## PH0369802

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## DATA SHEET

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DATE ENTERED

**EER 15 1977** 

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE

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

The William Barlow House, constructed in 1885, is a fine example of High Victorian Italianate residential architecture. It is a two-story house with the main section measuring approximately 35' x 45' and an ell extending from the southeast rear section of the house measuring about 20' x 25'. Also included in the nomination are several out-buildings that predate the house. Approximately 150 yards to the northeast is a barn dating from the 1850s or 1860s. Fifty yards from the northeast corner of the house is a carriage house and fifty yards from the southeast corner is a combination woodshed/smokehouse. Approximately 100 yards to the southeast of the house is a building referred to as the tenant house. These three out-buildings probably date from the 1850s or 1860s, and they all have the interesting feature of a fanlight on the west wall.

In general appearance, the Barlow House is not dissimilar to the Morris Marks House in Portland (entered on the National Register December 30, 1975). The Marks House is much more elaborate in detailing, but the Barlow House has the same symmetrical architectural orientation with two projecting slant-sided bays flanking the entrance, a bracketed cornice with a paneled frieze surrounding the house, and a truncated hip roof.

The detailing of the exterior of the Barlow House is simple, yet attractive. On the second floor, the window openings are segmental with simple round headed surrounds on the bay and an entablature head over the window above the entry way. There is also a south bay with flat openings on the second floor with rounded lintel heads. On the north and east facades, the second story windows have flat openings with entablature heads and screen covers that similate the segmental openings on the front facade.

On the first floor the windows all have flat openings with attractive bracketed window cornices with friezes on the front and south bays, and entablature heads over the remaining windows. There is a double door at the entry without windows but with attractive panel molding. The appearance of the house has been altered with the addition of a large porch on the west and north facades of the house. Unfortunately, the porch was constructed in a way that detracts from the architecture of the house. The porch has segmental arches filled in with an aggregate material (including a horseshoe imbedded over the entry way) and two gable peaks, one over the entry way and the other over the middle of the north porch.

Connected to the rear of the house is a two-story ell with a kitchen downstairs and servants' quarters upstairs. The ell maintains the same architectural style as the main house, with a bracketed cornice and frieze and a truncated hip roof. The ell also has an attractive porch which maintains the architectural flavor of the house with segmental arches and a bracketed cornice.

Within, the Barlow House is organized around a central hall plan with a parlor, a sitting room, a dining room, and a bedroom downstairs, and four bedrooms and a bath upstairs. Within the ell, there is a kitchen and bath on the first floor connected by a narrow stairway to the two room servants' quarters upstairs.

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Interior detailing is quite attractive featuring six fireplaces and ornate interior woodwork. In the parlow (next to the entrance, to the left) is a gray marble fireplace, the sitting room (next to the entrance, to the right) features a white marble fireplace. There are black slate fireplaces in the dining room (behind the sitting room) and the first floor bedroom (behind the parlow), and two metal fireplaces, simulated to appear marble, in the two front upstairs bedrooms.

The woodwork throughout may well have been planed and prepared in the sawmill located within the Barlow estate. The wainscoting in the dining room appears to be hand carved maple. The wainscoting in the kitchen is tongue and groove oak, and the wainscoting and balustrade in the entryway is walnut. The framing is 4" x 4" balloon framing, from the attic to the ground floor. The exterior wall covering is clapboard siding and the interior walls are plaster.

A unique feature of the Barlow House, distinguishing it from others in Oregon, is the two rows of black walnut trees extending from the house to Highway 99E. The trees are the earliest black walnut trees in Oregon, planted in 1859. Before the highway was constructed, the trees extended 300 yards to the original main road.

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1885	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Mr. Kidd	
		INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	
X1800-1899	COMMERCE	_XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	XTRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	X.ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

William Barlow's house is significant as an example of High Victorian Italianate architecture in Oregon, but the house is also an important landmark to the Barlow family who contributed to the settlement of the Willamette Valley of Oregon by the construction of the Barlow Road from The Dalles to Oregon City in 1845.

Samuel K. Barlow, William's father, was an important figure in developing an early transportation route to aid emigrants coming to Oregon. Before 1845, The Dalles, located on the Columbia River, was the end of the Oregon Trail. From that point, the pioneers put their goods on rafts and traveled the remainder of the route via the Columbia. Barlow's Road was an extremely difficult alternative route that headed south from The Dalles, then east through the Cascade Mountains near Mount Hood to Oregon City. One section in the route, Laurel Hill, was described by most of the travelers as the most difficult section of the entire Oregon Trail. One emigrant wrote in 1853:

"The road on this hill is something terrible. It is worn down into the soil from five to seven feet, leaving steep banks on both sides, and so narrow that it is almost impossible to walk alongside of the cattle for any distance without leaning against the oxen. . . . They cut down a small tree about ten inches in diameter and about forty feet long, and the more limbs it has on it the better. This tree they fasten to the rear axel with chains or ropes, top end foremost, making an excellent brake."

Although Sam Barlow is considered by most to be the founder of the Barlow Road, his son William played an important role in the scouting and construction of the route. In the winter of 1845, the Barlow Party was forced to cache their wagons and supplies in the mountains along the route because of heavy snow. William, then 22 years old, and two other men volunteered to stay the winter and protect the property. Later in the year when the route was passable, William Barlow drove the first wagon over the road.

In 1850, Sam Barlow purchased the land on which the present house is located from Thomas McKay, a former employee of the Hudson's Bay Company. There was probably a house on the property when Barlow purchased the land, and part of the 1,450 acres was cultivated.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPH	I OZIL KLI LI	.2.,020		
Bailey, Walter. "The Bar pp. 287-296.	low Road", Ore	gon Histori	ical Quarterly (June	1912),
Barlow, William. "Reminis (June 1912), pp. 240	scences of Seve	enty Years'	, Oregon Historica	l Quarterly
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ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

William Barlow first settled on a farm on the Clackamas River near Oregon City. In his memoirs, William referred to Oregon Trail travelers stopping at his farm, so it must have been either on or near the actual route of the trail. He sold this C Clackamas River farm in 1848 to an Oregon Trail traveler and engaged in several enterprises in the Oregon City area. Sometime during the 1850s, William bought his father's farm. Sam Barlow moved from his farm to Canemah, near Oregon City, where he died in 1867.

Under William Barlow, the farm developed into a small community. In 1859, William planted the first black walnut trees in Oregon. They were planted in two rows from the house to the main road through Barlow, about 300 yards from the house. In 1870, the railroad was built through the Willamette Valley and the route went through the Barlow property. A station was built and named for William Barlow. Barlow and his brother-in-law, Hodges, built and financed one of the first river steamboats on the upper Willamette River - the Canemah. On his farm and in the community of Barlow, William Barlow started a sawmill, a gristmill, the first post office, and the Barlow Bank and Land Development Company.

The William Barlow house was constructed in 1885 soon after the first Barlow House burned (probably in 1883). The new house was constructed on the same site as the original house, maintaining the same orientation to the out-buildings. It is not known whether Barlow hired an architect to prepare the plans for his house, but the evidence suggests he did not. The records do, however, show that Barlow hired Mr. Kidd, master carpenter, to supervise the construction of his house. Some of the construction materials for the house were no doubt prepared in Barlow's sawmill.

Architecturally, the Barlow House is a vernacular interpretation of the High Victorian Italianate style. As mentioned in the description section, the Barlow House is in many ways similar to but less ornate than the Morris Marks House in Portland. For Oregon, these two houses present an interesting comparison of one architectural style. The Marks House is a highly sophisticated example, appearing in several architectural style books and the Barlow House represents a vernacular interpretation of the same style. The Marks House shows that during the 1870s and 1880s Oregon was moving into the mainstream of American architectural development. Warren H. Williams, one of Oregon's earliest professional architects, is attributed as the architect of the Marks House. The Marks House and other buildings and houses designed by Williams and other early architects suggested that Oregon was becoming more distinctive and sophisticated in her architectural styles. The Barlow House, on the other hand, shows that many well-to-do Oregonians, such as William Barlow, still preferred to build their houses using vernacular adaptations of popular styles.

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