

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **AUG 31** 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Westview
and/or common Walker-Collis House (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1 Stadler Street N/A not for publication
city, town Belchertown N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ First
state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampshire code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name George B. Jackson
street & number 13 Stadler Street
city, town Belchertown N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampshire County Registry of Deeds
street & number 33 King Street
city, town Northampton state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets
title of the Commonwealth, #127 has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission
city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description Walker-Collis House, 1 Stadler St., Belchertown, MA

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date 1976

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Walker-Collis House is a fine example of Queen Anne architecture, defined by its sprawling plan and idiosyncratic design, with predominant stick style elements. The highly unusual appearance of this building has always attracted a great deal of attention, heightened by its location. Originally, the structure faced Belchertown Common; it now occupies a highly visible site of 1 1/3 acres on the corner of Stadler Street and U.S. Route 202 (State Street) leading into town. It stands 1/2 mile from its original site.

The 2-story house is built upon a complex and highly irregular plan. Horizontal clap-board sheathing on its exterior walls is broken into rectangular spaces by numerous superimposed horizontal and vertical timbers. This interwoven basketry of timbers extends beyond the walls to form three porches, two in the front (west facade) and one (a two-story porch) in the back (east). These porches, though now glass-enclosed, still evoke a sense of the original, open-to-the-air appearance. The main entrance, a massive oak double door, is partially hidden within the righthand side front porch.

The roofline departs from the steeply pitched gable and cross gable prototype of the Eastern Stick Style. Instead, there is a steep mansard roof with gambrel gables projecting from the west (front) and south facades. The upper slope of the mansard roof is new asphalt shingles; the lower slope, which enveloped the second floor, is covered by alternating bands of decorative hexagonal and rectangular wooden shingles. Other roofline ornamentation includes a bracketed cornice, narrow dormer windows, and an unusual carved panel depicting the sun which is located on the west wing of the facade.

The Queen Anne windows are characteristically tall and narrow. The muntins divide the panes into various sized rectangles, reiterating the pattern formed by the exposed wall framing. An oriel window juts out prominently from the second floor of the west (front) gable.

One of the finest features of this building is the octagonal tower on the south side. The tower, which encloses the main staircase, contains five windows of multicolored stained glass squares. It is topped by an ogee roof, with a weathervane dated 1880 atop its finial.

Characteristic of this Victorian-period style, the structure presents a unique face in each direction. The distinguishing components of the facade are its two porches, which flank a projecting cross gable with oriel window. The south elevation contains another projecting cross gable and an octagonal tower, rising 1 1/2 stories beyond the first floor. The east and north elevations are comparatively plain, joined by a one-story porch with mansard roof. These eclectic arrangements are, however, unified by the mansard roof, the lively stickwork, and the use of Queen Anne type windows throughout.

The house was constructed in 1800 by Henry Hoag. The architect, if there was one, is undocumented, although a contemporary newspaper account (1887) described Hoag as Belchertown's foremost "builder and architect."

8. Significance Walker-Collis House, 1 Stadler St., Belchertown, MA

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1880 **Builder/Architect** Henry Hoag (builder)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Walker-Collis House retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship. The property is significant for its associations with a local politician and socialite and as an outstanding example of the Queen Anne and Stick Styles in the area. The House thus meets criteria B and C of the National Register.

The Walker-Collis House was built in 1880 as a summer residence for Massachusetts State Senator Myron Walker (1846-1911). Walker was a native of Belchertown who spent a number of years in California and maintained his principal residence in New York City.

"Westview", as the house was called, originally stood facing the Common, situated immediately north of the Methodist Church (31 Main Street). It stood on the site of the old Joab Bartlett place, which Walker removed in order to build Westview. An underground pipe connected the huge gas plant in the basement of Westview with the bandstand on the Common; the gas plant reportedly lit street lamps along the Common as well. This "summer house" and its many elaborate furnishings, including the custom made furniture which complemented the interior woodwork, reportedly cost \$30,000, an astounding figure to the humble citizens of this country town. (During this period, a fairly substantial and comfortable house would cost about \$1,000.) Indeed, Mr. Walker's ostentatious display of his newly acquired wealth apparently alienated a number of local residents, as this type of behavior went against the grain of their Yankee sensibilities.

Mr. Walker was quite fond of entertaining his Civil War friends. His \$4,000 party in June of 1881, for example, was attended by Governor Long and 10,000 other guests (more than twice Belchertown's population). Likewise, Walker often made an extravagant visual display of his patriotic sentiments, sometimes covering Westview in red, white and blue bunting. He made a great deal of his war experiences (he was a drummer boy), and his subsequent rise in the ranks (in the local militia, not in the U.S. Army). However, it is the Horatio Alger aspect of Waler's life which is perhaps most intriguing. As a young man he worked as a clerk in Bridgman's store (1 Main Street). Although Walker claimed to have made his money in the insurance business while he was in California, local tradition says he married into a fortune. At any rate, his wife took it with her when they were divorced in 1889, as is apparent from the numerous mortgages and slick maneuvers recorded at that time in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

Myron's nephew, Fred Dudley Walker, Jr., inherited the property in 1911. Since 1929 the property has been known as the "Collis House", after its subsequent owners, Burt and Ethel Collis. The house was moved in 1976 to its present location after the Ludlow Savings Bank announced plans for its demolition in order to make way for their proposed "Heritage Square" commercial facilities.

The Walker Collis House is one of the most remarkable late 19th century buildings in this region and is certainly the pre-eminent Queen Anne/Stick Style cottage in the area. The threat of demolition by the expanding bank led, in 1976, to the removal of the house one half mile south on Route 202. Despite the new location, however, the Walker-Collis House is an architecturally important building which retains a high degree of integrity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Daily Hampshire Gazette, May 3, 1887
 "Springfield Republican" (June 1881)
 "Cold Spring Gazette" (published in 1976 by the Belchertown Bicentennial Commission)
 Hampshire County Deeds, vol. 351, pp.26 & 406; vol. 356, p.41; vol 358, p.161; (cont.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3 acres
 Quadrangle name Belchertown, Massachusetts

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

C

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

Zone		Easting				Northing					

E

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H

Zone		Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached sheet. The nomination is confined to the present lot.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Preservation Planner, with Thomas J. Morgan, consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date May 19, 1982

street & number 284 Washington Street telephone (617)727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kellie Ann Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date August 24, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Nelson Byer
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
 National Register

date 9/30/82

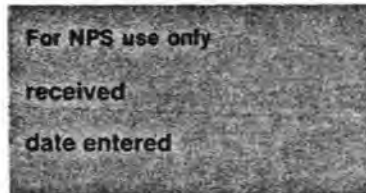
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



Continuation sheet Walker-Collis House Item number 9, 10 Page 1

9. vol. 571, p.33; and vol. 609, p.51. Hampshire County Probate: Box 370, #24.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

An iron pin marks the northwest corner of this property, which is situated near the main entrance to the Belchertown State School. Said iron pin marks the point where the south line of State Street (U.S. Route 202) intersects the east line of Stadler Street. The property's boundary runs thence southerly along the east line of Stadler Street, approximately 220' where it strikes an unnamed 24' wide paved road which runs easterly off of Stadler Street. The boundary then turns and follows the north line of said unnamed road approximately 300' until it reaches a catch basin. The boundary then turns 90 degrees and runs northerly 220' where it strikes the south line of State Street. It then turns 90 degrees again and runs 300' along the south line of State Street to the place of beginning.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Walker-Collis House
Hampshire County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 8/31/82-2380

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 9/30/82 - 10/15/82

Action: ACCEPT 9/30/82

Entered in the RETURN

National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom. / Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

national state local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1979
Myron Walker House
Looking northeast
Photographer: Thomas J Morgan
Negative filed with Belcher-
town Historical Commission
2 Jabish St.
Belchertown, MA 01007

BELCHERTOWN, MASS.
Walker-Collis House

West and south elevations
Photo by Thomas J. Morgan, 1979
Negative filed with Belchertown
Historical Commission
Photo 1 of 2



Walker/Collis House
Stadler Street, Belchertown

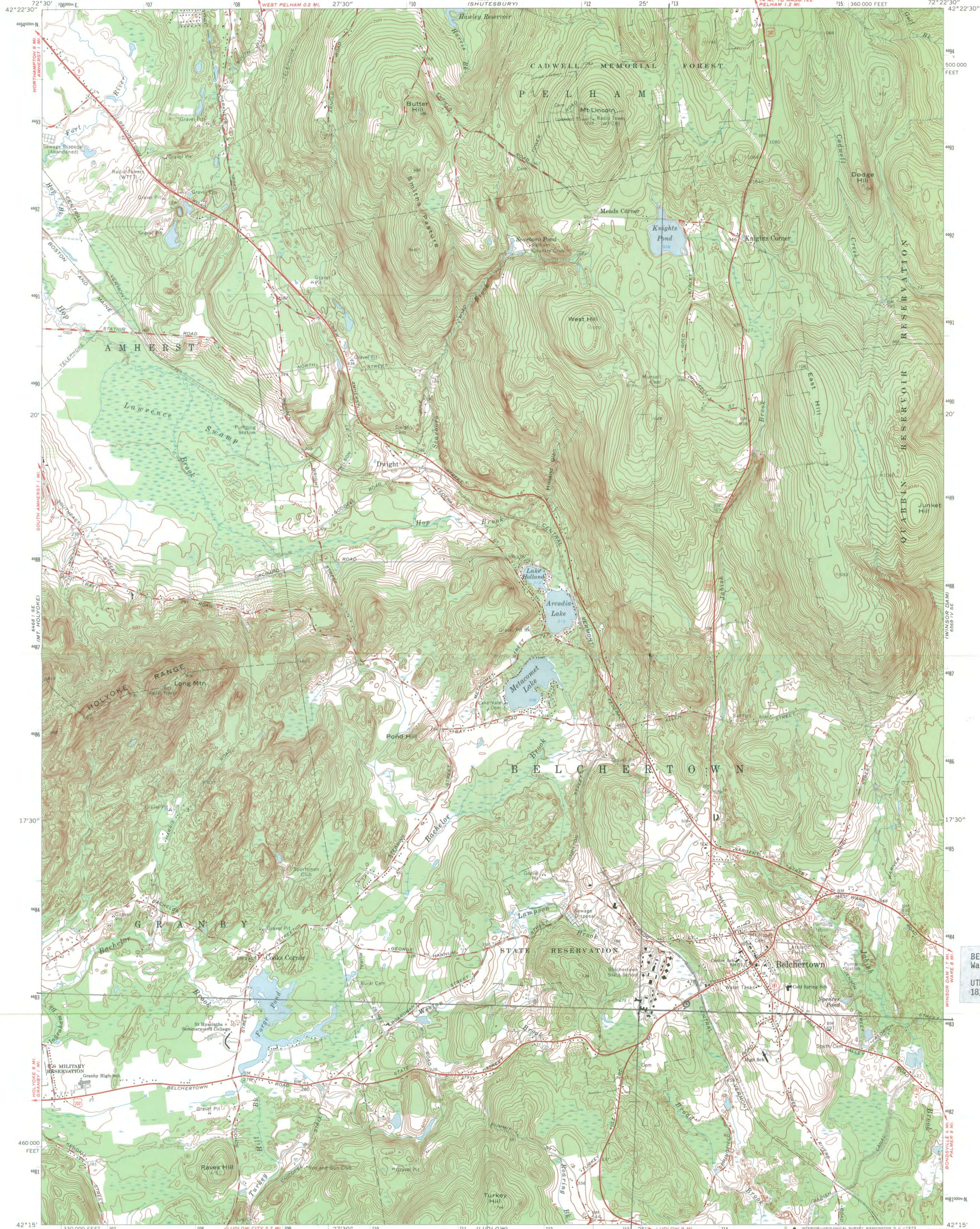
Northwest facade

BELCHERTOWN, MASS.
Walker-Collis House

North and west elevations
Photo by M. Guarcello, 1982
Negative filed with owner
Photo 2 of 2

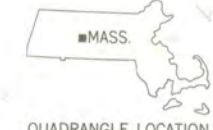
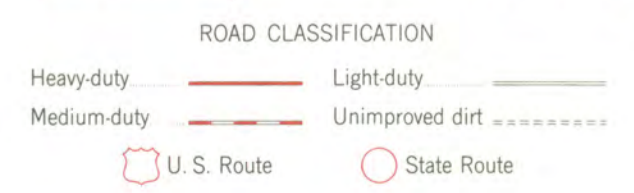
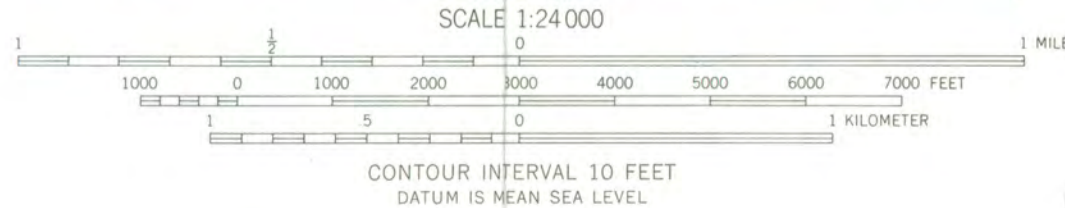
House

NW Exposure



BELCHERTOWN, MASS.
Walker-Collis House
UTM Reference:
18/713540/4683080

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, 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 ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue



BELCHERTOWN, MASS.
N4215-W7222.5/7.5

1964

AMS 6568 IV SW-SERIES V814

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Office of

Board of Selectmen

Lawrence Memorial Hall
2 Jabish Street
Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007
413-323-7251

August 6, 1982

RECEIVED

AUG 11 1982

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

RE: Walker-Collins House
Belchertown, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Weslowski:

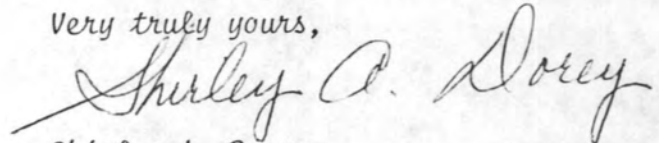
For several years the Belchertown Board of Selectmen have unanimously supported the local Historical Commission's efforts to have the above property included in the listing of the National Register of Historic Places. We are pleased to learn that this application is now being considered by the State Review Board.

For most of the Walker-Collis House's existence it was one of the key structures of the Belchertown Common area which was recently accepted as a Historic District by the National Register. Not only was its architecture unique locally but a special loss was felt by the community when financial consideration necessitated its removal to a new location. (Land value of the property greatly exceeded the house value in its deteriorated condition.)

The Houses' new owner George Jackson, who undertook its relocation, painstakingly researched and renovated the building, restoring it as closely as possible to its original condition, at considerable personal sacrifice. The complete restoration is a very strong statement of the esteem and pride Belchertown citizens hold for this building, typified by the Jackson familys' concern to preserve it.

Our Board further recognizes the special benefits that would accrue to a building listed in the National Register and feels that significant encouragement would be available in the future to aid in the maintenance of the restorative work that has already been done and will help preserve this notable local landmark. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment and we hope the Review Board will act favorably upon this proposal.

Very truly yours,



Shirley A. Dorey
Chairman
Board of Selectmen

SAD/no



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

August 24, 1982

Mr. Jerry Rogers
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Adams - Phillips Woolen Mill (local)
Adams - Renfrew Mill #2 (local)
✓ Belchertown - Walker Collis House (local)
Hudson - Col. Adelbert Mossman House (local)
Lenox - Lenox Academy (state)
Lenox - The "Church on the Hill" (local)
New Bedford - Dawson Building (local)
New Marlborough - New Marlborough Village Historic District (local)
North Andover - Machine Shop Village (state)
Pittsfield - Wollison- Shipton Building (local)
Rockport - Sewall-Scripture House (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board considerations 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosures

CJ/mas

