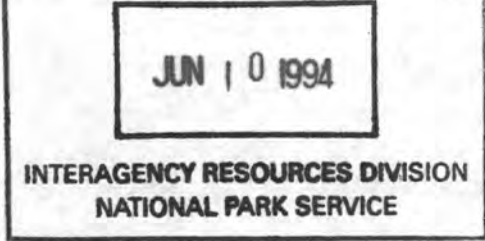


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Belchertown State School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 30 State Street N/A not for publication

city or town Belchertown N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Hampshire code 015 zip code 01007

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough 6/8/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough Date Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick W. Andrews 7/19/94

Belchertown State School

Name of Property

Hampshire County, MA

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
57	26	buildings
9		sites
10	5	structures
		objects
76	31	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Mass. State Hospitals & State Schools

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH CARE: hospital

EDUCATION: school

AGRICULTURE: storage, field, animal facility, outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE: storage, field, animal facility, outbuilding

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th/Greek Revival, Italianate

Late 19th & 20th Revival/Colonial Revival

Late 19th & 20th American/Craftsman

Other/Utilitarian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Fieldstone, Concrete

walls Brick, Stucco

Wood/Shingle, Clapboard

roof Stone/Slate; Wood/Shingle; Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetBelchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

Location/Setting: The 846-acre campus of the Belchertown State School is located on State Route 202, at its intersection with Route 21. This is a generally rural area, approximately 1/3 mile south of the town center. The original site purchased in 1915 included 700 acres; the town poor farm property was added in the late 1920s. Its other major boundaries include the Central Vermont Railroad on the east and George Hannum Street on the north and west. The magnificent northward view from the built campus encompasses scenic agricultural lands and terminates in the peaks of the Holyoke Range. Low-density modern development in the area includes mixed commercial, residential, and institutional uses on Route 202, and residences on Jackson, Boardman, and George Hannum Streets.

Site/Landscape: A newspaper article from the time of the school's opening described the site thus:

The school property of nearly 1000 acres begins a quarter of a mile west of the railroad station and has a long frontage on the Central Vermont railroad. The view from there is fine with the village of Belchertown a third of a mile away and in plain sight, while in the rear lie the mountains.

On the higher ground lie the farms of A. W. Stacy, Fred Michel and Mrs. Geraldine Howard, while on the lower end of the tract, close to the railroad, are the farms of David Jepson and E. C. Witt. The farmhouses on these rich lands possess special interest, if it is true, as hinted by members of the State Board of Insanity, that rather than tear down these buildings, backward children needing institutional care, may be placed in the houses, establishing a kind of cottage system, letting these farmhouses do service until the dormitory is erected and ready for occupancy.

Today, the campus is informally divided into three zones of varying topography and use. The primary zone encompasses the main campus, which occupies a relatively flat parcel of about 100 acres laid out at a 45-degree angle to the north side of Route 202. Here, the patient wards, staff housing, and administrative and support buildings are laid out on a rectangular plan around a series of three central green spaces (#103-105) that is similar to that at the Wrentham State School (see form). This layout was predetermined, as shown in a 1924 plan of the sewage system, which indicated both existing and proposed buildings, landscape, and circulation network. The simple landscape design may have been by architects Kendall & Taylor.

The three sheltered green spaces form a tranquil oasis at the heart of the campus. They feature manicured turf, mature trees including maples and spruces, and a limited system of paved footpaths, many of which are lined by trees. The primary green (#103) is defined by the

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2**Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts**

hospital (#23; W), the school/gym (#29; E), the rear elevations of two former staff houses (#13, 14; S), and Dogwood Circle (N). The secondary green (#104) is defined by the school/gym (#29; W), the boys' and girls' industrial buildings (#28, 27; N, S), and the cafeteria (#30; W). The tertiary green (#105) is defined by L Ward (#7; W), Ridge Road (N, E), and the laundry (#33; S). Another important landscape area is the front lawn (#107), which buffers the buildings from the busy corridor of Route 202 while providing an attractive intermediary zone between community and institution. The main drive curves through this lawn area to a circumferential road network that provides access to the buildings. Most of these roads are lined by mature trees and original streetlights with acorn globes on decorative metal poles. Many are also accompanied by footpaths to separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Subsidiary areas between buildings are generally treated as pleasant, grassy courtyards with trees, benches, swings, and other play equipment. These sheltered spaces are landscape elements of secondary importance. Important groups of trees include screens of mature spruces behind the laundry (#33), the cannery (#31), and the wards on Berkshire Avenue (#5, 6, 19). Small concrete ventilators related to the tunnel system that connects the buildings are scattered about.

The secondary zone encompasses the working agricultural landscape (#106), which is centered on the lower elevations of the Lampson Brook Valley area at the north end of the campus. This scenic, gently rolling terrain accounts for 35% of the campus, and it is the area described as the former farms of Jepson and Witt in the introductory quote. Access to the higher elevations of the main campus is by Jackson Street. Consisting of rough turf/pasture and limited croplands whose edges are defined by wooded areas, this is one of the primary landscape features within the campus. Now managed by the New England Small Farm Institute for the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, this area has been designated as a "Special Place" by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

The Farm Colony buildings are unusually well preserved and include a early nineteenth century farmhouse (#60), and at least two nineteenth century barns (#74, 91). A piggery (#93, 94) and sewage treatment plant (#96-99) are sited along George Hannum Road, which defines the northern edge of the agricultural area. Also included as part of the Farm Colony is the site of the former Town Poor Farm (#72), which burned in 1993. A limited system of unpaved roads connects the buildings. Farming was an important component of the school's programs through the 1970s.

(continued)

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts

The third zone, accounting for almost half of the campus, consists of mature woodlands. These wooded areas generally define the edges of the campus and account for the entire area south of Route 202 where the former Superintendent's House (#50) and the cemetery (#102) are located. That southern area is planted primarily with white pines.

Site and Landscape Integrity: Setting and landscape integrity are high at Belchertown. Intrusions in the main campus area include paved parking areas that have been introduced adjacent to the larger buildings, and a limited amount of modern construction. The agricultural area has been affected primarily by construction of town highway facilities (#67, 68, 71) adjacent to the former poultry plant (#69, 70), which is being used for storage. The wooded area south of Route 202 has been affected by addition of recreational areas and a school by the town.

Buildings: The campus is developed on the dispersed cottage plan that dominated state schools and hospitals from the late nineteenth century on. The major buildings at Belchertown, especially the brick patient wards and stuccoed cottages that once housed staff, are closely modeled on those at the Wrentham State School (see form). Kendall, Taylor & Co. have been identified as the architect of many of the buildings through records at the Massachusetts State Archives. The buildings reveal their substantially later dates through more severe designs and greater reliance on Colonial Revival-style motifs. Most of the buildings are in good condition and remain without major alterations. Most of the buildings date from the 1920s and 1930s, with limited numbers added in subsequent decades. The most important pre-existing buildings are in the farm colony and include the Japon House (#60; 1829), at least two barns (#74, 91; ca. 1850), and the site of the former Poor Farm (#72, 1877).

Building Integrity: Building integrity is generally high at Belchertown, which has been less affected by inappropriate rehab than other state school campuses. Handicap access ramps are the most common exterior change. The major building losses are the former custodial wards A and K (#100, 101).

The campus clearly reflects its period of significance 1915 to 1940.

Representative Buildings are described below:#1: Administration (1926/1967)

The Colonial Revival-style Belchertown Administration Building is closely modeled on its 1915 predecessor at Wrentham. It is a rather small, five-by-two-bay, rectangular plan, red-brick structure that rises one story from a high brick and concrete basement to a slate

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

**Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts**

Section number 7 Page 4

gable roof with dentilated cornice, paired end chimneys, and central clocktower. The five-bay facade is centered on a colossal pedimented entry portico with paired Tuscan columns. The double-leaf entry is headed by a transom. Exceptionally large windows with splayed brick lintels, keystones, and transoms contain 20/20 sash.

The similarly scaled and detailed rear ell was attached to the main building by a hyphen in 1967.

#2-8: B, C, D, E, F, L, M Dorms (1921, 1923, 1923, 1928, 1930, 1920, 1927)

Built over a nine-year period, these two-story, red-brick dormitories are built on the same cruciform plan developed at Wrentham between 1910 and 1917. They differ primarily in stylistic details, which reflect the Colonial Revival style rather than the earlier Arts and Crafts style found at Wrentham. E, D, and M Dorms rise from high brick and concrete basements to hip roofs with plain boxed cornices and are trimmed with brick quoins. B, C, and L Dorms are similar but flat-roofed. F Dorm, which was the last to be erected in 1930, has a gable roof and lacks the quoins. As was the case with the wards at Wrentham, one of the cruciform arms is treated as an entry pavilion with a one-story porch protecting an entry flanked by large windows with 16/16 sash and cast-stone keystones. Elsewhere, windows are treated in similar fashion but are usually paired, creating an even larger glazed expanse. M Dorm offers spectacular views over the campus farm to the mountains beyond.

#100, 101: Site of A and K Wards (1920, 1921)

Two of the earliest ward buildings were crucifix-shaped structures with one arm substantially longer than the others. Built for custodial patients, both of these wards were demolished in the late 1970s. One of their counterparts survives at the Wrentham State School (see form).

#9: G Dorm (1967)

G Dorm is located at the rear (NW) of the campus behind a large, obtrusive paved parking lot. It is a large, red-brick structure of irregular plan that rises three stories to a flat roof. Large-pane windows, arranged in vertical strips, are defined by projecting cast-stone piers. There is no well-defined major entry.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetBelchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 5#10-18: Cottages 1-9 (1920, 1920, 1023, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1922, 1931, 1930)

Like the patient dormitories, the former employee cottages follow the model developed at Wrentham in 1913. They are stuccoed, Craftsman-style structures of domestic scale that rise two stories to slate roofs, and are designed with three-bay central sections flanked by two-bay crosspieces. The major difference between these cottages and those at Wrentham is that here the crosspieces have gabled rather than gambrel roofs. Centered, one-story porches on squat columns are retained. Windows contain 8/8 sash. Secondary entries with bracketed hoods are located on the side elevations. Three (#16, 17, 18) offer spectacular views over the campus farm to the mountains beyond.

#23: Old Hospital (1930)

The Old Hospital is a three-story, red-brick structure of rectangular plan with stylized Colonial Revival-style trim that faces east. It is organized with a pedimented three-bay central entry pavilion, flanked by five bay end sections that are further extended by glazed wood-frame sunporches. The main entry and flanking windows are round-arched. Other windows, with simple brick lintels, generally contain 8/8 sash. The upper stories of the rear (W) elevation are covered by screened porches. This building faces east over the primary green and defines its western end (#103).

#27, 28: Girls' and Boys' Industrial Buildings (1930, 1932)

Both Industrial Buildings or workshops are utilitarian, three-story, red-brick structures rising from concrete foundations to flat roofs with boxed cornices. Brick piers divide the ten-bay side elevations; each bay contains paired windows at each story. Windows generally contain 12/12 sash. The entries are located at the ends and centers of the side elevations. These buildings define the north and south sides of the secondary green (#104).

#29: Front Street School (1928, 1932)

The School is a large, red-brick building of rectangular plan. It consists of a two-story central pavilion flanked by one-story wings containing classroom space. The five-bay central pavilion rises to a parapet broken in the three central bays by a pediment. The three central bays are further defined by brick pilasters separating round-arched entries with glazed, double-leaf doors and fanlights. The one-story wings, which are blank on the facade, are lit by rectangular windows with double-hung 15/15 sash and transoms on the long, twenty-bay side elevations. Secondary entries are centered on the side and rear elevations. This imposing building occupies an important site at

(continued)

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Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts

the center of the campus where it divides the primary (#103) and secondary (#104) greens.

#22: Infirmary (1951)

This building is almost identical to Marion Moore Hall at Wrentham, also built in 1951. Both follow the familiar double Y-plan that was pioneered with the Medical Building at Metropolitan State Hospital in 1934. The Belchertown Infirmary is a two-story, red-brick structure with minimal Colonial Revival-style trim. It rises from a concrete foundation exposed as a basement story on the west to a slate gable roof with underscaled central cupola. The facade is centered on a five-bay pedimented central pavilion with an oculus in the gable field. Windows contain the typical hopper sash, also pioneered at Metropolitan State.

#35, 36: Powerhouse and Railroad Trestle (1922/1928)

The Powerhouse is a typical Utilitarian-designed structure of rectangular plan that rises one story to a flat roof. It is constructed of red brick with concrete piers dividing window bays with small openings that contain twenty-pane metal hopper sash. A tall, yellow brick smokestack rises on the southwest side. A massive concrete railroad trestle approaches the building from the tracks on the east. It is located with the other support/utility buildings at the east edge of the campus.

#34: Storehouse (1932)

Like the powerplant, the Storehouse is a simple, three-part Utilitarian-designed redbrick structure enclosed by a flat roof. A three-by-three-bay, two-story headhouse, with concrete piers dividing window bays, anchors the north end and serves as the general supply room. Extending southward is a seven-bay one-story receiving area fronted by a loading dock; the bays contain large, paired, multipane windows or double-leaf doors with transoms. At the south end is a one-story, three-bay section.

#50, 51: Superintendent's House and Garage (1924, 1930)

The Superintendent's House is similar to the several Colonial Revival-style dwellings that serve this function at the State Hospitals and Schools. All are modeled on their suburban counterparts. This example is a five-bay, center entry wood-frame structure that rises two stories to a gable roof with modillion cornice and pedimented dormers. The entry is framed by sidelights and a louvered fan, fronted by a gabled porch and flanked by three-part windows. Other windows contain 6/1 sash. A one-story sunporch extends from the right (S) elevation. The house is now aluminum-sided with an asphalt

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetBelchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 7 Page 7

shingle roof. It is accompanied by a period garage. The house is set on a wooded rise behind a modern town school and accompanying playing fields.

#52-57: Asst. Supt. House, Fairchild Cottage, Riley Cottage and Garages (1890s, 1920s)

These three cottages, predating the founding of the school, are all vernacular examples of late-nineteenth century residences whose original character and details have been obscured by artificial siding and enclosed front verandahs. The Assistant Superintendent's house is fronted by large maples and is in extremely poor condition.

Farm Colony

Located northwest of the main campus, the Farm Colony consists of a number of wood-frame and concrete block outbuildings and two important residential structures centered on Jackson Street and Lampson Brook. The sewerage treatment plant is located at the northern edge along George Hannum Street. Belchertown's Farm Group is exceptionally well preserved in comparison to those of other state hospitals or schools. The New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI) has taken over management of several of the buildings and fields, while the town highway department now owns the former poultry houses and has built two new adjacent structures. The setting, with surrounding fields, mountains, and woodlands, is exceptional.

#60: Jepson House (1829)

Jepson House was a pre-existing farmhouse acquired by the state from David Jepson; it is now used by NESFI. According to a turn-of-the-century newspaper article, it was remodeled in 1857, which would account for the dominant Greek Revival-style detail. It is a five-bay, clapboard-clad residence that rises 2 1/2 stories to a gable roof with central stove chimney. It is trimmed with paneled corner pilasters and entablature. The facade is centered on a recessed entry with trabeated surround. Windows contain 6/6 sash and are headed by triangulated lintels. A large ell with shed is attached on the south side. It is now accompanied by several modern sheds and greenhouses.

#72: Farmhands Dormitory site (1877)

Constructed as the Town Poor Farm, the former residence for farmhands was an unusual, two-story, clapboard-clad structure enclosed by a gable roof with off-center chimney. Distinguished by Italianate-style features such as bracketed cornice, round-arched gable window, and projecting window hoods, it dated to 1877. It consisted of a two-by-three-bay headhouse that served the warden and a seven-bay lateral wing that housed inmates in four rooms on each side of a central

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 8

corridor. The main entry was contained within an early twentieth century enclosed porch on the gable end of the headhouse. Windows contained 2/2 sash in the headhouse and 6/6 in the wing. It was approached by a curved, unpaved drive and fronted by a retaining wall. On August 30, 1993, the building burned to the ground, only the foundations remain.

#74: Horse Barn (pre-1893)

The horse barn is a picturesque, wood-frame, clapboard-clad structure enclosed by a gable roof with cupola that is typical of barns throughout New England.

The main entry with small-pane transom is located on the east gable end. The long side elevations are marked by small, three-pane hopper windows. In 1924, this barn was shown further north, near the poor farm.

#77-88: Main Farm Complex (1920-1950)

This large, picturesque structure consists of several wood-frame and concrete block buildings that were constructed and connected over a thirty-year period to serve a variety of purposes. Most components are enclosed by gable roofs with ventilators and/or cupolas. Doors are generally double-leaf of sufficient size for dairy cows, oxen, or horses to pass through. Windows generally contain multi-pane sash. A mid-nineteenth century barn (#91) with transom and 6/6 sash stands immediately to the north.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are recorded on the school property or in the general area (within one mile), it is possible that sites are present. The physical characteristics of the school, level to moderately sloping terrace areas adjacent to Lampson Brook and Broad Brook wetlands, indicate favorable locational criteria for Native subsistence and settlement activities. Most of the campus is drained by Lampson Brook, which flows to the north and west from Route 202. Lampson Brook is a tributary stream of Bachelor Brook that flows to the Connecticut River. A small area in the southeastern portion of the campus is drained by Broad Brook, a tributary stream of the Chicopee River which lies south of the school and flows west to the Connecticut River. Numerous prehistoric sites have been recorded along the lower portions of Bachelor Brook near its confluence with the Connecticut River. Similarly, more prehistoric sites are found along the Chicopee River near its confluence with the Connecticut River. While site densities along the interior portions of Connecticut River tributaries are probably lower than areas in close proximity to the Connecticut River, underreporting may be equally

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts**

responsible for the lack of sites along Lampson and Broad Brooks in the school locale. The above information, combined with the fact that almost one half of the campus consists of mature undeveloped woodlands, indicates a high potential for the recovery of significant prehistoric resources. Prehistoric sensitivities are likely the highest along wetland peripheries in the central and western portion of the campus both north and south of Route 202 and around wetlands in the eastern periphery of the school.

There is also a high potential for locating significant historic archaeological remains on the school property. Structural remains may survive from farmhouses, barns, and outbuildings associated with the five farms that were purchased for the school. Early 20th century newspaper articles imply the existence of these farmhouses at the time of purchase for the school by noting that the houses were of special interest for residence, particularly by backward children prior to the erection of dormitories. Only Jepson House (#50, 1829) survives today. Survivals for the Stacy farmhouse (probably early 19th century), the Howard farmhouse (date unknown), the Michael farmhouse (late 19th century), and the Witt farmhouse (date unknown) likely survive on the school property, probably in the Farm Colony area; however, their locations are currently unknown. Two 19th century barns are known on the school property. One barn (#74, pre 1893) lies near the Jepson House, implying a potential association between them. Some accounts, however, note the barn was further north near the poor farm in 1924. A second barn (#91, ca. 1850) lies in the Main Farm Complex without extant associations. This barn may be associated with the Witt Farm or one of the other three farms whose locations are presently unknown. In the event barn #74 is associated with Jepson House, the structural remains of an earlier barn are expected based on the 1829 date for the house. Occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) likely survive with the five farms listed above. Occupational-related features and outbuildings may also survive that were associated with the former Poor Farm (#72, 1877). A cemetery (#102, ca. 1920) associated with the school is located south of Route 202. Unmarked graves may be associated with this cemetery. It is highly likely that a cemetery also existed with the Poor Farm. Graves may have been marked originally, but have since become overgrown or toppled. Unmarked graves are common with Poor Farm cemeteries. Archaeological survivals also likely survive from early 20th century activities associated with the Belchertown State School. Structural remains of outbuildings associated with agricultural and food processing-related activities may survive, as well as occupational-related features associated with these activities and the residential/institutional care of patients and staff.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

HEALTH/MEDICINE

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1915-1940

Significant Dates

1915 - purchase of land

1922 - opening of school

Late 1920s - purchase of Town Poor Farm

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kendall, Taylor & Co.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 846 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	7 1 1 4 0 0	4 6 8 4 5 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	7 1 2 7 8 0	4 6 8 4 5 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
5	1 8	7 1 0 9 4 0	4 6 8 3 0 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

3	1 8	7 1 3 8 0 0	4 6 8 3 2 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	7 1 3 2 4 0	4 6 8 1 5 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Preservation Consultant with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 1993

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetBelchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
MassachusettsSection number 8 Page 1**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Belchertown State School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and workmanship. It opened in the fall of 1922 as the Commonwealth's third "school for the feeble-minded," with the specific purpose of serving the western half of the state. The need for such an institution had been recognized at least as early as 1913, when the Trustees of the Fernald School in Waltham (see form) recommended establishment of such a school to serve the great demand for admissions from that quarter. The site was purchased in 1915, and development was begun in 1918 under the initial supervision of the Wrentham School (see form). The Belchertown State School, which was closely modeled on the grounds and building plans of Wrentham, and which continued the nationally renowned treatment programs begun at Fernald, represents the mature development of the state school system as it existed prior to the mid-twentieth century. It was, and continues to be, regionally significant as the only school for developmentally disabled children in western Massachusetts. The Belchertown State School clearly reflects the development of the Massachusetts State Hospital and School System as described in the overview and meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. It is significant on the local and state levels with a period of significance extending from 1915 to 1940.

Chapter 127 of the Acts of 1915 authorized construction of "a new school for the feeble-minded in the western part of the state, at Belchertown" with an appropriation of \$50,000 to purchase 700 acres of land. Development of the site was not undertaken until 1918, however, when several existing farmhouses and outbuildings were fitted out to accommodate 40 boys from Wrentham along with an unspecified number of attendants to provide supervision. New construction began the following year when contracts were let for a powerhouse (#35), a storehouse/bakery (#34), a laundry (#33), a boys' custodial building (#101), a boys' dormitory (#7), and two employees' cottages (#10, 11). In the absence of a Board of Trustees, Dr. George L. Wallace, Superintendent of the Wrentham School, provided immediate supervision. Thus, the Wrentham School acted as a parent institution to Belchertown in much the same way that Fernald had given rise to Wrentham in 1906-1908.

A January 1918 article in the local newspaper, The Sentinel, provides an interesting counterpoint to the information contained in the school's annual reports. According to that source, the town saw the new institution as a "considerable stimulus to industry and trade" in a small community of 2,200, in addition to its main purpose of serving the "feeble-minded children of Western Massachusetts who hitherto have been compelled to go to the distant schools at Waverley and Wrentham."

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2**Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts**

The Sentinel also provided information on the existing farmsteads purchased by the state, noting that several of the houses and barns would be used--at least temporarily--to house children, thereby "establishing a kind of cottage system, letting these farmhouses do service until the dormitory is erected and ready for occupancy." The farms were described thus:

The largest of the five farms for which the State will pay approximately \$43,000, is that owned by A. W. Stacy which embraces about 560 acres. This is all good land and fine for pasturing. On this high land no doubt some of the big buildings for the school will be erected. The present is the third generation of Stacys to own the farm, which has been in the family for 150 years. Fifty head of cattle used to be kept here, but not of late years, as Mr. Stacy has had other plans to carry out. This soil, just as on the other farms, is rich and is easily worked to raise varied farm produce, corn, potatoes and other table commodities which a colony of 2000 will demand in such great quantity. R. E. Fairchild says the biggest corn he has ever seen came off the Stacy farm; the stalks were 18 feet tall. Hundreds of barrels of apples have been picked in the orchards, and another advantage there, in one of the Stacy pastures is a whole set of springs and the water examined by an engineer is pronounced perfectly pure and of unlimited supply. There is a pond which with the brush cut off would cover nearly two acres, from which ice could be procured and where the boys could have fun skating. The Stacy house is probably 100 years old, but is good for a long time yet; it is roomy and serviceable as a home for those who will go to Belchertown.

Adjoining is the Howard farm. It is on this land that the spur track will run. It is understood that Chairman O'Meara of the State Board said that the Howard house could be easily converted into an office building. This fine old place was built by Enoch Burnett when he returned from California.

The Michel farm, a little to the right, as one faces the village from Howards and Stacys embraces 120 acres. The neat, well-built farmhouse is 40 years old. The land is good and the barn in in excellent repair. The Jepson farm takes in about 60 acres and the land is bounded by the Central Vermont railroad and by the woods. The farmhouse was fixed over the Mr. Jepson's father in 1857, but the house (#60) was erected long before that. This is exceptionally good grass land.

The Witt farm adjoining covers 130 acres and the land goes clear to the other road. In the rear of his barns across the road from the house are to be found excellent springs. Messrs. Witt, Jepson, and Michel raise some 25 head or a few less in the case of

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 8 Page 3

the two latter, but if the school authorities which they can have a dairy of 100 cows on the tract. Besides vegetables and milk, pork, corned beef and fresh beef could be provided the inmates of the school at their very door. There is plenty of wood to be cut for firewood and in fact count everything that could be wanted for home consumption.

The Sentinel also remarked on the programs of the school:

Presumably in Belchertown, when the plant once gets fully under way, the many industries as carried on in Waverley will be inaugurated, such as carpentry, shopworking, cooking, sewing, weaving of carpets and rugs, making of brushes, brooms and doormats, etc. Facility in these makes the feeble-minded child self-supporting, encourages self-respect, and tends to establish character and stability. Then too, no doubt, boys will work the land much as they do at the Templeton farm where the 350 boys carry on the work just as they do at Mt. Hermon.

The Belchertown State School also includes the site of the former Town Poor Farm (#72). Constructed in 1877 with a two story warden's department, the building consisted of a one and one-half story ell for inmates, a tramp room, and a lockup. The farm was self-sustaining with cows, chickens, pigs, orchards and large hay meadows and gardens. The property was sold to the school in the late 1920s.

According to the 1922 Annual Report of the Massachusetts Commissioner of Mental Diseases, additional construction did not commence until that year, when several buildings, which would expand the school's total capacity to 750 children, were begun. These included a girls' custodial building (#100), three girls' dormitories (#2, 3, 4), a service building (#30), and two additional employees' cottages (#12, 16), which were ready for occupancy the following year. So that the school could open without further delay, it was reported that temporary arrangements had been made to use one end of the storehouse as a kitchen/dining room and to use part of the laundry for schoolhouse and assembly hall purposes.

Chapter 410 of the Acts of 1922 officially established the Belchertown State School, and formal opening ceremonies were held on November 15, 1922. By that time, Dr. George E. McPherson had been appointed superintendent (March 15, 1922) and the school had received its first appropriation independent of Wrentham (June 1, 1922). Sixty-five boys were transferred from Fernald on the opening day, and 128 more from Fernald and Wrentham were transferred on November 24. To continue expansion of the school, other structures were authorized that year, including an administration building (#1), a schoolhouse/gym (#29), two boys' dormitories to house 105 patients each (#8, 5), two additional employees' cottages for 22 staff each (#13, 14), a garage (#37), a carpenters' shop (#38), a superintendent's house (#50), a

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 4

railroad spur track (#36), and an off-site water tower. According to Annual Reports, which are verified by actual construction dates, completion of this group was slow, with the earliest not ready for occupancy until 1925.

One year after the official opening of the Belchertown School on October 1, 1923, its total capacity was listed at 710 while its total population was a mere 428, perhaps partially accounting for the slowdown in construction. During the next three years, the official capacity remained at 710 while the population climbed to 672 in 1924, to 729 in 1925, and to 743 in 1926. The trustees, writing in their 1924 Annual Report, ascribed their disappointing lack of physical progress to "the new policy of rigid economy in state expenditures."

Nevertheless, programs similar to those at Fernald and Wrentham were established and reported on with pride. In 1924, the trustees stated: the Board has been cognizant of the difficulties attendant upon the opening of a new institution, and each month throughout the year has noted with satisfaction increased facilities for the care of the patients, the purchase of play materials for the younger children in the wards, play-ground equipment, the inauguration of physical training activities, out-of-doors sports, and indoor festivities, all of which have militated for happiness. The gradual development of hand-work for the girls and industrial work for the boys, in cramped and inadequate quarters, is suggestive of future development under more auspicious conditions. The same is true of the school department. The out-of-door activities in digging and grading and the farm work of the able bodied boys, have given wholesome, purposeful occupation, which reacts in cheerfulness and self-respect among the workers.

They also noted that a "vacation" or parole system had been established under the supervision of the Social Service Department. Clinics for the examination of children in the community had also been inaugurated, following the example of Fernald and Wrentham. These types of community-based programs were added throughout the State Hospital and School System in the 1910s and 1920s.

In 1925 it was reported that:

...programs have been expanded with establishment of an Educational Department. During the year we have secured the services of a head teacher who is busy correlating the courses of study, organizing the institution library and its circulation, and supervising the entertainment activities. This year has been the beginning of a kindergarten. There now are being conducted two sense-training classes (pre-kindergarten), a kindergarten, gymnastic classes, and six grades of grammar school. In addition, there is an industrial department for boys, and, for boys, one in manual training. In all our classes we have 134 boys

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts**Section number 8 Page 5

and 210 girls. Pupils attend their school sessions for one-half of each school day.

The following year, a music teacher was employed.

Dr. George E. McPherson served as superintendent from the school's founding until 1943. He was replaced by Dr. Henry A. Tagdell, who served until 1960 when he, in turn, was replaced by Dr. Lawrence P. Bowser. During the mid-twentieth century, conditions at Belchertown apparently deteriorated. The systemwide Governor & Council Report of 1945, which was generally flattering in its estimation of Belchertown, reported that beds were too close together, causing poor ventilation and fire hazard, especially in A and K Dorms. The farm colony dorms were also noted as old, wood-frame fire hazards. New buildings, especially an infirmary for chronic cases, were urgently recommended.

In March 1970, the Springfield Union began a series of articles exposing sub-human living conditions at the school, leading to Dr. Bowser's resignation and the appointment of three successors in the next two years. Establishment of the Belchertown State School Friends Association in January 1972, appointment of a long-term superintendent, Dr. William E. Jones, in November 1972, and a consent decree in that same month led to substantial changes at the school. The school was closed in 1992 as part of a systemwide facilities evaluation.

Archaeological Significance

The overall lack of prehistoric site locations and systematically excavated sites in Belchertown makes any surviving sites significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can be important by providing data on upland/interior sites in general and the role sites along tributary streams of the Connecticut River played in the local/regional Native subsistence and settlement systems. Sites in this area can be part of a larger, possibly seasonal settlement network based along the Connecticut River and/or part of a specialized adaptation to local environments in the uplands. Most Native American core areas in this region focused on the Connecticut River Valley and the main branch of the Connecticut River; however, areas of equal or secondary importance may have focused along primary or first-rank tributaries at the confluence of this tributaries or, the confluence of minor drainages such as brooks and streams with these tributaries. Sites in this area can contribute to a clarification of the nature and diversity of these relationships.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential to document 19th and possibly 18th century land use history that predates the State Hospital; such remains may provide details pertaining to life at the hospital for patients and possibly staff.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts**

Documentary research combined with archaeological survey and testing can pinpoint the locations of farmhouses, related outbuildings, and occupational-related features associated with four of the five farms purchased for the school but no longer extant. Careful analysis of occupational-related features associated with the farms can provide details of rural agricultural life and the extent to which the farms participated in local, regional, or even self-sufficient economies. Analysis of these features can also determine with relative accuracy the dates of occupation and possibly settlement of the farms. Refuse analysis can also help document the extent to which crafts such as carpentry, shopworking, cooking, sewing, weaving of carpet, and rugs, and the making of brushes, brooms and dormat, etc. were used as part of the school's programs to encourage self respect and establish character and stability with youths at the school. This information is currently lacking for most of the farms. Analysis of structural remains from the farmhouses and related feature can help reconstruct the degree to which farmhouses and outbuildings were altered or "fitted out" to serve as dormitories for children during the early days of the school. Structural remains from outbuildings and occupational-related features may also survive from the town's Poor Farm (#72, 1877), sold to the school in the 1920s. Study of these remains can provide valuable insights into life on 19th century poor farms and the extent to which they were self sustaining, as reported. Archaeological remains from the Belchertown Poor Farm can also be used in a comparative study with other poor farms or almshouses operated by the State. (Two of three state-owned almshouses operated by the State are included in this nomination, in Tewksbury and Monson.) A cemetery, whose location is currently unknown, should also exist for the Belchertown Poor Farm. The location of the cemetery would be a valuable contribution to the reconstruction of the Poor Farm. Structural remains from outbuildings and food processing related activities associated with the school's agricultural activities can provide complete documentation for these activities for future study and provide data for which documentation often does not exist. Trash areas associated with the school's day-to-day support activities can provide similar information. This data can provide insights into life at the school rarely documented in writing.

(end)

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Continuation Sheet

Belchertown State School
Belchertown (Hampshire County)
Massachusetts

Section number 9, 10 Page 1, 1

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(end)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

See attached map

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The nomination is confined to present campus boundaries which were
achieved during the period of significance. The town poor farm was
added to the original 700 acres in the late 1920s to achieve the
current 846 acres.

(end)

**BELCHERTOWN STATE SCHOOL
BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MAP #	BUILDING NAME	DATE	STYLE	ARCHITECT/DESIGNER	STATUS	RESOURCE
1	Administration	1926/1967	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
2	Ward B	1921	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
3	Ward C	1923	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
4	Ward D	1923	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
5	Ward E	1928	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
6	Ward F	1930	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
7	Ward L	1920	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
8	Ward M	1927	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
9	Ward G	1967	Modern		NC	B
10	Cottage 1	1920	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
11	Cottage 2	1920	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
12	Cottage 3	1923	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
13	Cottage 4	1927	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
14	Cottage 5	1928	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
15	Cottage 6	1930	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
16	Cottage 7	1922	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
17	Cottage 8	1931	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
18	Cottage 9	1930	Craftsman	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
19	Nursery 1	1930	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
20	Nursery 2	1932	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
21	Tagdell Nursery	1967	Modern		NC	B
22	Infirmary	1944	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	NC	B
23	Hospital	1930	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
24	Dental Trailer	1977	Modern		NC	St
25	Garage	ca. 1980	Modern		NC	B
26	Civil Defense Tower	ca. 1970	n/a		NC	St
27	Girls' Industrial Bldg.	1932	Utilitarian		C	B
28	Boys' Industrial Bldg.	1930	Utilitarian		C	B
29	Front Street School	1928/1932	Colonial Revival		C	B
30	Food Service Building	1922	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
31	Cannery	1933	Colonial Revival	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
32	Garbage Shed	1924	Utilitarian		C	B
33	Laundry	1920	Utilitarian		C	B
34	Storehouse/Bakery	1922	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
35	Powerhouse	1922	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	St
36	Railroad Trestle	1928	Utilitarian		C	St
37	Main Garage	1922	Utilitarian	Kendall, Taylor & Co.	C	B
38	Maintenance Shop	1932	Utilitarian		C	B
39	Tin Shed	ca. 1940	Utilitarian		C	B

**BELCHERTOWN STATE SCHOOL
BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

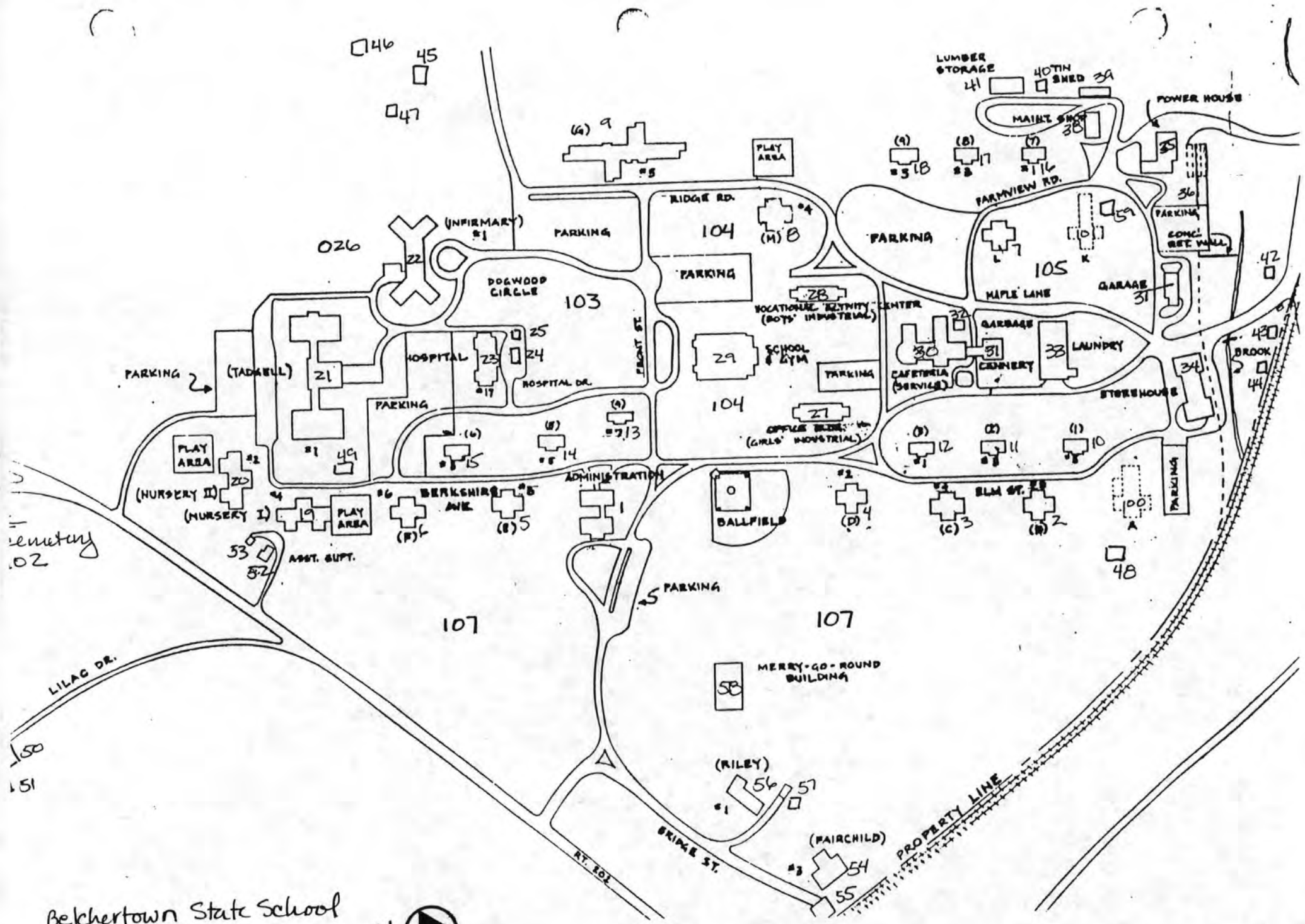
MAP #	BUILDING NAME	DATE	STYLE	ARCHITECT/DESIGNER	STATUS	RESOURCE
40	Storage	1951	Utilitarian		NC	B
41	Lumber Storage	1944	Utilitarian		NC	B
42	Sewer Meter Shed	ca. 1980	Utilitarian		NC	B
43	Incinerator	1950	Utilitarian		NC	St
44	Rock Crusher	ca. 1950	Utilitarian		NC	St
45	Friendship Lodge	1974	Modern		NC	B
46	Recreation Pavilion	1983	Modern		NC	St
47	Storage Shed	1982	Utilitarian		NC	B
48	Gazebo A	1934	Craftsman		C	St
49	Gazebo F	ca. 1922	Craftsman		C	St
50	Superintendent's Hse.	1924	Colonial Revival		C	B
51	garage	1925	Utilitarian		C	B
52	Asst. Supt. House	1891	Vernacular		C	B
53	garage	1927	Utilitarian		C	B
54	Fairchild Cottage	1893	Vernacular		C	B
55	garage	1931	Utilitarian		C	B
56	Riley Cottage	1890	Vernacular		C	B
57	garage	1929	Utilitarian		NC	B
58	Carousel Storage Bldg.	1962	Utilitarian		NC	B
	Carousel	1900 (moved from site: 1993)				
59	Greenhouse	1982	Utilitarian		NC	B
60	Jepon House	1829	Greek Revival		C	B
61	garage	1924	Utilitarian		C	B
62	shed	ca. 1970	Utilitarian		NC	B
63	shed	ca. 1970	Utilitarian		NC	B
64	plastic greenhouse	ca. 1990	Utilitarian		NC	B
65	plastic greenhouse	ca. 1990	Utilitarian		NC	B
66	Vegetable Storage	1929	Utilitarian		C	B
67	Town Garage	ca. 1980	Utilitarian		NC	B
68	Town Storage	ca. 1950	Utilitarian		NC	B
69	Hen House	1930	Utilitarian		C	B
70	Poultry House	1930	Utilitarian		C	B
71	Garage	ca. 1980	Utilitarian		NC	B
72	Poor Farm/Dorm. site	1877	Italianate		C	Si
73	Cabbage Shed	1940	collapsed		NC	B
74	Horse Barn	pre-1893	Utilitarian		C	B
75	Horse Barn	1915	Utilitarian		C	B
76	Wagon Shed	1930	Utilitarian		C	B
77	Bull Pen	1940	Utilitarian		C	St

**BELCHERTOWN STATE SCHOOL
BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
DISTRICT DATA SHEET**

MAP #	BUILDING NAME	DATE	STYLE	ARCHITECT/DESIGNER	STATUS	RESOURCE
78	Cow Barn	1947	Utilitarian		NC	B
79	Barn	1923	Utilitarian		C	B
80	Cow Barn	1924	Utilitarian		C	B
81	Cow Barn	1924	Utilitarian		C	B
82	Bull Pen	1930	Utilitarian		C	B
83	Greenhouse	1926	Utilitarian		C	B
84	Boiler Room	1926	Utilitarian		C	St
85	Dairy	1926	Utilitarian		C	B
86	Hospital	1927	Utilitarian		C	B
87	Feed Storage	1948	Utilitarian		NC	B
88	Hay Barn	1950	Utilitarian		NC	B
89	Saw Dust Shed	1951	Utilitarian		NC	B
90	Storage/Indoor Riding	1958	Utilitarian		NC	B
91	Storage Barn	ca. 1850	Greek Revival		C	B
92	Manure Shed	1928	Utilitarian		C	B
93	Piggery	1930	Utilitarian		C	B
94	Piggery/Quonset Hut	1951	Utilitarian		NC	B
95	Piggery Storage	1930	Utilitarian		C	B
96	Sewerage Facility	1934	Utilitarian		C	St
97	Sewerage Facility	1934	Utilitarian		C	St
98	Sewerage Facility	1934	Utilitarian		C	St
99	Sewerage Outflow	ca. 1935	Utilitarian		C	St
100	Site of A Ward	1921 (demolished ca. 1980)			C	Si
101	Site of K Ward	1920 (demolished ca. 1980)			C	Si
102	Cemetery	ca. 1920	n/a		C	Si
103	Main Green space	ca. 1920	n/a		C	Si
104	Secondary Green space	ca. 1920	n/a		C	Si
105	Tertiary Green space	ca. 1920	n/a		C	Si
106	Pasture/Crop land	n/a	n/a		C	Si
107	Front Lawn	ca. 1920	n/a		C	Si

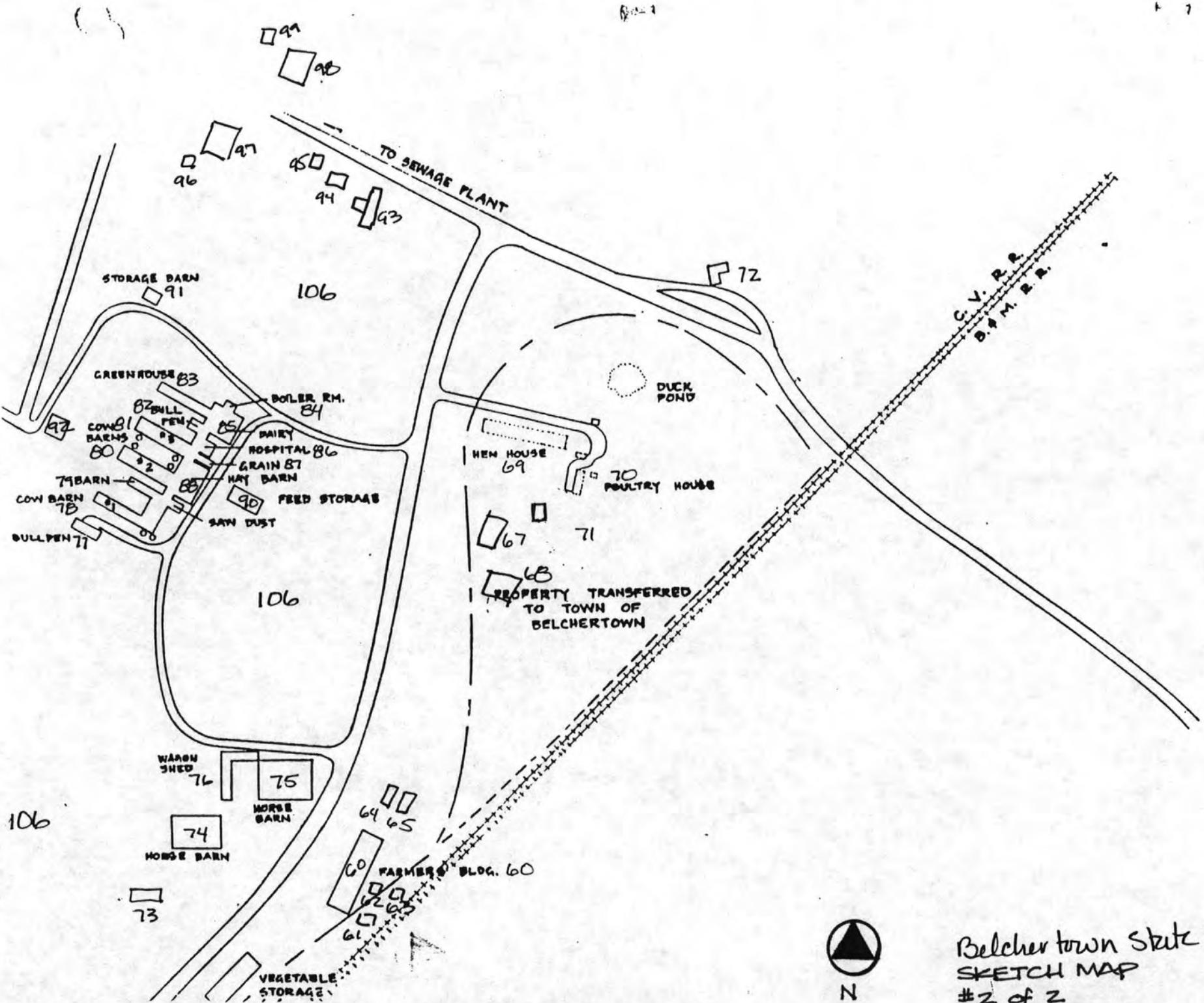
TOTAL RESOURCES: 76 Contributing; 31 Noncontributing

57 Contributing Buildings	26 Noncontributing Buildings
9 Contributing Sites	5 Noncontributing Structures
10 Contributing Structures	



Bekchertown State School
 SKETCH MAP
 #1 of 2





Belcher town State School
 SKETCH MAP
 #2 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Belchertown State School

MULTIPLE NAME: Massachusetts State Hospitals MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Hampshire

DATE RECEIVED: 6/10/94 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/21/94
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/07/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/25/94
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 94000688

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.19.94 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Historically & architecturally significant early 20th century
State institution designed for the care of mentally disabled
children in the western part of Mass.*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A&C
REVIEWER Patricia Andrews
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 7/19/94

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___ count ___ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___ historic ___ current

DESCRIPTION

___ architectural classification
___ materials
___ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ___ summary paragraph
- ___ completeness
- ___ clarity
- ___ applicable criteria
- ___ justification of areas checked
- ___ relating significance to the resource
- ___ context
- ___ relationship of integrity to significance
- ___ justification of exception
- ___ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___ acreage ___ verbal boundary description
___ UTM's ___ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___ sketch maps ___ USGS maps ___ photographs ___ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



#6-2

3/92

E Dorm

Belchertown State School

Belchertown, MA

Candace Jenkins, photographer

17 Slade St, Belmont, MA - neg location

view facing N



6-3 Belchertown 3/92
F Dorm



6-21 Belchertown 3/92
Farmhouse



6-9 Belchertown 3/92

Cottage B19



6-4 Belchertown 3/92

Cottage 6



6-12 Belchertown 3/92

Girl's Industrial Bldg.



6-1 Belchertown 3/92
Administration



8-10A Belchertown 11/2
primarily green facing NE



6-18 Belchertown 3/92
Bull Pen



6-10 Belcher Town 3/92

Maintenance/Power Plant



6-5 Belchertown 3/92

Nursing 1



6-11 Belchertown 3/92

Storhouse



B-BA Belchertown 11/92

Rear, Wards E+F



6-20 Belchertown 3/92
Horse Barn)



6-19 Belchertown 3A2
Farm Complex







6-17 Belchertown 3/92
Pooy Farm

**BURNED 1993
NO LONGER EXTANT**



B-11A Belchertown 11/92
agri land form behind EHQ



6-16 Belchertown 3/12

Cemetery



B-9A Belcher town 11/92
primary green facies NE



6-6 Belchertown 3/92
Infirmary



6-15 Belchertown 3/92
Supt's House



8-7A Belchertown 11/92
Employee Hrs 2702B



6-7 Belchertown 3/92
6 Ward



6-B Belcher town 3/92
Farm from M Derrin



B-12A Belchertown 11/92
agri land from behind E119



6-13 Belchertown 3/92
Schoolhouse



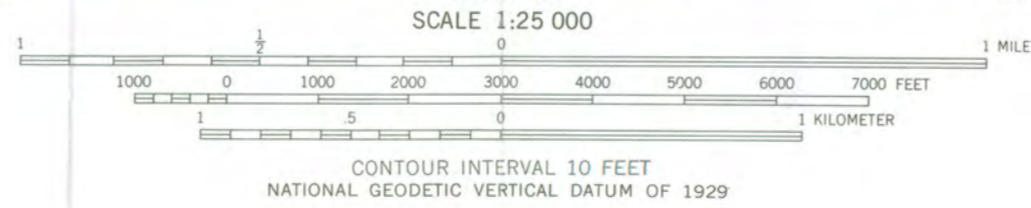
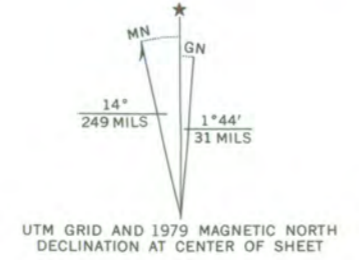
B-13A Belshertown 11/92
agri land from behind EHG



6-14 Belchertown 3/92
Hospital



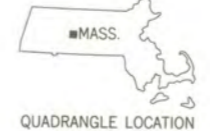
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1939. Revised 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 18
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route

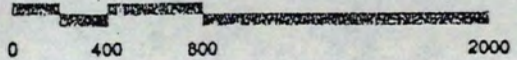


BELCHERTOWN, MASS.
N4215—W7222.5/7.5
1964
PHOTO REISED 1979
AMS 6568 IV SW—SERIES V814

BELCHERTOWN STATE SCHOOL
BELCHERTOWN (HAMPSHIRE COUNTY)
MASSACHUSETTS
UTM REF. POINTS = 1-5



BELCHERTOWN STATE SCHOOL
 BELCHERTOWN (HAMPSHIRE COUNTY)
 MASSACHUSETTS





June 8, 1994

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Belchertown State School, 30 State Street, Belchertown (Hampshire County), Massachusetts, 01007.

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60-120 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. The one owner of this property is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure