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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Barlow House

other names/site number BA-79

2. Location

street & number Broadway and South Fifth

N/A not for publication

city, town Barlow

N/A vicinity

state Kentucky

code KY

county Ballard

code 007

zip code 42024

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private public-local public-State public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s) district site structure object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of David L. Morgan, State Historic Preservation Officer, Kentucky Heritage Council, dated 10-4-91.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official, Date, State or Federal agency and bureau.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper: Patricia Andrews, Date of Action: 11.2.91

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ secondary structure

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asbestos

other brick outbuilding

cast-iron fence

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Barlow House (BA-79) is a two-story, symmetrical, frame, Queen-Anne styled domestic structure located on the main street of the small farming community of Barlow, in Ballard County, Kentucky. Situated on a large lot shaded by large oak and hackberry trees, the Barlow House has a distinct small-town setting with its surroundings of late 19th and early 20th century houses. The agricultural nature of the area is underscored by the location of a large lot to the rear of the Barlow House yard that was traditionally used by the Barlow family to raise tobacco. The Barlow House is located a block from the main intersection of the town, around which are the few commercial buildings of the community, including a grocery store and farm supply business. The self-sufficiency aspect of the Barlow House is reflected in the location of a brick outbuilding on the property that was used by the family as a smokehouse, laundry and storage building. The property also contains a cast-iron fence that runs across the front and is original to the 1903 building date. This nomination consists of the two contributing buildings and the one contributing structure of the cast-iron fence.

Resting on a brick foundation, the house presents its symmetrical facade to the main street of the community, while the west end of the house with its bay window and side entrance, faces a secondary street. The east and west sides of the house face the side and back yards and are largely utilitarian in design.

The restrained and balanced facade of the house creates an elegant view for the public passing by on the busy street fronting the house. The facade is dominated by a three-story, semi-octagonal tower that creates the central section of the house. The first floor of this tower contains two double-hung windows and the front entrance to the house. The front door has a glass upper pane and bottom panels and it is topped with a transom. The projecting central tower area is balanced on both sides with bays containing single, double-hung windows.

The one-story veranda that runs across the front of the house is supported by paired Ionic columns. The east side of the veranda has a porte-cochere, added by the family shortly after the construction of the house. The west end of the veranda has an open, one-story turret that projects slightly out into the yard. The turret is supported with single Ionic columns and is topped with a conical roof and a finial. The veranda turns and runs down half of the west side of the house.

The fascia area running along the top of the veranda has a continuous band of raised blocks that create an elongated dentil molding appearance. The symmetry

See continuation sheet

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE

1903-1904

1903-1904

COMMERCE

1903-1904

1903

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Clifton J. Barlow

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Barlow House in Barlow, Kentucky is significant under National Register Criteria B and C. The house meets criterion B through its association with important local figures in Barlow's commercial development. It was the home of Clifton J. Barlow, the leading citizen of Barlow, Kentucky at the turn of the century and the town's main promoter of growth and economic development. His efforts led to a period of community expansion for Barlow between 1900 and 1910. The house meets criterion C by being the most elegant and monumental domestic structure ever constructed in Ballard County. The Barlow House is also one of the most significant turn-of-the-century structures located in the Jackson Purchase region of Kentucky. In this respect, the Barlow House ranks in importance with the Dieugud House in Murray, the Oakwood Farm in Hickman, Whitehaven in Paducah and the Stilley House in Benton as an outstanding example of turn-of-the-century architecture. Like all of these structures, the Barlow House has been the most notable domestic structure in the community since its construction and has always set the standard against which all other local architecture is compared.

The Barlow House is located in Ballard County, one of the eight counties that make up the Jackson Purchase, the westernmost region of Kentucky. Roughly square in shape, the county is bordered by the curving Ohio River to the north and west. The county is largely agricultural, with crops of tobacco, corn and soybeans being raised, and the small towns in the county are agriculturally-oriented in the goods and services they provide.

The first settlers came to the Ballard County area in 1818 to settle along Humphries Creek, a tributary of the Ohio River. In 1842, the Kentucky General Assembly created Ballard County from sections of McCracken County and Hickman County. In 1849, Thomas Jefferson Barlow moved to the county from Scott County and founded the town of Barlow, known in the nineteenth century as Barlow City. Thomas Barlow operated a hotel, a prosperous operation that took advantage of the town's location between the large communities of Cairo, Illinois and Paducah, Kentucky. Barlow also sold lots for the newly-founded town that grew up around his hotel. A man of many talents, Barlow also served as the surveyor in 1863 for the construction of a road leading from Fort Jefferson on the Mississippi River to Caledonia. His surveying expertise must have also been helpful in the laying out of streets and lots for the new town.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Ballard Yeoman, 1904 article, no further date available.

Battle, J. H., W. H. Perrin and G. C. Kniffen. Kentucky: A History of the State.  
Louisville: F. A. Battey Publishing Co., 1885.

Kentucky State Gazeteer, 1879-80.

See continuation sheet

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Kentucky Heritage Council

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property .85 acre

**UTM References**

A 16 318110 4102320  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

Barlow Quad.

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Barlow property starts at the SE corner of the intersection of Broadway and South 5th and runs 225 feet along 5th street to the SW corner of the property, here it turns east and runs 160 feet to the SE corner, here it turns north and runs 225 feet to the NE corner of the property, here it turns west and runs 160 feet to the beginning point.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The property included in the nomination comprises all of the original yard of the Barlow House as marked by fencing and shrubbery. The original yard was included because it provides the historic context for the property, that of being the most notable structure in a small town setting. The adjacent agricultural land was not included because of its minor role in the family's history.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Richard Holland  
 organization Paducah Growth, Inc. date July 31, 1991  
 street & number 417 S. 4th telephone 502-443-9284  
 city or town Paducah state KY zip code 42003

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of the porch is stressed by the central entrance pediment that is decorated with oak leaves and acorn decals.

The projecting tower that continues at the second-floor level contains three double-hung windows. Each of the side bays contains two matching double-hung windows. All of the windows at the second-floor level contain oak leaves and acorn decals at their heads. Balustrades with turned spindles run along the ridge line of the roof of the first-floor veranda, creating a balcony effect in front of the two side bays.

The central tower rises to the third-story attic level. The third-floor windows of the tower are squatter than the lower level windows, revealing the utilitarian use of this attic space. The tower is topped with an octagonal roof and a finial. A corbelled chimney rises above the east end of the tower.

The main block of the house is topped with a steeply-pitched gable roof with flared eaves. These eaves are supported by simple brackets that run completely around the house. A pair of dormers with hipped, flared roofs provide additional light to the attic level. The dormers, as well as the east and west ends of the gable roof, are topped with finials that match those of the central tower and the veranda turret.

Since it faces a street, the west end of the house is more ornate than the east or south sides. The front veranda turns and runs along to the midpoint of the west side. A one-story bay window projects out at that point and contains two windows and the side entrance to the house. The bay window is topped with a steeply-pitched hipped roof. From a second-floor bedroom projects an oriel window which has a broad central bay and two smaller side bays. The heads of the windows contain the oak leaves and acorn decals that decorate the other second-floor windows.

The east side of the house contains variously placed and sized double-hung windows that are placed according to functional needs and not the rules of symmetry. One over-sized window provides morning light to the dining room while a smaller window illuminates the pantry area.

The upper parts of the gables on both the east and west sides contain the exuberant decoration that was so popular with Queen Anne houses. The entire upper parts of the gables project slightly from the main block of the house. The projecting eaves are decorated with a combination of square, triangular, scalloped and diamond shaped wood shingles. These shingle patterns create strong areas of interest on the otherwise plain sides. There are also paired, double-hung windows directly below the projecting eaves on both sides of the house.

The back of the house has a one-story shed section that contains such functional areas as the kitchen, back staircase, first-first bathroom and family room. This section is original to the house. A central section of this area was originally open but has been enclosed to contain the bathroom and hallway. A simple back porch with turned columns and a centrally-located entrance provide

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access to this section of the house. The rear side of the house also has twin brick chimneys and an attic dormer.

The interior of the house contains the simple detailing woodwork typical of late Queen Anne houses. The front entrance opens into a large central reception hall/parlor area. To the east of this area is the dining room and to the west is a sitting room/library. The central room flows into a hallway that contains the main staircase to the second floor. The hallway also leads to the west side entrance. The dining room has a pantry area opening off of it and then the kitchen. One large room at the southwest corner of the house has traditionally been used by the family as a sitting room. The room was originally used as a guest room for itinerant Methodist ministers who visited Barlow to preach at the local church. The Barlows were prominent members of that church, which is located directly south of the family's property.

With the Barlow family's access to lumber yards and planing mills in Paducah, Kentucky and Cairo, Illinois, it is natural that the interior of the house has some interesting woodwork and decorative items. The most notable interior feature is the pair of fanlike fretwork that marks the division point between the reception hall and the staircase hallway. The main staircase has a square newel post and turned spindles. The staircase area is highlighted by a square stained glass window, originally lit from behind by the open rear porch. There are pocket sliding doors between the reception hall and the dining room and between the reception hall and the library. The dining room also has a built-in china cabinet. The rest of the house has simple baseboard molding and period light fixtures.

In 1989, a fire started in the back porch area of the house and continued up the back staircase to the main staircase and then up into the attic level. Most of the entire attic level and the roof structure was destroyed and the two staircase areas damaged. In the following months, the house was stabilized and then completely restored by the Paducah contracting firm of Ray Black and Son. Restoration items included rebuilding the roof and tower framing, putting a new roof on, reconstructing the two side gables with their decorative shingling, replacing the burned spindles and bannister of the main staircase, and putting back the attic-level windows. Every effort was made to salvage and reuse original architectural fabric, including the gable shingles, the staircase spindles and the attic flooring. Destroyed material was duplicated by regional craftsmen to match exactly the original. This commitment to an authentic restoration even extended to salvaging exterior weatherboard siding from another period house being demolished and using it to rebuild the side gables. This restoration effort has protected the architectural and historic integrity of the structure.

During the restoration period, the rest of the house was up-dated and modern mechanical systems, plumbing, wiring and security system were installed. Copper guttering and downspouts were also installed and the entire exterior and interior repainted.

The one surviving outbuilding on the property is a two-story brick structure

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behind the main house that was apparently built at the same time as the main house. The original use for this structure was for a washroom and storage area on the first floor and a smokehouse on the second. The bricks for this building were made at a local brickyard that the house builder, Clifton J. Barlow, had a partial interest in.

The brickwork of the building is laid in common bond with six rows of stretchers to one row of headers. The north side of the building has a projecting roof that covers that exterior staircase that provides access to the second floor. The east side has a single double-hung window on the first floor level, providing light to the former laundry room. The south side has small double-hung windows on both the first and second floors. The west side has a pair of panelled doors that lead to the downstairs rooms. The south room was traditionally used for storage, including coal and food, and the north room as a laundry. A frame lean-to has been constructed along the west side of the building. Originally open for a clothes drying area, this lean-to has been partially enclosed to create a garage.

The grounds surrounding the house are graced with old plantings of boxwoods and shaded by huge specimens of oak, hackberry, maple and linden trees. A cast-iron fence from the Stewart Iron Works in Cincinnati, Ohio runs across the front of the yard and is original to the house.

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Throughout the rest of the nineteenth century, Barlow was an agricultural center for the surrounding area. In 1879, the town contained a saw mill, a grist mill, and a population of approximately 100 people. The town's chief exports were tobacco, corn, pork, wheat and cattle. The population remained around 100 people until around 1900.<sup>2</sup>

Beginning in 1902, the community experienced a spurt of growth and expansion as a result of the construction of a railroad line from East Cairo, Kentucky to Paducah that passed through Barlow. The 31.89 mile line was constructed by the Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Railroad, a subsidiary of the Illinois Central Railroad. The construction of this railroad line gave Barlow for the first time direct connections to national transportation systems and vastly improved the town's ability to import and export goods and services. Both Paducah and Cairo have always served as major railroad centers and provided Barlow with direct connections to the large cities of New Orleans, Chicago, Louisville, St. Louis and Memphis. The construction of this railroad line also led to the development of the small Ballard County communities of LaCentre and Kevil.

The people of Barlow profited from the new transportation access during a period of expansion and growth for the town between 1900 and 1910. The leader in the effort toward economic growth was Clifton Jesse Barlow, the son of Thomas Barlow and the leading citizen in the town at the beginning of the twentieth century. Every enterprise started in Barlow at this time was connected to Clifton Barlow and a local newspaper called him the "father of the town".<sup>3</sup> In 1902, Barlow's efforts led to the incorporation and opening for business of the Bank of Barlow. The bank was located in a newly constructed two-story brick building at the central intersection of the town. At the same time, a new Masonic Lodge was built adjacent to the bank. Barlow's new transportation access was underscored by the importing of cast-iron storefronts for both of these buildings from iron foundries in Paducah. The growth of the town also led to the attraction of the first doctor in the community, Dr. W. A. Page, who built an office on the town's main street. By 1910, the town's population had grown to over 600 people, after which it levelled off.

The local citizens recognized that it was Clifton Barlow's enterprising spirit that spurred on this growth. A 1904 newspaper article proclaimed that it was "due to C. J. Barlow's activity along this line that the town forged ahead so rapidly." The article goes on to note that "he is enterprising and is active in every movement looking to the material interests of the town and community-financially, socially, and in every other way."<sup>4</sup> Barlow not only operated the family hotel but also a drug store, both being important centers of activity for small towns. Barlow's local prominence is also reflected in his appointment as postmaster for Barlow, which in a small town was tantamount to being mayor. He also continued selling lots for new residential and commercial development.

In 1903, Clifton Barlow made his greatest contribution to the town's stature by deciding to build a substantial dwelling for his family. The new house was to be built at a prominent location at the southeast corner of Broadway, the town's main street, and South Fifth Street. Barlow's decision to build an impressive new residence was both a reflection of the town's new prosperity and growth and his desire to provide



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modern conveniences for his family, which included seven children.

The actual credit for the design of the house goes to Clifton Barlow's wife, Carrie Miller Barlow, who chose the plan from one of several ordered from an architectural patternbook. The Barlow family's use of this patternbook is mentioned in the 1904 newspaper article on the family and its new home. The Barlow family members remember that this source book remained in the house for many years until it was loaned to a friend and never returned. The newspaper article credited Mrs. Barlow's "excellent judgement" for achieving a house that was "admirably arranged for all the comforts and conveniences of home life." Among the house's notable features were "the fresco work and the calcimined walls and ceilings in different colors." The house's interior woodwork was described as being "hardwood and yellow pine, to be finished in oil, showing beautiful grain in quarter sawed wood." The prosperity of the family is reflected in the fact that "everything used in the interior construction is of the best, doors, windows, lock hinges ..." At the end of the article, the writer predicted that when completed, "the Barlow House would be the finest residence in Ballard County if not in Western Kentucky, outside of cities."

The Barlow House is the only documented example in Ballard County of a historic residential structure that was built according to plan obtained from an architectural patternbook. This fact accounts a great deal for the elegance and modernity of the house's design. The increased contact with the outside world provided through the new railroad connection would have contributed to the Barlow family's knowledge and appreciation for current architectural styles. The family's use of a patternbook for their architectural guide reflects the growing trend by 1900 of the national distribution of architectural concepts and designs. This trend led to the development of a more cohesive and widespread national architectural identity.

At the death of C. J. and Carrie Barlow, the house passed to another remarkable member of the family, Vivian J. Barlow. Born in 1894, Vivian Barlow was educated at the local Barlow Grammar School and the McFerrin School in Martin, Tennessee. He displayed great musical talent as a youth and studied voice and piano in St. Louis, Chicago and New York. After serving in World War I, he started a 44-year teaching career. He first taught at the high school in Barlow before moving on to various eastern United States schools.

In 1929, Vivian Barlow began a distinguished teaching career at Choate School in Wellingsford, Connecticut. He served as a master at Choate until his retirement in 1965. Among his students was John F. Kennedy, with whom he held an impromptu reunion at the Barkley Regional Airport in Paducah during a Kennedy campaign stop during the presidential campaign of 1960.

During his teaching career in the East, Vivian Barlow maintained his family home as a summer residence and lived there full time after his retirement. The house was substantially damaged in a fire in 1989 but was authentically restored under the direction of Vivian Barlow and restoration contractor William R. Black, Jr. During

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this restoration effort, every effort was made to salvage and reuse original architectural materials. The high quality of the restoration has preserved and enhanced the historical integrity of the house.

At his death in 1990, Vivian Barlow left the house to a family trust which is responsible for maintaining and operating it. The Barlow House is now open to the public as a historic house museum and is available to local organizations for meetings and functions. Barlow family furniture and memorabilia are on display in the house.

It is appropriate that the Barlow family home, a landmark since its construction in 1903, is now dedicated for use by the public. This use allows the public to not only learn more about the town's founding family but also to visit a gracious survivor of an earlier time.

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>J. H. Battle, W. H. Perrin, and G. C. Kniffen, Kentucky: A History of the State (Louisville: F. A. Battey Publishing Co., 1885), Volume I, Part II, p. 21.

<sup>2</sup>Kentucky State Gazeteer, 1879-80, p. 63.

<sup>3</sup>Ballard Yeoman, 1904 article, no further date available.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

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For All Photos:

Historic Name: Barlow House  
Photographer: Richard Holland  
Negative Location: Kentucky Heritage Council  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Date Photo Taken: July, 1991

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>View or Elevation</u>
1	Front of house looking south
2	Front of house looking southwest
3	Front central gable, looking south
4	Front verenda, looking west
5	Front verenda turret, looking east
6	West side of house, looking southeast
7	Rear of house, looking north
8	East side of house, looking northwest
9	Brick outbuilding, looking southwest
10	Brick outbuilding, looking northeast

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001663 Date Listed: 11/21/91

Barlow House                      Ballard              KY  
Property Name:                      County:              State:

Multiple Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

11/21/91  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

The end of the Period of Significance (1904) is not explained in the nomination. Marty Perry with the KY SHPO says that it would be more appropriate to end the period in 1910 (height of the town's period of prosperity). The form is officially amended to include this information.

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DISTRIBUTION:

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