

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Belchertown Center Historic District

and/or common The Common

**2. Location**

1-55 Main St. 10-36 Maple St.  
1-55 Main St. 5-37 East Walnut St.  
3-11 North Main St. 4-44 Park St.  
street & number 10-60 South Main St. 2-12 Jabish St. *N/A* not for publication

city, town Belchertown *N/A* vicinity of congressional district First

state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampshire code 015

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<i>N/A</i> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<i>N/A</i> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple (See listing on continuation sheet).

street & number

city, town *N/A* vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number 33 King Street

city, town Northampton state Massachusetts 01060

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of the Historic Assets of  
title the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

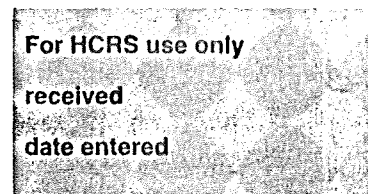
date 1978-79  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts 02108

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<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Property Owner</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Town</u> (if other than Belchertown)
1	Vernon Lodge Association	1 Main St.	
2	Ronald and Jean Besacon	33 Woodhaven Drive	
3	Leopold and Genevieve Ablicki	60 South Liberty St.	
4	Joseph White	15 Main St.	
5	Wilfred Ridenour	17 Main St.	
6	Ludlow Savings Bank	23 Main St.	
7 & 8	Methodist Church	31 Main St.	
9	Richard and Elizabeth Plant	41 Main St.	
10	Daniel D. and Irene Hazen	70 Maple St.	
11	Lincoln Cook	47 Main St.	
12 & 13	Morton J. Sweeney	71 Boardman Rd.	
14	William F. and Edna J. Kimball	55 Main St.	
15	H. Gregory Ketchen, c/o Gould Ketchen	31 Jabish St.	
16	Arthur Moriarity	5 North Main St.	
17 & 18	Margaret, Joseph, and Joseph S. Wright	11 East Silver St.	Westfield, MA
19	Town of Belchertown	2 Jabish St.	
20	David A. Cote	482 Michael Sears Rd.	
21	Mary Mathras	21 East Walnut St.	
22	G. & H. Investment Co. c/o Crest Real Estate	115 N. Main St.	
23	John and Barbara Topping	174 Warren Wright Rd.	
24	Ann and Donald McFadyen	38 Park St.	

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<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Property Owner</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Town</u> (if other than Belchertown)
25	Harold and Ida Cook	32 Park St.	
26	Town of Belchertown	2 Jabish St.	
27 & 28	Congregational Church of Belchertown	20 Park St.	
29 & 30	Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield	St. Francis Church, 12 Park St.	
31	David H. McCollom	6 Park St.	
32	Arthur Henneman	161 Turkey Hill Rd.	
33	H. Gregory and Jane Ketchen c/o Gould Ketchen	31 Jabish St.	
34	John Bailey	393 Bay Rd.	
35	Jack and Jean Hulmes	8 Jabish St.	
36 & 37	Town of Belchertown	2 Jabish St.	
38	Clapp Memorial Library, Inc.	19 South Main St.	
39	Leslie W. Curtis	25 South Main St.	
40	George R. and V. Joan Bach	31 South Main St.	
41	Mary T. Landry	33 South Main St.	
42	Mrs. Alice Suhm	39 South Main St.	
43	Dr. Roger A. and J. Poirier c/o Hilltop Realty	10 South Main St.	
44	Mrs. Luch Hislop	51 South Main St.	
45	Richard J. and Debra Cavanaugh	55 South Main St.	
46	Carl J. Peterson, Jr.	60 South Main St.	
47	Harold and Edna Kimball	56 South Main St.	
48	Irene B. Orlando	54 South Main St.	

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<u>Map Number</u>	<u>Property Owner</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Town</u> (if other than Belchertown)
49	John and Barbara Topping	174 Warren Wright Rd.	
50	Mrs. Belding Jackson	40 South Main St.	
51	James Wertheimer	32 South Main St.	
52	Raymond and Barbara Calabrese	26 South Main St.	
53	Harvey Dickinson	22 South Main St.	
54	Mrs. Harry Ryther	18 South Main St.	
55	Edward Parker and A.D. Mugnier	10 South Main St.	
56	Elizabeth Ketchen	7 Marshall Road	Natick, MA
57	John and Janis Collis	17 Maple St.	
58	Diane Piche	21 Maple St.	
59	Barbara Downing	25 Maple St.	
60	George and Nancy Goddard	31 Maple St.	
61	Edward and Carol Mierzewski	35 Maple St.	
62	Joanne B. Dearness	36 Maple St.	
63	Samual and Caroline Joyal	30 Maple St.	
64	Belchertown Historical Association, Inc.	20 Maple St.	
65	Gerald G. Tremaine	16 Maple St.	
66	Herbert and Elizabeth Story	10 Maple St.	

Intrusions

A	G & H Investment Co. c/o Crest Real Estate	115 North Main St.
B	Petronella V. Squires	27 Main St.
C.	Ludlow Savings Bank	33 Main St.
D	Ludlow Savings Bank	33 Main St.
E.	Ludlow Savings Bank	33 Main St.

## 7. Description

Belchertown Center Historic District

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1872 (Methodist Church)</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Belchertown Center Historic District is situated in the geographic center of the second largest town in the Commonwealth (60 square miles). This village crossroads has been the social, cultural, religious, commercial and political center of town since the late 18th century. The district - roughly in the shape of a "T" - encompasses the Town Common area to the north, part of South Main Street to the south, and a section of Maple Street to the west. Approximately fifty of the district's 66 buildings lie along the north-south axis. The condition of buildings in the district varies, but is generally good. Most are well maintained. In keeping with Victorian fashion, a number of buildings were altered during the late 19th century. The Methodist Church (#8, Photo 5), the only structure not on its original site, was moved here from Springfield in 1872. Not included in the above mentioned 66 buildings are five intrusions. They are the Post Office (A) on East Walnut St., a small beauty parlor (B) at 25 Main St., and three structures (C,D,E) being built by the Ludlow Savings Bank on a 236' wide lot immediately north of the Methodist Church.

### THE COMMON

Three brick and twenty-four (mostly white) wooden frame buildings line the unusually long (1,200') and spacious Common. Although a number of the early nineteenth century buildings originally housed small workshops and stores, the majority today are in residential use. Architectural styles range from Colonial to those of the early twentieth century, with the Federal style and the classical features of the Greek Revival being the most numerous, thus accurately reflecting a prosperous period of Belchertown's history. Situated on the Common itself is a nineteenth century bandstand, a flagpole, a Civil War Monument, a cannon, numerous trees, and a small parking lot. The overall effect is very attractive, creating a fine example of the traditional and dignified atmosphere characteristic of the New England village.

### SOUTH MAIN STREET

This spacious, tree-lined street was a fashionable residential neighborhood in the nineteenth century. All except one of the eighteen wooden houses date from that period. The prosperity in evidence here was confined to a smaller segment of the population, as Belchertown's economy had at this later period (mid-nineteenth century) already commenced its long decline. Architecturally, this street features Belchertown's only two examples of Queen Anne, and the town's only building in the Richardson Romanesque style (the library). Most of the houses are done in the Greek Revival style, the remainder are in various Victorian styles and modifications thereof.

### MAPLE STREET

One stone and ten wooden frame buildings line this section of the route from the Common to the site of the old railroad depot one half mile distant. Nine of the eleven buildings date to the nineteenth century. Architectural styles include three Greek Revivals, two twentieth century Colonial Revivals, one finely detailed Carpenter's Gothic, Belchertown's only two buildings with mansard roofs, and Belchertown's only stone house.

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Descriptions of exceptional buildings in the various architectural styles follow.

#4 (Photo 5) The Philo Dickinson homestead is one of Belchertown's earliest examples (c. 1816) of a building with the gable end facing the street (#9 & #10 are also of this styles and dates). Although the basic structure is Federal, many Victorian elements were added in later years. A small portico, distinguished by a pair of slender porch posts on either side of the door, is one such addition. The decorative shingles, which grace the otherwise classic pediment, are another Victorian touch. However, the plain window lintels and the 4 evenly spaced, chamfered pilasters which embellish the facade are original decoration.

#5 (Photo 5) The Parsons House is a classic Federal style structure built c. 1770 to 1800. It is a simple, square building with characteristic hipped roof, three interior chimneys and tall, narrow, 6/6 windows which are symmetrically arranged around a central doorway. The decorative elements are concentrated around the entrance way. Here, one bay porch is created by Ionic columns topped with a flat entablature. The door is further highlighted by a transom window and sidelights, and flanked by pilasters.

#24 The Calvin Bridgeman house, 1846, is Belchertown's only Gothic Revival cottage. It is a 1 1/2 story frame house with dormer windows in a steeply pitched roof. The front features a ground level, multi-pillared porch and a balcony nestled above in the gable. Of interest is that neither the porch nor balcony projects from the building. Rather, they are both recessed within the shell of the structure. The gothic influence is evident in the pointed arches of the porch and balcony, the hood molds over the windows (obscured by shutters), and the gingerbread trim along the eaves.

#26 The Old Town Hall brings together Greek Revival and Italianate stylistic elements. It is said to have been built in 1865 by Harrison Root, a prominent Belchertown lumberman. The gable end faces the street and features arched windows - small ones in the pediment and "two story" transomed windows below. Large rectangular windows, accented by heavy lintels, are found on the side elevations. There are four evenly spaced pilasters on the front, the center two framing the recessed doorway. A heavily bracketed cornice further distinguishes the structure.

#27 The Congregational Church is the earliest existing church structure in Belchertown. Built in 1789-1792, it was in the form of a traditional New England meetinghouse with single porch stairwell and belltower. In 1828, it was enlarged by cutting it approximately in half and adding to the middle. The main entry was removed from the front (west) facade and a porch erected at the south (gable) end. This was topped by a belltower. The quoins, wide, evenly spaced pilasters (on the porch), and cornice with dentil molding date to this Federal era remodelling. In 1872, the church was again altered. This time the square Federal-style windows and doorways were changed to rounded arches. The tall gothic spire was added atop the Federal belltower, completing the Victorian influence. The town clock has been in the church steeple for well over 100 years and has wooden clockworks.

#35 Belchertown Motor Sales was erected in 1918 to house the first automobile sales agency in town. Henry Ford, a frequent Belchertown visitor, is reported to have personally assisted the owner in establishing a Ford dealership here. This building hints of the Mission style: little ornamentation, smooth-plastered facades, hidden roof and the suggestion of turrets at the four corners.

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#36 Lawrence Memorial Hall is Belchertown's "new" Town Hall built in 1923. The construction was funded under certain provisions in the will of Sarah Robinson, author, Belchertown native and wife of the first governor of Kansas. The Hall is an impressive Gothic-influenced brick and concrete edifice situated at the southern end of the Town Common. Brick is the predominant building material, but concrete was used for the foundation as accent material around the windows and doors, and for decorative string coursing. The main entrance, in the center of the projecting western facade, has a Gothic arch and triple window above. Narrow lancet-type windows further enhance the Gothic appearance of this structure.

#38 The Clapp Memorial Library was built in 1883-1887. It was named in memory of John Francis Clapp, who had bequeathed \$40,000 for the erection of a free public library in his native town. Henry Kilburn of New York was the architect. The building is in the form of a Latin Cross with a central octagonal tower. It is constructed of local (Longmeadow) brown stone and features a roof of red Italian tiles. Huge stained glass memorial windows grace the northern and southern facades. There is also a stained glass skylight. The vari-colored stone construction, rounded arches and cavernous door openings are indicative of the Romanesque style, though the extreme "heaviness" associated with true Richardsonian Romanesque is absent.

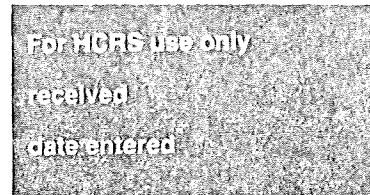
#43 The Beehive (Montague) house is an intact Greek Revival dwelling. It was constructed c. 1840 by Philetus William Burnett. Characteristic features include six-over-six double-hung windows with corner blocks, molded corner board pilasters, and classical entablature and side lights surrounding the recessed door. In the 1920's and 30's, a telephone office was located here, and local hearsay attributes the nickname "beehive" to the constant buzzing of the telephone lines!

#51 & 52 The Clapp and Doolittle houses are adjacent dwellings with similar architectural histories. Both started out as square, hipped roof Federal homes built around 1810. However, in 1883-1884, they were extensively remodeled to the Victorian style. Henry Kilburn, an architect from New York, designed the changes which were carried out by Henry Hoag, a local builder. The homes, now typically asymmetric, feature Queen Anne style windows, corner turrets, massive chimneys and numerous porches with turned porch posts. The Clapp house is the more elaborate. It incorporates much beautiful stained glass in the Queen Anne windows and in a hall skylight.

#58 The Towne house, an 1886 carpenter's Gothic, stands on the site formerly occupied by the Baptist Church. Many components of the c. 1812 church were salvaged when that structure was razed and were recycled into the Towne house. The arched front door (obscured by a storm door) is an example. The main house has the gable end to the street with a porch wing attached on the west side. Decorative wooden details abound. Lacelike scrollwork graces the bargeboards and hooded doorway. Brackets are also plentiful - on the porch doorhood and topping the bay window. The bay window also features molded, recessed, wooden panels at its base.

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#60

#62 The Henry Hoag and Peeso houses are the only two mansard-roofed buildings in town. They are located across the street from one another. Henry Hoag, a local architect and builder, built his two-story dwelling (#62) in 1887. Aside from its distinctive roof with clustered brackets, it is now a fairly plain building. Architectural elements include a bay window, doorhood and decorative wooden porch railing. Much of the (wooden) Victorian ornamentation which originally graced this house has been removed.

The Peeso house (#60) is the only three-story dwelling in Belchertown. A building has stood on this tract of land since c. 1806, but whether or not this is the same house has not been determined. The mansard dates to the 1880's and was probably added by neighbor Henry Hoag, the builder. An interesting extension was constructed around this same time. The west wall of the new section was built upon an existing stone wall which marked the western property line. Since the wall did not run parallel to the side of the house, neither does the addition.

#61 The Stone House, built in 1827, has been a landmark since that time -- it is the only stone house in Belchertown. The walls are over one-foot thick. Although the gable end (south facade) faces the street, the main entrance is on the east side. From this perspective, it is a Federal facade: tall, narrow, twelve-over-twelve windows symmetrically arranged around an elaborate doorway. This entrance features a classical, flat-topped Greek portico with Ionic columns. Double pilasters surround the Latin Cross door, and a three-paned fan light sits atop. The house is now used as the Historical Association museum. In 1924, a barn was built by the Association to house its carriage collection. It was constructed of stone from the same quarry as the house and complements it beautifully.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates multiple

Builder/Architect multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Belchertown Center Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship and is significant as the social, cultural, religious, commercial and political center of the town. Belchertown's first permanent white settlement began in the 1720's and the town was incorporated in 1761. It developed along the major access route from Northampton to the east coast. Today, all but sixteen of the district's sixty-six buildings stand on this roadway known traditionally as the Bay Road. During the latter part of the seventeenth century, this was the major road to Brookfield and eastern Massachusetts. It was originally supposed to have been a path traveled by Native Americans. This route evolved into the Northampton/Boston Stage Road during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

As can be observed by the architectural evidence around the Town Common, Belchertown enjoyed a period of prosperity early in the nineteenth century. The mid-nineteenth century styles of South Main Street (the southern part of the district) reflect this neighborhood's later emergence as a fashionable place of residence for Belchertown's affluent minority. The arrival of the railroad in 1853 was undoubtedly the most significant event affecting the development of Maple Street. The depot was situated on Maple St., one half mile west of the Common. The district meets criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

### Architecture

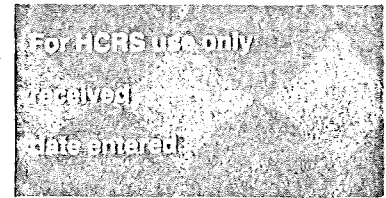
Included in the district are Belchertown's only native fieldstone house (#64 Photo 4), the only examples of the Queen Anne style (#51 & #52, which were remodeled in 1884 by Henry Kilburn of New York), the earliest examples in town of the gable end of the building (#60 & #62), and Belchertown's finest example of a Gothic Revival cottage (#24). Also included are numerous Greek Revival structures in very good condition, and two commercial survivors from the Victorian era (#12 & #31). Also designed by Henry Kilburn is the Clapp Memorial Library (#38), built in 1885 of Longmeadow brownstone and topped by a roof of Philadelphia red tile. Philetus William Burnett designed and built the Beehive house (#43, photo 3), in 1840. Mr. Burnett migrated to California sometime before 1848, and later designed the old State House near Sacramento. The attractive and massive eighteenth century Congregational Church lends a distinctly New England character to the Common. The church (#27) physically dominates the center as it has dominated the social, political, and religious life of the community throughout most of Belchertown's recorded history.

### Commerce

The district has been the center of commercial activity since the late eighteenth century. Ten of the buildings have at one time housed stores' (# 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 16, 18 and 31); five continue to do so (# 1, 2, 5, 16, and 31). The first and last bank ever based in Belchertown (building #1) mysteriously folded in 1829, only four years after commencing operations. The Brick Block (#7) was formerly a store and post office. It displays features of the Italianate and Greek Revival styles, and has suffered no significant external alterations since its construction in the late 1830's. Tucked away in a corner

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south of the buildings #31 is a small wood frame gas station (building #32). This Colonial Revival Structure (built in 1939) features a curvilinear office which projects out from the service garage.

Communications

Jonathan Grout (or Grant), a practicing lawyer and a pioneer in the signal or semaphore system of telegraphy, came to Belchertown about 1795 and resided in building #5. He was a resident of this town in 1800 when he sent a message from Boston to Nantucket and received an answer in 10 minutes. The first official telegraph signal book was published by Julian Corbett about 1790 and aroused much interest and experimentation in the late 18th century. Semaphore or signal stations were erected on stone towers or on high natural points at distances of about 6 to 10 miles apart. By a complex system of ropes and pulleys, the large semaphore blades were arranged to form symbols for given letters of the alphabet. Messages were sent and could be relayed from point to point. Mr. Grout erected a signal tower on Great Quabbin Mountain in Enfield. There was also a tower East at New Braintree and West at Mount Holyoke. Geographically, Belchertown Center would be an ideal location for a station between Quabbin Mountain and Mt. Holyoke. Local legend says that a signal tower was erected on the roof of building #5, Photo 5, during Revolutionary times; however, it is more likely such a tower existed during Mr. Grout's ownership. The current owner states the base of the tower is still visible in the attic.

Industry

As the soil here is generally not well suited for agriculture, small-scale manufacturing has, in past times, played a prominent role in Belchertown's economy. The single most important nineteenth century industry, and the one which has employed the greatest number of Belchertown's residents, was the carriage industry. Humphrey Filer's carriage shops (buildings #16, 17 & 18) comprised one of the four companies which once operated within the historic district.

Buildings #9 & 13 once housed a number of early nineteenth century hat-makers. Buildings #11 & 15 were occupied during the same period by furniture makers. Franklin Dickinson, who resided in building #18, prospered in the palm leaf industry (mid-nineteenth century), as he found abundant cheap female labor readily available locally. Ephraim Montague built building #43, Photo 3, with the proceeds from his silkwork business. His case is unusual, for the vast majority of silk entrepreneurs lost money in the mulberry craze which swept the Pioneer Valley at that time (c. 1835 to 1845).

Literature

Sarah Lawrence Robinson was the author of Kansas, Its Interior and Exterior Life, and the wife of Dr. Charles Robinson, the first governor of Kansas. Prior to emigrating to Kansas, Mrs. Robinson had lived on Maple St. in Building #63.

Belchertown native son, Dr. Josiah Gilbert Holland, who was a widely-read nineteenth century author (sales of 500,000 by 1885), described Belchertown center in his novel, Seven Oaks (1875). Another of his novels, Miss Gilbert's Career (1882), was set in Belchertown Classical School, a large structure which formerly stood at the north end of the Common. Dr. Holland has left us a graphic description of the picturesque Belchertown center of that era.

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Religion

With the exception of the nondenominational Dwight Chapel, Belchertown's churches have always been situated in the center of town. There are three churches in the district at the present time: the Methodist (#8), Photo 5, which was moved here from Springfield in 1872; the Congregational (#27), Photo 1, built in 1789; and the Roman Catholic (#29). Rev. Timothy Dwight S.T.D. (1752-1817), the first president of Yale College, had observed that Belchertown was noted for "its thunderstorms and its ecclesiastical controversies." One such controversy led to the great schism within Belchertown's Congregational Church, which subsequently resulted in the construction of the Brainard Church (#29) in 1836. The building was later converted into a Baptist Church, and finally in 1922, into a Roman Catholic Church. The original Baptist Meeting House (1814-1885) had stood on the site of building #58.

Social History

The earliest known instance in which a Belchertown woman owned property in her own name involved building #25, in 1822. This was later the site of the famous rescue-from-slavery kidnapping incident of 1840, which was much celebrated at the time in neighboring Amherst. The "kidnapping" was one of the only recorded events involving Belchertown's Black residents.

A number of Belchertown residents participated in the famous nineteenth century utopian "experiment" at Oneida, NY. Their unorthodox social relations were the focus of much controversy. Some of these "Perfectionists," as they were known, resided in and around the center. (Building #13 within the district; other were nearby.)

Transportation

Nearly every major road in Belchertown passes through the center, including the old road from Northampton to Boston. An eighteenth century milestone by South Main St. near building #36 is one of three such markers in Belchertown situated along this old road. During the early nineteenth century, Belchertown resident James H. Clapp ran a stagecoach along part of this route.

Belchertown's first railroad (running from Palmer to Amherst) was constructed in 1853. The old hotel (building #60) was undoubtedly erected to service the increased traffic, as this building is strategically situated on Maple Street half way between the Common and the site of the old depot.

Building #35 was erected in 1918 to house Belchertown's first auto sales agency. The proprietor was reportedly personally assisted in establishing the agency by a frequent Belchertown visitor, Henry Ford.

As a node representing 18th and 19th century settlement, the Belchertown Center Historic District should be considered to contain historic archeological resources. The yards of the district's houses may contain archeological features representing previous sequences of use which can help to explain the cultural history of the physical landscape. Artifacts, whether existing in features or as broadcast trash, can supplement documentary information as a means of interpreting past social and economic life.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 52

Quadrangle name Belchertown, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	7	1	3	9	8	10	4	6	8	3	9	5	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	8	7	1	4	1	6	10	4	6	8	3	1	4	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	8	7	1	4	6	0	0	4	6	8	3	2	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	8	7	1	4	3	6	0	4	6	8	3	1	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

1	8	7	1	4	2	1	0	4	6	8	3	4	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

1	8	7	1	4	1	0	10	4	6	8	3	3	1	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

1	8	7	1	4	0	2	10	4	6	8	3	4	9	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

1	8	7	1	4	1	4	10	4	6	8	3	5	1	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet and attached sketch map, based on assessor's map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title W Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner with Thomas J. Morgan & Antoinette Thomasik Lower Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date January 1981

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia K. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date 3/18/82

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

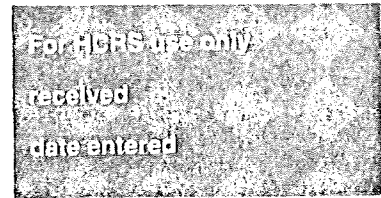
Item number 9

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- 1) Clara Dwight Hazen, "Reminiscences of Belchertown 70 Years Ago." Published in the "Belchertown Sentinel" beginning in July 1917.
- 2) Louis Everts, History of the Connecticut Valley In Massachusetts, (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1879), pp. 521-33.
- 3) Stone House Museum records, 20 Maple Street, Belchertown, MA.
- 4) Maps of Belchertown dated 1873, 1860, 1855, 1830 & 1794.
- 5) Hampshire County Deeds and Probate.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet

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The northeast corner of the northernmost property in the Belchertown Center Historic District is situated on the west side of the North Main St. (U.S. Route 202) 206" north of the intersection of Route 202 and the north side of Jackson St. The boundary then proceeds southeast across the street to a point where the south line of Cottage St. intersects east side of North Main St., this being the northwest corner of the fire station (parcel #19). The boundary runs thence east along the south line of Cottage St. approximately 210'. It then turns and runs south 85' along the east line of the Post Office property (Intrusion A) to an iron pin. The boundary then runs east along the south line of #10 Cottage St. approximately 125' to the west line of an unnamed town way which connects Cottage St. with East Walnut St. It then proceeds north along the west side of said town way until it intersects the south side of Cottage St. It then runs east approximately 145' along the south side of Cottage St. until it reaches the northeast corner of parcel #22. The boundary then proceeds southwest along the east line of parcel #22 until it strikes East Walnut St. It then proceeds southerly approximately 919' following the back property lines of the parcels fronting on Park St. until it arrives at the southeast corner of the Congregational Church property (parcel #28). It then turns easterly, running 91' along the south line of the Mt. Hope Cemetery. At this point, the boundary turns southerly again running 256' along the east line of parcel #33 until it strikes Jabish St. It then crosses Jabish St. to a point where the south side of Jabish St. intersects the west side of Everett Ave. The boundary then proceeds southwesterly along the west side of Everett Ave. approximately 165'. It then turns westerly, following the south lines of parcels #34 and 35 for 169' where it strikes the east line of the Lawrence Memorial Hall property (#36). The boundary then proceeds southerly 1,664' along the back property lines of the parcels fronting South Main St. until it comes to an iron pin situated on the west line of the Cold Spring Elementary School property and the north side of an unnamed access road to said school. The boundary then runs westerly 449' along the north side of the above mentioned access road to the intersection of this access road with Route 181. The boundary then continues in the same direction (SW) across Route 181 to a point where the west side of Route 181 intersects the south side of the driveway to Building #46, said point being approximately 120' south of the northeast corner of parcel #46. The boundary then continues in roughly the same direction (SW) approximately 335' running parallel with the south line of parcel #47. The boundary then proceeds generally northwesterly 1,387' tracing the back property lines of parcels fronting on South Main St. until it reaches the northwest corner of parcel #52. It then runs north approximately 81' to the southwest corner of parcel #54. It then continues north another 99' along the west line of parcel #54 where it comes to a point which is the southeast corner of parcel #57 and the southwest corner of parcel #56. The boundary turns westerly at this point and runs approximately 700' following the back property lines of the parcels which front Maple St. until it arrives at the southwest corner of parcel #61. It then turns northerly running 108' along the west line of parcel #61 to Maple St., thence running straight across Maple St. to the southwest corner of parcel #62. The boundary then proceeds N. 453' along the west side of parcel #62 until it strikes a stone wall, which is the south line of the Center School property. It then turns and runs along the S. line of the Center School property approximately 430' to the N.E. corner of parcel #65. The boundary then runs due east across the unnamed access road to Center School until it strikes the west line of parcel #4. It then turns and runs 292' northerly along the back lines of parcels #5, thence turns N. running 60' along the W. line of parcel #6, then continues further in the same direction another 55'. It then turns 285' along the south side and the rear of the Methodist Church property (# 7 & 8) until it reaches the N.W. corner of the said church property.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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From this point, the boundary proceeds N.W. approximately 270' across a vacant lot to the S.W. corner of parcel #9. It then proceeds N.W. 80.5' to the S.W. corner of parcel #10, thence N. 498' along the back property lines of the parcels fronting Main St. until it strikes the S. side of Jackson St. The boundary then proceeds 190' along the back lines of parcels #15 #16, thence crosses the 8' right of way leading to N. Main St. which belongs to the property at #6 Jackson St., then proceeds 382' around parcels #17 and #18 to the point of beginning on the W. side of N. Main St., thus encompassing the last two mentioned parcels within the district.

Also refer to the attached map which is taken from the town assessor's maps - sheet 10C.

SOURCE Hand-drawn map by Thomas J. Morgan based on the  
Town of Belchertown Assessor's Maps (sheet #10C)

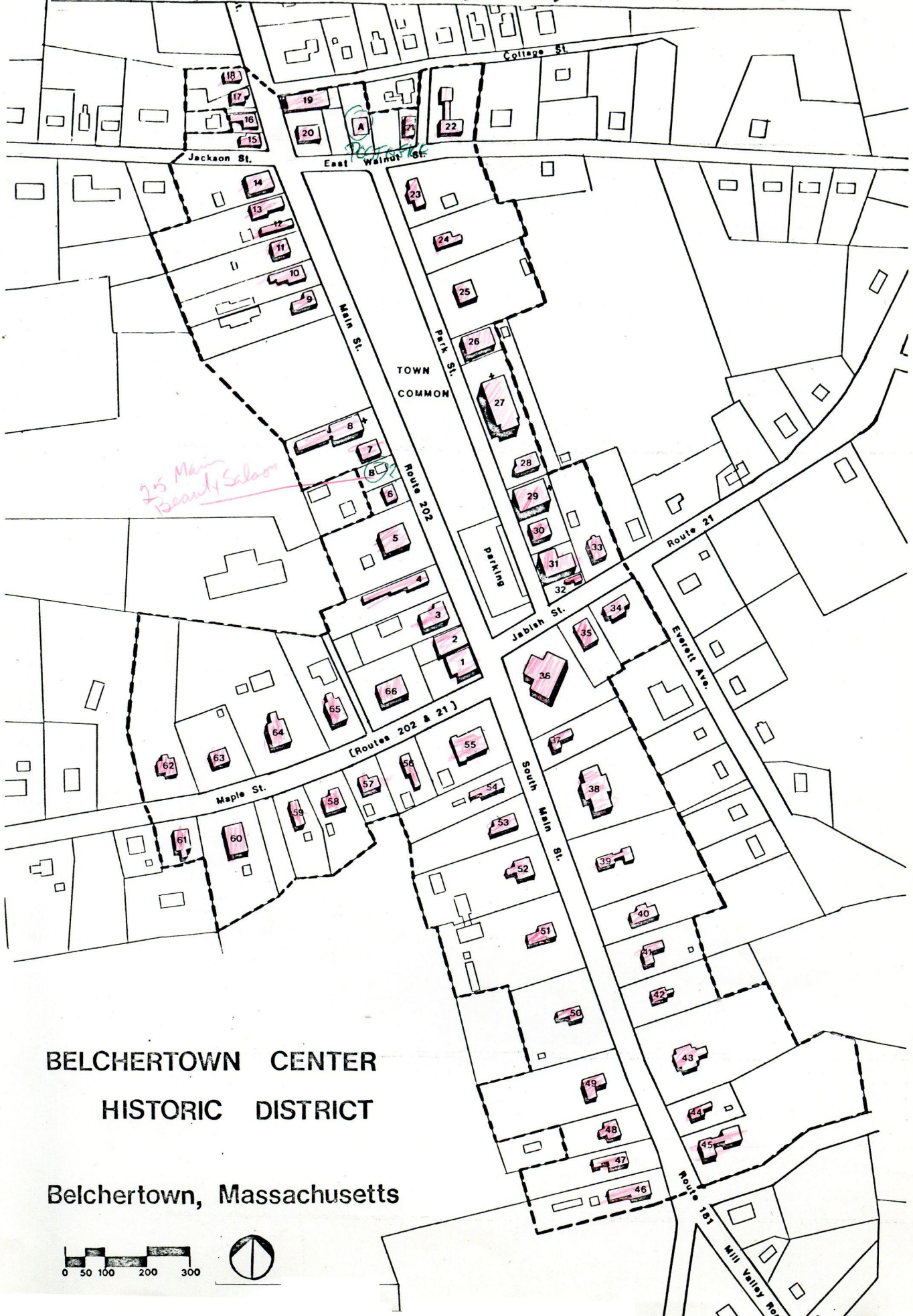
SCALE 1"=200' (Assessor's Map)

DATE

Dec. 31, 1977 (Assessor's map)

1"=300' (on the 8½"x11" sketch map)

May 15, 1979 (Sketch map)

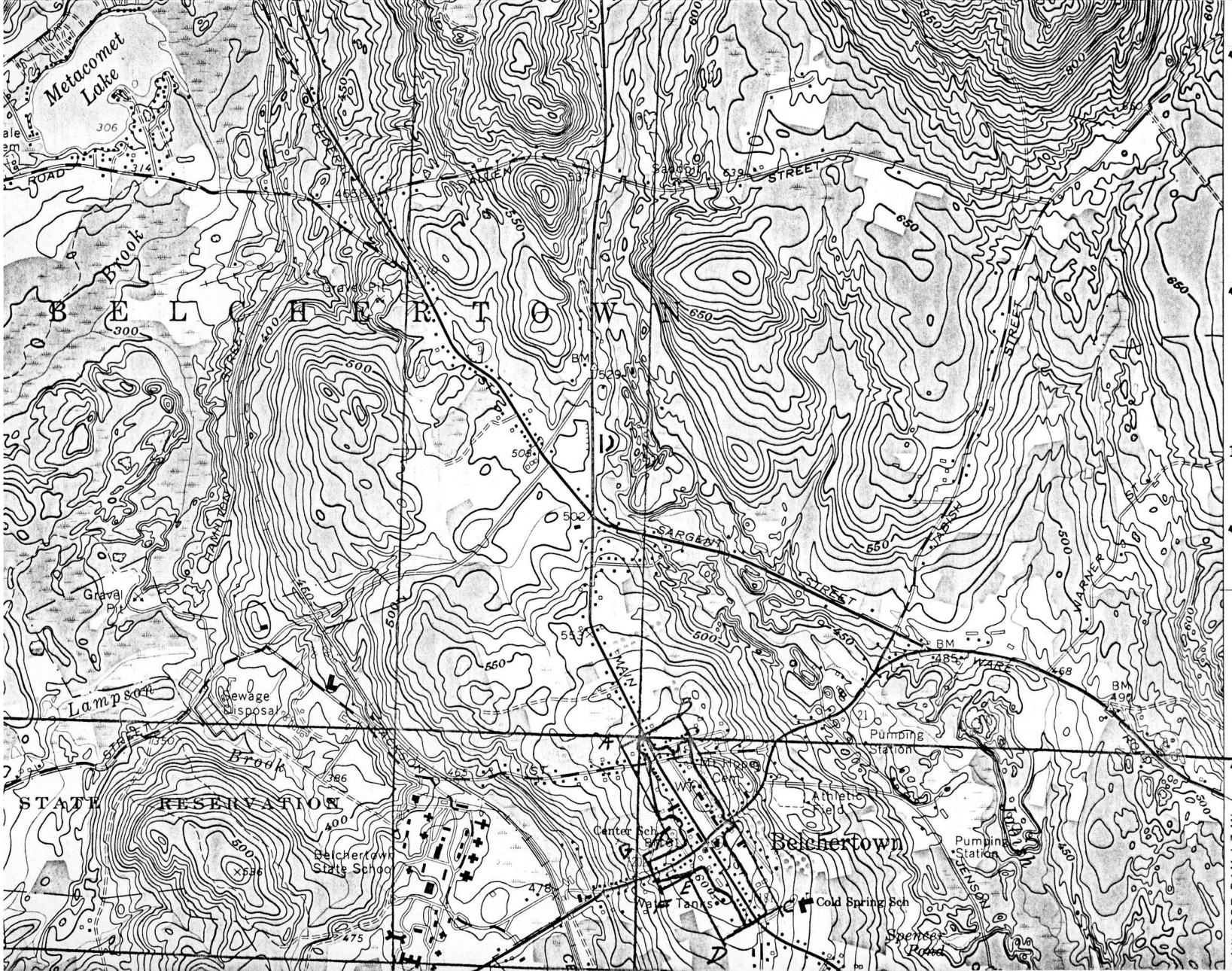


BELCHERTOWN CENTER

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Belchertown, Massachusetts





4687

4686

17'30"

4685

4684

BELCHERTOWN, MA  
 Belchertown Center  
 Historic District

- UTM References:
- A: 18/713930/4683950
  - B: 18/714160/4684090
  - C: 18/714600/4683290
  - D: 18/714360/4683140
  - E: 18/714210/4683410
  - F: 18/714100/4683340
  - G: 18/714020/4683490
  - H: 18/714140/4683550

WINSOR DAM 1.7 MI. WARE 8 MI.



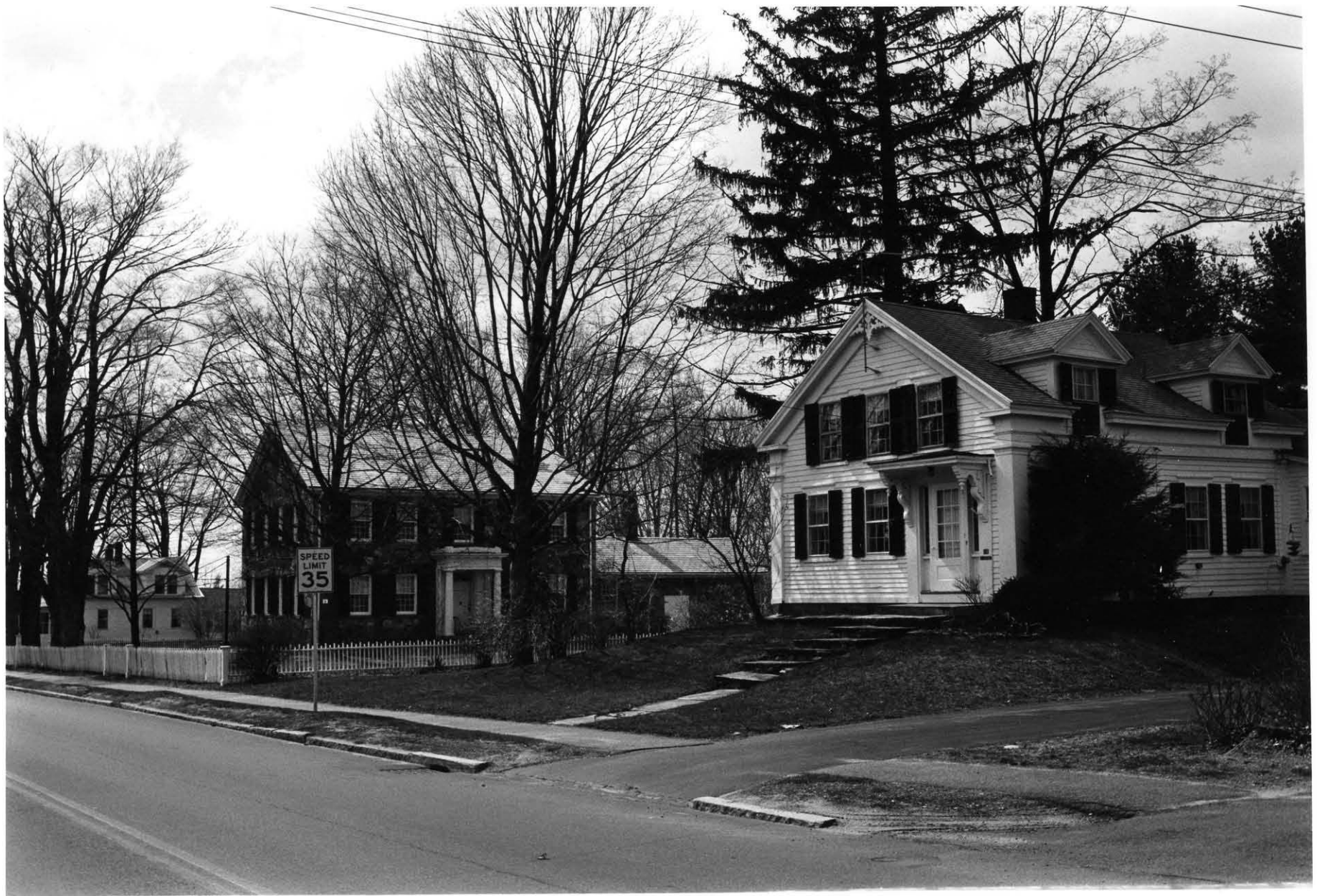
1. Foreground: Belchertown Common with Bandstand & Soldier's Monument.  
Background (L-R): Mason Shaw (#25), 32 Park; Old Town Hall (#26), 28 Park; Congregational Church (#27), 20 Park.  
Looking northeast. (Photograph: Charles Lennon, 1979)



2. Congregational Church (#27), 20 Park. Looking northwest. (Photo: Charles Lennon, 1979)



3. L: Beehive (#43), 45 South Main; R: Hislop (# 44), 51 South Main. Looking north. (Photograph: Charles Lennon, 1979)



4. L: Stone House (#64), 20 Maple; R: John Sears (#65), 16 Maple. Looking northwest. (Photograph: Charles Lennon, 1979)



5. L-R (Looking northwest): Cocquettes Mkt (#2), 7 Main; Woodbridge & Clark (#3), 11 Main; Philo Dickinson (#4), 15 Main; Parsons (#5), 17 Main; Wright Bridgman (#6), 23 Main; Bridgman Brick Block (#7), 29 Main; Methodist Church (#8), 31 Main (Photograph: Charles Lennon, 1979)