.

⁹Ibid, 149; Perry, op. cit., 22-29.

¹⁰Ibid, 416; Perry, op. cit., 22-29.

See Continuation Sheet 7



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Gilman "Garrison" House, Exeter, N.H.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

¹¹ Ibid, 146.

¹² Ibid, 416.

¹³ Candee, op. cit..

¹⁴ Candee, op. cit..

¹⁵ Bell, op. cit., 416; Candee, op. cit..

¹⁶ Garvin, op. cit., 177.

¹⁷ Garvin, op. cit., 178.

¹⁸ Garvin and Merrill, op. cit., 38.

¹⁹ Candee, op. cit..

²⁰ Candee, op. cit..

²¹ Candee, op. cit..

²² Garvin, op. cit., 173.

²³ Perry, op. cit., 22-29.



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STATE New Hampshire	
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Gilman "Garrison" House, Exeter, N.H.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Exeter Newsletter and Rockingham Advertiser. Exeter: S. Hall,
XXXIV, 11, May 30, 1864, and 13, June 13, 1864.

Garvin, James L.. "Bradbury Johnson, Builder-Architect",
(unpubl. M.A. thesis, University of Delaware, 1969)
Appendix II.

Garvin, James L. and Nancy C. Merrill. "Exeter: Its Architec-
tural Heritage," New Hampshire Profiles, (June, 1971), 33-51.

Perry, William Gilman, M.D. and Charles H. Bell, Esq.. Introduc-
tion and additional notes by Nancy C. Merrill. Exeter in
1830 and Exeter in 1776. (Exeter: Peter E. Randell, 1972).

Rockingham County Register of Deeds and Probate, Exeter, N.H.

Whitefield, Edwin. The Homes of Our Forefathers.
(Reading, Mass.: the author, 1886).



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED	MAY 4	1976
DATE ENTERED	MAY 27 1976	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, Continued

10.2 UTM References

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
19	3-41-400	47-60-290