

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

**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

Henry Barnard House

AND/OR COMMON

Henry Barnard House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

118 Main Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

CODE

09

COUNTY

Hartford

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- \_\_\_ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- \_\_\_ STRUCTURE
- \_\_\_ SITE
- \_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- \_\_\_ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- \_\_\_ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- \_\_\_ IN PROCESS
- \_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED
- \_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- \_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED
- \_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- \_\_\_ AGRICULTURE
- \_\_\_ MUSEUM
- \_\_\_ COMMERCIAL
- \_\_\_ PARK
- \_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- \_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- \_\_\_ GOVERNMENT
- \_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC
- \_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL
- \_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION
- \_\_\_ MILITARY
- \_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Daughters of the Holy Spirit, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

72 Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Putnam

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Connecticut

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Municipal Building

STREET & NUMBER

500 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (4 photographs)

DATE

1967

FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Located in what was Hartford's most fashionable neighborhood during the nineteenth century, this house at 118 Main Street was built in 1807, four years before Henry Barnard was born there. It is a tall, three-story brick building with a gable roof. It has a five-bay front and a three-bay side, with a small arched window beneath the peak of the gable on each side. An Ionic-columned portico frames the front door and the only other decoration on this very plain structure is the simple cornice which emphasizes the roofline.

An addition, larger than the original house, was constructed to the rear of the house in the first decade of the twentieth century, when a religious order bought the property and opened a guest house there. Later another similarly designed large addition was built to the rear of the earlier wing. These two modern brick structures, used as dormitory facilities for the guest house dwarf the original house in size. They are very plain brick buildings, and in this congested neighborhood they almost appear, from Main Street, to be freestanding buildings behind the Barnard House. However, they are connected to the older house and passageways lead into the added wing from the first and second stories of the Barnard House.

The interior of the original Barnard House basically retains its simple central hall plan but has undergone some changes--partitioning and removal of dividing walls. On the first floor there is a central hall with parlors on each side, while the second and third stories contain a total of nine bedrooms. The passageways to the addition lead from the kitchen on the first floor and the stairway landing between the upper stories.

# 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 checked="" 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

1811 - 1900

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

To the untiring efforts of Henry Barnard must be given much of the credit for the development of the American public school system. Almost single-handedly he formulated the public school systems of Connecticut and Rhode Island, which to a great extent served as models for the school systems of the entire country. America's public school system probably owes more to the labors of Horace Mann and Henry Barnard than to the efforts of any other individuals. Mann is the better known, but Barnard contributed almost as much. Through his practical work and his scholarly publications, Barnard stimulated the growth of the public school as an essential element of American democracy.

In 1811 Barnard was born in this three-story brick house at 118 Main Street in Hartford. He continued to live and work here for periods during much of his life and in 1900 he died in this house. Since then the house has been owned by a religious order which constructed large dormitories to the rear of the original house and maintains it as a guest house.

### Biography

Born on January 24, 1811, Barnard developed an early interest in education. He attended both public and private schools, and as a youth realized the advantages of each. In 1826 he entered Yale, where he won no scholastic honors but became adept at oratory. Barnard visited schools during his vacation in 1828 and 1829, and later published observations about them in the New England Review. Yale granted him his degree in 1830.

Following his graduation, Barnard chose a career that inadvertently thrust him into public education. Desiring to devote himself to public service after admission to the bar in 1835, he entered politics. In the latter part of 1835 and in 1836, he travelled to Europe, learning much about European educational practices. Returning to the United States, he won a seat in the Connecticut General Assembly in 1837, and was re-elected in 1838 and 1839. He strongly supported humanitarian legislation, including efforts to improve public education.

(Continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anna L. Blair, Henry Barnard, School Administrator, (Minneapolis, 1938); Ellwood P. Cubberley, Public Education in the United States, (Cambridge, Mass., 1947); Dictionary of American Biography; A. G. Good, A History of American Education, (2nd edition, New York, 1962); Ralph C. Jenkins, Henry Barnard, (Hartford, Conn., 1937); Rush Welter, Popular Education and Democratic Thought in America, (New York, 1962), 101-02.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.44

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>693240</u>	<u>4625150</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Originally Henry Barnard owned a large amount of property to the rear of his house. During most of the nineteenth century this was one of Hartford's most prestigious areas, only several blocks from downtown, and Barnard's home was located near both the Governor's mansion and the elaborate Samuel Colt estate. However, the neighborhood today is in very rundown condition, with many dilapidated and abandoned houses. The whole area has been slated for urban renewal for over a decade, however little has

(Continued)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE S. Sydney Bradford, 1965

Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Historic Sites Survey

DATE December 30, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

# 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.

Designated: Dec. 21, 1965  
date

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE 7-2-75  
Cornelius Hanna

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

NATIONAL HISTORIC LAND (K3)

DATE 7/3/75  
Chof. Hist. & Arch. Surveys

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7/3/75  
William J. ...  
Director, OAHIP

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

Henry Barnard House  
(NATIONAL HISTORIC

CONTINUATION SHEET      LANDMARKS)      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 2

Barnard's sponsorship of a bill in 1838 to improve the supervision of schools resulted in his becoming a public educator. The bill provided for a state board of commissioners and a secretary. Upon the act's becoming law, Barnard reluctantly accepted the secretaryship after Dr. Thomas A. Gallaudet had turned it down. Upon assuming his \$3-dollar-a-day job in 1838, Barnard exerted himself to stimulate the State to improve the public school system. He visited schools, spoke to groups, began and edited the Connecticut Common School Journal, and organized the first teacher's institute that met for more than just a few days. A Whig, the Democrats forced him out of office in 1842. They proclaimed that Barnard's accomplishments did not justify the money spent on the schools. While attempting to avoid politics and the bitterness of controversy, Barnard ceaselessly promoted his crusade. He claimed that by the end of his career to have spoken 1,500 times on education. Moreover, he wrote volumes of letters in behalf of his cause.

Barnard conceived of education as a vital factor in the development of the individual and as a necessity in a democracy. An individual's education was a life-long affair that enabled him to enjoy an even fuller life because of his constantly expanding knowledge and increasingly discerning insight. Democracy needed such individuals, resting as it did on the people. And if ignorance hobbled the public, what future faced the American republic?

If the Connecticut Democrats rejected Barnard's work, that was Rhode Island's gain, and that State immediately employed him. Between 1843 and 1849, Barnard startled the State into action. In 1845, for example, Rhode Island enacted a school law and established the Rhode Island Institute of Instruction, one of the first teachers' schools in the country. By the time of his resignation in 1849, Barnard had created a sound basis for the State's public school system.

Shortly after leaving Rhode Island, Connecticut, with the return of the Whigs to power, again enlisted Barnard's services. In August 1849, Connecticut selected him as its superintendent of public schools and named him head of the new normal school. He saw to the establishment of the normal school, which opened in May 1852, but then spent most of his time in behalf of the public schools. As in the past, he wrote and spoke to promote public education, and successfully spurred new beneficial legislation. He published two landmark works concerning public education, History of the Legislature of Connecticut Respecting Common School Down to 1838, and School Architecture, or Contributions to the Improvements of Schoolhouses in the United States. Both volumes were the first of their kinds, and each exerted widespread influence. When poor health forced his retirement in 1855, Barnard had accomplished a revolution in public education in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

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Henry Barnard House

CONTINUATION SHEET (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Barnard, subsequent to his retirement in Connecticut in 1855, served in several positions elsewhere in the Nation. Renowned for his work in Connecticut and Rhode Island, he had already declined numerous other offers before accepting the Chancellorship of the University of Wisconsin in 1856. The position proved to be a little more than a nominal one, however, and he gave it up in 1860. In 1866-67, he served briefly as the president of St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, resigning from there in 1867 to become the first United States Commissioner for Education. Barnard's years in Washington were fairly unhappy, for the scholar could not cope with the politicians. He retired from his office on March 15, 1870.

Throughout his career, Barnard made a notable contribution to public education through his writings. His outstanding publication was the American Journal of Education, which he founded in 1855 and continued for a total of thirty-one volumes. Volumes appeared at irregular intervals, each containing over 800 pages, the last being published in 1882. Through the Journal, Barnard achieved his purpose of making available to the isolated teachers in America material concerning the history of education and educational practices and techniques. At his own expense, Barnard vastly expanded the horizon of the American teacher by means of his still valuable Journal. More an educational encyclopedia than a journal, the Journal was the source of the material that appeared in Barnard's Library of Education, a fifty-two volume work.

When Barnard died on July 5, 1900, America lost a man who had made a basic contribution to the welfare of each American and to the nation.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

happened in this direction and the area is deteriorating rapidly while it waits.

The religious order that bought the Barnard House shortly after 1900 still owns property behind the house as far as the next street, Charter Oak Place. Behind the two large additions, near Charter Oak Place is a small carriage house, whose age is unknown, a garden, and remnants of an old garden wall. However, the two brick dormitory additions are so much bigger than the original house that they obstruct the view of all but the roof of the Barnard House from the street behind it, and these non-historic and very intrusive elements visually separate the very-much-changed garden area from the original house.

As indicated on the enclosed section of map, "Town Roads established by the Connecticut Department of Transportation," the national historic landmark boundary follows the property line of the present owners to include the original portion of the house and the old carriage house and garden area. The additions in-between these do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark. Beginning at the northwest corner of the property, where the property line meets Main Street, the boundary runs easterly along the property line to Charter Oak Place, then southerly along the western curb of the street, then westerly along the property line to Main Street, then along the eastern curb of the street in a northerly direction, to the beginning point.