

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 6 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jonathan Belcher House

AND/OR COMMON

Ladies' Library Association of Randolph

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

360 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Randolph

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11

COUNTY

Norfolk

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

X MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

X EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

X OTHER: Women's Club

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ladies' Library Association of Randolph

STREET & NUMBER

360 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Randolph

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02368

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Norfolk Country Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

650 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Dedham

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1976

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jonathan Belcher House is located on a 3/4 of an acre lot on North Main Street in a residential section of Randolph. The house is surrounded by a few later nineteenth century houses and many twentieth century buildings. The area is being encroached on by commercial development moving north up North Main Street from the town center, but the streets are still tree lined, and the Belcher property is set off by low stone walls.

The Federal period house, constructed in 1806, is two stories high, with a hip roof and several one story additions. The building is covered with clapboards and rests on a granite foundation with a full basement. The east facade, looking out over North Main Street, is five bays wide with regularly spaced 6/6 sash windows and a central doorway. The door is flanked by half length sidelights and topped by a half circle fanlight. Granite steps quarried in Randolph lead up to the door. The center window on the second floor repeats the sidelight motif of the front door; it is flanked by narrow 2/2 windows, one light in width, and has a heavy wooden lintel. All of the windows of the main block of the house have louvered shutters.

A one story addition constructed to the south in 1838 is four bays wide and has its own entrance and chimney. A kitchen addition to the west and north was added in this century. This addition has a granite foundation and a crawl space, with a dry fieldstone wall for support in the center of the space. An original cistern or well, approximately eight feet in circumference and thirty-five feet deep is located under the addition. Two outbuildings, a clapboard carriage shed attached to the south addition and a shingled and clapboarded hip roof barn are still on the property.

The interior of the building has retained much of its original fabric. A circular Federal stairway rises from the first floor to the second in the front hall, and most of the original wainscotting is still extant. The mantels are original, but the fireplaces are not in working order.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1806

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Jonathan Belcher

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jonathan Belcher House is significant for its associations with the Belcher family, original settlers in what is now Randolph, and for its use by the Ladies' Library Association, founded in 1855. The house is also one of the most architecturally significant Federal period buildings in Randolph.

Gregory Belcher came to this country around 1639, and settled in the area that is now known as Quincy. His son Samuel (1637-1679) built the house now called the John Quincy Adams Birthplace (NHL) in Quincy. Samuel III, the great great grandson of Gregory, relocated to another part of Braintree, the portion now called Randolph. In 1762 he built a house on North Main Street which was demolished in the early twentieth century. In 1788 Jonathan Belcher (1767-1839), Samuel III's second son, married Abigail Thayer of Braintree, and after eighteen years of married life in the old family homestead, finally built his own house in 1806. The new house was built just across the street from the old homestead, but since Jonathan was a builder and architect and the family was wealthier than it had been, the house was constructed on a much grander scale. The house was lived in by the Belcher family until 1911 when Annie Tower Tarbell, Jonathan's great grand daughter, gave the house and the furnishings to the Ladies' Library Association.

The Ladies' Library Association of Randolph was formed in 1855 by nine Randolph ladies "to consider the expediency of uniting ourselves together for the purpose of mutual intercourse, social entertainment, and attainment of some benevolent object." The library was begun with fifty books, and the collection, while not large, is still used by members of the Association. In 1862 the Ladies' Library Association raised money to purchase clothing for Randolph's Civil War soldiers. They have continued their "benevolent objects" this century, by introducing sewing in the public schools, instituting school lunches, and conducting a well baby clinic, started in 1927. The Ladies also conduct an amblyopia clinic for pre-school children, and do volunteer work in the Brockton Veterans Hospital. Many ladies in the Belcher family were members of the Association in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries so it was not surprising that the house was given to the Library Association in 1911. The house has been kept in excellent condition by the Association, who encourage school children and other interested people to tour the building.

The building is significant architecturally to Randolph because it is believed to be the only local Federal period house to retain its architectural integrity. Randolph was settled early in the eighteenth century, and incorporated in 1793, but its proximity to Quincy and Boston has caused most of its earliest buildings to be destroyed. The Belcher House, because it was lived in by only one family and then cared for by the Library Association, escaped destruction or alteration and remains one of the last and best examples of the Federal period in Randolph.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anderson, Corinne White, "Ladies' Library Association", 1955 (unpublished manuscript)
Clark, E. Eugenie, "The Jonathan Belcher Homestead", 1919 (unpublished manuscript)
Meeting Records of the Ladies' Library Association

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3/4 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 330980 4670380
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Christine Boulding, Preservation Planner, and Marie Carr

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-3470

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 X

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

Elizabeth Reed Amdon

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

3/30/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Noting

DATE

4/30/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

4-30-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property Belcher, Jonathan House

State Massachusetts

Working Number 4.6.76.3014

Norfolk

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{cm} 4.9.76

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
4-14-76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept 4/16/76

W. W. W. W.

ARCHEOLOGIST

BELCHER IS AN ~~VERY~~ IMPORTANT
MASS FAMILY. OK L. B. B.

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4/20/76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Henry
4.30.76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered APR 30 1976

Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



NORFOLK COUNTY

Jonathan Belcher House, Randolph, MA
Harold Le Blanc 1975
Randolph Historical Commission
looking southwest at the east facade and
north elevation
photo #1 of 4

APR 6 1976

Date Entered APR 30, 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OCT. 1975



NORFOLK COUNTY

Jonathan Belcher House, Randolph, MA
Harold Le Blanc 1975
Randolph Historical Commission
looking northwest at east facade
photo #2 of 4

APR 6 1976

Date Entered APR 30, 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OCT. 1975



Norfolk County

Jonathan Belcher House, Randolph, MA
Harold Le Blanc 1975
Randolph Historical Commission
looking north at south elevation, addition
and carriage shed
photo #3 of 4

APR 6 1976

Date Entered APR 30, 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OCT. 1975

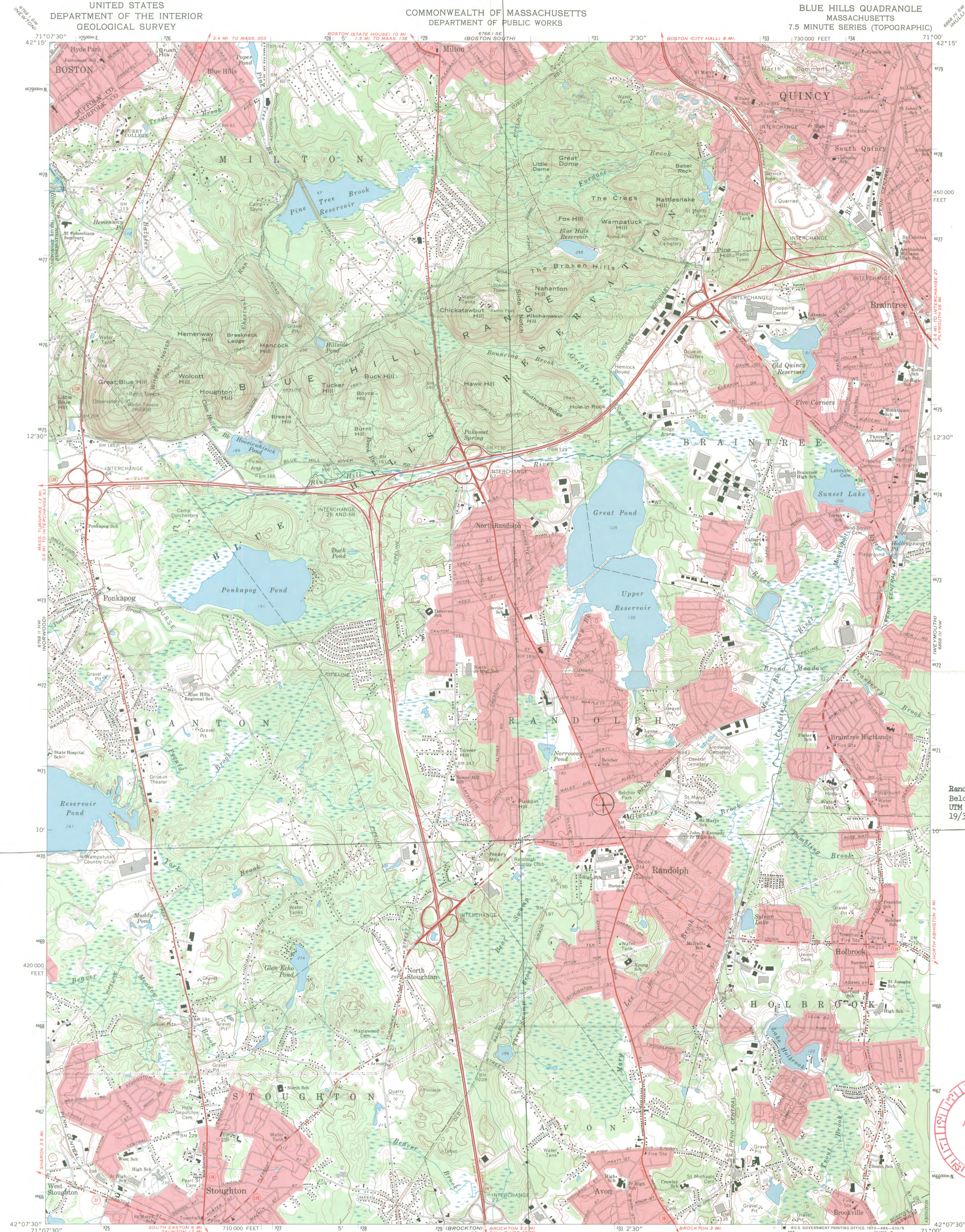


NORFOLK COUNTY
Jonathan Belcher House, Randolph, MA
Harold Le Blanc 1975
Randolph Historical Commission
looking south at north elevations of
carriage shed and barn
photo #4 of 4

APR 6 1976
Date Entered
APR 30, 1976

OCT. 1975

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Randolph, Jonathan
Belcher House
UTM reference:
19/330980/4670380



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&S, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route



BLUE HILLS, MASS.
N4207.5-W7100/7.5

1971
AMS 6768 II NE-SERIES V814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 30 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Peirce, Peter, Store	Middleborough Plymouth County
Belcher, Jonathan, House	Randolph Norfolk County
Fernald, George P., House	Medford Middlesex County
Albree-Hall-Lawrence, House	Medford Middlesex County
Smith Alumnae Gymnasium	Northampton Hampshire County
Futnam, General Israel, House	Danvers Essex County
Dillingham House	Brewster vicinity Barnstable County
Wellesley Town Hall	Wellesley Norfolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler
Hon. James A. Burke
Hon. Torbert H. MacDonald
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Gerry E. Studds

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

PR MOTT:djb 5/4/76

Mass
Hist
TIMES
BOSTON, MASS.
MAY 20 1976

MAY 20 1976

New
England
Newspaper

Jonathan Belcher House

Federal home accorded historic

The Jonathan Belcher House, 360 North Main Street, Randolph, nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has been accepted, State Secretary Paul Guzzi, chairman of the Commission, has been informed by Gary Everhardt, director of the National Park Service in the United States Department of the Interior.

Also known as the headquarters of the Ladies' Library Association of Randolph, the Jonathan Belcher House is located on three quarters of an acre lot on North Main Street in a residential section just beyond Crawford Square. It is significant for its associations with the Belcher family, original settlers in what is now Randolph, and for its use by the Association, founded in 1855. The house is also one of the most architecturally significant Federal period

buildings in Randolph.

Gregory Belcher came to America about 1639 and settled in the area that now known as Quincy. His son, Samuel (1637-1679) built the house now called the John Quincy Adams Brithplace in Quincy, (then a part of Braintree). Samuel III, the great-great-grandson of Gregory, relocated to another part of Braintree, now Randolph. In 1762, he built a house on North Main Street, which was demolished in the early 20th century. In 1788, Jonathan Belcher (1767-1839), Samuel III's second son, married Abigail Thayer of Braintree, and after 18 years of married life in the old family homestead, finally built his own house in 1806. The new house was built just across the street from the old homestead, but since Jonathan was a builder and architect and the family was wealthier than it had been, the house was constructed on a much grander scale. The

house was lived in by the Belcher family until 1911 when Annie Tower Tarbell, Jonathan's great-granddaughter, gave the house and the furnishings to the Ladies' Library Association.

The Association was formed in 1855 by nine Randolph ladies "to consider the expediency of uniting ourselves together for the purpose of mutual intercourse, social entertainment, and attainment of some benevolent object." The library was begun with 50 books, and the collection, while not large, is still used by members of the Association.

In 1862 the Ladies' Library Association raised money to purchase clothing for Randolph's Civil War soldiers. They have continued their "benevolent objects" this century by introducing sewing in the public schools, instituting school lunches, and conducting a well-baby clinic,

started in 1927. The Ladies also conduct an amblyopia clinic for pre-school children, and the E. Many

accorded historic place status

house was lived in by the Belcher family until 1911. When Annie Tower Tarbell, Jonathan's great-granddaughter, gave the house and the furnishings to the Ladies' Library Association.

The Association was formed in 1855 by nine Randolph ladies "to consider expediency of uniting ourselves together for the purpose of mutual intercourse, social entertainment, and attainment of some benevolent object." The library was begun with books, and the collection, though not large, is still used by members of the Association.

In 1862 the Ladies' Library Association raised money to purchase clothing for Randolph's Civil War soldiers. They have conducted their "benevolent work" this century by conducting sewing in the schools, instituting lunches, and conducting a well-baby clinic.

started in 1927. The Ladies also conduct an amblyopia clinic for pre-school children.

and do volunteer work in the Brockton VA Hospital. Many ladies in the Belcher

family were members of the Association in the late 19th century and early 20th century, so it was not surprising that the house was given to the Association in 1911.

The house has been kept in excellent condition by the Association and other interested persons are encouraged to tour the building.

The house is significant architecturally to Randolph because it is believed to be the only local Federal period house to retain its architectural integrity. Randolph was settled early in the 18th century and incorporated in 1793, but its proximity to Quincy and Boston has caused most of its earliest buildings to be destroyed. The Belcher house, because it was lived in by only one family and then cared for by the Library Association, escaped destruction or serious alteration and remains one of the last and best examples of the Federal period in Randolph.

The interior of the building has retained much of its original fabric. A circular Federal stairway rises from the first floor to the second in the front hall, and most of the original wainscoting is still extant. The mantels are original, but the fireplaces are not in working order.

All of the windows of the main block of the house have louvered shutters.

DO NOT FILM

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4/16/76
Reviewer INITIALS: RCH KP

NR DOE
(4-30-76)

XX ENT'D
NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

Belcher, Jonathan, House

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 360 N. Main St.
CITY, TOWN Randolph
STATE Mass

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11

VICINITY OF

COUNTY code

Norfolk 021

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) ☒ PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR	EXTERIOR	ENVIRONS
☒ Substantially intact-1	☒ Substantially intact-2	☒ Substantially intact-3
☐ unknown - 4	☐ unknown - 5	☐ unknown - 6
☐ not applicable - 7	☐ not applicable - 8	☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	<u>EXCELLENT</u>	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED	ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	
☐ FAIR	UNEXPOSED	Reconstructed	Unknown	
	Unexcavated	Excavated		

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES ~~NO~~

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- House

now- Humanitarian organization; Library

SIGNIFICANCE:

☒ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	entertainment
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ECONOMICS	LAW/Gov't/politics	SCIENCE	health
☐ AGRICULTURE	EDUCATION	LITERATURE		recreation
☒ ARCHITECTURE	ENGINEERING	MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	☒ settlement
☐ ART	EXPLORATION	MUSIC		socio/cultural
☐ COMMERCE	INDUSTRY	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	urban & commun
☐ COMMUNICATIONS	INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

local Fed'l house in Randolph

re: maintain its architectural integrity

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Federal

architect/m.builder: Jonathan Belcher

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

events

Jonathan Belcher's family, original
settlers of what is now Randolph, 1762

institutional

Ladies' Library Assoc. founded 1855

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1806

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1838

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

.8

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~Frame house clad in clapboard, 2 stories, gabled roof. Interior
chimneys; rectangular w/ several windows, adding to gabled
irregular shape; Front door flanked by a half height sidelights
topped w/ fan light; center window on second floor repeats
sidelight motif; Corner windows w/ lowered shutters.~~

~~Style: Federal.~~

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

The John Belcher House is significant for its associations w/ the Belcher
family, original settlers in the area which is now Randolph and for its
use by the Ladies' Library Association since 1855. Architecturally, it is
one of the ^{finest} ~~best~~ examples of the Federal period in Randolph.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Federal

architect/m.builder: Jonathan Belcher

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

events

Jonathan Belcher's family, original
settlers of what is now Randolph, 1762

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Ladies' Library Assoc. founded 1855

DATES:

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HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

.8

COMMENTS: (Include architectural information here)

~~Frameless clapboard, 2 stories, hipped roof, interior
chimneys, irregular shape. Front floor finished by a half light; center window on second floor repeats~~

Jonathan Belcher

stone foundation

irregular shape

Frame, clapboarding, 2 stories, hipped roof, interior chimneys,
front center entrance with sidelights, & fanlight, center window
repeats sidelight motif; several 1-story additions;

Outbuildings. Home of Belcher family, original area settlers, later
used by Ladies Library Association; Remains one of few remaining fine
Federal buildings in Randolph;