

PH0500852

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 12 1977
DATE ENTERED JAN 9 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Daniel Gay House

AND/OR COMMON

Belcher Memorial Library

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Gaysville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stockbridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Vermont

STATE

Vermont

CODE

50

COUNTY

Windsor

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of Belcher Memorial Library

STREET & NUMBER

Gaysville

CITY, TOWN

Stockbridge

STATE

Vermont

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stockbridge

STATE

Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont State Register of Historic Places

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier,

STATE

Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on a sloping site in the center of Gaysville, a village outside of the Town of Stockbridge, the Belcher Memorial Library was built, circa 1835, in the Greek revival classic temple form. It is rectangular in plan, 2 1/2 stories, of post and beam construction and sheathed with clapboards painted white. The three-bay front, or north western facade, contains a pedimented tetra-style portico, the most pronounced feature of the house. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The portico is supported by four colossal unfluted doric columns of solidwood, each resting on a granite plinth, and supporting a simple entablature upon which rests the attic story. Within the porch, on the western side is contained a simple Greek revival pilastered doorway, framed by 3 wooden side panels, flanking the front door. The door, original to the circa 1835 erection, contains two large leaden glass panels of Queen Anne style vintage. The window sashes on all but the rear are a multi-paned sash over a single pane in the Queen Anne style. Louvered shutters frame each window.

At the southwest corner of the building is an ell, built with stylish components of Queen Anne vintage. This 2 story, 3 bay wooden clapboard addition contains a simple, one story doric portico, topped with a Queen Anne balustrade. The balusters having been turned in Gaysville. The flat roof of the ell is covered with tar-paper. A back shed, originally a woodshed, runs the length of the ell, at the rear. The south eastern elevation contains a lean-to which dominates the rear elevation.

On the interior, the first floor plan was moderately altered when the building was converted into a library, while the second floor plan remained unaltered.

The original staircase and the Greek Revival door and window trim suggest a modest interior. One mantle in the north eastern, second floor bedroom survives, and a late Queen Anne mantle is contained in the parlor on the first floor. Bookcases cover the walls of the house, added at various points throughout the expansion of the Belcher Library collection.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, this house, built in the 1830's or 1840's by Daniel Gay, is an excellent example of the classic temple form modified by vernacular Greek Revival details and by functional requirements not historically compatible with the classic temple form. The most distinguishing architectural detail is the full open portico on the front gable end. The portico is not an applied detail but is an integral part of the classic temple form united by the continuous gable roof and the entablature which returns the length of the building. The house shows the skill of a master carpenter whose knowledge of architecture went far beyond the use of standard architect's and builder's pattern books.

Daniel and Jeremiah Gay, for whom Gaysville is named, settled in the town of Stockbridge near the present village of Gaysville in the 1820's. In 1832 they built a five story brick woolen mill on the White River, at a spot known as the "Great Narrows." Daniel Gay, his son Merrick, and his grandson Nelson continued to manage various mill operations in Gaysville into the early twentieth century. The 1927 Flood destroyed most of the village of Gaysville, and ended the commercial and industrial prosperity started in 1832 by Daniel and Jeremiah Gay.

In 1937 Nelson Merrick Gay's widow, Lucia Gay, left to the village of Gaysville Daniel Gay's house to be used as a village library and to house the private library of William Belcher which had been left to the village in 1896 with an endowment of ten thousand dollars. The trustees of the Belcher Memorial Library acquired ownership of the house in 1944.

The regrading of Vt. Route 107 artificially elevated the house above the road, damaging the house's original setting by making the house appear more imposing than was originally intended.

The house is one of the few surviving landmarks in Gaysville.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	118	68152110	481507010	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Coextensive with the Belcher Memorial Library property lines.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION Richard C. Cote and Courtney Fisher, Architectural Historians DATE 6-3-77
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (802) 828-3226
 STREET & NUMBER Pavilion Building TELEPHONE
 CITY OR TOWN Montpelier STATE Vermont 05602

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE William B. Pinney DATE 6-15-77
 TITLE Director/State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION William B. Pinney DATE 6-9-78
 ATTEST: Charles A. [Signature] KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 1-5-77