

PH# 363006

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 9 1975

**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 Barney Ford's People's Restaurant  
 AND/OR COMMON  
The Barney L. Ford Building

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1514 Blake Street

CITY, TOWN  
Denver

STATE  
Colorado

VICINITY OF  
First

COUNTY  
Denver

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
First

CODE  
08

CODE  
031

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Various -- See Continuation Sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER  
Denver City County Building

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE  
Colorado

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE  
Oct. 1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Colorado 200 E. 14th Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE  
Colorado

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERJORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Barney L. Ford building is a rectangular three story red brick structure. The original windows featured narrow arched cathedral style tops. The present windows have been squared by the addition of concrete tops.

In 1892, the present third story was added to the structure and the second floor was raised to its present height. While the line of demarcation is visible upon careful study, the overall effect is one of an original three story building.

At approximately the same time the third story was added, entrances to the second floor and the basement, originally on the inside, were moved outside to facilitate commercial access.

The building, while changed somewhat from its original structure, gives the impression still today of a commercial structure built early in the last half of the nineteenth century. It remains today, the only recognizable property in Denver connected with the life and career of Barney Ford.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 August 16, 1863

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Barney Ford

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Barney L. Ford was a Black pioneer, businessman, civic leader, and politician who played an important role in the early history of Colorado. Born Jan. 22, 1822 in Stafford Va., he escaped to Chicago where he became active in the abolitionist movement.

In 1860, Ford moved to Colorado. He first rented then purchased the property at 1514 Blake Street in 1862. The original structure was destroyed by fire the next year. Borrowing \$9,000 from the Kountze Brothers bank (now the Colorado National Bank), he built a two story brick structure on the site. A restaurant and bar was located on the first and second floors of the building, a barber shop and hair salon in the basement.

From this simple operation, Mr. Ford expanded his commercial holdings steadily. Perhaps the highlight of his career was the construction of the InterOcean hotel in Denver at a cost of \$53,000 and another InterOcean Hotel in Cheyenne Wyoming in 1875 at a cost of approximately \$65,000. In addition to these holdings, he held numerous other income properties in Denver and Breckinridge. In 1864, his income was the fourteenth highest in the state.

From the beginning, Ford was an active leader in the civil rights movement in Colorado. He played a significant role in the admission of Colorado to the Union as a free state. He was active in the Republican party and was the first black to be nominated to the Territorial Legislature. He was both a member and a delegate to the Republican County Convention and Central Committee in the years 1867, 1872, and 1873.

The property at 1514 Blake Street is one of the few properties remaining in Denver associated with this pivotal Black leader. It gains added importance in that it was one of his earliest commercial successes.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Parkhill, Forbes. Mister Barney Ford, a portrait in Bistre. Chicago: Sage Books, c.1963.  
 The Real West. Vol IX, no.47, 1966. pp.14-16, 54-58.  
 The Real West. Vol. X no. 31, 1969. pp.16-21

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	13	497905	4399	4319810	B			
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C					D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

# 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

*Stephen W. Hunt*

TITLE SHPO

DATE 4/15/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. Hunt*

DATE 6/24/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST *Charles E. George*

DATE 6-23-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER