

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 19 1979
DATE ENTERED AUG 21 1979

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 (Lucius Barbour) House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 130 Washington Street
CITY, TOWN Hartford VICINITY OF
STATE Connecticut CODE COUNTY Hartford CODE 003
NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input 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: offices

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Washington Cedar Corporation (R. Henry Nielson)
STREET & NUMBER 130 Washington Street
CITY, TOWN Hartford VICINITY OF STATE Connecticut

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Town Clerk
STREET & NUMBER 550 Main Street
CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE The Hartford Architecture Survey
DATE 1978 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Stowe-Day Library, 77 Forest Street
CITY, TOWN Hartford, STATE Connecticut

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 Barbour House
130 Washington Street
Hartford, Connecticut

The Barbour House (1865) is located on Washington Street, one of Hartford's major north-south arteries. It is on the east side of the street, three blocks south of the Capitol area. The house is a large, mid-19th century Italianate villa constructed of brick. The immediate area displays office, commercial, and apartment buildings, dating primarily from the 20th century. A small front yard is partially enclosed by a chain-link fence. To the north of the house is an Art Deco, 1930s, automobile showroom of reinforced concrete (now adaptively used); directly to the south is a gravel parking lot and a contemporary car dealership (photo #2).

The form of the house is a two-and-one-half story central block with a three-story tower placed in the middle of the south side. (photo #1) Brick walls are set on a high foundation of large ashlar blocks of brownstone. In recent years, the walls have been cleaned by sandblasting, repointed, and waterproofed. Shallow projecting wings, a two-story bay window on the facade, an oriel window on the second floor of the tower, and a triple-arched window with wrought iron balcony on the south side, asymmetrically placed, give variety of form to the cubical main block.

The entrance is reached by a flight of brownstone steps with sweepingly curved sides. The entrance porch is of wood with fluted columns and carved capitals of the Corinthian order. (photo #4) The entrance section of the porch has been restored recently. The original extension of the porch around the southwest corner of the house is now enclosed with vertical wooden boarding on the first and second stories. The first-floor modillioned cornice and second story denticulated cornice of the porch are still intact.

A variety of roof levels with projecting eaves give a strong horizontal emphasis to the structure. The cornices are supported by paired, carved brackets of wood (the form and design on the tower and the main roof differ slightly). Beneath the cornice, the attic story is set off by a horizontal wooden moulding. The paired, round windows at the attic story, probably dating from later in the century, enclose a sunburst pattern in wrought iron.

Varied window openings with carved lintels give surface interest to the facade. Most windows have hooded lintels of stone with keystones and carved brackets. The treatment of the windows differs on each wall, with those on the facade being the most elaborate. The window opening to the left of the bay window on the facade has been lengthened at the bottom. Other prominent exterior elements are the oriel and bay windows, tower, and monitor. (photo #3 & 4) The oriel and bay windows are panelled and have decorative stained glass (probably dating from the 1890s renovation). In the uppermost floor of the tower, which rises one story above the main roof, paired pilasters set off floor-length windows, and the whole is encircled by a balustrade. The monitor has projecting eaves and large, square-patterned windows.

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State Register of Historic Places
1979

X State

Connecticut State Historical Commission, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut

ITEM # 7 DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Barbour house was almost completely remodelled in the 1890s, and is an exceptional example of the late Queen Anne decorative style in an excellent state of preservation. A number of rooms are also finished in a Colonial Revival manner which is Adamesque in inspiration. The front entrance opens into a large, open stair-hall. The stairway is at the back of the hall, and rises through three stories. The first run of the stairway is partially screened by two panels. The left one has a large open circle inset in a square panel of wooden lattice work, and a row of turned balls on rods above. These motifs, the lattice work, open circle, and balls of rods, recur throughout the interior. To the right, raised panelling supports an open sweeping curve enclosing a panel of wood with an elaborate carved floral pattern in relief. The stairway has thick, turned balusters, a moulded hand rail, and newel posts with caps decorated with a carved, raised, floral design. Immediately to the left upon entering the hall is a fireplace, above which is a full-length mirror. The mirror is framed by delicate columns and crowned by an elaborate cartouche, probably of brass.

The wall surfaces of the stairhall are extensively decorated. The materials employed are repeated (with modification) in those rooms which retain the 1890s decorative style. Above a moulded baseboard is a dado panel of composition in a basket-weave pattern. Atop a moulded chair rail is a shallow panel of composition material: stylized flowers on a continuous flowing vine are raised above the background. The paint treatment of green, brown and red appears to be original. Thin, raised lines decorate the plaster surface of the upper walls. Above the walls and beneath the cornice molding is a band of stylized flowers similar to, but more regular and formal than, that above the chair rail. The ceilings are panelled, with deeply projecting moldings.

The central hall opens to the rooms on the first floor: on the immediate right to the converted porch and adjoining room; behind the stair to the former dining room (below the tower); and to the left to the two large rooms on the north side of the house. The large room which opens off the back of the stairhall and served as the dining room connects to the butler's pantry directly behind. (photo #5) Panelled walls and doors in a variety of figured woods, in conjunction with the basket-weave surface covering, give the room a rich textural tone. The most prominent feature is an imposing fireplace on the east wall. The boldly projecting mantle rests on a curved base which is covered with an elaborately carved floral design in wood. Above the fireplace a large mirror is enclosed in wooden moulded panels;

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Item #7 Continuation

the innermost one is also decorated with a carved floral pattern.

The rooms on the north side of the house are entered through a narrow passageway which was originally an open arched entrance; the arch is now temporarily enclosed by a plain panel with a single door. Above the interior doorway in the passage is a small mural painting. The two large rooms on the north side retain one fireplace and some mouldings and doorway of the 1890s remodelling; however, the walls and ceilings are finished in the light and delicate manner of the Colonial Revival Adamesque style, and probably dates from the early 20th century. Embossed wallpaper and an elaborate plaster ceiling utilize various classical elements, delicately rendered. The moulded plaster ceiling has recently been painstakingly restored.

The 1890s plan of rooms is retained in the rest of the house. On the second floor, rooms open off of the central hall. These are used primarily as apartments, and gain architectural interest from their relation to various exterior features, such as the oriel and bay windows. Much early material remains, including surface treatments of panelling and wallpaper, and wood-panelled and stenciled ceilings. Numerous fireplaces display decorative inlaid tiles. Especially notable is an early-20th-century bathroom, tiled throughout, in the bay window.

The third-floor plan is dominated by the open central area under the monitor roof, off of which open numerous smaller rooms. Illumination is provided to this large room (now used as an office) through large windows with square lights. Walls and ceiling are covered with matchboarding. The room is known as the library, a designation supported by the presence of two notable bookcases of the period remaining in the room. A small room opening to the north of the library displays the most striking remnant of the original Italianate interior, a carved marble fireplace. It is boldly and elaborately moulded: carved brackets support the mantel; concentric arches with a rope moulding frame the arched opening; projecting triangular panels fill in the spandrels of the arch; and an elaborate cartouche projects from the center of the mantel. The fireplace is a stunning high-style example of its period; it is likely that it was formerly used in one of the major first floor rooms, and was later moved to its present location.

The east wing of the house was the service wing; some domestic remnants remain, such as the old callbox. It contains a separate stairway, part of the old kitchen, and small rooms which provided living quarters for the staff.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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 1865

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Barbour House is of architectural significance (criteria c); first, it is an excellent example of the late Italianate Villa style. Secondly, it preserves a fine, late Queen Anne interior largely intact.

The house was constructed in 1865 by Lucius Barbour (1805-1873). Barbour, born in Canton, Connecticut, later established a dry goods business in Madison, Indiana and Cincinnati, Ohio, and amassed a fortune through investment in Western land. Barbour married Harriet Louise Day (1821-1886) of Hartford in 1840 and returned to this city in the mid-1840s. He had a reputation as a good businessman, and was active in civic and church organizations.

In 1865 Barbour built this mansion on Washington Street in the late Italianate Villa style. Washington Street in the mid-19th century was a grand and formal avenue lined with the mansions of Hartford's most prominent citizens. It was known as "Governor's Row" because of the several governors who had lived there. Washington Street continued as an important residential area until the 20th century, when these large houses were almost completely replaced with state office buildings, commercial establishments (including car dealerships), and apartment buildings.

As an example of the Italianate Villa style, the Barbour House is distinguished by its large size, grand scale, and elaborate detail. The exterior is richly varied with numerous architectural features of interest, including the bay and oriel windows, the characteristic tower, and attic monitor. Fine craftsmanship is displayed in the carved stone lintels, the Corinthian columns of the porch, and the wrought iron railing of the oriel window.

Additionally, the Barbour House exhibits an unusually well-preserved 1890s high-style interior. The house was probably remodelled not long after Lucius A. Barbour (son of the builder) and his wife acquired the house in 1890 from the estate of Mrs. Lucius Barbour. Lucius A. Barbour was president of the Willimantic Linen Company, served in the State House of Representatives, and was elected Adjutant-General of the State after serving as a Colonel in the National Guard. Barbour also collated probate files of the District of Hartford and financed the publication of Early Connecticut Probate Records, 1635-1750, edited by Charles W. Manwaring. This work was later carried on by his son, Colonel B. Barbour, in the birth, death and marriage records of Connecticut towns. The large stair hall, which functions as a "living hall," exemplifies an important development in American architecture in the 1870s and 1880s. It is the architectural focal point of the house, and displays the most

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hartford Architecture Conservancy Survey Files, Stowe-Day Foundation, Hartford, Connecticut
Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County, Connecticut (Chicago: J.H. Beers Co., 1901)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Hartford North, Conn.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 692680 4625340
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Recorded in Town Clerk's Offices, 550 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Barbara Ann Cleary, Consultant

March, 1979

ORGANIZATION

Hartford Architecture Conservancy

DATE

525-0279

STREET & NUMBER

Hartford,

TELEPHONE

CT 06114

CITY OR TOWN

65 Wethersfield Avenue

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

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



DATE June 12, 1979

TITLE Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol Shull
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: Daniel Lee Dwyer
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 8-21-79
 DATE 8/20/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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elaborate finish work. The stairway and fireplace are exceptional. Throughout the house the characteristic interior design of the period is preserved; panelling and extensive surface decoration with highly stylized geometric and floral motifs. The panelling and mouldings display a variety of figured woods; decorative work in wood is characterized by lattice patterns, circles and spindles. Numerous fireplaces with unusual tile facings are intact. Equally important is the survival of the original wall surface treatments, including moulded composition and stencilling on plaster with original paint, and wallpaper.

Late Queen Anne design is dominant in the interior; however, other elements are incorporated which record the range of architectural tastes for over a century. Thus, additional interest is provided by a superb, carved marble fireplace of the Italianate period on the third floor, and in a few rooms, early 20th-century plaster walls and ceilings in a sophisticated Adamesque manner.

The Barbour House preserves an unusual combination of an Italianate Villa exterior and late Queen Anne interior, appropriate to the social and economic position of its various owners. Moreover, it is the last of the Italianate period remaining on Washington Street, and the only one which illustrates the mid-19th century character of this once grand avenue. The home of a distinguished Hartford family, it illustrates changing architectural tastes of Hartford's elite from the mid-19th to the early 20th century.