

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 28 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 3 1978

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 ****** Exeter

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *Not Federal Rd 630*
West side of Maryland Rt. 630, .5 miles north of Md.
Route 318

CITY, TOWN

Federalburg

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

COUNTY
Caroline

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holt

STREET & NUMBER

Exeter

CITY, TOWN

Federalburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21632

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Exeter, located on Maryland Route 630 north of the town extremities of Federalsburg, is a unique survival of early 19th century architecture in Caroline County. It is composed of two distinct sections, although there is little evidence that the building was built in two phases, except for the addition of a lean-to on the western end of the house.

VERY FRANKLY

The building faces east and overlooks the road with Marshy Hope Creek beyond. Its front section is a three-bay wide, two-story frame structure built on a brick foundation and covered with cedar shingles. The entrance, located in the southern bay of the facade, possesses side-lights with shutters and a transom with flanking consoles supporting a full pediment. An outline of an earlier porch can be seen above the architrave. The windows of the first story have 6/9 sash while those of the second story and the rear of the house have 6/6 sash. All have louvered shutters. In the south gable is a window with 6/3 sash and the remains of the same type shutter. The north gable end reveals the brick back of the first story fireplace.

MARKS

Behind the south side of the tall portion of the building is a one and one-half story frame wing, four bays long, covered with beaded weather-board. There are two doors and two windows, with two dormers on the "A" roof. A tall brick chimney rises from the center of this section. As mentioned earlier, there is also a small leanto or shed addition sloping from the west gable. It has three windows with six pane casements and louvered shutters. To the north of the leanto is a deteriorated brick meathouse and to the south is a deteriorated frame milkhouse.

Beginning with the east side of the house, the floor plan consists of a stair hall and living room, retaining all original work except for the lower newel post. There is an open string stair with delicate balustrade with square balusters, turned newels and round handrail. The step-ends have a wave-like outline typical of the early 19th century. There is a closet beneath this stair with four panel door. Around the doors and windows is two part trim while the chair rail has three parts. From the hall a door opens into the living room, and one opposite the entrance opens into the wing. In the living room the trim is the same as in the hall except for the mantel. It is a very well executed form of folk decoration with a carved sunburst in the center of the frieze and four smaller segments in the corners. There are fluted pilasters on consoles and a course of gougework and drill holes.

In the wing are two rooms, each warmed by the central chimney. In the middle room is panelling brought in from Liden's Adventure at Smithville, a few miles north of Federalsburg. The ceiling has exposed beaded joists and flooring. The trim is plainer than that in the

See continuation sheet #2

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally Exeter is the best preserved early 19th century vernacular building in Caroline County, especially in the realm of original decoration. It appears to be the earliest existing building in the vicinity of Federalsburg. The use of cypress shingle siding, often found in Worcester County, is unique to date in Caroline County. Its floor plans are also unique, indicating a builder of some sophistication. The rear portion of the building is very similar to other early 19th century dwellings in lower Caroline County and portions of Dorchester County.

Thomas Dell (or Dill) was the Episcopal rector of St. Mary's White Chapel in Fowling Creek from circa 1729 to 1753. He was granted a 50-acre tract in December 1731 which he called Exeter, located on the Northwest Fork of the Nanticoke River, seven miles from his church. (Patent 8/698.) In October 1751 Dell sold this parcel to William Ennals. In the deed it was described as "that tract or parcel of land called Exeter, . . . including the now dwelling Plantation of said Thomas Dell." (Deed [1751]/547.) The latter then sold Exeter back to Dell's son Frederick in 1760. (Old 17/273.) Abraham Lewis was the next owner, a planter who purchased Exeter and two other tracts from Dell in 1777. (Deed A/226.)

In the 1783 Tax Assessment for Caroline County, Abraham Lewis is listed in Lower Choptank Hundred. He owned parts of Exeter (misspelled "Eetor") and Taylors Outlet, 40 acres of which were arable and 76 wooded, valued together at £46. Both the land and the improvements on it were called "indifferent." Lewis owned no slaves and no black cattle, and lived alone on the property. Other assets were two horses and £30 worth of other property. (The records for Lower Choptank Hundred in the Federal Direct Tax of 1798 are missing.)

Lewis, then living in Dorchester County, sold the tracts in 1808 to James B. Robbins for £500, £408 more than Lewis had paid originally. This would seem to indicate that the present dwelling known as Exeter, and probably other improvements as well, were built during the ownership of Abraham Lewis.

It is interesting that at the same time he purchased Exeter, Robbins also bought the Exeter Mill from Solomon Bartlett for \$4,000. (Deed I/669.) The mill was situated across the road from the dwelling, and

see continuation sheet #2

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hall of Records, Annapolis, and Caroline County Courthouse, Denton Tax Assessment of 1783, Caroline County, Lower Choptank Hundred Land Records of Caroline County.

Noble, Edward M., et. al. History of Caroline County, Maryland, from its Beginning. Reprint of 1920 ed. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 8 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

bjn

NAME / TITLE Pamela James, Assistant Historian
 Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust DATE Dec. 1976

STREET & NUMBER Shaw House, 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN Annapolis, STATE Maryland 21401

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *John M. Pence* DATE *6/20/77*
 TITLE *SHPO*

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *1.3.78*

REGIONS OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Charles Adams* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE *1-3-78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Exeter
Federalburg,
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

front of the house. South of the chimney is the door to the back room which is treated in the same manner as the middle room. From this room there is a stair to the second floor. From a line in the ceiling it is evident that the chimney breast and stair had panelling that was probably similar to that brought in from Liden's Adventure. In the end of the room is a door leading into the small leanto room which is a single step down.

The second floor of the main block is unusual, as the main stair ascends in two flights at right angles, thus ascending in the back of the east portion. From the second story hall there are two bedrooms in the main part and one in the wing. Originally the smaller bedroom was two smaller rooms.

The living room chamber has very good panelling and mantel with original paint intact. It has a closet and enclosed stair to the unfinished attic.

There are also two plain rooms above the wing.

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1378

Exeter
Caroline County
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

both were under the same ownership until 1854, giving Exeter the occasional name of "the Mill House."

The house and mill were sold with other land in 1826 to Meshack and John Elliott who held it until the latter's death in 1854. (Deed P/189.) During this period the Exeter Mill was one of the leading businesses in Caroline County. The water-powered mill was built on several tracts and had a large pond of about 100 acres. It was used at various times as a saw mill, a wool carding mill and a grist mill. Burned between 1915 and 1935, the mill was last used to power the generator which provided Federalsburg with its first electricity.

Elliott's executors sold the house separately, in 1854, to William S. Goslin. (Deed CC/129.) The property was thereafter transferred five times until it was acquired by the present owners in 1967. Now unoccupied, Exeter will be restored by the Holts.