

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 23 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Barlow, Boce W., Jr., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 31 Canterbury Street not for publication

city or town Hartford vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Hartford code 003 zip code 06112

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 06/20/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature] 6/21/94

Boce W. Barlow, Jr., House
Name of Property

Hartford, Connecticut
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls aluminum

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1949 - 1970

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Barlow, Boce W., Jr.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Boce W. Barlow, Jr., House, Hartford County, Connecticut

Section number 7 Page 1

The Boce W. Barlow, Jr., House is located in the Blue Hills section in the northwest corner of Hartford, an early twentieth-century residential neighborhood. It is bounded by Keney Park on the east and Albany Avenue on the south and extends into neighboring Town of Bloomfield on the north. Canterbury Street runs parallel to and is a block west of Blue Hills Avenue, the principal artery of this neighborhood. Ridgefield Avenue, which borders Keney Park, is one block east of Canterbury Street.

The 1926 Barlow House is one of a number of similar houses in this subdivision, which was laid out in the 1920s. Uniformly set back from the street on relatively small lots, the houses here were all designed in the Colonial Revival style and are generally two stories in height. Stylistic variety in the neighborhood is achieved by the use of several facade designs and roof types, which are repeated at random along Canterbury Street. All designed within the broad stylistic range of the Colonial Revival, these variations are generally limited to different treatments of the main entrance and the arrangement of the facade fenestration.

Like most of its neighbors, the Barlow House is rectangular in plan (34' x 29') with a gabled roof that has a ridge-to-street orientation (Photograph #s 1, 2, 3). The main block has a three-bay facade, with paired windows flanking a central doorway. The entrance is sheltered by a pedimented hood supported by large wooden brackets with pendant drops. With the exception of the casement windows in the small integral hipped-roof wing on the south elevation, most of the windows contain one-over-one double-hung sash. Changes to the house over time have been minimal. They include the installation of aluminum siding and an access ramp at the main entrance. At the rear of the property in the northwest corner, there is a two-car garage built about 1936.

The comfortable interior has a center-hall plan with the living room to the left (Photograph #4). A brick fireplace with a wooden mantel is located on its south wall. The stairs, which rise on the left side of the entrance hall, have a simple balustrade that terminates in a square panelled newel post (Photograph #5). The wood trim around doors and windows retains its original stain and varnished finish throughout the first floor. The second floor was not viewed by the consultant.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Boce W. Barlow, Jr., House, Hartford County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 1

The Boce W. Barlow, Jr., House is primarily significant as the home of a prominent leader of the black community in Hartford. During his long and distinguished career, which spans the full progressive sweep of twentieth-century black history, Boce W. Barlow, Jr. (1915 -), has had an impressive record of public service. As a lawyer, prosecutor, and judge, he worked for equal justice and assisted in the writing of Connecticut's pioneering civil-rights laws. A practicing attorney in Hartford for almost 40 years, Barlow was the first African-American in the Connecticut judiciary and the first to be elected a state senator. Among his important accomplishments in the senate was the sponsorship of legislation which resulted in the creation of the Department of Community Affairs and the Department of Corrections.

Historical Significance

The career of Boce W. Barlow, Jr., is a microcosm of the experience of twentieth-century black leadership nationwide. Although discrimination still exists and the full promise of the civil rights movement is yet to be realized, during his lifetime in Hartford, Barlow has been a part of the major social and political reforms that have opened doors for the black community and brought them full citizenship status. Barlow grew up in a period when blacks were a decided minority in the city and there were no public role models to emulate. There was only one black teacher in the public schools, no minority participation in the fire or police departments, and no elected black officials. Although most black leaders were educated as ministers, Barlow chose the law as a profession, succeeding brilliantly against overwhelming odds and demonstrating to the black community the value of education.

Barlow entered politics when Connecticut's major cities were in crisis. Decades of large-scale immigration and industrialization had produced overcrowding and poor housing conditions, especially for minorities. A political moderate, Barlow believed that the black community would be best served by improving the quality of life for everyone in an integrated multi-racial city, and he worked with the Democratic party leadership to develop effective political coalitions. During his tenure as a state senator he "earned the respect of his white colleagues by the sheer force of his intellect and humanity."¹ In 1987, in recognition of his many achievements in a lifetime of public service, the city named a street in his honor, Boce Barlow Way in the North Meadows.

Born in Americus, Georgia, in 1915, Barlow came to Hartford with his family the following year. Like many African-Americans in this period, his father, Boce Barlow, Sr., came North seeking employment opportunities, part of the first wave of emigration from the Deep South. Many of these first emigrants were farm laborers or migrant tobacco workers. At that time, although there was a small stable black community with its own church that dated back to was the early nineteenth century, there were fewer than 2000 blacks in Hartford, a city that already had a large European immigrant population. The Barlow family first lived in an ethnic neighborhood near the waterfront, parts of which were leveled in the 1950s for the construction of Constitution Plaza, but soon moved to the North End, where Boce Barlow, Sr., opened a small restaurant and ice cream parlor on Bellevue Street. A close friend of Thomas

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Boce W. Barlow, Jr., House, Hartford County, Connecticut

Section number 8 Page 2

J. Spellacy, then the mayor of Hartford, the senior Barlow was active in the Democratic party and many political meetings were held in his home.

Educated in Hartford's public schools, Boce Barlow, Jr., graduated in 1933 from Hartford High School, where he had been enrolled in the college preparatory program. He attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., one of the leading black institutions of higher learning. Although he worked nights to finance his education, Barlow was elected president of his senior class and graduated *cum laude* in 1939. Between 1943 and 1946 he served in the U.S. Army and saw action in New Guinea in the Pacific theater. Soon after he returned home, Barlow married Catherine Swanson of Danville, Virginia, whom he had met at Howard University. Accepted by Harvard Law School, where he was one of only four African-Americans in a class of 600, Barlow and his new bride moved to Boston, where they lived until he received his law degree in 1949. Admitted to the Connecticut bar that year, he soon established a law practice at 721 Main Street in Hartford.² Within a few years he was appointed prosecutor and, in 1957, judge of Hartford's municipal court. He later served as a hearing examiner for Connecticut's Civil Rights Commission, which had been established in 1943, and on the Board of Directors of Connecticut State Prisons. Until his retirement, Barlow practiced law at new offices at 750 Main Street, where he was in partnership with Attorney Paul Lewis, Hartford's corporation counsel. In 1958 Barlow and his wife moved to Canterbury Street with their two young children, Cathy and Bryon, where they were the first minority family in the neighborhood and faced considerable prejudice. Mrs. Barlow, who has worked in the Hartford schools for 30 years as a teacher, guidance counselor, and administrator, has a master's degree from the University of Chicago.

Like his father before him, Barlow has been active in Hartford politics for most of his adult life. He has worked for the Democratic party since the late 1930s, a period when most African-Americans were still staunchly Republican, the party of Lincoln, and still a small urban minority. However, when Barlow campaigned through the state with Adlai Stevenson during the latter's presidential run in 1952, blacks were becoming a substantial presence in Connecticut's major cities. In Hartford the African-American population had grown from 12,000 in 1940 to 44,000 by 1960 to become the largest single minority or ethnic group in the city. When the African-American community in Hartford grew large enough to be a political force, Barlow worked to assure its representation at the state level, serving as a mentor to young black leaders and encouraging them to run for elective office. Although Barlow was content to be a political organizer from behind the scenes for almost 20 years, in 1966 he felt compelled to challenge the Democratic party incumbent in the 2nd senatorial district to broaden the base of black representation. After winning the primary, Barlow was elected a state senator and served two-terms, from 1966 to 1970. In his second term, he was the party's endorsed candidate.

1. *Hartford Courant*, November 2, 1987.

2. Although there are no minority representation figures available, it is assumed that at that time there were very few black attorneys in the state.

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Continuation Sheet**

Boce W. Barlow, Jr., House, Hartford County, Connecticut

Section number 9/10 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barlow, Boce W., Jr. Interview, November 6, 1993.
Hartford City Directories, 1927-1970.
Hartford Courant, 1966, 1967, 1987.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described in the Hartford Land Records in Book 1019, Page 565, being the same property shown on the Hartford Tax Assessor's Map 256, as Block 1, Lot 40.

Boundary Justification:

The property described above encompasses the buildings and land historically associated with the Boce W. Barlow, Jr., House during its period of significance.

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Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000767

Date Listed: / / 94

Barlow, Boce W., Jr., House
Property Name

Hartford
County

CT
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

7/31/94
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Period of Significance

The documented period of significance for the property is 1958-1970 which reflects Barlow's exceptional achievements while residing in this house prior to his retirement from public service.

This information was confirmed with John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, CTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)