



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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www.exeternh.gov

8 September 2023

Re: Demolition 53 - 55 Main Street (Tax Map Parcel #63-259)

Dear Doug,

The Demolition Review Committee met Thursday, Aug 31st on site.

In attendance were Bill Campbell, Pam Gjettum, Julie Gilman and Francoise Elise.

The findings on site were of mixed opinion so the Committee held a work session September 7th.

The findings of the Committee after discussion are the following:

The building was built circa 1810 at the end of the 18th century. It does not appear on Merrill's 1802 map but is recorded on the Dow's 1845 map.

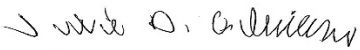
- It has been listed in the Park Street Historic Survey as a contributing resource to the history of Exeter's development.
- It's original shape (main house and ell) and size have been retained. The original porch on the east side of the building has been renovated as a greenhouse.
- In the early 19th century it is recorded to be a bake shop and store. Living quarters were on the second floor. Various census records and town directories continue to record the same commercial/residential use throughout its history to the present.
- The front elevation reflects the original design of the Greek Revival period as exhibited on the Exeter News- Letter bird's eye map of 1896.
- Original siding and trim materials, window style and trim and stove chimney remain. Some windows have been replaced.
- Period wall and floor building materials on the interior were observed.

The basement, attic and outbuildings were not available for review. There is no objection to the removal of the outbuildings.

Given the extent of the building's integrity and its contribution to Exeter's commercial/residential and growth patterns, the Committee recommends the preservation of the building. A review of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation may assist the owner in their decision.

If the time period for demolition review as presented in the town zoning ordinance review has not lapsed, the Committee contemplates holding a public hearing for public input.

Respectfully submitted,



Select Board Rep. Exeter Heritage Commission