

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Maryland	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XXIX XXVII Social and Humanitarian Movements
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Clara Barton House	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 9/10th of acre.
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) 5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo, Md. (adjoins Glen Echo amusement park)	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) The Friends of Clara Barton, Inc., 2020 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Md.	

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)

Significance: The Clara Barton House contained the headquarters of the American National Red Cross, this country's principal emergency relief organization, from 1897 until 1904. During these years, the organization received its long-sought federal charter. The house also served as storage space for emergency supplies and as the home of Clara Barton, the founder and first president of the American National Red Cross, from 1892 until 1912.

Miss Barton was born in Oxford, Massachusetts, December 25, 1821, and died at her home in Glen Echo, Md. April 7, 1912. A sensitive, precocious child, she began teaching school when she was 15 years old. She came to Washington, D.C. in 1854 to work in the Patent Office copying documents in longhand. When the Civil War broke out, Miss Barton left her desk to tend the wounded. Not associated with the Sanitary Commission, her enterprise was largely personal. Her dedicated efforts both during and after the war brought her wide acclaim. These years set the tone for the remainder of her life. For years she worked for the participation of the United States in the international Geneva Convention of the Red Cross of 1863. In 1881, she organized "The Association of the Red Cross" to build up public sentiment in favor of this international agreement. This association was re-incorporated in 1893, still without federal support, as the "American National Red Cross."

In the end, it was Miss Barton's efforts that gained recognition for her organization. For example, she worked for five months at the scene of the Johnstown flood of May 1889. In the decade that followed, her relief work extended to Russia, Armenia, and to the Sea Islands of South Carolina. Many tens of thousands of people received emergency aid during these natural disasters. During the Spanish-American War, the immense relief activities of the American Red Cross in Cuba earned a federal charter for the organization on June 6, 1900. (Continued)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Federal Writers' Project, Guide to Washington, D.C., Washington, 1937.
Bacon-Foster, Corra, "Clara Barton, Humanitarian," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, Vol. 21, 1917.
Correspondence and information from The Friends of Clara Barton, Inc.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Apartments	13. DATE OF VISIT July 27, 1964.
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)		15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE July 28, 1964.

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE Maryland	NAME(S) OF SITE Clara Barton House
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Significance, continued:

Features and Condition:

The structure is a large frame building with a full basement. Part of the lumber used in building the house in 1891-92, was salvaged from the emergency buildings of the Red Cross at Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Rather than upset the local lumber market by giving away lumber indiscriminately, some of it was shipped to Cumberland, Md., and brought down the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to Glen Echo. Here, Miss Barton had been given a plot of land by the brothers Edwin and Edward Baltzy, who were trying to develop a national Chautauqua assembly at Glen Echo. Dr. Julian B. Hubbell, a friend of Miss Barton's and the first Field Agent of the American Red Cross, designed the house to resemble the interior of a Mississippi River steamboat. The front end of the house is flanked by two stone-faced towers with very steep roofs. When the Glen Echo Chautauqua Assembly failed, giving way to the present summer amusement park, Miss Barton's house remained. The only change in the original exterior appearance of the house is the large front porch, constructed sometime before 1942.

The interior of the house is generally utilitarian. There are 36 rooms and 38 large closets in the house. Three tiers of rooms face onto an open gallery in the center of the house which is lighted by clerestory windows of colored glass. Unpainted board walls, numerous windows, restrained ornamentation, and much built-in storage space are unique features of this building. Many of the original furnishings also remain, making the entire house reminiscent of the frugal and self-sacrificing Clara Barton.