

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 11 1977
DATE ENTERED MAY 2 1977

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 The Dr. Barrow Mansion

AND/OR COMMON
Ionic House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 83 Wayne Street

CITY, TOWN Jersey City
VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 14th

STATE New Jersey CODE 034 COUNTY Hudson CODE 017

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran St. Matthews Church
at Jersey City

STREET & NUMBER
85 Wayne Street

CITY, TOWN Jersey City VICINITY OF STATE New Jersey 07302

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Office of the Register
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk and Surrogate

STREET & NUMBER
595 Newark Avenue

CITY, TOWN Jersey City STATE New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1974
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Office, P.O. Box 1420 Department of Environmental Protection
CITY, TOWN Trenton STATE New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mansion at 83 Wayne Street, presently known as the Ionic House, was originally built by Cornelius Van Vorst around 1835-40 for Dr. William Barrow as a free standing house in a group of two.

The two mansions were connected by a large landscaped garden. Both houses were identical Greek Revival houses consisting of two stories, basement, and attic.

The most distinguishing feature of the two mansions was the entrance portico which consists of five 2 story Ionic columns which divide the building into four equal bays. The entrance steps originally extended to the full width of the facade which lead on to a two story porch. The ground floor windows are 6 over 6 over 6 triple-hung windows which follow the original design of Thomas Jefferson.

The second floor windows are 6 over 6 double hung windows. The proportions of the mansion are generous and unusual in that, typically, this type of house at the time was built as a five bay house rather than a four bay house. Therefore, the main entrance occurs in the second bay, making it asymmetrical. When originally seen alongside its twin, however, the overall impression was symmetric.

The facade of the mansion is done in non-articulated wood siding with tight joints intended to simulate masonry rather than wood. Presently, the house is covered with brick tar paper which is in the process of being removed along the front facade.

The interior is basically simple late Federal-early Greek Revival with some Victorian trim applied during the late 1800's.

The landscaped gardens around the buildings have been built upon during the years with a group of row houses to the east and St. Matthews Lutheran Church immediately to the west.

The Ionic House's twin, the Van Vorst Mansion was unfortunately demolished sometime in the 1920's and a small apartment house was constructed in its place.

The form of the Ionic House is a simple rectangular structure with an off-set center hall with two rooms, front and back, on each side. The hall is full length and the side stairway is to the rear. The rooms on the west side of the hall are larger than those on the east. Between the narrower offices

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is a bathroom. The second floor plan is similar, but the hall does not continue the entire length of the building; an ante-room being in the front portion instead. The attic floor presently has seven large storage rooms. This floor was probably originally the servants quarters. The basement level has a similar plan with an arched storage area under the projecting front portico.

Along the east facade of the main house is a narrow two lane bowling alley at the basement level. This recreation facility was probably created as early as 1920 and functioned until the 1950's. Few alterations have been performed on this bowling alley making it one of the last alleys in the state to represent the period before automatic pin-setters. The documents indicate that the brick building the alley is housed within was constructed in the 1890's and originally functioned as a rifle firing range.

To the rear of the main house is another wing which provides a basement dining hall and first story auditorium for the St. Matthews Church next door. This wing was also erected in the late 1890's.

The Ionic House has been roughly treated over the nearly 150 years it has stood on its original site. However, current plans for its restoration should bring it back to something closely approaching its pristine condition. The interior is also in poor shape, but not beyond recovery. Moreover, the marble mantel pieces imported from Italy are of an elaboration and a finished workmanship not rivalled, it would seem, by any that have survived in Manhattan.

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 1835-1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Cornelius Van Vorst

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Dr. William Barrow (Ionic) House in Jersey City is the only remaining Greek Revival mansion in the city and according to Henry-Russell Hitchcock:

"In what is now appropriately known, from its Greek portico, as the Ionic House, Jersey City fortunately has an architectural monument of great distinction. Few Greek Revival mansions of its quality survive elsewhere, except perhaps in the South. Across the river in Manhattan, for example, the houses of the same period that survive on the north side of Washington Square and in Colonnade Row in Lafayette Street, handsome though they are and in few cases well preserved, are row houses, not free-standing residences. With such Greek Revival row-houses on a more modest scales began the characteristic building up of Jersey City that was to continue for a half-century."
(Hitchcock letter 4/16/1976)

Overall, throughout the entire state, there are few Greek Revival structures of comparable quality and craftsmanship.

Historical Significance

The Ionic House stands on part of the original Van Vorst farm, acquired by the first Cornelius Van Vorst, who succeeded Jan Evertse Bout, who in turn succeeded Michale Paulusen, first superintendent of the Pavonia colony. The colony was granted to Michael Pauw, Burgomaster of Amsterdam and Lord of Achtiehoven, near Utrecht, Netherlands in 1630.

A subsequent Cornelius Van Vorst, in direct line from the Superintendent of the Pavonia colony, lived in a much pictured Van Vorst Homestead, surrounded by weeping willows, at the northeast corner of what is now Jersey Avenue and Wayne Street. The tract including this farm house, was bequeathed to him by his grandfather in 1814.

(cont.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Mills, W. Jay Historic Houses of New Jersey. Philadelphia, Pa.: J.B. Lippincott Co., 1902
- Van Winkle, Daniel. History of Municipalities of Hudson County, 1630-1923. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1924.
- Hitchcock, Henry-Russell. Letters to Dennis Enright, Jersey City, Redevelopment Agency.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/8 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 8 0 3 4 0	4 5 0 7 1 9 0 0	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
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Terry Karschner, Historic Sites Section, DEP, 292-2023)

NAME / TITLE

Mark Munley, Area Co-ordinator

ORGANIZATION
Downtown Neighborhood Preservation Program

DATE
May 1, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
83 Wayne Street

TELEPHONE
201-656-0517

CITY OR TOWN
Jersey City

STATE
New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

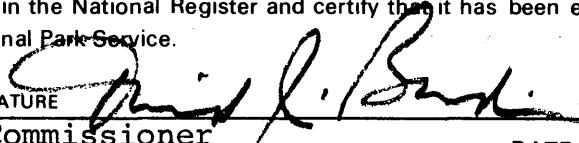
NATIONAL

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



TITLE
David J. Bardin, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection

DATE
December 20, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting Chief
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: *Charles Obermyer*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
5/2/77

DATE
7.29.77

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In 1835, the grandson of the first Cornelius Van Vorst surveyed and had a map drawn up showing the streets and avenues west of the Paulus Hook tract which his grandfather had sold in 1804 to the Associates of the Jersey Company.

The second Cornelius Van Vorst was one of the founders of Township of Van Vorst and Mayor of Jersey City in 1860-61 when he greeted Abraham Lincoln at the old New Jersey Railroad depot at Montgomery and Hudson Streets on Lincoln's departure for his first Inauguration.

In the late 1830's, the second Cornelius Van Vorst had his old homestead demolished because it sat at an angle, faced southeastward covering two lots, and interfered with his new plan for streets and lots.

After the old house was demolished, Van Vorst built a new home for himself at what is now 89 Wayne Street. An identical twin house at 83 Wayne Street was built at the same time by his brother-in-law physician, Dr. William Barrow. The two houses were separated by a beautiful lawn.

The Van Vorst house was sold in 1874 to Dr. Benjamin Edge, a decedent of Issac Edge, owner of Edge's Wind Mill.

In 1890, Barrow Mansion was bought by the Young Mens Christian Association of Jersey City and fitted out as a Intellectual and Recreational Center. A large addition was built on the rear and served as a gymnasium. In addition, the Y.M.C.A. bought the adjacent house to the east, and converted it into a rifle range, and later bowling alley which it remains. (The initials Y.M.L.A. to be seen over the alley is the same sign which was there when it read Y.M.C.A., the church simply changing the third letter form "C" to "L" for Lutheran).

In 1897, through an option secured by a Mr. N. Lohse, an officer of St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the church purchased the Dr. Barrow House for use as its Parish House -- a use which is continued to this day. At the same time, St. Matthew's purchased the lawn which had separated the two mansions and erected its present church on this land.

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New Jersey 034

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Presently, the Ionic House serves as an office for the City of Jersey City's Neighborhood Preservation Program. This program is actively engaged in fostering the revitalization and restoration of the Downtown area - a community containing hundreds of turn-of-the-century brick and brownstone residences. Additionally, the Historic District Commission of Jersey City is actively considering making the Ionic House its official residence.

In so far as the Ionic House is concerned, the future of the past is assured through the introduction of new uses for this late 1830's building.