

Exeter History Scavenger Hunt

Exeter is such a cool town! Have you ever gone with your parents to Whirlygigs or Lexie's? It has so many fun activities too, such as cooling off in the summer at the town pool, or watching movies in Swasey Park! Also, it is rich with history. Did you know that Abraham Lincoln visited Exeter early in 1860, just before he became our sixteenth president? Or, that George Washington visited the Folsom Tavern (near Stillwell's Ice Cream) in 1789? There is just too much to list. I hope that you can have some fun exploring Exeter to find these historic sites and learn more along the way! Try to find each spot using a small hint!



The Simeon Folsom House



The Simeon Folsom House is in the heart of downtown Exeter. What a cool old house! Built in 1816, this home has played a big role in Exeter's rich history. Abraham Lincoln, our sixteenth president, is famous for ending slavery in our country. What is even more interesting is that his son, Robert, actually lived in this house while he was attending PEA! Abraham Lincoln visited Robert at this house during his 1860 visit to Exeter. Hint: near the Sea Dog Brewing Company.

The Amos Tuck House

The Amos Tuck House, built in 1853, is an iconic home in Exeter. Even better, it has an intriguing history! Amos Tuck, a lawyer and Dartmouth College graduate (an Ivy League in Hanover, New Hampshire), was this mansion's first owner, and played an integral role in Exeter. A close friend of Abraham Lincoln and one of the founding fathers of the Republican Party (that would help to end slavery), Tuck has been one of Exeter's most famous figures. Tuck's son, Edward, founded the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, the very first in the world! The next time you are out on Front Street, you may think of this magnificent home a little bit differently! Hint: Near St. Michael's Church.



The American Independence Museum

The American Independence Museum, in the heart of downtown Exeter, plays an important role in teaching more about our nation's early history, as well as bringing visitors to our historic town. Oftentimes, this monumental spot overlooking Stillwell's Ice Cream is forgotten, and some may even wonder what it is. This museum comprises the Ladd-Gilman House and the Folsom Tavern, the second of which George Washington visited in 1789! The American Independence Museum was opened in 1991, after a copy of the Declaration of Independence was found in the floorboards of the Ladd-Gilman House's attic. Exeter has really played an integral part in our nation's history! When our world becomes normal again, you might want to think about booking a private tour! Check out the American Independence Museum at:

<https://independencemuseum.org/>. Hint: near Stillwell's Ice Cream.



The Exeter Bandstand

The bandstand is such an iconic and central part of Exeter. This is the site of Christmas festivities (such as the annual Christmas Tree Lighting), as well as summertime concerts. Built in 1916 by Henry Bacon, the same architect that constructed the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., the bandstand really defines Exeter. It is where festivities are held, friends gather, and memories are held for ages! Hint: near the Exeter Town Hall.



The Exeter Historical Society

The Exeter Historical Society is the best place to go to learn more about Exeter's history! Built in 1896 as the town's library, this building has a rich history itself. The Exeter Historical Society was founded in 1928, and officially moved into this building in 1988. To discover more of Exeter's past, you can explore the Exeter Historical Society's website here: <https://www.exeterhistory.org/>! There are multiple history minutes created by the Society, as well as other fun educational videos. Hint: near/on the PEA campus.



The Exeter Congregational Church

The Exeter Congregational Church was built in 1798, and is currently Exeter's oldest church. Did you know that it descended from the church founded by John Wheelwright, our town's founder, in 1638? In the 1960s, at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the Congregational Church sent its pastor down to Selma, Alabama, to march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This place has really played a significant role in our nation's history! Hint: near the town post office.



The Ioka Theater

The Ioka Theater has been an iconic part of Exeter for ages! Built in 1915, the theater is well-known by native Exeter residents for its entertaining movies, and for being a spot to meet with friends. Did you know that it was supposed to be built in conjunction with a YMCA? Opening with movies very popular at the time, the Ioka Theater brought entertainment to Exeter for decades. Did you know that movies in 1915 were all silent? Imagine not being able to hear any of the toys speak in Toy Story. Crazy! While it closed in 2008, the Ioka Theater's legacy has lived on! Hint: across the street from a parking lot in downtown.



The Exeter Parks and Recreation Office

Have you ever noticed a big yellow building while on Court Street? This is actually the Exeter Parks and Recreation office building. Before this, it was a high school, then an elementary school, and later a community center. This building has played a key role in Exeter! You may recognize it as the place that you go to sign up for summer camp, or even the soccer league.

Hint: near the Exeter Senior Center.



The Phillips Exeter Academy Library

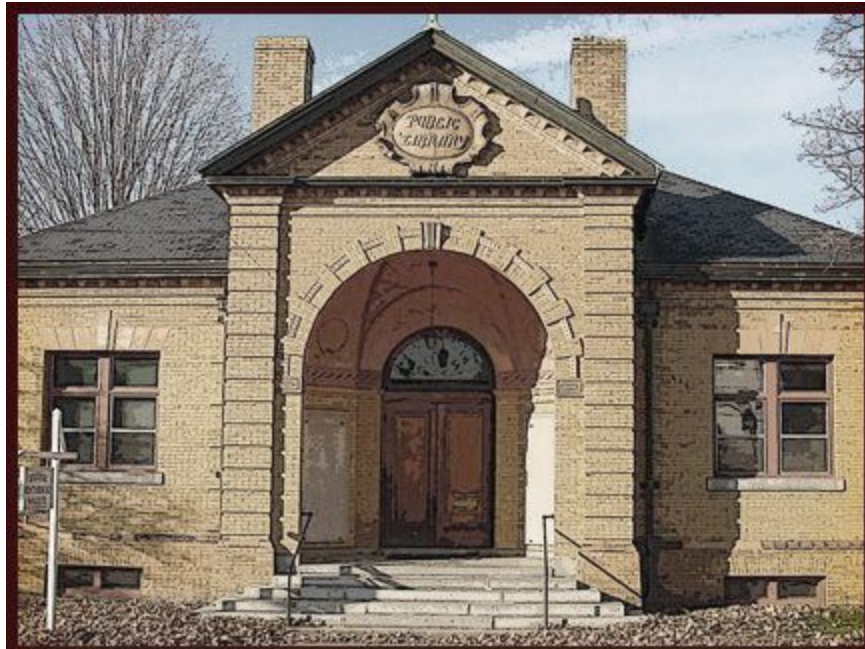
The Phillips Exeter Academy library is a very unique looking building. The architectural icon was completed in 1971, and was designed by Louis Kahn, a world-famous architect. Kahn designed various structures throughout the world, including those in India, Bangladesh, Israel, and the U.S.! When he died in 1974, he was considered America's most significant architect. Interestingly, this library is the largest secondary school library in the world, containing nine stories and 160,000 books. Hint: located near the Exeter Historical Society.



The Powder House

The Powder House is a hidden gem of Exeter! Built in 1771, this small structure was used in the War of 1812 (in which the Americans fought the British once again, similarly to the Revolutionary War), to store part of New Hampshire's gunpowder supply. This gunpowder was used for the cannons on the front lines of the war effort, meaning that Exeter played a key role in the development of our nation. Additionally, it is believed that the Powder House also stored some gun powder for the cannons at the Battle of Bunker Hill (in Boston) during the Revolutionary War. Hint: if you stand in Swasey Parkway and look across the river, you can see this hidden treasure!





EXETER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY