UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Clara Barton National Historic Site

AND/OR COMMON
Clara Barton House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 5801 Oxford Road

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Glen Echo __VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8th

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Montgomery CODE 031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	X PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	X WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
National Park Service, National Capital Region

STREET & NUMBER
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY, TOWN Washington __VICINITY OF STATE D.C. 20242

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville, STATE Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE 1964 X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The basic elements of the house are those of the Locust Street Red Cross Hotel erected early in July 1889 as emergency housing in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, for those made homeless by the May 31st flood disaster there. Prefabricated in the Midwest for rapid construction at Johnstown, it was later easily disassembled and shipped by rail to Washington, D.C., where it was stacked on lots owned by the Red Cross.

A 16-foot-wide hall 3 stories high and lighted by clerestory windows provided a common and dining space. The flanking 2-story portions were also 16 feet wide and were divided by board and batten partitions into family bedrooms opening to the central hall on the first floor and to continuous balconies on the second floor. The entire structure was of wood without ornament and roughly finished.

Shortened by several bays but using much of the same material, a similar Red Cross structure was erected at Glen Echo in the summer of 1891 adjacent to the National Chautauqua, also under construction. Intended to relate to the stone architecture of the chautauqua was a stone facade with its parapet curved to conceal the high roof of the central bay. It was ornamented by a large red cross of brick above a central entrance door.

If this building was intended then as a Red Cross headquarters, such plans were thwarted by inadequate transportation and communication and by the failure of the chautauqua in its second season due to a malarial scare. Until 1897 the structure was used only for storage of disaster relief supplies and for occasional "camping out" by the Red Cross staff.

By 1897 Glen Echo was served by a new post office, telephone lines, and a trolley. Clara Barton's diaries for that year record her supervision of remodeling to adapt the house as national headquarters of the American Red Cross. The stone facade which darkened the interior was removed except for its ends which became corner towers with the addition of metal-roofed turrets. Contemporary photos show a railed porch across the front, unroofed except where it sheltered the entrance. Clara Barton's preferred exterior colors of light yellow with white trim were restored in a repainting in 1978.

Some interior improvements were documented photographically for official Red Cross publicity. They include a parlor in the front room to the left of an entrance vestibule, a railed lightwell toward the rear of the central hall, and a 3-room office suite across the rear of the first floor. Entered through a pair of doors with stained glass Red Cross panels, this suite included a dining room and 2 offices. The original kitchen is largely intact adjacent to the dining room.

Written documentation identifies the second floor bedrooms across the rear as those of Clara Barton, George Pullman, and Dr. Julian Hubbell. In the airy, many-windowed manner of most of the house these rooms were connected with triple-doored openings. The bath adjacent to Dr. Hubbell's bedroom existed in the historic period but none of the original fixtures has survived.

(continued)

m No. 10-300a
v. 10-74)

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Storage of relief supplies, stationery, and publications was important in the administration of the Red Cross. It justifies the large number of closets and explains the use of the first floor rooms behind the front stair. In the front corner to the right of the entrance is a masonry vault on both the first and second stories with a fruit cellar at the basement level.

At the third floor the three rooms that break above the clerestory retain a high level of historic integrity. A pair of windows in the front room have red panes forming red crosses. The rear room has a door opening to the roof where once there was a railed bench with a view toward the Potomac. The center, topmost room bridges the lightwell several feet above the front and back rooms and is separated from them by sections of clerestory beneath which is a band of colored glass panels.

Interior wall and ceiling finishes are primarily light stained wood, plaster, tacked muslin, or wallpaper canvas painted in some rooms and papered in others. Some of the bedroom closet doors are striped ticking over wood frames. Except for the towers the exterior is wood clapboard with standing seam metal roofs. Original floors are softwood wide boards.

In the years after Clara Barton's death Dr. Hubbell replaced the open front porch with a columned, covered one-story porch. His twin nieces who interited the house in 1929 modified the interior to create rent-producing apartments. Baths and kitchens were added. Some floors were covered with narrow hardwood flooring. Central heating replaced stoves. A garage with screened porches above was attached at the western rear corner. A new basement apartment was created at the rear. An exterior entrance porch and stair were added adjacent to the original kitchen.

The most severe change in the grounds has been the encroachment of the Glen Echo parking lot at the front. This explains why only a fraction of the 8.59-acre national historic site has sufficient integrity to be included in the National Register. Of the original outbuildings, which included a stable and chicken house, none remain. Documentation, both photographic and written, provides a basis for some grounds restoration with authentic plant varieties.

Included within the Clara Barton National Historic Site is a collection of approximately 2000 items dating primarily from 1890 to 1912 but also including earlier 19th century artifacts. The bulk of the collection is late Victorian furniture roughly half of which belonged to Clara Barton. The collection also contains her clothing, books, personal manuscripts, memorabilia, drawings, flags, souvenirs, and one volume of her diary. There are also Red Cross manuscripts and organizational records, miscellaneous photographs, household items, and scrapbooks and ledgers relating to her efforts to locate missing men after the Civil War. All items original to or historically associated with Clara Barton and the house during her occupancy are considered to be included in this documentation for the National Register.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

A continuing restoration is underway at the Clara Barton House. Its first objective is structural stabilization and reinforcement to keep the building weathertight and safe for increasingly heavy visitation. This work is either concealed or replacement in kind. An equally important long-range objective is the return of the major interior spaces, the exterior, and the grounds to their known appearance in the 1897-1904 period. To date this has included the restoration of Clara Barton's bedroom and the movement of the vestibule wall to its historic location. Restoration of the Red Cross office suite at the rear of the first floor is currently underway. As mentioned above, the exterior has been returned to its turn-of-the-century colors. Drawings have been prepared for replacing the present porch with the design of 1897.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	_ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
X 1800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	_COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1897-1904 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property is significant as the home of Clara Barton from 1897 to 1912, with special emphasis on the years 1897-1904 when it was also executive headquarters of the American Red Cross. Miss Barton's personal direction of its 1897 remodeling made the house uniquely hers in design as well as occupancy.

Clara Barton had many careers, any one of which would have made her an important figure in American history. Born in 1821 in Oxford, Massachusetts, she first distinguished herself as the organizer of a public school in Bordentown, New Jersey, which was so successful that she was replaced by a male principal. Pursuing equal opportunity for women, she was among the first of her sex to be appointed to a Federal civil service job as a clerk in the Patent Office in Washington. During the Civil War she distinguished herself by organizing medical and nutritional units to relieve battlefield suffering. After the war a missing persons bureau that she directed was able to reunite families with related veterans or to inform them how sons, brothers, or husbands had perished and where they were buried.

Perhaps the crowning achievements of her career were the organization and direction of the American Red Cross, its affiliation with the International Red Cross, and her successful persuasion, here and abroad, to extend Red Cross relief to civilian disasters as well as wartime suffering. Related to these was her effort to have the United States sign the Geneva Treaty, accomplished in 1882. Miss Barton was president of the American Red Cross for 23 years, resigning in 1904 at the age of 82.

In the period of her association with this property, she was appointed by President McKinley to represent the United States at the International Red Cross Conference in Vienna in September 1897, interrupting her remodeling of the house. She directed battle relief in Cuba during the Spanish-American War as well as relief to sufferers in Cuban concentration camps. Her last field work was in hurricane-ravaged Galveston, Texas, in 1900. She headed the U.S. delegation to the International Conference of the Red Cross in St. Petersburg in 1902.

After her retirement as president of the Red Cross Clara Barton kept the Glen Echo house as her residence until her death there in 1912. A comparison of the Glen Echo headquarters with the marble edifice built by the Red Cross in Washington in 1915-16 dramatizes the personal, domestic style of Miss Barton's leadership. One cannot imagine her successors keeping a cow, horse, goat, or chickens; growing and preserving asparagus, corn, currants, and plums; or personally laundering the curtains of the present headquarters.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The significance of the Clara Barton National Historic Site which qualifies it for listing in the National Register is its association with Clara Barton and the Red Cross, especially in the years 1897-1904. Architecturally, these associated values are best defined by photographic and written documents of the period and by the survival, sometimes concealed by later finishes, of much of the environment described by the documents. Areas such as the basement and the front apartment on the second floor are minimally described by the documents and have undergone irreversible modification since Miss Barton's death in 1912. They are or will be adaptively used for those modern support functions required to administer and maintain the house as a museum. Similarly, first and second floor rooms on the long sides of the house and opening to the light well will continue in non-historic uses with minimal architectural change; the documentary record for these spaces is too meager to support accurate restoration.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGR. HICAL REFERENCES

Clara Barton. Unpublished diaries. Manuacript Division, Library of Congress.

William E. Barton. The Life of Clara Barton, Founder of the American Red Cross. Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1922.

Percy H. Epler. The Life of Clara Barton. New York: Macmillan, 1915.

Photographs. Photographic Division, Library of Congress.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	18	314520	4315090
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning where the centerline of Oxford Road extended intersects the George Washington Memorial Parkway property line, the boundary runs southeasterly along said line to the ravine of Minnehaha Creek, thence northeasterly along said ravine to the cut separating the front lawn from the Glen Echo-Clara Barton parking lot, thence northwesterly along said cut to the centerline of Oxford Road extended, thence southwesterly along said centerline to the point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul Goeldner, Regional Historical Architect — 4/79

ORGANIZATION — DATE

National Capital Region, National Park Service — 426-6660

STREET & NUMBER — TELEPHONE

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN — STATE

Washington — D.C. 20242

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

Property already on Register. This form constitutes documentation only.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES____ NO____ NONE____

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is _X_National ____State ____Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE — DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

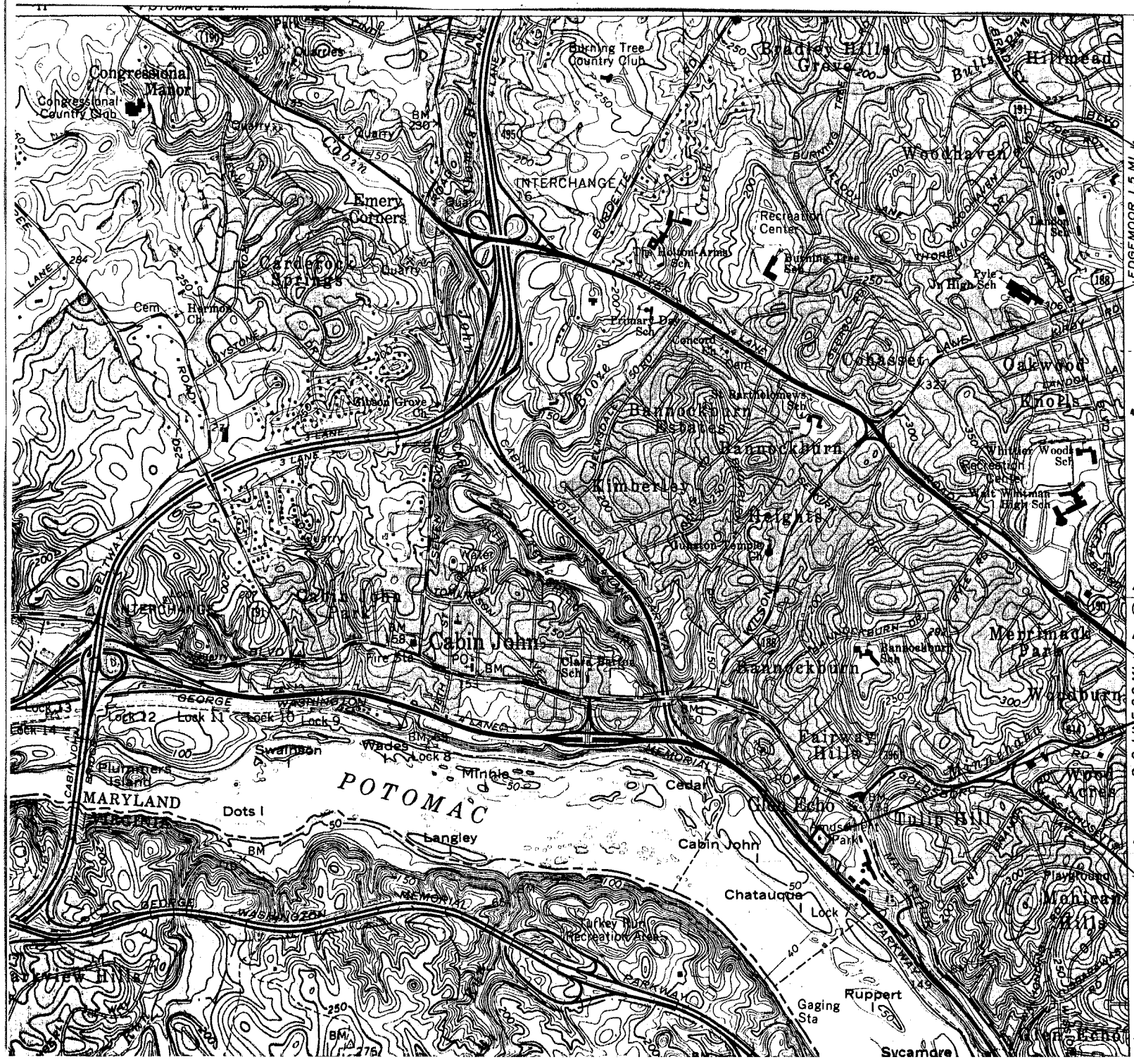
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



CLARA BARTON NHS

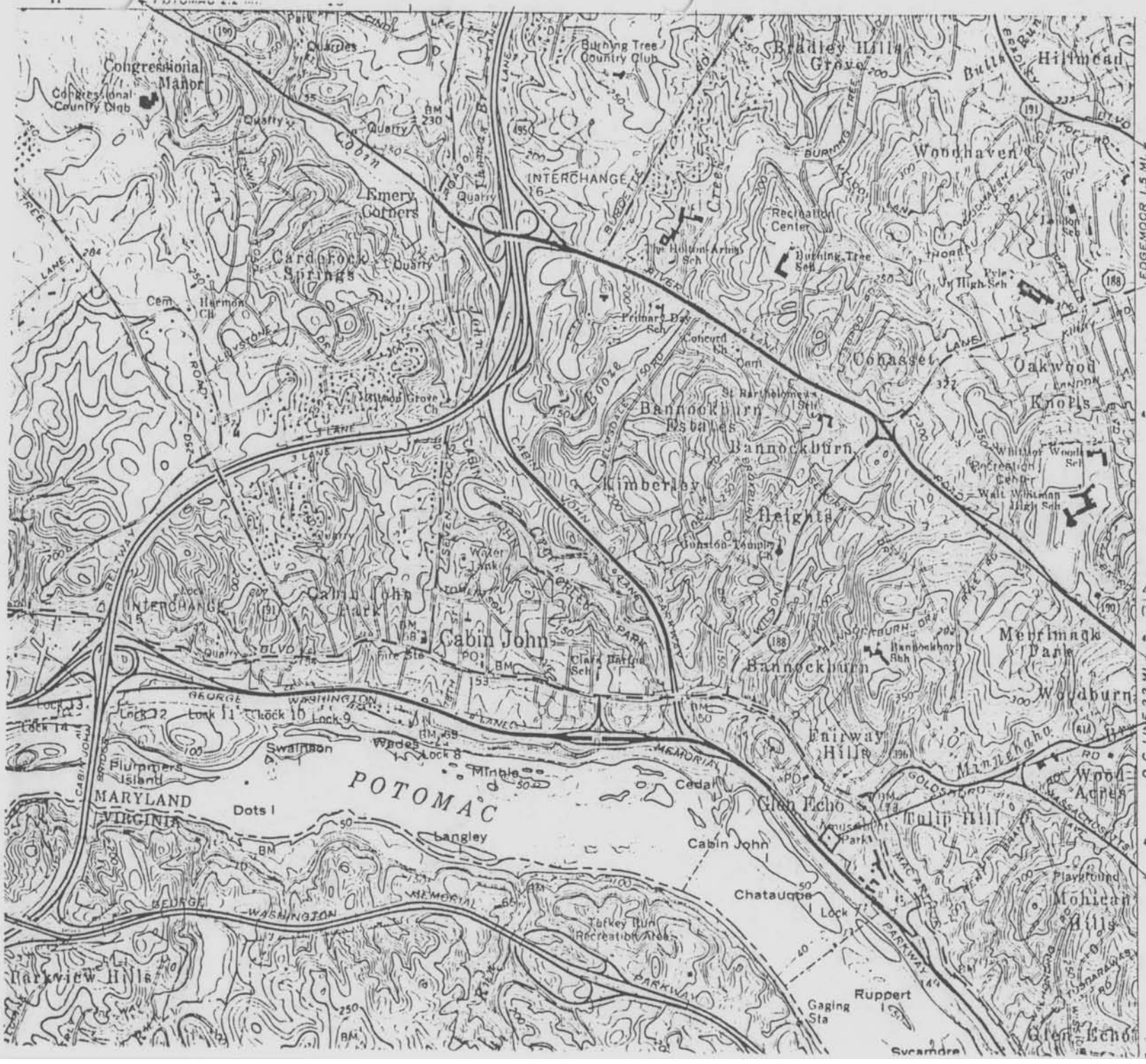
UTM REFERENCE:

18/314520/4 -09(

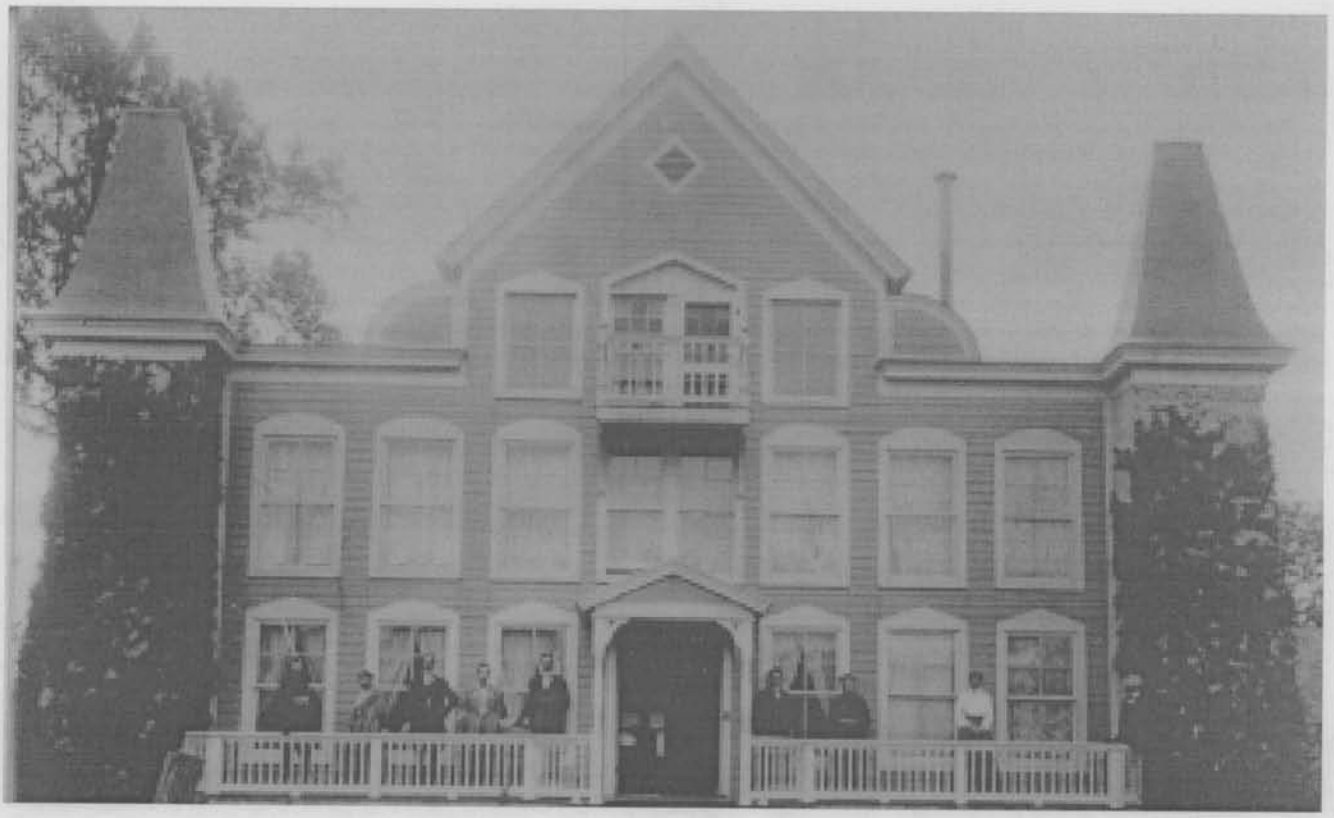
1 ACRE

M: 35-25

M: 35-25

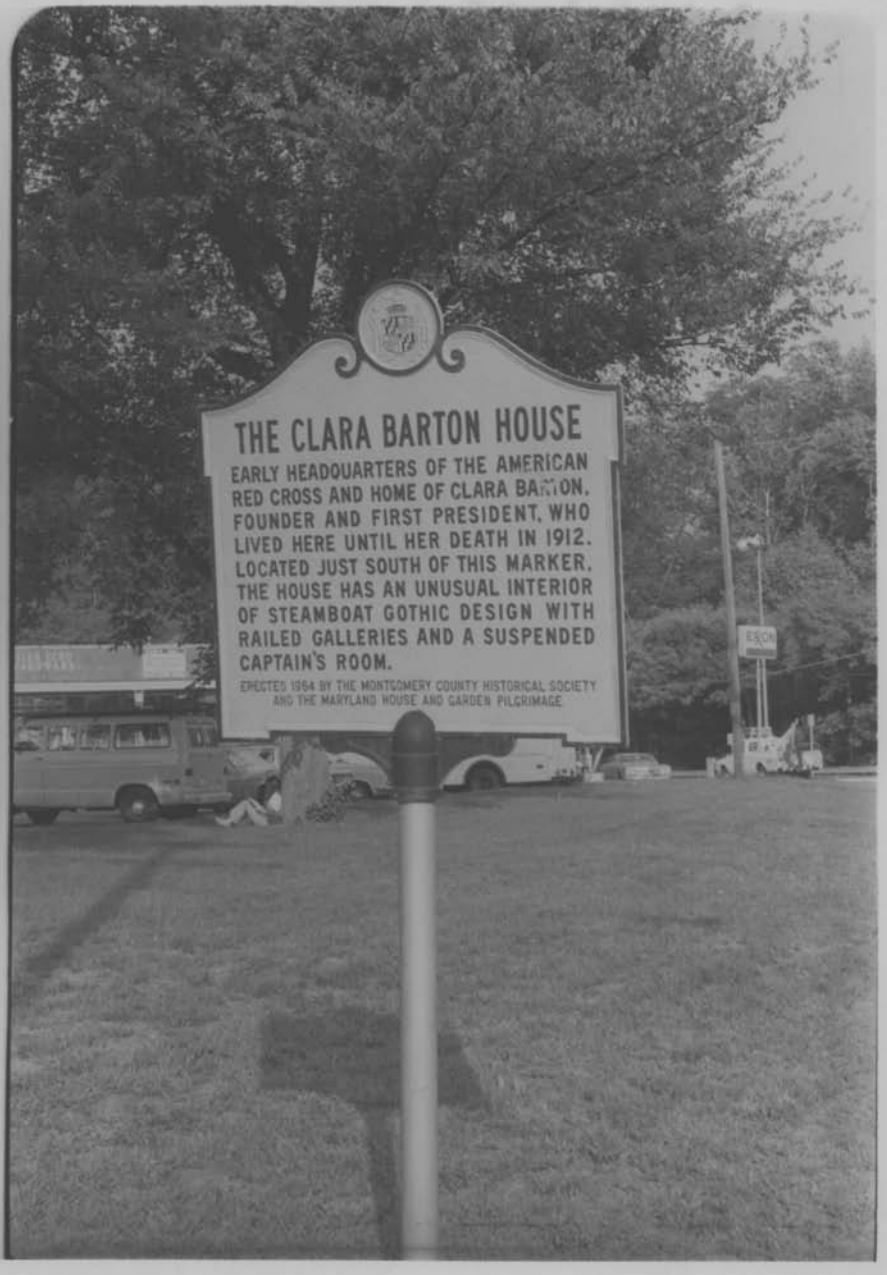

Falls Church Quadrangle
M: 35-25
480 000 FEET
(VA.)
4316
4317
4315
2.7 MI. TO U.S. 240
EDGEMOOR 1.5 MI.
D.C. LINE 2.2 MI.
WESTMORELAND CIRCLE 1.8 MI.
DUPONT CIRCLE, D.C. 6 MI.
CLARA BARTON NHS
UTM REFERENCE:
18/314520/431509
1 ACRE
Congressional Manor
Congressional Country Club
Burning Tree Country Club
Bradley Hills
Hillmead
Woodhaven
Emery Corners
Cardarock Springs
INTERCHANGE 16
Recreation Center
Bannockburn Estates
Bannockburn
Kimberly Heights
Cabin John
Cabin John Park
INTERCHANGE 15
Oakwood Knolls
Merrimack Park
Woodburn
Fairway Hills
Glen Echo
Tulip Hill
Wood Acres
Mohican Hills
Glen Echo Park
Plummers Island
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA
POTOMAC
Dots I
Langley
Cabin John
Chatauque Lock
Turkey Run Recreation Area
Parkview Hills
Ruppert I
Gaging Sta
Sycamore
Swainson
Minnie
Cedar
Wades
Lock 8
Lock 9
Lock 10
Lock 11
Lock 12
Lock 13
Lock 14
Lock 15
Lock 16
GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY
CLARA BARTON PARKWAY
CABIN JOHN BRIDGE
MACARTHUR BLVD
GOLDSBORO RD
MASSACHUSETTS AVE
BRADLEY BLVD
BURDETTE RD
BOOZE CREEK
CABIN JOHN CREEK
Harmon Ch
Harmony Grove Ch
Concord Ch
St Bartholomews Sch
Ch
Cem
Quarry
Water Tank
Fire Sta
PO
Clara Barton Sch
Recreation Center
Whitman Wood Sch
Walt Whitman High Sch
Pyle Jr High Sch
Burning Tree Sch
Ivy Holum Arms Sch
Primary Sch
Hanbookburn Sch
Playground
Tennis Courts
Gaston-Temple Ch
Bunker Hill Rd
Falls Church Quad

M:35-25



CLARA BARTON HOUSE, MONTGOMERY CTY. M:35-25

125 5801 Oxford Road


THE CLARA BARTON HOUSE
EARLY HEADQUARTERS OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND HOME OF CLARA BARTON, FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT, WHO LIVED HERE UNTIL HER DEATH IN 1912. LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF THIS MARKER. THE HOUSE HAS AN UNUSUAL INTERIOR OF STEAMBOAT GOTHIC DESIGN WITH RAILED GALLERIES AND A SUSPENDED CAPTAIN'S ROOM.
ERECTED 1964 BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE MARYLAND HOUSE AND GARDEN PILGRIMAGE
ESSO

#35-25

NAME CLARA BARTON MARKER

LOCATION McARTHUR BLVD., GLEN ECHO, MD.

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 9/10/74
M. DOYER

CLARA BARTON HOME
5801 Oxford Road
Glen Echo, Maryland
As preserved by Friends of Clara Barton, Inc.
Open daily 1-5 P.M.
(Except, Mondays & Holidays)

STAMP

Non-Profit Organization

CLARA BARTON HOUSE
5801 Oxford Road

M:35-25

NEG. NO.

8[illegible]

SELE[illegible]RVICE SYSTEM
PRINTING LAB

CLARA BARTON HOUSE
5801 Oxford Road

M:35-25