

SEP 1 1984

SEP 10 1984

NPS Form 10-900  
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018  
Exp. 10-31-84

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received NOV 14 1984

date entered

DEC 21 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Exeter Waterfront Commercial Historic District

*Boundary Increase*

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number *Water St., Franklin St., Pleasant St., High St.* Chestnut St., Chestnut Hill Avenue  
not for publication

city, town Exeter — vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Rockingham code 015

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town — vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Register of Deeds

street & number Rockingham County Courthouse

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire 03833

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title (See Continuation Sheet 6-1) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

---

## 7. Description

---

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

---

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Exeter Waterfront Commercial Historic District can be logically divided into three areas: 1) The area of Water Street locally known as the "Lower Block", which lies west of the intersection of Water Street and Front Street; 2) The "Upper Block" which is east of this intersection, also including the section of Franklin Street which falls within the District boundaries; and 3) the "Residential and Industrial Area," including sections of High Street, Chestnut Street, Pleasant Street, and Chestnut Hill Avenue.

1) The Lower Block. This section contains the major brick commercial buildings found within the District. The streetscape is rich with buildings in a variety of styles, heights and textures. Dominating this block are six High Victorian Italianate buildings (Sites numbered 10, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 23), the most impressive being the Merrill Building (#10), which exhibits a three-dimensional facade, a variety of window treatments, a bracketed projecting cornice, and two intact cast-iron storefronts. Adding even greater variety are Style's Drugstore (#21) (Sullivan-esque), Lopardo's Jewelers (#25), an 1865 wooden Italianate building, and the Art Deco Smith Building (#9), c. 1935.

2) The Upper Block. This area is predominantly composed of nineteenth century wooden buildings. (This is due to the fact that the area escaped the fire which destroyed a great deal of the Lower Block, and therefore the scale is smaller and more intimate). Again, variety is the keynote. There are three brick buildings: the Folsom Building (#29), the Mayer Building (#30) and the Fire House (#33). Two particularly unusual buildings for this area are the Millworkers' House (#44) and the Gilman Garrison (#42) (National Register of Historic Places, 1976). The backs of the buildings on both these blocks face the Exeter River.

3) Residential and Industrial Area. This area contains primarily residential dwellings, the majority of which date from the Federal period. Excellent examples of this style are the Theophilus Smith House (#52), c. 1776, the Josiah Smith House (#53), 1789, and the Josiah Gilman Smith House (#55), 1830. Two Federal style brick buildings, both known as the Simeon Folsom House, are located at the corner of High Street and Pleasant Street. 8 High Street (#61), built in 1816, has a curved facade and 7-9-11 High Street (#62) has a granite pier and lintel facade. At the crest of a hill on Chestnut Street are three intact houses overlooking the river. The brick Mill Agent's House (#72), the Bell House (#71), and a small Italianate house (#69) built as Judge Bell's law office behind which is a small Victorian era gazebo (#70), now in a state of disrepair. At the bottom of this hill following Chestnut Avenue is the String Bridge which crosses to Kimball's Island on which is located an early eighteenth century mill (#26) and a re-creation of an eighteenth century mill (#27). Upriver from Kimball's Island is the dam at Great Falls over which the Exeter River flows. Located between Pleasant Street and the river is an open area where early mills and, later, mill workers' housing once stood. Through this area runs an underground power trench

(See Continuation Sheet 7-1)

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** various      **Builder/Architect** various

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The settlement of Exeter was begun in 1638 by the Reverend John Wheelwright and a small group of followers escaping religious persecution. They settled at the falls of the Squamscott River which today is enclosed by the District area.

The town developed gradually during its first 150 years, expanding from the river's edge. At this time Exeter's growth depended largely on the development of two industries: the shipbuilding and lumber trades. The riverfront was ideally suited for shipbuilding, and sailing ships of 200 to 500 tons burden weight were built here. Exeter's landing became a major trading area where inland lumber supplies could be sold, milled, and loaded onto ships for delivery up and down the coast. The channel was much deeper than it is today and trade was conducted as far away as the West Indies. By the time of the Revolution a series of wharves lined the river behind Water Street (the area now occupied by the McReel, Smith and Merrill Buildings), with numerous saw and grist mills clustered around the upper and lower dams on the Exeter and Squamscott Rivers.

By 1776, the town center was well established in its present location. A town house, church and tavern were interspersed with dwelling houses. (These form the nucleus of the Exeter Historic District on Front Street which is already included on the National Register). Exeter served as the state capital during the Revolution and this influence generated considerable activity in the waterfront area.

Commercial activity along Water Street continued to develop during the early nineteenth century, particularly with infill construction. High and Pleasant Streets were well established as residential areas; they remain intact today, as does the contiguous industrial complex.

Establishment of the Exeter Manufacturing Company in 1827 stimulated building activity within the district. Mill housing was constructed along what is today Pleasant Street. The growth of this large company forced the decline and eventual demise of the smaller mills along the river. Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Exeter Manufacturing Company was the major industrial employer in town, key to the local economy.

By 1863, gas lights had been installed and the general character

(See Continuation Sheet 8-1)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet 9-1)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 35 acres approx.

Quadrangle name Exeter

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	19	341440	4760580	B	19	341670	4760300
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	19	341300	4760350	D	19	340940	4760400
E	19	341000	4760500	F	19	341150	4760720
G	19	340320	4760780	H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet 10-1)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title (See Continuation Sheet 11-1)

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title New Hampshire Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 10/26/89

For NPS use only

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

*Thomas M. Boyd*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/21/89

Determined Eligible

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

2025 10 1994

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Owners Of Properties in Exeter Historic Commercial District

(See Sketch Map)

<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Tax Assessor's Map Map #-Block #-Parcel #</u>
1. Freedman, George 239 Water Street Exeter, NH 03833	09-09; 04; 010
2. Phillips Exeter Academy Gorham Hall Exeter, NH 03833	09-09; 04; 008
3. Phillips Exeter Academy Gorham Hall Exeter, NH 03833	09-09; 04; 008
4. Dav-Ex Realty Inc. 1306 A Elm Street Manchester, NH 03000	09-09; 04; 011
5. Phillips Exeter Academy Gorham Hall Exeter, NH 03833	09-09; 04; 012
6. Phillips Exeter Academy Gorham Hall Exeter, NH 03833	09-09; 04; 012
7. Phillips Exeter Academy Gorham Hall Exeter, NH 03833	09-09; 04; 012
8. Mantegani, Peter A. 45 Winter Street Exeter, NH 03833	09-09; 04; 013
9. Freedman, George 239 Water Street Exeter, NH 03833	09-09; 04; 014

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- 10. Wexler, Murray & Gussie 09-09; 04; 015  
125 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 11. Wexler, Murray & Gussie 09-09; 04; 015  
125 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 12. Wexler, Murray & Gussie 09-09; 04; 015  
125 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 13. Holland, Everett, 09-09; 04; 016  
Robert Donovan,  
William Beckett, &  
Thomas D. Welch Jr.  
151 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 14. Tennebaum, Abbott & Irena 09-09; 04; 016.001  
141-147 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 15. Seavey, Fredrick C. & Jean H. 09-09; 04; 017  
Dover Point Road  
Dover, NH 03820
- 16. Roberge Photo Shop 09-09; 04; 017.001  
129 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 17. 127 Water Street Corp. 09-09; 04; 018  
125 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 18. Lumb, Inc. 09-09; 04; 019  
236 Main Street  
Biddeford, ME 04005

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- |     |   |                                    |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|
| 19. | Rowe, Chester R. & Anne S.<br>8 Warren Avenue<br>Exeter, NH 03833   | 09-09; 04; 019.001                 |
| 20. | Odd Fellows Bld. Assoc.<br>c/o Lyman Kenison<br>Box 255<br>Exeter, NH 03833                               | 09-10; 14; 001                     |
| 21. | Styles, Frank E. & June C.<br>105-107 Water Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                    | 09-10; 14; 002                     |
| 22. | Kimball, John P. (½ interest)<br>& Robert Kimball (½ interest)<br>99-101 Water Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833 | 09-10; 14; 003                     |
| 23. | Indian Head Bank of Exeter<br>97 Water Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833   | 09-10; 14; 004                     |
| 24. | Haley, Inc., Charles J.<br>85 Water Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 14; 006 &<br>09-10; 14; 005 |
| 25. | Shaw, Selma M.<br>6 Folsom Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833   | 09-10; 14; 007                     |
| 26. | Exeter Investment Co., Inc.<br>String Bridge<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 14; 008                     |
| 27. | Exeter Investment Co., Inc.<br>String Bridge<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 14; 008                     |

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28. Jerkins, Jay P. & Mary Lynn 09-10; 13; 003  
69 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
29. Exeter Masmic Assoc. 09-10; 13; 004  
c/o G. Scammon  
28 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
30. Barn Realty Inc. 09-10; 13; 005  
c/o Fred Schaaque  
P.O. Box 232  
Hampton, NH 03842
31. Hartmann Construction Corp. 09-10; 13; 006  
45 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
32. Field, C. Curtis 09-10; 13; 007  
735 Exeter Road  
Hampton, NH 03842
33. Exeter Investment Co., Inc. 09-10; 13; 008 &  
String Bridge 09-10; 13; 009  
Exeter, NH 03833
34. Catsoules, Anastasios & Mary 09-10; 13; 010  
23 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
35. Stacy Heirs, Lynden J. & Ila M. 09-10; 13; 011  
19-21 Water Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
36. Robie, Donald 09-10; 13; 012  
83 Exeter Road  
North Hampton, NH 03862



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- |     |  |                                    |
|-----|--|------------------------------------|
| 37. | Exeter Investment Co., Inc.<br>String Bridge<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                       | 09-10; 13; 013                     |
| 38. | Exeter Restaurant, Inc.<br>42 Water Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833   | 09-10; 15; 001                     |
| 39. | Bouchard, Carl E. & Pauline M.<br>Epping Road<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                      | 09-10-15; 018                      |
| 40. | Bukowski, J. Joseph<br>Kingston Road<br>Exeter, NH 03833   | 09-10; 15; 017                     |
| 41. | Society for the Preservation<br>of New England Antiquities<br>141 Cambridge Street<br>Boston, MA 02114 | 09-10; 15; 016                     |
| 42. | Society for the Preservation<br>of New England Antiquities<br>141 Cambridge Street<br>Boston, MA 02114 | 09-10; 15; 015                     |
| 43. | Car-Go Home<br>& Auto Centers Inc.<br>Elm Street<br>Manchester, NH 03100                               | 09-10; 20; 001                     |
| 44. | Lapert, Harold & Frances,<br>Trustees Lapert Realty Trust<br>20 Franklin Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833    | 09-10; 21; 010                     |
| 45. | Lampert, Harold & Frances<br>Trustees Lampret Realty Trust<br>20 Franklin Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833   | 09-10; 21; 011 &<br>09-10; 21; 012 |

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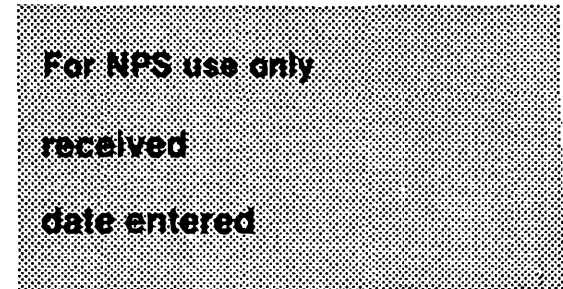
- |     |  |                |
|-----|--|----------------|
| 46. | Hall, Leslie<br>Hedding Road<br>Epping, NH 03042   | 09-10; 21; 009 |
| 47. | Flynn, Michole F.,<br>John W. Flynn 3rd.,<br>& Patricia A. Flynn,<br>Irrevocable Trust, co-Trustees<br>John A. Bell, & Ervin & Kathleen<br>Fazehas<br>Stratham, NH 03885 | 09-10; 21; 008 |
| 48. | Thomas, Wesley L. & Sarah B.<br>35 Pine Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833   | 09-10; 21; 006 |
| 49. | Thomas, Sarah<br>35 Pine Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 21; 005 |
| 50. | Finn, John J.<br>Newfields, NH 03856   | 09-10; 21; 004 |
| 51. | Grossman, Arthur B.<br>21 High Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 21; 003 |
| 52. | Donnell, John R. & Lynn<br>25 High Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 21; 002 |
| 53. | Barry, Helen C.<br>27 High Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 21; 001 |
| 54. | Phillips Exeter Academy<br>Gorham Hall<br>Exeter, NH 03833   | 09-10; 22; 005 |



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- |     |   |                |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 65. | Hawes, Stephen W. & Barbara F.<br>23 Pleasant Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                    | 09-10; 12; 010 |
| 66. | Kacharski, Ladra M. & Margaret<br>1 Chestnut Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                     | 09-10; 12; 009 |
| 67. | Kacharski, Margaret & Ladra M.<br>1 Chestnut Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                     | 09-10; 12; 008 |
| 68. | Roberts, William H. & Roberta F.<br>Stratham, NH 03885  | 09-10; 12; 007 |
| 69. | Balerviey, John P. & Beatrice R.<br>7 Chestnut Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                   | 09-10; 05; 013 |
| 70. | Balerviey, John P. & Beatrice R.<br>7 Chestnut Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                   | 09-10; 05; 013 |
| 71. | Bowler, T. Downing & Janet F.<br>& Donald E. & Louellen R. Tatro<br>North Main Street<br>Plaistow, NH 03865 | 09-10; 05; 012 |
| 72. | Chase, Robert L. & Ann B.<br>11-13 Chestnut Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833                                      | 09-10; 05; 011 |
| 73. | Clemson Fabrics, Inc.<br>Chestnut Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 13; 001 |
| 74. | Clemson Fabrics, Inc.<br>Chestnut Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 13; 002 |
| 75. | Clemson Fabrics, Inc.<br>Chestnut Street<br>Exeter, NH 03833  | 09-10; 13; 018 |

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- 76. Clemson Fabrics, Inc. 09-10; 13; 017  
Chestnut Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 77. Clemson Fabrics, Inc. 09-10; 13; 016  
Chestnut Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 78. Clemson Fabrics, Inc. 09-10; 13; 015  
Chestnut Street  
Exeter, NH 03833
- 79. Clemson Fabrics, Inc. 09-10; 13; 014  
Chestnut Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

Property added in this historic district extension:

- 80. Nike, Inc. 09-01; 011  
3900 Murry Boulevard  
Beaverton, OR 97005

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Historic American Building Survey  
Library of Congress  
10 First Street S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20540/11

- #42 - Gilman Garrison House, Tax Map Ref. No. (09-10;15;015)
- #61 - Simeon Folsom House, Tax Map Ref. No. (09-10;11;006.001)
- #62 - Simeon Folsom House, Tax Map Ref. No. (09-10;11;006)

New Hampshire's Historic Preservation Plan  
1970 /x state  
State of New Hampshire  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
State House Annex  
P.O. Box 856/25 Capitol Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301/33

- #42 Gilman - Clifford Garrison Tax Map Ref. No. (09-10;15;015)  
(HABS - N.H. 18)

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leading from the dam to the former Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex (#80).

Building types found in the District: Most structures in the Exeter Commercial-Historic District retain their original uses, either as commercial buildings or residences. Several of the residential structures are also income-producing, usually as apartments. Sixteen High Street (#59) contains a doctor's office, and the Josiah Gilman Smith House (#55) is occupied by the offices of Foster's Daily Democrat, a local newspaper. The Gilman Garrison (#42), originally a garrison and residence, is now owned by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, and is operated as a museum. The former Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex, most recently occupied by Nike, the shoe manufacturer, is vacant.

General Conditions of Buildings: The majority of the structures in the Exeter Commercial Historic District are in good to excellent physical condition. Several of the commercial structures have had their street-level facades altered. Those remaining basically intact are the Merrill Building (#10), Carlisle Building (#18), Styles' Drug Store (#21), Moore Building (#19), Kimball's Hardware (#22), Folsom Building (#29), and the Mayer Building (#30). A later alteration interesting in its own right and unique to the district is the polychrome storefront tile on the Burlingame Building (#20). Also of special interest are the two neon signs on Styles' Drug Store (#21). Several Georgian and Federal period houses on High Street and Pleasant Street (#49, 56, 58, 60, 65) were remodeled during the Victorian era. Remodeling included the addition of polygonal bay windows on the ground floor facades and the modernization of some entries.

Qualities that make the District distinct from its Surroundings: The Exeter Commercial Historic District flanks the Squamscott and Exeter Rivers, which are important to Exeter both historically and visually. The rivers were instrumental in Exeter's early development, providing power for the mills, commercial transportation, and an early shipbuilding industry.

Visually, the Squamscott River is an asset, and plans for the revitalization of downtown Exeter provide for commercial and residential use of the waterfront area. The southern shoreline of the Squamscott contains several types of retaining walls. At the easterly edge behind Lopardo's Jewelers (#25) is a granite retaining wall which is in good condition except for a few spots where erosion and tree roots have caused small breaks. West of Merrill's Block (#10) is a low stone embankment, and beyond it is a wooden bulkhead which frames the Exeter Boathouse inlet. The bulkhead appears to be substantially damaged and is in need of major repairs. A cut-granite retaining wall surrounds Kimball's Island on all four sides. The shores of the Exeter River are also lined with granite retaining walls which are generally in good repair.

(See Continuation Sheet 7-2)

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The District also includes a block of brick commercial buildings which are different in scale and style from any in the surrounding area. The Gilman Garrison (#42) is a unique building, the only garrison still standing in the immediate area (National Register of Historic Places, 9-12-76; HABS).

Efforts have been made to upgrade the appearance of both the upper and lower block, including the maintenance of sidewalks and recent tree plantings.

District Map &  
Survey Number

Description\*

1. Wooden building, 239 Water Street: 2-story, flat roofed, 4 x 3-bay house with a rear addition. The street level facade has plate glass storefront windows with a recessed entry and a door in the west bay containing an elliptical window. Between the first and second floor is an old sign: "George and Phillips, Inc." The second floor facade has two paired one-over-one windows with molded backbands, cornerboards, a large projecting cornice, and clapboards. The foundation is cut granite and brick. Victorian/Vernacular, 1875 (09-09;04;010). C
2. Wooden building, 235 Water Street: 2½ story, 5 x 1 bay, hip roof with a denticulated cornice. The recessed central entry is flanked by fluted pilasters supporting a full entablature with a denticulated soffit. A single gable window dormer is centered above the entry. A 3 x 5 bay, 2½ story wing with its gable end facing the street is attached to the south elevation. Its paired door entry is flanked by two single-hung two-over-one windows. Federal, c. 1786 (wing, c.1890) (09-09; 04; 008). C
3. Commercial/Residential, 231 Water Street, 2-story, 3 x 3 bay, gable end facing the street. The center bay contains three revealed doorways, the flanking bays having display windows. The facade has brick shingle siding. Vernacular, c.1920 (09-09; 04; 008). C

\*All "contributing" properties are marked with a "C" at the end of their descriptions. They are listed in sequence according to their map and survey numbers. "Non-contributing" properties are listed separately, at the end.

(See Continuation Sheet 7-3)



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5. Phillips Exeter Academy Boathouse: a central 2-story gable roofed block with sheds attached to both lateral elevations. The boathouse is 3x10 bays, sided with wooden shingles, with one gable wall near the water. In this wall are three modern garage doors, each with a ramp leading to the floats. Other features include an interior brick chimney on each end, a belt course between the first and second story, cornerboards, and six over six windows with plain boards for surrounds. The lateral eaves project and raking boards are on the gable ends. The front gable has a 32-pane window. Shingle Style, 1945 (09-09;04;012). C
  
7. The McReel Building, 191-195 Water Street: a 2-story, flat roofed brick structure with a curving yellow brick facade, 9 bays wide. The facade contains a slight two bay projection (the westernmost bays) and a slight-one bay projection (third bay from the east), a stone belt course between floors, and stone quoins on the corners of the building and outside edges of the projecting bays. At street level there are brick piers between the windows and doors. A simple metal column has replaced one of the piers. A stone entablature with dentil frieze is above the main door on the single bay projection. Window treatment consists of stone sills and radiating voussoir brickwork with keystones. Across the top of the building is a corbeled cornice and a paneled stone parapet. Neo-Classical, c. 1930 (09-09;04;012). C
  
8. Louise's Sport Shop, 183 Water Street: an early, gable roofed, free standing brick structure, 2½ stories, 3x2 bays, with a brick and stone foundation, oriented gable end toward the street. A recent gable front addition has been added to the facade. Greek Revival c. 1825 (09-09;04;013). C
  
9. The Smith Building, 173-179 Water Street: a 2-story, 6x6 bay, brick structure with a flat roof. The street level facade is recent, consisting of grey bricks running in straight courses, two windows have been bricked in. The second story is of yellow brick arranged in rectangular patterns. Square white tiles with a cross design are located in the corners of the rectangular patterns and upper corners of the windows. A brick parapet with white coping has a rounded central motif containing a white ornamental plaque. Below the plaque is a white inscription stone, "Smith Building". Art Deco c. 1935 (09-09;04;014). C

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10. Merrill Building, 163 Water Street: a 3-story Italianate commercial block, the brick facade highlighted by three projecting sections topped by pediments, the central section is one bay wide, the flanking sections are 3 bays wide. Each pediment has a projecting cornice with returns. Connecting the three pediments is a prominent bracketed cornice, with a corbeled architrave below.

The window treatment adds a three dimensional character to the facade. On the two upper stories each bay contains a paired one over one peaked window. On the top they are set beneath stilted segmental-arched window caps, on the second story the caps are peaked. All the lintels have keystones.

In the central bay are paired round headed windows with a circular window between, set beneath half round stilted-arched caps with keystones. All the windows have stone sills.

Two original cast iron storefront remains at the north end of the facade. High Victorian Italianate, 1873 (09-09;04;015). C

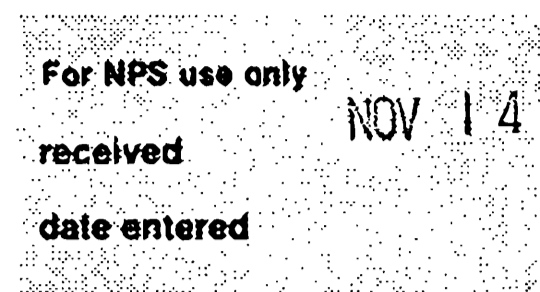
12. Brick Boathouse, 163 Water Street: 1½ stories 1x4 bay with its gable end facing the river. Windows and doors have semi-elliptical surrounds. Two shed dormers span the northern half of the building and contain casement type windows. Italianate, c. 1875 (09-09;04;014). C
13. 149-153 Water Street: 1 story, flat roofed, 10 bay, brick structure with a corbeled brick parapet and metal coping. Commercial Vernacular, c. 1910 (09-09;04;016). C
14. Brick Commercial Building, 141-147 Water Street: a 2½ story, 4 bay, brick building oriented gable end toward the street with closed pediment. A corbeled three-part entablature is present on the east and west-elevations, supported by brick pilasters with corbeled caps. There are two windows on the gable wall and four on the second floor all of which

have one over one sash with granite lintels and sills.

The store front of Moana's Lunch consists of a recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows with wooden trim and paired transom lights. A metal belt course spans the store front. The second floor entry is located in the east bay and includes a glass wood framed door with a single transom light. Abbot's recessed door is flanked by plate glass windows with aluminum trim. Aluminum letters on a vinyl background encased with aluminum trim with painted corner blocks constitutes the storefront sign. Greek Revival, c. 1865 (09-09;04;016.001). C

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15. Early 20th. Century Commercial, 135 Water Street: a 1-story, 6 bay, brick building with plate glass storefront windows, recessed doors, a heavy wooden cornice supported by four large scrolled brackets and two smaller brackets, and a stepped parapet with tin coping. The interior of Moody's still has a pressed tin ceiling. 20th. Century Commercial, c. 1895 (09-09;04;017). C
17. Wooden Building, 127 Water Street: clapboarded, 2½ stories, with gable oriented to the street. The boxed cornice has a pronounced return. Between the first and second floor across the front of the building is a partial entablature with a denticulated frieze. Windows are two over one. The street level facade is undergoing alterations but the second floor entry is in the west bay beneath a two light transom. Greek Revival, 1860 (09-09;04;018). C
18. The Carlisle Building, 119-123 Water Street: 2-story brick building, 7 bays, and hip roofed. The central bay of the facade is articulated by projecting brickwork and a central peak with the date "1875" attached. The brick-denticulated wooden cornice is supported by four small brackets, and two large console brackets at the ends. Above the second floor windows is a corbeled table. Triangular headed second floor windows have stone sills and stilted straight sided segmental-arches with keystones and connecting impost. Door and windows at the street level are beneath similar arches which are considerably hidden mostly by signage. A sawtooth course separates the first and second floors. High Victorian Italianate, 1875. (09-09;04;019) C.
19. The Moore Building, 115 Water Street: 2-story, 4 bay, flat roofed brick commercial building. Above the storefront is a stained glass window lettered "Moore & Seekins" above which is a metal cornice decorated with geometric designs and supported by brick pilasters. The recessed western bay is treated separately, containing the entry to the second floor which lies beneath a Gothic arch supported by brick pilasters with corbeled impost. A brick sawtooth course spans the entire length of the facade dividing the first and second floors. In the west bay a single paired two over two window with a recessed segmented brick arch, rests below a corbel table which appears to be a continuation from the Carlisle building. The remaining three bays contain recessed, paired two-over-two windows beneath stilted segmented arches. Large console brackets at the ends support a full entablature composed of a brick denticulated wooden cornice with a wide paneled frieze and a denticulated architrave. High Victorian Italianate, 1875 (09-09;04;019.001), C

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20. The Burlingame Building, 109-113 Water Street: brick structure, 3 stories, 6 bays, low pitched gable roof. The facade contains three recessed entries, plate glass windows; and decorative tile. Above the tile facade is a fluted aluminum belt course. The end bays of the second and third floors contain single windows; all other bays contain paired windows. Second-floor windows are two-over-two, with semi-elliptical heads. The end windows are set beneath stilted semi-elliptical arches with keystones; paired windows are set beneath stilted segmental archivolt which contain a central motif resembling a keystone. Stone pilasters are set between the paired windows. The third-floor windows are round-headed and are set beneath horseshoe arches with keystones and a circular motif between the window head and arches. The wooden entablature includes a denticulated frieze, boxed cornice, large console and brackets, and smaller, evenly-spaced brackets. High Victorian Italianate, 1874. (09-10;14;001). C
21. Styles' Drugstore, 105-107 Water Street: 2-story, 3 bays, flat roofed, brick structure. The recessed main entry is flanked by plate glass windows surrounded by marbeleized glass with bronze grillwork at the ground level. A metal sign conceals most of the intact store facade, which includes a stained glass window. Above this flat sign, projecting from the facade between the two second-floor windows, is an illuminated neon "Rexall" store sign which probably dates from the 1940s and is one of the last surviving examples of this once-common type of advertising in the New Hampshire seacoast area. The corners of the building are articulated with staggered tan pressed-brick quoins. Two large, three-sided projecting Sullivanesque windows make up the second floor facade. These windows are crowned with semi-elliptical sandstone archivolt with a guilloche moulding and a keystone in the form of a console. Below the arches are windows with radiating tracery. A heavy bronze denticulated cornice is supported at the ends by bronze consoles decorated with acanthus leaves. A corbelled parapet contains a central panel which supports a bronze mortar and pestle. The coping is granite. Sullivanesque c 1880 (09-10;14;002). C.
22. Kimball's Hardware, 99-101 Water Street; two-story, six bay, flat-roofed, brick commercial building. The recessed main entry is flanked by single plate-glass windows with transom lights. Two chamfered wooden columns resting on paneled pedestals, and two outside brick pilasters support a chamfered lintel which spans the five-bay store front. Between each pilaster and column are single-paned windows with paired transom sashes. Second-floor windows have segmental voussoir Gothic arches with stone voussoirs and keystones. Small inset "cross" panels are placed in the brickwork between the arches, and above them is an elaborate corbeled belt course. A plain parapet is topped by a corbelled cornice with a granite coping.

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At the right is a recessed bay with a round stilted keystone archway over the glass entry door to the second floor. A narrow sawtooth course above the main entry extends the chamfered lintel beam into this bay. Above the doorway is a single second-floor window with a two-over-two sash, wooden sill, and granite lintel. The elaborate belt course on the five-bay portion of the facade to the left is not continued in this bay, although a corbeled course is suggested. The corbeled cornice and granite coping does continue onto this bay. High Victorian Italianate, 1872 (09-10; 14; 003). C

23. Indian Head Bank, 93-97 Water Street: 7 bays, 3 stories, flat roofed, brick building with a heavy wooden scroll-bracketed entablature. Between the brackets are wooden panels, the central panel bears the date 1860. Beneath the entablature is a double corbeled string course. The seven bays of the second and third floors are recessed between plain brick pilasters. The third story windows, four over four, are beneath stilted segmental arches while the second story windows, also four over four, are beneath semi-circular arches. The new street level facade consists of three large semi-elliptical arches, the center one larger, which form an arcade. High Victorian Italianate, 1860 (09-10; 14; 004). C

24. The Janvrin Block, 91 Water Street: a gabled roofed, 2½ story brick building. At street level a series of brick arches are covered by a shingled awning over the door and windows. One arch is still completely visible on the east wall. A granite sill course underlines the second floor windows which are clustered in threes. Beneath the corbeled cornice is an inscription stone. An elevated addition with novelty siding is attached to the rear of the building and continues onto the back of the Indian Head Bank. 19th century Commercial Building/Federal Survival, 1860 (09-10; 14; 006 & 005). C

25. Wooden Building, 83 Water Street; 2-story, clapboard, wood-framed, hip-roofed, 3x7 bay commercial building. A boxed cornice with a denticulated frieze is supported by large drop scroll brackets. A wooden belt course with a water table separates the first and second floors. Two single-paned windows on the second floor facade have simple surrounds. The glass storefront facade is trimmed with aluminum and imitation Carrera glass above. The second floor east elevation contains one large picture window flanked by single windows with four-over-four sash. The five remaining windows have two-over-two sash and plain surrounds. The first floor east elevation has five bays with a glass entry flanked by two side lights with a transom light above. Two paired windows with two-over-two sash are to the north of this side entry. A two story, two by three, flat-roofed ell is present. Italianate, c.1865 (09-10; 14; 007) C

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26.	The Exeter Investment Co., String Bridge: 1½ story, 8x2 bays, gable roofed, clapboarded, post and beam structure. The building is framed with massive timbers. Architectural details include: brick and stone foundation, two interior end chimneys just behind the ridge; one chimney with a pot near the front wall, raking boards in the eaves, plain cornerboards, windows with plain boards for surrounds, and a bay window with small panes of glass. Attached to the north gable is a brick structure 4x2 bays, with braced framing, and large windows with 12 panes of glass. Georgian, c. 1710 (09-10;14;008). C		
27.	Wooden structure, String Bridge: A reproduction of an earlier structure on the Island and similar in form to the Exeter Investment Co. building, also on the Island. Clapboarded, six-over-six windows, two bay windows, and 1½ stories in height. Georgian Reproduction, 1978 (09-10;14;008). C		
28.	Water Street Gallery, 69 Water Street: 2½ story, 3x4 bay, clapboarded, granite and brick foundation, gable to road oriented commercial building. The multi-paneled storefront entry on the facade is flanked by simple door surrounds supporting a semi-circular door head. Two nine-paned display windows flank this entry. The second floor entry, a six panel door with plain surrounds and a transom, is located at the east bay of the facade. Wide corner boards support a boxed cornice and returns. Second floor windows have six over six sash, plain surrounds, and architrave trim. Greek Revival c. 1840 (09-10;13;003). C		
29.	The Folsom Building, 59-65 Water Street: 9 bays, 2 stories, flat roofed. The use of arches and brown stone columns, on the second floor, gives the Folsom Building its Romanesque flavor. The second story facade is divided into three units. The central unit contains a Palladian style window, a wide one-over-one window; flanked by round engaged Ionic columns and narrow one-over-one windows flanked by Ionic pilasters, beneath an entablature which is recessed over the central window and a central semi-circular window beneath a brick arch with a volute acanthus leaf keystone and a recessed panel on either side of the arch. Above the Palladian motif window is a title and date stone, now covered by a Masonic Temple sign. Each outside unit of the facade is composed of three tall one over one round headed windows on brownstone sills, and brownstone round engaged columns with foliate caps which flank the middle window. Over the windows are stilted semi-circular arches and above each is a diamond design in the architrave of the brick entablature. The entablature with sawtooth course, egg molding frieze, and copper cornice runs across the front of the building. The street level facade contains three slopes and an entrance to the second floor. Romanesque, 1896 (09-10;13;004). C		

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30. Mayer Building, 55 Water Street: 2 story, 6 bay, pressed tan brick movie house. The 3 bay entry contains paired doors above which are displayed keystone arches. Above these entries are 3 round arch second floor windows with six over six sash. The arches are filled in with concrete and a square brick motif is at the center of each. The projecting "Ioka" marquee is positioned between the entry and the second floor windows. An inscription stone lettered "Mayer Building A.D. 1915" sits above the arched windows and is flanked by two square concrete panels. A three-part concrete entablature lies below the monitor roof which contains three raised brick header panels. Colonial Revival, 1915. (09-10;13;005). C
31. Wooden Building, 45 Water Street: 2½ story, 4 bay, clapboard commercial building. The recessed store entry is flanked by display windows. A second story entry is located on the west bay of the facade. A shingled shed roof awning spans the entire storefront. Second story windows have eight over eight sash. The boxed cornice returns and a wide frieze board is present. Colonial Revival, c. 1900 (09-10;13;006). C
32. Wooden Building, 39-43 Water Street: 2½ story, 4 bay, clapboarded commercial building. The recessed store entry is flanked by display windows with imitation Carrera glass below. The present day store front sign covers an earlier paneled sign. Second story windows have two-over-one sash with Greek Revival surrounds and corner blocks with a patera motif. Wide paneled cornerboards support a boxed cornice which returns. A wide frieze board is present. Two narrow windows with one over one sash, Greek Revival surrounds with corner blocks containing a patera motif, and connected by a long sill, are located on the gable wall. A flat roof single story wing containing an entry and display window is located off the west elevation. Greek Revival, c. 1833. (09-10;13;007). C
33. Fire House, 27-37 Water Street: 2½ story, 4x3 bay, gable orientated brick fire house with a slate roof. The storefront entry is set on the west bay with display windows spanning the remaining portion of the facade. All windows have two over two sash, granite sills, and arched window heads. Wide corbeled corner pilasters support a complete entablature with a denticulated architrave. A round, four-paned window, with header surrounds sits in the gable wall. A four-sided cupola straddles the ridge line at the north elevation. A 3x4 bay, 2½ story, gable roofed ell projects from the north gable with a flat roof one story, gable roofed ell projects from the north gable with a flat roof one story 3 bay ell projecting from its east elevation. There is a small courtyard in front recently landscaped. The facade has 3 bays. The arched entry is in the east bay. Two paired display doors with arched windows above and arched surrounds complete this facade. Victorian Vernacular, 1873 (09-10;13;008&9). C

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34. Wooden Building, 23-25 Water Street: 2½ stories, 5x5 bays, post and beam structure, with the gable oriented toward the street. The front wall is rusticated with staggered quoins, a projecting cornice with returns, and evenly spaced shall scroll brackets. Window surrounds are two-over-two and consist of a plain wooden lintel supported by paneled pilasters and a plain sill with two wooden corbels beneath the pilasters. At street level are plate glass windows, a recessed central entry, six fluted pilasters and a projecting cornice supported by evenly spaced simple brackets. Italianate, c. 1860 (09-10;13;010). C
35. Wooden Commercial Building, 19-21 Water Street: 2½ story, 6x6 bay, low pitched gable roof concealed by a wooden parapet. The west storefront consisting of paired plate glass windows, a recessed entry, and a bracketed entablature over the storefront. The second floor contains six-over-one window sash. The east facade, contains plate glass windows, a shingled shed projection over the first floor facade, two-over-one window sash on the second floor, and six-over-six smaller attic windows. All windows have simple surrounds. Two doors are located in the center of the building, one with a six light transom. The entire building is sided with asphalt shingles. A simple wooden entablature runs across the front of the building beneath the parapet. Multiple additions have been attached to the rear of the building. Italianate Vernacular, c. 1870 (09-10;13;011). C
36. Wooden Building, 9-11 Water Street: 2½ story, 3x5 bay, gable oriented, clapboarded building. The center facade entry is flanked by two large display windows, each having a transom with two lights above. All windows have two over two sash with plain surrounds and architrave trim. The boxed cornice returns. A 2x2 bay flat roof single story projects off the rear. The entry to this ell is covered a shed roof porch supported by a square column which also supports an elliptical archway between it and the main block. Vernacular, c. 1870 (09-10;13;012). C
37. Wooden Building, 1-9 Water Street: 2½ story, 3x5 bay, structure with stone foundations, clapboards, plain cornerboards, and a pedimented gable oriented toward the street. A gable-roofed, 2½ story wing extends from the southwest corner of the building and a one story addition is attached to the wing. Windows are two-over-two with plain surrounds containing cornerblocks. The 2½ story wing and 1 story addition contains plate glass windows at street level. The addition has a plain parapet. Greek Revival, c. 1840 (09-10;13;013). C

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38. Restaurant, 42 Water Street: 1 story, 9x6 bay, clapboarded with projecting cornice, a wide architrave, single corner pilasters, hip roof with central peak over door and a vented cupola. A one story, flat roofed, brick rear addition. Colonial Revival, c. 1918 (09-10;15;001). C
40. Exeter Supply Co., 24 Water Street: 2½ story, 3x8 bay, stone foundation. Clapboarded, gable to the street, metal roof. Other features include a boxed cornice with returns, plain cornerboards, two-over-two windows with molded backbands, a central entry flanked by two large bay windows with plate glass windows and a boxed cornice two bay windows on the second floor with a cornice supported by scroll brackets, and rear ells. Italianate c. 1870 (09-10;15;017). C
41. Wooden Building, 20 Water Street: 2½ story, 3x3 bay, gable to the street, pedimented gable, side hall entry, stone foundation. Windows are six over six with simple surrounds. The small attic window has a triangular window head. Across the front is a hip roofed porch, enclosed across two bays and open in front of the door with a square column. There is a shed addition on the rear. Greek Revival, c. 1830 (09-10;15;016). C
42. Gilman Garrison, 12 Water Street: Georgian/Garrison Style c. 1700: National Register of Historic Places, (9-12-76) HABS. C
44. Mill Housing "The Long House": 4-10 Franklin Street: 2½ story, 12x2 bays, clapboarded, brick foundation, wooden framed mill housing with 6 interior offset corbeled cap chimneys. Two double multi-light center entries are present on the facade. The west entry is flanked by plain pilasters supporting a full entablature with an inscription plate on the frieze. The symmetrically placed windows have six-over-four sash with simple surrounds. The cornice is boxed with a molding between the fascia and soffit. Federal, 1826 (09-10;21;010). C
46. House, 1 High Street: 1½ story, gable to road, 5x1 bay, wood shingled house. A veranda supported by four columns, between which is a balustrade with turned balusters spans the facade (west elevation). Facade windows have two over one sash with plain surrounds and architrave trim. A four bay shed roof wall dormer is located on the west elevation above the veranda. A simple bay shed roof ell is located off the south gable. The basement is exposed containing five windows with two over two sash below the porch. C. 1860-1870 (09-10;21;009). C

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47. Apartment House, 5 High Street: 2½ story, 3x2 bay, gable oriented to road, vinyl siding and a brick foundation. The entry to the ground floor apartment is located on the corner of the east elevation. A staircase to the second floor apartment is located on the west elevation. Ground floor windows have six-over-six sash, second story windows are longer but retain the six over six sash. A full basement is present. c. 1880 (09-10;21;008). C
48. House, 11 High Street: 2 story, shingled, wood frame, 3x2 bay, gable oriented to the road. The sidehall entry is enclosed in a shed roof pavilion. Facade windows have two over two sash, simple surrounds, and window hoods supported by simple brackets. The foundation is cut granite and a full basement is present. An interior stove chimney with a corbeled cap lies west of the ridge line. Federal, c. 1789 (09-10;21;006). C
49. Capt. James Hackett House, Apartment House, 13 & 15 High Street: 2½ story, granite foundation, clapboarded house with two interior offset chimneys rising from the rear wall. The facade is dominated by a paired door with plain surrounds surmounted by a flat roof door hood supported by two curvilinear console brackets. Flanking this entry are two flat roofed three-sided bay windows. The middle bay of each contains a pair of round headed windows supported by raised, paneled, pilasters. This side contains single round headed windows. Second story windows have nine over six sash, simple surrounds, and architrave trim. The entry on the west elevation is covered by a shed roof porch supported by tapering square columns. A 3x2 bay projects off the southeast corner of the south elevation. The boxed cornice returns. Georgian, c. 1786 (09-10;21;005). C
50. Jewett Hoyt House, 17 High Street: 2 story, 4x2 bay, post-and-beam house with a granite foundation. The entire first floor and the gable ends have clapboard siding, the second story has staggered shingle siding. The facade entry is flanked by fluted pilasters supporting a hip-roofed entablature. Two broad windows with one-over-one sash, simple surrounds, and molded window heads flank this entry. A single interior chimney rises from the rear wall. A 2x2 bay, 2 story ell projects from the southwest corner of the south elevation. Georgian, c. 1765 (09-10;21;004). C

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- 51. House, 21 High Street: 2½ story, 2x3 bay, asbestos-cement shingled house with the gable facade oriented toward the road. The multi-paneled door of the main entry is topped by a flat roof door hood supported by two drop scroll Stick Style (cape) console brackets. A hip-roofed 3 sided bay projection lies to the west of the facade entry. All windows have two over two sash and simple surrounds. A 2x1 bay projects from the south elevation and a single bay, 1 story projection with a car port lies off the south elevation and a single bay, 1 story projection with a car port lies off the east elevation. Vernacular c. 1878 (09-10;21;003). C
- 52. Theophilus Smith House, 25 High Street: 2 story, 5x2 bay, hip roofed house with feather edge clapboards, a granite foundation, and two interior offset chimneys. Below a Federal fan, with a sun motif at the focal point, lies the multi-paneled facade entry flanked by ¾ side-lights which are flanked by tapering plain pilasters supporting a full entablature. All windows have plain surrounds and architrave trim. Second story windows have molded heads. The east elevation is dominated by a narrow, pedimented entry pavilion containing a six paneled door above which is a four light transom. A 5x2 bay, 2 story, gable roof wing projects from the southwest corner of the south elevation containing a multi-paneled center entry. A small single story, gable roof, 4x1 bay ell projects off the gable end of the wing. Federal, c. 1780 (09-10;21;002). C
- 53. Josiah Smith House, west side Gilman Lane: 2½ story, 5x2 bay, gable roofed house with a granite foundation, and a massive interior chimney located east of the ridge line. This facade is dominated by a gable roof 2 story single bay pavilion containing a 6 paneled door flanked by ¾ sidelights and topped by a Federal fan with a sun motif at the focal point. The full entablature over the fan is supported by tapering plain pilasters. Above the entry is a round headed window with eight over eight sash and Federal tracery above, the surrounds are simple with architrave trim. Period windows with nine over six sash and all windows have plain surrounds, large sills and architrave trim. The boxed cornice returns. A soffit molding is present on the facade. A 3x2 bay, 2 story ell projects from the gable of this ell. A 4x1 bay, 1 story, multi-light, flat roofed enclosed porch lies off the south gable. Federal, 1789 (09-10;21;001). C

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54. Gardner-Gilman House, 29 High Street: 2½ story, 6x2 bay, gable roof, wood-framed house with clapboard siding and a cut granite foundation. The four-paneled facade entry is flanked by ¾ sidelights and narrow pilasters, covered by a gable roof porch supported by turned narrow columns. Above this entry is a long window with six over six over six sash. All period windows have six over six sash, simple surrounds, and architrave trim. Wide cornerboards support a two-part entablature with molding between the soffit and frieze. There are 2 large chimneys with beautifully corbeled caps. Federal, c. 1799 (09-10;22;005). C
55. Josiah Gilman Smith House, 35 High Street: 2½ story, 5x2 bay, gable roof, granite foundation recently covered with aluminum siding. The six paneled door of the main entry is flanked by ¾ sidelights and plain pilasters; and covered by a lattice work/pedimented entry hood which is supported by two chamfered columns. Windows have blinds, six over six sash, simple surrounds, and architrave trim. A 2 story, 2x2 bay, ell with a corbeled capped chimney projects from the north elevation connecting to a 3 bay gable roof garage. Originally a residence now used as a newspaper office. Federal, c. 1830 (09-10;22;004). C
56. Capt. J. Thurston House, 30 High Street: 2½ story, 5x2 bay, wooden framed, clapboarded house with two interior (offset) chimneys and a cut granite foundation. The six paneled door of the main entry is flanked by ¾ sidelights and narrow pilasters supporting a narrow door hood. Two 3-sided projecting bays have been added to the facade, each with paired arched windows. All other windows have six over six sash, plain surrounds, and architrave trim. Wide cornerboards support a boxed cornice and a wide frieze board. A 2 story, 3x2 bay gable roofed ell projects from the northwest corner of the north elevation. Georgian, c. 1760 (09-10;07;026). C
57. Apartment House, 24-26 High Street: 2½ story, 4x3 bay, gable roof, clapboarded house with a granite and brick foundation. The sidehall entry contains a multi-paneled door with dog ear surrounds and is capped by a pedimented door hood supported by two scroll brackets. Facade windows have blinds, six over six sash with Greek Revival surrounds and corner blocks. Wide paneled cornerboards support the boxed cornice and returns. The east elevation contains a 1x3 bay, 1 story hip roofed projection recessed with a side entry consisting of a 6 paneled door flanked by ¾ sidelights and covered by a hip roof porch supported by two tapering square columns. A flat roof 1 story 3x4 bay ell projects from the northwest corner of the north elevation. Greek Revival, c. 1834 (09-10;07;025). C

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58. Col. Boardman Tavern, 20-22 High Street: 2½ story, 4x2 bay, gable roof, twin inset chimneys, and a cut granite foundation. The facade is dominated by two, 3-sided, 2 story projecting bays. Each of the two center hall entries contain a paired door with round headed window panels. This entry is covered by a flat roof porch, with a boxed cornice and a denticulated soffit, supported by scrolled console brackets resting on 3 square chamfered columns and two chamfered pilasters. The entire facade wall has coursed ashlar siding while the remaining elevations are clapboarded. Wide cornerboards support a completed entablature. A 2 story 4x2 bay gable roof ell projects from the north elevation. Federal, c. 1805 (09-10;11;009). C
59. House, 16 High Street: originally a 2½ story, 5x2 bay salt box with a granite foundation it has been enlarged with a 2½ story 1x2 bay gable roof addition off the west gable giving the house its present 6 bay facade. The center hall entry has a 6 paneled door flanked by ¾ sidelights with a louvered Federal fan above and tapering pilasters which support a full entablature. The first story facade and gable windows have nine over six sash; second story facade windows have six over six sash and all windows have plain surrounds with architrave trim. The massive center chimney has been replaced by twin stove chimneys which rise from the interior wall of the rear elevation. Georgian, c. 1756 (09-10;11;008). C
60. House, 10 High Street: 2½ story, 5x2 bay, gable-roof, with twin inset chimneys. The center hall main entry is flanked by ¾ sidelights which are flanked by plain pilasters and covered by a flat porch which is supported by scroll brackets on square columns and Stick Style curvilinear brackets running along the frieze. Two projecting 3-sided bays with hipped roofs supported by 6 curve brackets on narrow paneled pilasters flank the main entry. All other windows have two over two sash, simple surrounds and architrave trim. A 2 story, 2x2 bay ell connects the north elevation with a gable roof garage. Federal, c. 1816. (09-10;11;007). C
61. Simeon Folsom House, 8 High Street: 3 story, 3x2 bay, gable roof, round-front brick structure. The facade entry contains a plain door with a round header archway above. Windows are two over two with plain surrounds. A round inset plaque with header surrounds details the center of the facade. The cornice is boxed, mutules with guttae holes adorn the soffit, a rope molding is present between soffit and frieze, and sawtooth guttae adorn the frieze. There are two chimneys, one interior with a corbeled cap on the west elevation, and one massive chimney with two vaults rising from the rear wall of the north elevation. Federal, c. 1816 (09-10;11;006.001). C

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62. Simeon Folsom House, 7-9-11 High Street: 3½ story, 7x3 bay gable roof, brick commercial/residential building. Each of the three facade entries are topped by a transom with four lights, and enclosed with painted granite surrounds and a granite belt course above. The symmetrically placed windows on the second and third stories of the facade have two over two sash with wood sills and granite lintels. There are two interior end chimneys with corbeled caps on the west elevation. An arched brick basement entry is on the northwest corner of the west corner of the west elevation. Federal, c. 1830 (09-10;11;006). C
63. Apartment House, 15-17 Pleasant Street: 2½ story, 5x4 bay, 9 pedimented gables to road orientation structure. The four paneled door of the main entry is flanked by sealed up full sidelights which are flanked by simple tapering pilasters supporting a 2-part entablature. First floor windows have two-over-two sash, second floor windows and gable wall windows have six-over-six sash, all windows have simple surrounds and architrave trim. There are two large interior chimneys with corbeled caps, and two interior offset stove chimneys. Greek Revival, c. 1837 (09-10;12;005). C
64. House, 2 Hall Place: 2½ story, 5x2 bay, granite foundation, twin inset chimneys with the pedimented gable roof. A hipped-roof 11x2 bay porch encloses the front entry. Second floor windows have two-over-two sash and flat-bracketed window hoods. The gable wall contains 2 windows, each has six-over-six sash and bracketed hoods. A gable roof, 2 story 2x7 bay ell projects from the north elevation. Federal c. 1820 (09-10;12;001). C
65. House, 23 Pleasant Street: 2 story, 5x2 bay, gable roofed house with a granite foundation and aluminum siding. The facade is dominated by two three sided projecting bays. A 6 paneled center hall entry is topped by a transom with 3 lights above which rests a flat door hood supported by two curvilinear console brackets. A wide frieze board with a soffit/frieze molding is evident on the facade and the box cornice returns. Federal, c. 1820 (09-10;12;010). C
66. Mill Housing, 25-27-29 Pleasant Street: 2½ story, 2x10 bay, gable to road orientated mill house with staggered asphalt shingling. The two center hall entries on the east elevation are covered by a shed roof 2x3 bay enclosed porches. Three chimneys remain; a massive center chimney straddles the ridge line between the two units, and two stove chimneys, one at the southwest corner and the other at the northeast corners of the main block. A shed roof garage abuts the facade at the basement level. Federal, c. 1826 (09-10;12;009). C

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67. Apartment House, 1-3 Chestnut Street: 2½ story, 5x3 bay, granite and brick foundation with gable to road orientation. The main entry has plain surrounds and is topped by a denticulated door hood supported by two curvilinear console brackets. Windows have six-over-six sash, simple surrounds, molded trim, second floor and gable wall windows have flat hoods. Wide cornerboards support a denticulated frieze with a boxed cornice and returns. A 2 bay, 1½ story, gable roof ell projects from the north elevation and contains a denticulated flat roof side (east) entry. Greek Revival, c. 1844 (09-10;12;008). C
68. Apartment House, 5 Chestnut Street: 3 story, 3x2 bay, granite foundation, gable to road orientated. The paired center hall entry has molded surrounds and is covered by a flat roof porch with square columns supporting a full entablature. The long windows have two-over-two sash, simple surrounds, and architrave trim. Wide paneled cornerboards support a full entablature and a boxed cornice and returns. This unit was added onto a Georgian saltbox (c. 1770) whose features include: windows with six-over-six sash, simple surrounds, and architrave trim, a center hall entry covered by a pedimented door hood supported by two square columns. Colonial Revival, c. 1910 (09-10;12;007). C
69. Judge Bell's Law Office, 7 Chestnut Street: 1½ story, 3x2 bays, clapboarded, central entry, slate roof, gable roof. The central door has fluted door surrounds, with a gable roofed portico with a balustrade with turned posts. The door in the south gable has a slightly pedimented door hold on drop scroll brackets. The boxed cornice has returns and is supported by paired scroll brackets. Italianate c. 1880 (09-10;05;013). C
70. Gazebo, 7 Chestnut Street: a small gazebo with multiple gables, decorative barge board, vertical siding, a wooden shingled roof, and a spire in the center of the roof. Victorian Era Gazebo, c. 1885 (09-10;05;013). C
71. The Bell House, 9 Chestnut Street: 2½ stories, 4x3 bays, slate roof, cut granite foundation, water table, and tall interior chimneys. The pedimented gable is oriented toward the road, with a boxed cornice and dentil frieze. The attic window is beneath a louvered Gothic arch. All windows are two-over-two, with molded surrounds, corner blocks, and a central geometric motif in the window heads. The corner pilasters are paneled with a trefoil near the top. A bay window is attached to the west wall. Porches on the east and west walls have heavy fluted Doric columns. A wing of similar massing to the main block angles off towards the east. A two-story and one-story gable roofed ell is attached to the rear of the house with a pedimented entry with dentils and a scroll-supported entablature. Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, c. 1845 (09-10;05;012). C

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72. Mill Agents House, 11-13 Chestnut Street: 2½ story, 5x2 bay, brick structure with a slate roof. Windows are two-over-two with granite lintels. Other features include four end chimneys, a parapet on the gable wall between the chimneys, a balustrade on the lateral wall, and a projecting lateral cornice with a dentil frieze. The center entry is beneath a transom light with portico supported by four free standing and two engaged Tuscan columns, the columns are paneled and chamfered. A one-story hip roofed addition is attached to the south gable. Attached to the rear is a 1½ story gable roofed brick ell. Federal, c. 1825 (09-10;05;011). C

73-80 (73-79 were included in the original nomination; 80 is the only property added in this historic district extension). Parcels 73-79, now vacant and forming a small riverside park, were once occupied by mills and mill housing; through them runs, underground, the penstock which carried water from the dam to the Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex.

This complex (see photographs 35-38) comprises a number of major interconnected brick textile manufacturing buildings dating to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. All 2½-to-4 stories in height, they are surrounded by post-1940 1-story additions of contrasting material, scale and general design. For the most part, these post-1940 additions do not contribute positively to the architectural quality of the complex. Replacement of original glazing with glass block constitutes the only significant change to the major buildings. Overall, this is a handsome and well-preserved example of a typical New England textile factory.

Because of the change in grade from Chestnut Street down to the Squamscott River, the industrial complex has a relatively low profile - 1 to 1½ stories - on its Chestnut Street front. By contrast, the mill complex's major components rise 3½-to-4 stories along the river, and on this side too stand two tall smoke stacks.

There are seven major buildings in the complex. The largest (and visually dominant) is 4-story Building 1, 175x93', built c. 1894. It replaced the original c. 1828 main mill. The c. 1894 structure is of pier and spandrel design with pier-to-pier segmental-head window openings, a corbelled cornice, low-pitch roof and an elevator tower and chimney stack on its south end. Building 2, built 1873-75 and located adjacent to Building 1 on the northwest, is a 3-story structure, 180x72', with low-pitch roof, corbelled cornice and tall, narrow, segmental-head windows. Building 3 is a chaste, gable-roofed, Greek Revival building, 70x38', which must date to c. 1840 .

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It retains some original 12/12 sash. Its Chestnut Street end is accented by an oculus and a very simple entrance with granite architrave. Building 4 was originally identical to Building 3, but c. 1873-75 a third story was added and it was lengthened. Now 101x38', it has a low-pitch roof and a fine corbelled cornice. The short, 2-tier tower on its roof was added c. 1955; it is graced by a Federal style weathervane brought from another mill. Between Buildings 3 and 4, along Chestnut Street, is Building 5, 80x20', the office block erected c. 1918 to replace an earlier office structure. Its 1-story Chestnut Street elevation is accented by two unusual, stubby turret-like projections, one of which was the office entrance. The office block has a low-pitch roof, corbelled cornice and 4/1 sash in segmental-head window openings. On its west side is a sympathetic c. 1955 addition. At the northeast corner of the complex is Building 6 of 1916, a pier-and-spandrel structure, 103x33', with small, irregularly located windows and a low-pitch roof. Beside the river is much altered Building 7, the power plant, dating to 1891; its circular smoke stack is of relatively recent date.

The Exeter Manufacturing Company, founded in 1827, was one of the three largest industrial firms in New Hampshire and the last cotton mill to operate in New England. It was Exeter's major local employer from the day the mill opened in 1830 into the 1960s. The company went out of existence in 1966, when Milliken, Inc. took over the mill. In 1981-82, the plant was operated by Nike, Inc., shoe manufacturers. It has been vacant since.

General description of the rear portion of the "lower block":

The target area for the proposed Exeter waterfront revitalization project encompasses the rear portions of the buildings on the "lower block" of Water Street (sites #7-25), and the narrow strip of land between these buildings and the Squamscott River. This area is currently under utilized, mostly accommodating haphazard parking and storage, and has been neglected for some years.

Redevelopment of this waterfront space calls for utilization of basements, subbasements, and upper floor levels of the existing buildings, as well as for the provision of a continuous pedestrian route through the area.

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The rear elevations of these waterfront buildings express a variety of styles, heights, and textures. In general those buildings that have remained largely intact or have had minor in-filling of window and door openings are sites #22, 20, 20, 29, 28, 15, 14, and 10. Improvised additions to some buildings (sites #24, 23, 21 and 13) consist of multi-bayed sheds projecting from the storefront levels and supported on-piers.

Major additions which detract from the character of the area project from some of the buildings (sites #7, 9, and 16) at the western end of the "lower block".

Non-contributing ("NC") properties within the historic district:

District Map &  
Survey Number

Description

4.

Exeter and Hampton Electric Company, 225 Water Street, a two-story brick-clad structure with a marble facade and plate-glass windows. The flat roof projects over the sidewalk, supported by concrete posts. Built c. 1959 (09-01;011). NC

6.

The Sears Automotive Center (09-09; 04;012), listed as a non-contributing building in the original nomination, has been <sup>demolished</sup> and as of September, 1984 the site is vacant. NC

11.

The "shed/garage" (09-01;04;015), listed in the original nomination as a non-contributing structure has been demolished and as of September 1984, the site remains vacant. NC

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District Map &  
Survey Number

Description

- 16.            Roberge Photo Shop, 129 Water Street (09-09;04;001), listed in the original nomination as a non-contributing building, is as of September, 1984 being totally reworked.    NC
- 39.            Gulf Service station, c. 1955 (09-10;15;08).    NC
- 43.            Kost Tire Sales, 1 Franklin Street: intrusive, altered, one-story, L-plan early twentieth-century garage with parking area in front (09-10;20;001).    NC
- 45.            Al's Muffler Town, 20-22 Franklin Street: one-story, concrete-block garage with false mansard (09-10;21;012).    NC

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of Water Street consisted mostly of small Greek Revival style homes and businesses. This is still the character of the "Upper Block."

A series of fires in the 1860s and 1870s destroyed many of the earlier buildings and acted as a catalyst for a period of major re-building which entirely altered the character of the street to reflect the new prosperity and growth of the mercantile community. This re-building established a new commercial block along the lower block of Water Street, predominantly brick buildings which share common facade line and elevations ranging from two to four stories. Merchants still depended on the river for transportation and the design of their buildings; basements, sub-basements, and large doorways reflected this dependency. Yet as the river became more polluted and silted in, it was abandoned. Activity concentrated on developing the Water Street frontage.

Several buildings have been added to the district in the twentieth century. Those which are contributors to the district are the Smith Building (#9), the McReel Building (#7), and the Ioka Theatre (#45).

Preservation and/or Restoration Activities within the District:

Exeter has recently sought the services of Anderson Notter & Feingold, Inc. Architects and Preservation Planners to explore the possibilities of utilizing the backs of existing buildings and re-opening the historic connection with the river. The primary area of concentration is the "Lower Block" of Water Street. There is an active waterfront revitalization committee, and the town as a whole is deeply committed to this project.

Other preservation activities include painting, repointing foundations, and minor repairs. A major restoration project has been undertaken by the Exeter Investment Company on Kimball's Island with the rehabilitation of an early 18th century mill and related structures for re-use as office, commercial and restaurant space.

Architecture:

Contained within the District are a large number of outstanding buildings representative of major styles in American vernacular architecture. The exterior facades of the commercial blocks have retained their integrity, especially on the upper floors. Typical features of period storefronts include: large display windows, paneled bases, glass transoms, cast iron elements, and leaded glass signage. Many storefronts have been altered to reflect popular 20th century commercial styles incorporating such "modern" materials as Carrera glass, Art Deco lettering, and aluminum facades. Most of the dwellings within the primarily residential area have retained their exterior integrity; however there is some Victorian era remodeling with the addition of bay

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windows, porches, and verandas, all of which reflected the popular trends of the time. This exciting mix of architectural styles in residential, commercial and industrial buildings reflects the social, economic and cultural patterns of Exeter's development.

The earliest structure in the district, and perhaps the foremost remaining example of the regionally distinctive vertically sawn log garrison type house, is the Gilman Garrison c.1700 (National Register of Historic Places) (9-12-76) HABS.

The Georgian style is best represented in (#59) at 16 High Street, exhibiting a saltbox plan with the later addition of a Federal entry.

The prosperity during the Federal period is classically represented in the Theophilus Smith house (#52), 25 High Street c.1780. Other buildings representative of this style are:

- site #2 - 235 Water Street, c.1786
- site #44 - The Long House/Mill Housing, 4-10 Franklin Street, c.1820
- site #54 - Gardner-Gilman House, 29 High Street, c.1799
- site #55 - Josiah Gilman Smith House, 35 High Street, c.1830
- site #58 - Col. Boardman Tavern, 20-22 High Street, c.1805
- site #62 - Simeon Folsom House, 7-11 High Street, c.1830
- site #72 - Mill Agents House, 11-13 Chestnut Street, c.1828

An interesting example of this style is the round brick front of the Simeon Folsom House (#61), 8 High Street, c.1816.

Representative of the Greek Revival style are:

- site #32 - 39-43 Water Street, c.1835
- site #14 - brick commercial building, 141-147 Water Street, c.1845
- site #57 - apartment house, 24-26 High Street, c.1834
- site #63 - apartment house, 15-17 Pleasant Street, c.1837
- site #8 - Louise's Sports Shop, 183 Water Street, c.1825
- site #71 - Bell House, 9 Chestnut Street, c.1845
- site #80 - Building 3, Exeter Manufacturing Co. complex, c.1840

The Italianate style is fully expressed in #25, 83 Water Street, c.1865, which displays a low-pitched hip roof, large drop-scroll corner brackets, and a denticulated frieze. A second significant example is #34, 23-25 Water Street, c.1860.

The High Victorian Italianate style is represented by six brick commercial buildings which also constitute a major and significant portion of Exeter's commercial waterfront property. The most prominent is #10, the Merrill Building, 163 Water Street. Its tall proportions,

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stilted-segmental arches, and variety of surface textures express the essence of this style. Other significant examples are:

- site #18 - Carlisle Building, 119-123 Water Street, c.1875
- site #19 - Moore Building, 115 Water Street, 1875
- site #20 - Burlingame Building, 109-113 Water Street, c.1874
- site #22 - Kimball's Hardware, 99-101 Water Street, c.1872
- site #23 - Indian Head Bank, 93-97 Water Street, c.1860

The sole example of the Romanesque style is site #29, the Folsom Building, 59-65 Water Street, c.1896.

Representing the Sullivanesque style is site #21, Styles' Drugstore, 105-107 Water Street, c.1880.

The most recent Colonial Revival style<sup>s</sup> expressed in site #30, the Mayer Building, 55 Water Street, 1915.

The New England vernacular brick industrial "style" is represented by site #80, the former Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex, dating to the mid and late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

Commerce:

The commercial waterfront area has been continuously in trade and commerce since its settlement in 1638, when it was the center of trading in salted fish, lumber, and shipbuilding, with its related industries. The only surviving example from this early period is the c.1710 Gilman grist mill on Kimball's Island (#26). Regionally, commerce declined during the Revolutionary period, picking up again at the end of the 18th century. Exeter continued to prosper until the latter half of the 19th century when changed uses and technology brought about the decline of the waterfront. Significant surviving structures from this period include:

- site #37 - Wooden Building, 1 Water Street, c.1840
- site #32 - 39-43 Water Street, c.1833
- site #14 - 141-147 Water Street, c.1865
- site #8 - Louise's Sport Shop, c.1825
- site #25 - Lopardo's, c.1865

Fire destroyed many of the waterfront properties. Reconstruction entirely altered the character of the streetscape with the establishment

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of several impressive late 19th and 20th century commercial blocks. Today, Exeter retains this late 19th century scale from which its significance is derived. Commercial buildings of outstanding architectural merit include:

- site #10 - Merrill Building, c.1873
- site #18 - Carlisle Building, c.1875
- site #19 - Moore Building, c.1875
- site #20 - Burlingame Building, c.1874
- site #21 - Styles Drugstore, c.1880
- site #22 - Kimballs Hardware, c.1872
- site #23 - Indian Head Bank, c.1860
- site #24 - The Janvrin Block, c.1860
- site #29 - The Folsom Block, c.1896
- site #30 - The Mayer Building, c.1915

Industry:

Exeter's industry centered around the falls in the Exeter and Squamscott Rivers, where two dams were built. At the lower dam, which is now gone, Kimball's Island divides the river into two channels. Thomas Wilson built Exeter's first grist mill here c.1640. Regionally, lumber was the most important industry for over 100 years. Edward Gilman built the first two sawmills at the upper falls in 1647 and 1650, increasing the value of the abundant timber.

During the latter part of the 18th century there were a number of mills filling a variety of needs. In 1789 George Washington recorded in his diary that "in the town are considerable falls which supply several grist-mills, two oil-mills, a slitting mill and snuff mill."<sup>1</sup> Six years later it was recorded that the falls "afforded seats for four double geared corn-mills, four saw-mills, two oil-mills, and one fulling mill."<sup>2</sup>

The only mill dating from this early period standing today is John Gilman's grist mill (#26) built c.1710. It has recently undergone rehabilitation and currently is used for office and commercial space. A mill foundation behind site #34 as well as several reinforced granite walls along the river recall mill activity along the waterfront.

1. Charles H. Bell, History of the Town of Exeter, N.H., Boston, 1888, p.331.
2. Ibid., p.331.

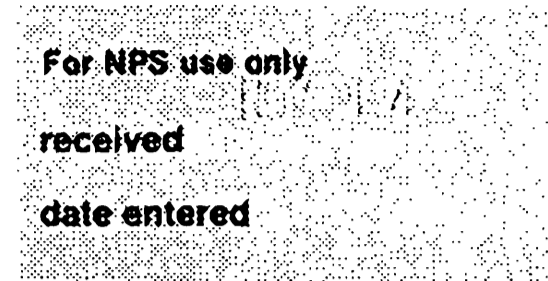
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Shipbuilding became a vital industry and flourished up to the Revolution. The waterfront was once lined with blacksmiths, carpenters, and caulkers all working on ships, the largest reported to be five hundred tons burden weight. No evidence of this industry remains today.

The carriage, saddlery, and harness making businesses were very active, too, the centers being located on Franklin and High streets.

In 1827 two companies, the Exeter Mill and Water Power Company and the Exeter Manufacturing Company, were formed by a group of local entrepreneurs with the purpose of erecting a large cotton mill in town. The Water Power Company bought up water rights at the upper falls and conveyed to the Manufacturing Company power sufficient to run a 5000-spindle factory. The original mill opened in 1830; an addition erected between 1873 and 1876 doubled the original mill's capacity. The 1830 structure burned and was replaced in 1894 by a much larger factory building which still survives. The Exeter Manufacturing Company eventually owned all the water rights in town. It was not only the largest industry locally, the firm was among the three largest concerns in the state. Long after cotton mills closed in New England -- replaced by newer mills in the South -- the Exeter Manufacturing Company carried on: it was the last cotton mill to operate in New England, continuing to produce cotton goods until World War II. In post-war years the company gradually turned to production of synthetics, remaining in this line until the company was bought out in 1966.

Structures in the district related to the Exeter Manufacturing Company are:

- site #80 - The Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex, c.1840-1920
- site #72 - Mill agent's house, 11-13 Chestnut Street, c.1828
- site #66 - Mill housing, 25-27-29 Pleasant Street, c.1830
- site #44 - Mill housing, 4-10 Franklin Street, c.1828

Invention:

In 1824 Dr. William Perry established a mill on the east side of the Exeter River for the manufacture of starch from potatoes. During this time the manufacturers of cotton were importing British gum to use for sizing cloth and thickening dyes. Dr. Perry developed a process which provided a low-cost substitute for the British gum. It was merely a charred starch, which was sold and used primarily at the mills at Lowell. His mill no longer exists, but a related structure sits on site #62 where the basement was used to store a portion of the 30-40,000 bushels of potatoes used annually in this process. Locally, this was a significant mill providing a cash income to farmers who sold their potatoes to Dr. Perry.

From 1788-1821 Ebenezer Clifford and his family resided in the Gilman Garrison (#42). Clifford was an accomplished joiner, and an ingenious mechanic who was one of the first men to attempt to retrieve sunken property

(See Continuation Sheet 8-6)



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from local rivers with the use of a diving bell. Clifford's diving bell was primitive. Shaped like a pork barrel, it measured 5'9" high by 5' wide and contained two seats and had weights attached to the rim of the base.<sup>3</sup> It could stay under water for an hour or more. It is report that Clifford recovered a quantity of silver money from the wreck of a foreign vessel off the Isles of Shoals. Between 1806-1808 he salvaged some twenty tons of iron bar from a sunken gundalow under seventy-to<sup>w</sup> feet of water in the Piscataqua River.<sup>4</sup> All that is left of the diving bell is a wooden sawn which was used as a float to mark its position and communicate with the surface crew. It is now a part of the collection on exhibit at the Gilman Garrison.

Military:

During the 17th and 18th century Indian wars, privately owned garrison houses were an important form of protection utilized by the New England colonists, but few of these fortified dwellings remain. The Gilman Garrison is possibly the only remaining sawn log garrison house in the region still on its original site. The Garrison house, now a museum, is open to the public on a limited basis and owned by the Society for the Presevation of New England Antiquities.

Exeter served as the state capital (1775-1782) during the Revolutionary War. The militia was drilled in an area within the district called "Hemlock Square," (hemlock boughs were placed on the muddy ground) located on the east bank of the Exeter River in the Pleasant Street area.

Transportation:

During the 17th and 18th centuries Exeter's growth depended largely on the development of the shipbuilding and lumber trades, and the water system which transported these goods to the marketplace. Exeter's landing became a major trading post where inland lumber supplies could be sold and loaded onto ships for delivery up and down the coast. The channel was much deeper than it is today and trade was conducted as far away as the West Indies. Merchants still depended on the river for transportation of their goods in the 19th century, and the design of their shops reflected this dependency. Most buildings in the "lower block" of Water Street have basements and sub-basements below grade. Goods were loaded from the river into the lower

<sup>3</sup>. James L. Garvin, "Ebenezer Clifford, Architect & Inventor," Old Time New England, p.33.

4. Ibid.

(See Continuation Sheet 8-7)

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basement through large doorways, then hoisted up two floors to street level.

The Exeter Waterfront Historic District is significant as an extremely well-preserved 19th century commercial and industrial center. The district is comprised of a variety of commercial, industrial, institutional, engineering and residential structures in a range of styles -- Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, High Victorian Italianate, Neoclassical and the New England brick vernacular for industrial structures. In addition, the district includes an extra-ordinary collection of early twentieth century storefronts. This dense, well-integrated waterfront center represents a microcosm of Exeter's development from earliest settlement to the present.

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λ Continuation sheet Bibliography 38 Item number 9 Page 1

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the midpoint of the intersection of Water Street and Main Street, the boundary of the Exeter Waterfront Historic District runs eastward down the center of Water Street to a point just beyond the intersection of Water Street, Front Street, and Chestnut Hill Avenue; thence southward along the property line between the Mobil gas station and Kurt's Restaurant, 42 Water Street (#38), southeasterly along the property line, thence eastward across an alley and northerly to the southwest corner of the Gulf service station property (#39); thence in a southeasterly direction following the southern property lines of the buildings which line the south side of Water Street, crossing Clifford Street and following the property lines of Kost Tire Sales (#43) which is located on the corner of Clifford Street and Franklin Street; thence running in a southeasterly direction down the center of Franklin Street, turning and running along the property between Al's Muffler Town (#45) and 26-28 Franklin Street; thence crossing the river in a northeasterly direction to the southwest corner of the property of 11 High Street (#48); thence eastward along the southern property lines of the houses along the south side of High Street; along the southern line of the Josiah Smith House property (#53); crossing Gilman Lane, cutting across the property of the Gardner-Gilman House (#54) and the Josiah Gilman Smith House (#55) to a midpoint of the intersection of High Street and Portsmouth Avenue; thence westward down the center of High Street, turning and running northerly along the east property line of the Capt. J. Thurston House (#56) and 24-26 High Street; thence to the center of Hall Place Avenue, turning and running westerly along the northern property lines of the Col. Boardman Tavern, 20-22 High Street (#58) and 16 High Street; cutting across the property of 11 Hall Place and continuing along the northern property line of 10 High Street (#60); thence running northerly along the rear property lines of 7-9-11 High Street (#62) and 15-17 Pleasant Street (#63); thence crossing Hall Place, turning and running in an easterly direction along the southern boundary of 2 Hall Place (#64); thence in a northerly direction following the east boundary of 2 Hall Place (#64); 23 Pleasant Street (#65), 25-27-29 Pleasant Street (#66), and 1-3 Chestnut Street (#67); thence along the southern border of 5 Chestnut Street (#68); thence turning and running in a northwesterly direction, in a line 200 feet from the center line of Chestnut Street cutting across the rear property of 5 Chestnut Street (#68); crossing Woodlawn Circle, and cutting across the property of 9 Chestnut Street (#71), and 11-13 Chestnut Street (#73) until reaching the northern boundary of 11-13 Chestnut Street (#73); thence following the boundary in a southwesterly direction to the center of Chestnut Street; thence following Chestnut Street north to Jady Hill Avenue; thence turning westerly along Jady Hill Avenue to an entrance drive leading into the mill complex and following south along this right-of-way to a parking area and thence turning west to the river; thence following the shore of the river in

(See Continuation Sheet 10-2)

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a northwesterly direction; thence turning and crossing the Squamscott River in a southwesterly direction and meeting the southern shore just west of the Phillips Exeter Academy Boathouse (#5); thence crossing the Swayzey Parkway and following the northern boundary line of Exeter and Hampton Electric Company (#4) and 235-237 Water Street (#3); thence following the western boundary of 235-237 Water Street (#2) to the midpoint of the intersection of Water and Main streets.

Boundary Justification:

The eastern boundary of the district terminates at the intersections of High Street and Portsmouth Avenue. At this point the character of High Street changes. Since the mid 20th century, Portsmouth Avenue has become increasingly commercialized by extensive strip development.

The westernmost extent of the district has its boundary at the intersection of Main and Water Streets. At this end of the district the commercial character of Water Street becomes less dense, though distinct in contrast to the Phillips Exeter Academy buildings facing it, and the residential blocks which abut on both Main and Water.

The district's Franklin Street boundary on the southeast represents the visual terminus of the commercial area.

The District's northeast boundary along Chestnut Street and Jady Hill Avenue excludes from the District vacant property and mid- and late-twentieth-century industrial and residential property not compatible with the character of the historic area being nominated to the Register.

The District's boundary on Jady Hill Avenue, the mill complex rear entrance drive and the river excludes from the area nominated a small waste water treatment plant.

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Continuation sheet 41 Form Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_ Item number 11 Page 1

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Original 1980 nomination form prepared by:

Lance Bennett & Jack Beard, Preservation Advisers  
Stafford-Rockingham Regional Council  
Water Street  
Exeter, N.H.

(603) 778-0885

1984 district extension revisions to nomination prepared by:

David Chase, Preservation Consultant  
5613 Boxhill Lane  
Baltimore, Md.

(301) 435-8221

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Accompanying Documentation:

This certifies that the properties illustrated in the 34 photographs submitted with the original 1980 Exeter Waterfront Commercial Historic District nomination are essentially unaltered as of September, 1984, with the following exceptions:

Photo #7: The Long House (#44), 4-10 Franklin Street, has been restored.

Photo #28: Roberge Photo (#16), 129 Water Street, a non-contributing building, is now (in September, 1984) being transformed with a new, more-or-less "post-modern" facade.

Photo #31: The Sears Automotive Center (#6) off Water Street, a non-contributing building, has been demolished: as of September, 1984 the site remains vacant.

The following photographs have been added to the nomination in order to document the above changes and to illustrate the Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex (#80), added to the area nominated:

Photo #35: Aerial view of the Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex and surrounding portions of the district.

Photo #36: View of the Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex (#80) from the west, looking across the Squamscott River from the Phillips Exeter Academy Boathouse.

Photo #37: View of the Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex (#80) from the east (Chestnut Street front).

Photo #38: View of the Exeter Manufacturing Company mill complex (#80) from the south.

Photo #39: Roberge Photo Shop (#16), 129 Water Street, as it appeared undergoing renovation in September, 1984.

Photo #40: The Long House (#44), 4-10 Franklin Street, as restored.

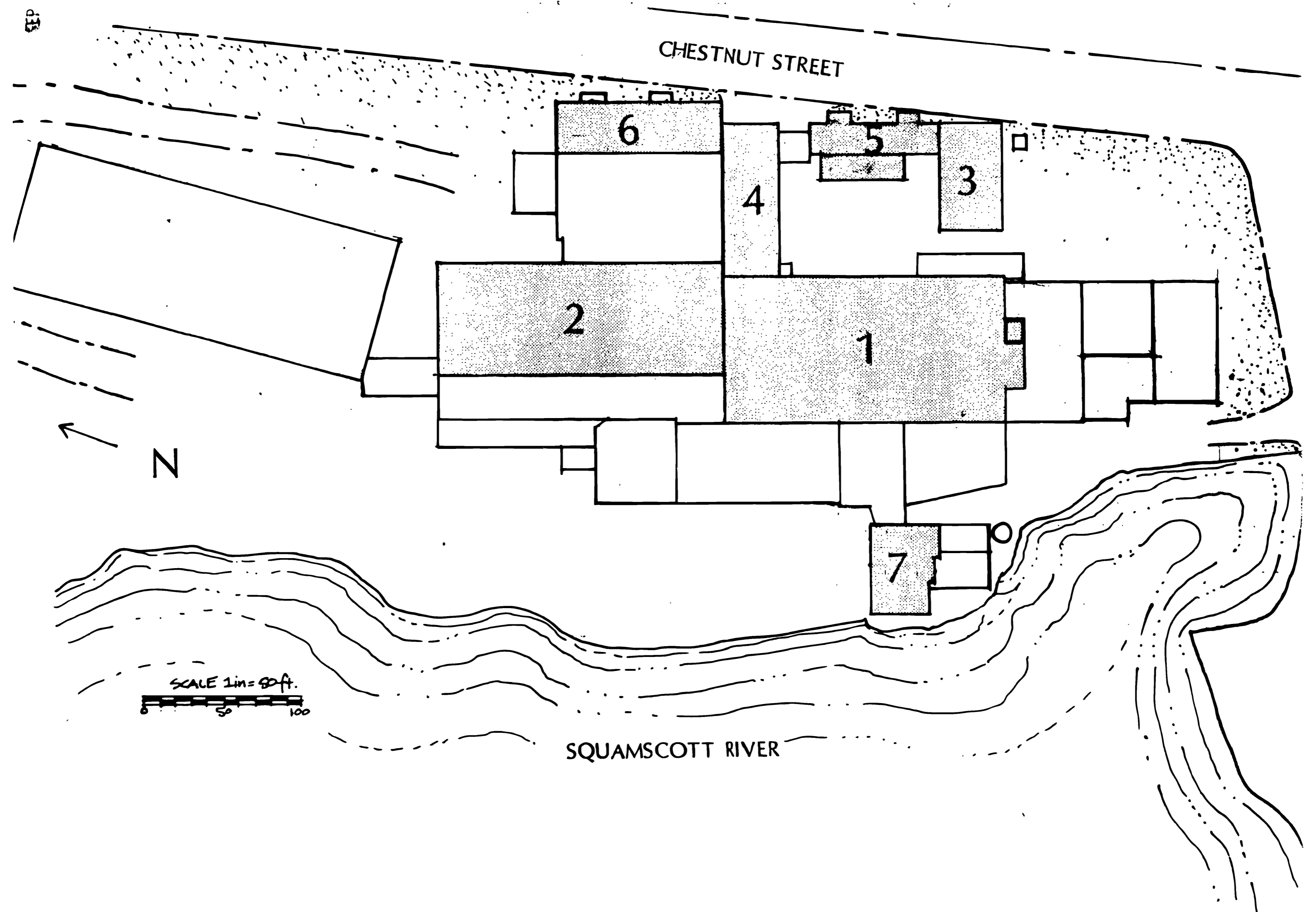


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# EXETER WATERFRONT COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

continuation sheet 43

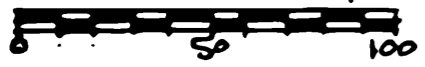
## SITE PLAN OF PROPERTY #80 EXETER MANUFACTURING COMPANY MILL COMPLEX



CHESTNUT STREET

N

SCALE 1in = 80ft.



SQUAMSCOTT RIVER

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Exeter Waterfront Commercial Historic District  
(Boundary Increase) Rockingham County, NH

Date/Signature

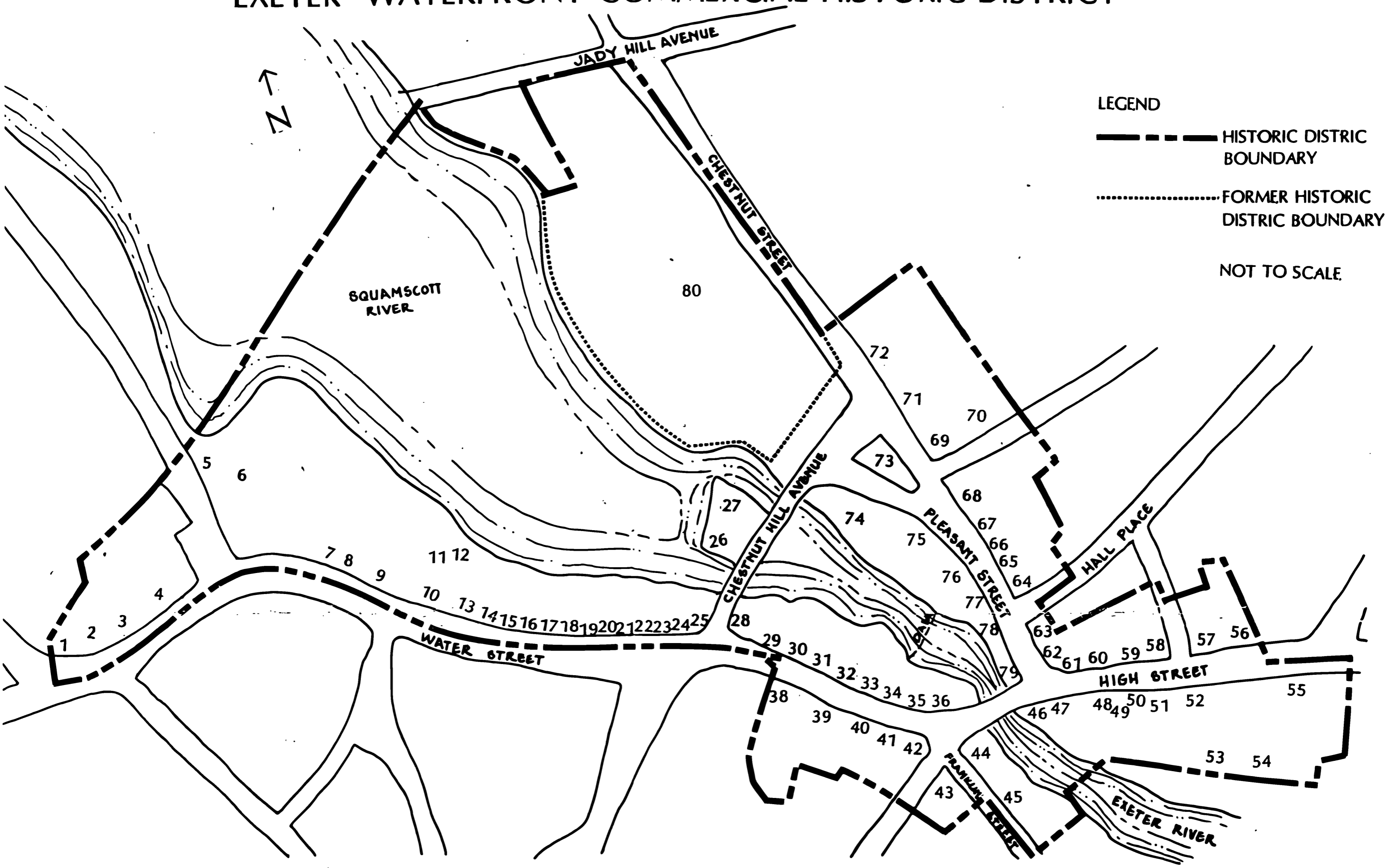
BOUNDARY INCREASE APPROVED

*[Faint stamp]*

Keeper *Alfred J. [Signature]* 12/24/86

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

# EXETER WATERFRONT COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT



## LEGEND

- — — — —** HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- .....** FORMER HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY

NOT TO SCALE