

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUN 19 1984

date entered JUL 19 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic H.S. Barney Building

and/or common Barney's

2. Location

street & number 217-229 State Street _____ not for publication

city, town Schenectady _____ vicinity of

state New York code 036 county Schenectady code 093

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	vacant; conversion to:
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA 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 Barney Square Assoc.

street & number 850 Balltown Road

city, town Schenectady _____ vicinity of state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Schenectady County Clerk's Office

street & number 620 State Street

city, town Schenectady _____ state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NY Statewide Inventory of Historic Resources
has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records N.Y.S. Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Albany _____ state New York

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The H.S. Barney Building, located at 217-229 State Street and 208-218 Liberty Street in Schenectady, New York, is a large commercial structure comprising six connected sections constructed between 1873 and 1923. The building occupies an irregular lot, almost one third of a city block in size, in the core of Schenectady's business district. The immediate vicinity is a densely settled commercial neighborhood characterized by two- to four-story attached masonry structures, both modern and historic. The rear elevation of the Barney Building faces Liberty Street, an alley serving State Street commercial buildings. East of the property is a narrow driveway and a parking lot. The west elevation is attached to neighboring masonry structures. The various sections of the complex range from two to five stories in height. Its main (State Street) facade embodies characteristics of the Commercial style and is ornamented with Neoclassical style detailing and Art Moderne signage. Subsidiary facades on Liberty Street draw on Italianate and Neoclassical design idioms. Predominantly of brick construction, the building also incorporates heavy timber framing, concrete and limestone. Since the erection of the common facade in 1923, few alterations have occurred; the current appearance of the Barney Building remains as it appeared in 1923. The Art Moderne sign, added in the 1930s, is a compatible alteration which does not compromise the integrity of the 1923 facade. The awning, dating from the 1940s, is a non-contributing addition.

Little evidence of the first section of the complex, built ca. 1873 at 217-221 State Street, survives intact (Site plan #1). Known as the Barney Block, it was a three-story, nine-bay brick structure with elaborate Italianate detailing, including a bracketed cornice with modillions, a corbelled brick frieze and ornate window hoods. Brick pilasters divided the facade into three, three-bay-wide sections, the format upon which the fenestration of the present facade is based.

The second component of the complex was a separate building facing Liberty Street, completed in 1904 (Site plan #2, photo #3). Still retaining much of its original integrity, it is a five-story structure, eight bays wide and six bays deep, built of brick with limestone accents. The substantially intact upper three stories feature characteristic detailing of the Neoclassical style, including a decorative metal cornice incorporating brackets, dentils, and a frieze embossed with panels and festoons. The dominant feature of the Liberty Street facade is the complex fenestration utilizing a variety of sizes and shapes of stationary and double-hung sash. Although a number of window openings have been filled with glass block or brick, the symmetry and rhythm of the original design are still visible: the fifth story is set off by a sill course on which sit two banks of windows, each bank comprising eight narrow windows joined by a stone lintel. The fenestration of the third and fourth stories features eight bays, four narrow and four broad, arranged in a chiasmic rhythm n-b-b-n-n-b-b-n. Each bay contains a pair of one-over-one double-hung sash. Between the thin stone lintels of the third-story windows and the stone sills of those on the fourth floor are recessed brick panels. Separating

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date entered

the bays are two-story brick pilasters joined at the top by segmental arches. Enlarged keystones, triangular impost blocks, and pilaster bases of limestone punctuate this arcade. The arcade rests on a simple entablature supported centrally and at the sides by stout brick pilasters which divide the second story into halves. Each half originally contained six identical bays, each containing a large, stationary sash and transom, but only the four westerly windows remain; the remaining space has been filled with four large panels of glass block and brick. The original design of the Liberty Street storefront has been completely obscured by the twentieth-century installation of shiny metal veneer and modern plate glass. The east elevation of this building, facing a parking lot, features two-over-two double-hung sash windows, irregularly placed. Much of the west elevation is hidden by the neighboring two-story structure; the exposed portion is six regularly spaced bays deep, each containing two-over-two double-hung sash surmounted by segmentally arched brick lintels.

Shortly after completion of the Liberty Street store, a connector was built to join it to the State Street store, crossing the irregular, L-shaped parcel between the two buildings (Site plan #3). A plain brick structure without ornament, it has only one exposed elevation (the east), which features irregularly spaced, two-over-two double-hung sash windows. Originally the connector was two and one-half stories tall, but by 1906 its height was increased to three full stories.

Many changes also occurred on the facade and interior of the original Barney Block during the first decade of the twentieth century. By 1906 a fourth story was added to the 1873 structure. The original cornice and parapet were raised to accommodate the additional story, which, in embellishment, was consistent with the nineteenth-century Italianate style detailing of the original facade. At the same time, the lower stories were extensively altered to reflect the influence of modern commercial design. Large plate glass display windows were installed on the ground floor. The second story featured three large window openings, each with a pair of plate glass windows surmounted by large, segmentally arched transom lights. A modern entablature above the storefront consisted of a glass block frieze surmounted by a sign. The interior was opened up to provide large, unobstructed floor spaces for the display of merchandise. Spacious stairwells, still substantially intact, were located near the State Street and Liberty Street entrances. Modern technological conveniences, including elevators, a ventilation system for the supply of fresh air, and a pneumatic tube system for the transporting of customers' money were installed to increase the efficiency of customer service.

During the first decade of the twentieth century, Barney's acquired the two-story, mid-nineteenth century, frame structure on Liberty Street, next to the five-story 1904 building and directly behind the Barney Block (Site plan #4, photo #4). Converted for warehouse use, the six-bay, gable-roofed duplex was encased with brick and joined at the rear to the connector. Its

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Liberty Street facade was embellished with splayed brick window lintels, a bracketed cornice and a painted signboard, which survive intact. The street level facade, altered at a later date, features two entrances, two two-over-two double-hung sash windows and one tripartite window.

Expansion of the Barney Block continued during the second decade of the twentieth century. In 1913 the Barney Co. acquired two adjoining buildings east of the original State Street store. Both were late-nineteenth century, brick commercial blocks: a three-story, three-bay structure with a one-story rear wing at #227 (Site plan #5) and a four-story building with a one- to two-story rear wing at #229 (Site plan #6). Over the following decade, these buildings were incorporated into the complex: internal openings were cut to provide access between the State Street stores, the uneven floor levels were equalized, and the three-story connector was expanded to join together the entire complex. Although major changes were made in the interior design, the bearing walls of the State Street stores were retained and thus the floor plan still reflects the distinctions between the three front sections.

The Barney Building acquired its present appearance in 1923 when the height of the two newly acquired buildings was increased to five stories and a new five-story limestone facade was erected to unite the three structures (Site plan #1,5,6, photo #1,2). Substantially unaltered since 1923, the facade reflects the influence of the early twentieth century Commercial style. The large areas of glass in proportion to the amount of masonry convey the impression of skeletal construction, although the walls are, in fact, the original, load-bearing masonry. The facade is six, slightly unequal bays wide. Each bay, articulated by pilasters, is comprised of a large, tripartite bank of windows, reflecting the influence of the modern Chicago style window. The fifth story, shorter than the lower four, features one-over-one double-hung sash windows. Third- and fourth-story windows are multi-paned casement windows surmounted by transom lights. Each bay of the second story contains a tripartite window (one-over-one double-hung sash windows flanking a large, plate glass window) surmounted by a segmentally arched transom light. Restrained ornamentation, classical in inspiration, includes simple modillions under the cornice and large consoles in place of keystones above the second-story arches.

The 1923 storefront, substantially intact beneath the protective boarding, features large display windows topped by a frieze of glass block and pilasters which articulate the widths of the three distinct sections behind the common facade. The 1923 signs were replaced in the 1930s with a modern streamlined sign reflecting the influence of the Art Moderne style. This sign survives substantially intact. The flat metal awning below it dates from ca. 1940.

After 1923, the Barney Co. continued to update its storefronts and shop interiors and filled in some windows, but there have been no substantial

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alterations since ca. 1923. Since it was vacated by the H.S. Barney Co. in 1973, the building has received numerous minor interior alterations to accommodate a variety of short-lived business ventures. Still extant are sections of well-preserved tin ceilings, a substantial number of cast-iron columns with simple capitals, stairwells, and portions of trim surrounding the elevator doors. Large open spaces interrupted by scattered columns characterize the spacious interior, particularly in the 1873 section of the building. The two-story, gable-roofed section facing Liberty Street retains portions of its original tin ceilings and some decorative moldings.

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1873-1923 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The H.S. Barney Building, constructed between 1873-1923, is an historically and architecturally significant commercial structure in the downtown business section of Schenectady. Founded as a dry goods store in 1858 by Howland Swain Barney, the company prospered quickly and within a decade had become Schenectady's largest and most important mercantile establishment. Growing in both size and sophistication over the years, the Barney Co. set the pace for much of downtown Schenectady's commercial development and introduced many progressive business practices and customer services to the city. Architecturally, the Barney Building comprises six distinct, interconnected sections which the company constructed, acquired and linked over a fifty-year period. Although each section contains intact historic features dating from its period of construction, the building's most significant architectural feature is the intact Commercial style facade erected in 1923 to unify the complex. Substantially unaltered since its completion, the H.S. Barney Building remains Schenectady's largest and most distinctive commercial building, recalling both the history of an influential local business and the city's most prosperous era.

The late-nineteenth century development of the H.S. Barney Co. coincides with Schenectady's emergence as an important regional industrial center. Settled in 1661, Schenectady prospered in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as a riverside trading area. With the completion of the Erie Canal and the advent of rail transportation in the area in the early nineteenth century, Schenectady's commercial activity shifted to canal and trackside locations. Lower State Street, the major east-west thoroughfare crossing the canal and railroad tracks, became Schenectady's primary business district. Schenectady continued to prosper in the mid- to late nineteenth century with the continued success of the American Locomotive Company and the emergence of the General Electric Company.

The H.S. Barney Co. originated in 1858 when Howland S. Barney acquired a controlling interest in Barringer & Co., a dry goods store on lower State Street west of the Erie Canal. Barney, a native of Saratoga County, had come to Schenectady in 1836 at the age of fourteen to serve as a clerk in the dry goods store of Sydney B. Potter. Four years later, he joined the mercantile establishment of John Ohlen & Co., where he worked until he acquired the Barringer & Co. store. His new business prospered and after little more than a decade had outgrown its original home. In 1873 Barney erected a three-story commercial building in the Italianate style. The grand new store occupied a prominent location about one block east of the Barringer & Co. Building and only one-half block west of the Erie Canal and railroad, the center of Schenectady's mid- to late-nineteenth century commercial activity. A year later the H.S. Barney & Co. could claim to be the wealthiest and most extensive dry goods concern in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Schenectady

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	5	8	6	2	1	0	4	7	4	0	6	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ATTACHED TAX MAP

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Contact: Lucy A. Breyer, Field Representative

organization Historic Preservation Field Services date May 1984

street & number Empire State Plaza, Agency Bldg #1 telephone (518) 474-0479

city or town Albany state New York

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 Julia S. Wolfe

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation date 6/7/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Melores Byer Entered in the National Register date 7/19/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet H.S. Barney Building Item number 8 Page 2

In the half-century following the Civil War as the city's population increased tenfold, the H.S. Barney Co. grew to meet the dry goods needs of this expanding population. The physical evolution of the Barney Co. complex reflects this heyday of Schenectady's growth and prosperity. The first major phase of expansion occurred in the first decade of the twentieth century: the five-story Liberty Street building was erected, the adjacent two-story Liberty Street property was acquired and converted, a fourth story was added to the original 1873 Barney Block and the three-story connector was built to join the Liberty Street buildings with the Barney Block. By 1923 the final phases of expansion were complete: two buildings adjacent to the Barney Block had been acquired and converted, the height of the State Street stores was increased to a uniform five stories and a common facade was erected to unite the three sections.

In its 1923 configuration, the complex embodied many of the concepts of modern commercialism, making the H.S. Barney Co. one of the first in the city to offer progressive and innovative services to customers. Large open spaces were created for the display of merchandise, a radical change from the small, crowded dry goods stores of the nineteenth century. The installation of technologically advanced equipment increased the efficiency of customer service, making Barney's one of the most popular and, consequently, the most prosperous retail business in the city. Among other notable accomplishments, the H.S. Barney Co. is reputed to have included the first bicycle shop in Schenectady. Barney's power and influence in the local community is evidenced by the fact that the Western Gateway Bridge (1926) between Scotia and Schenectady was designed in a curve so that Schenectady's major thoroughfare (State Street) would continue to run by the H.S. Barney Building's front entrance. The H.S. Barney Co. remained an important mercantile institution for much of the twentieth century.

Architecturally, the complex incorporates many distinctive features from all periods of its construction. The most architecturally distinguished feature of the building is the 1923 facade, a reflection of the influence in the early twentieth century of the Commercial style. Characteristic features of the period and style are seen in the large, tripartite Chicago style windows of the upper floors, the broad display windows on the storefront, the balance between the vertical and horizontal lines, and the simple, classically inspired detailing. Although the load-bearing walls are masonry, the large areas of glass in proportion to the amount of visible masonry convey the impression of the skeletal structure characteristic of the Commercial style.

Other significant architectural features of the building include the five-story Liberty Street section dating from the building's first major period of expansion. Completed in 1904, this section exemplifies early twentieth century, Neoclassical style commercial architecture. Regular fenestration and the embellishment of the entablature, including modillions, dentils and festooned panels, are typical of the period and style. The other Liberty

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Street section, originally a two-story, frame commercial/residential structure, is also a significant component of the complex. It was acquired by the company during the first decade of the twentieth century, converted into warehouse space and encased with brick. The configuration, height, gable roof and second-story fenestration of the original structure were retained, reflecting the late nineteenth century origin of the section.

The east elevation of the building illustrates the early twentieth century expansion of the complex. A variety of fenestration and different vertical planes of construction articulate the separate sections: the two, five-story south sections comprise the side of the 1923 State Street store; the utilitarian, three-story, irregular middle sections reflect the expansion of the connector; the five-story, north section is the side elevation of the 1904 Liberty Street building.

The H.S. Barney Co. suffered in the 1950s and 1960s with the demise of Schenectady's downtown commercial center. The company was finally liquidated in 1973 and the complex was vacated. Substantially unaltered since its completion in 1923, the Barney Building retains a high degree of architectural integrity and remains an important local landmark recalling Schenectady's late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial vitality.

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Albany, New York. Division for Historic Preservation. Research Files.

The Evening Star, August 29, 1906.

Howell & Munsell. History of Schenectady County. W.W. Munsell & Co.
Publishers, 1886.

The Saturday Globe, November 19, 1904.

Schenectady, New York. Office of the City Historian, City Hall.
Research Files.

Schenectady, New York. Schenectady County Historical Society.
Research Files.

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Continuation sheet H.S. Barney Building

Item number 11

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received

date entered

Research documentation and nomination form prepared by:

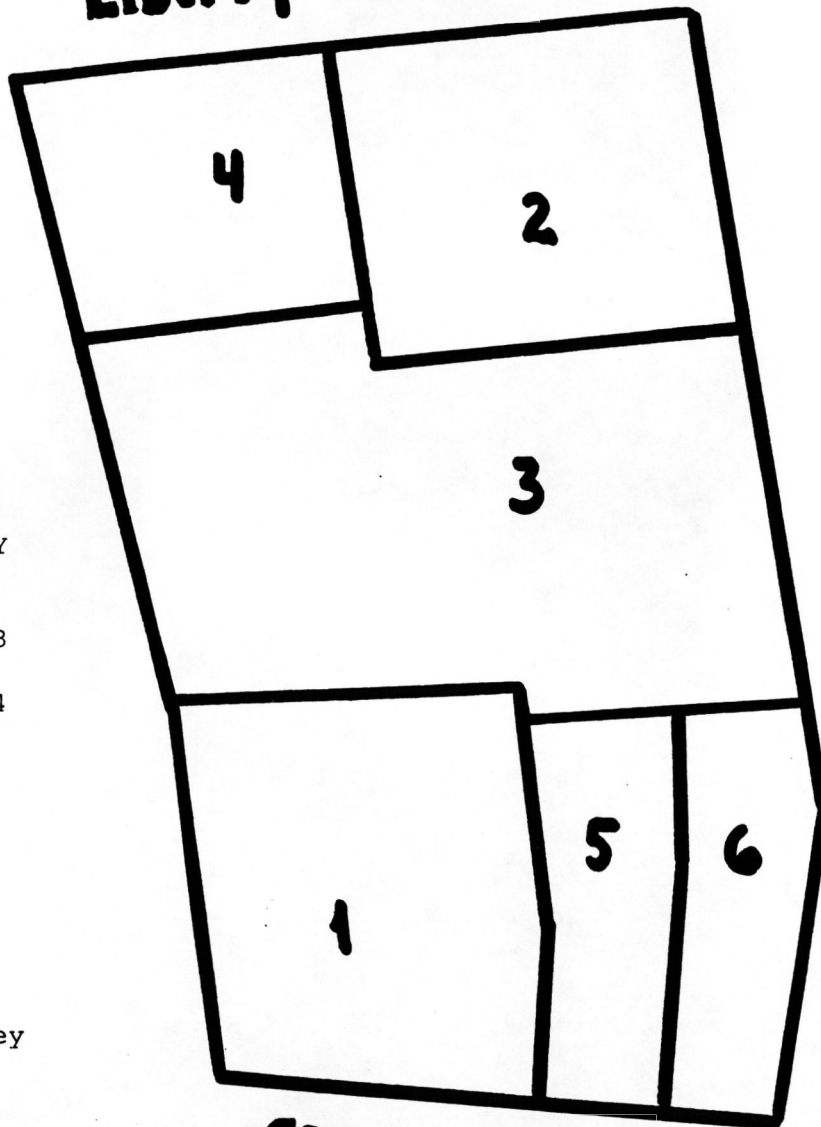
Nancy Todd, Historic Preservation Consultant
38 Saratoga Drive
Scotia, New York 12302



H.S. Barney Building
 217-229 State Street
 Schenectady, Schenectady Co., NY

Heavy black outline identifies
 boundary of nominated property

Liberty Street



H.S. Barney Building
217-229 State Street
Schenectady, Schenectady Co., NY
Site map

1. Original Barney Block, c.1873
2. Liberty Street Building, 1904
3. Connector, c.1910s
4. Mid-nineteenth century structure acquired by H.S. Barney Co. during first decade of twentieth century
5. Late nineteenth century structure acquired by H.S. Barney Co. during 1910s.
6. Late nineteenth century structure acquired by H.S. Barney Co. during 1910s.

State Street

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Barney, H.S., Building
Schenectady County
NEW YORK

Working No. JUN 19 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 7/19/84 - 8/3/84
Action: ACCEPT 7-19-84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair		
<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated		
<input type="checkbox"/> ruins		
<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Library of Congress
Photoduplication Service
Washington, D.C. 20540
www.loc.gov

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



H.S. Barney Building
217-229 State Street
Schenectady, Schenectady Co, NY
Photo & Neg: Wade Lupe Construc-
tion Co, Schenectady, 1984
View: State Street facade,
looking east

Photo 1



H.S. BARNEY CO.

Barneys

Barneys

WIDE OPEN DOOR

WIDE OPEN DOOR

H.S. Barney Building
217-229 State Street
Schenectady, Schenectady Co, NY
Photo & Neg: Wade Lupe Construc-
tion Co, Schenectady, NY, 1984
View: State Street facade,
looking north

Photo 2



H.S. Barney Building
217-229 State Street
Schenectady, Schenectady Co, NY
Photo & Neg: Wade Lupe Construc-
tion Co, Schenctady, NY, 1984
View: Liberty Street elevation,
looking south

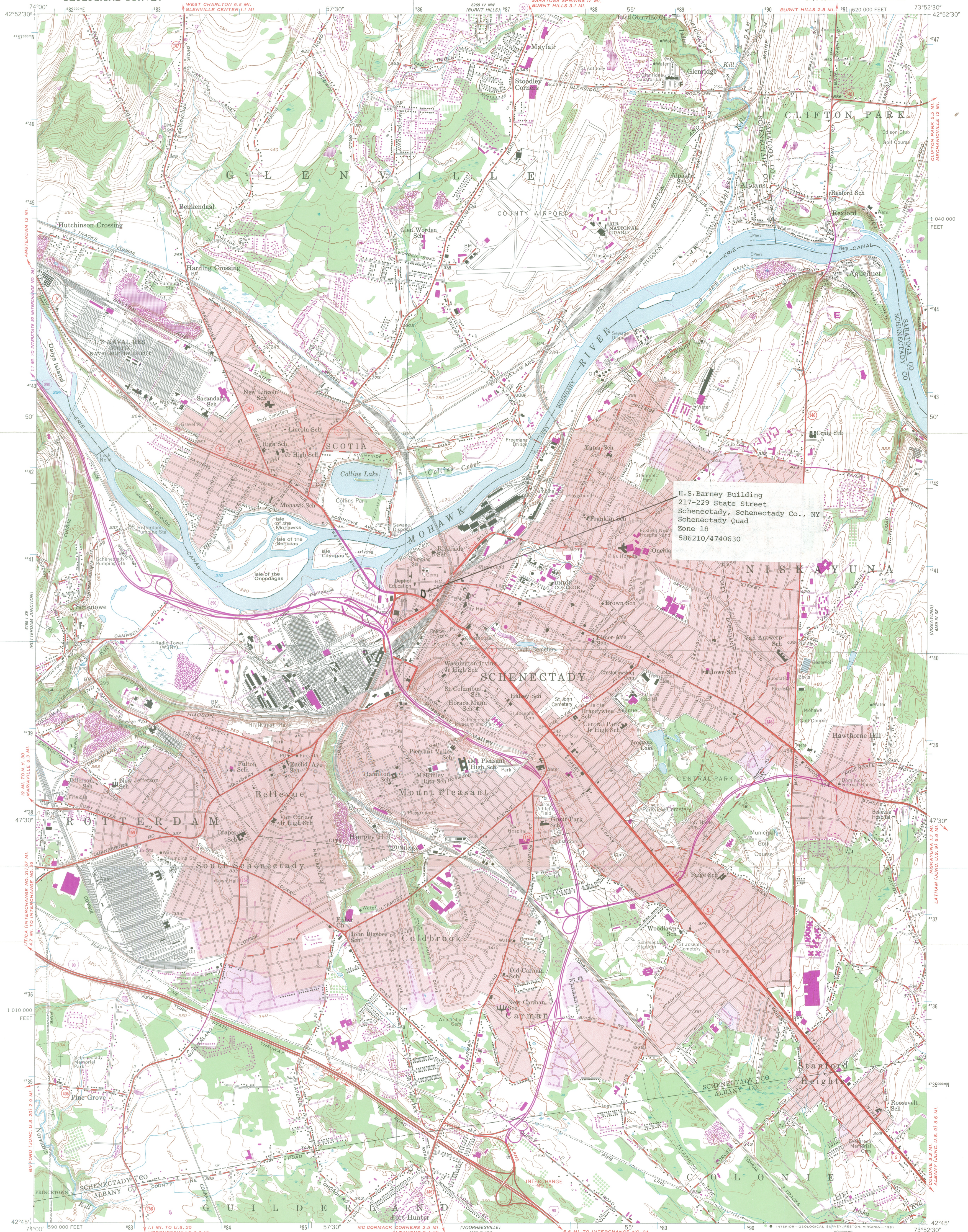
Photo 3



H. S. BARNEY CO.

H.S. Barney Building
217-229 State Street
Schenectady, Schenectady Co, NY
Photo & Neg: Wade Lupe Construc-
tion Co, Schenectady, NY, 1984
View: Liberty Street elevation,
looking south

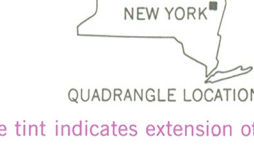
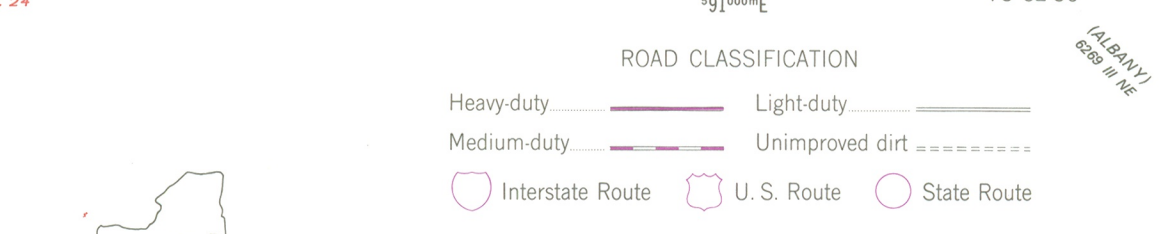
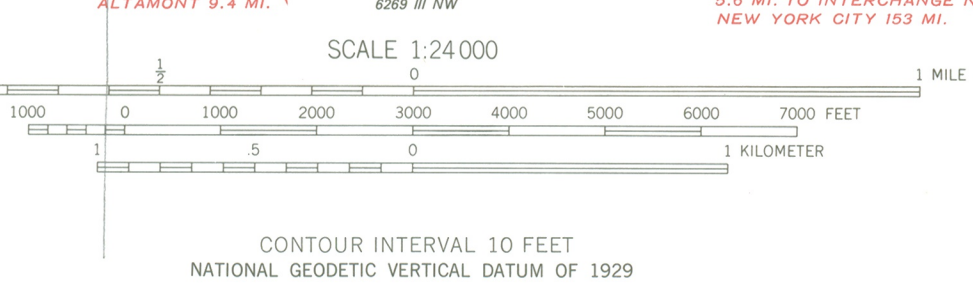
Photo 4



H. S. Barney Building
217-229 State Street
Schenectady, Schenectady Co., NY
Schenectady Quad
Zone 18
586210/4740630

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1952. Field check 1954
Polyconic projection
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 4 meters south and 34 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980



SCHENECTADY, N. Y.
SW/4 SCHENECTADY 15' QUADRANGLE
N4245-W7352.5/7.5
1954
PHOTOREVISED 1980
DMA 6269 IV SW-SERIES V821

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



CITY OF SCHENECTADY

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF CITY HISTORIAN

HISTORY CENTER, CITY HALL
SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 12305

LARRY HART
CITY/COUNTY HISTORIAN

FRANK J. DUCI
MAYOR

October 22nd 1981

Hon. Frank J. Duci
Mayor, City of Schenectady
City Hall
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305

Dear Mayor Duci:

It has come to my attention that a request has been made to designate the former H.S. Barney Company department store building to the National Register for Historic Sites.

Inasmuch as this particular structure holds historic significance because (1) it is the site of the founding of Schenectady's first large department store by Howland S. Barney in 1855; (2) it was known by generations of Schenectadians as a market for a quality line of drygoods; (3) it was enlarged several times and still retains the architectural lines of extensive remodeling in the 1920s; and (4) is in sound condition despite its vacancy in recent years,

I fully support, as city historian, and urge its designation as an historic site in Schenectady.

Respectfully,

Larry Hart



david i. smith · architect
architecture · urban design · solar systems · graphic design

505 hamilton street schenectady, n.y. 12305 telephone · (518) 370 · 1652

James Kalohn
Housing Planner
Department of Housing
City Hall
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305

RE: H.S. BARNEY CO. BUILDING/APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Dear Mr. Kalohn

We have reviewed the information package prepared by your office for the former H.S. Barney Company Building located in downtown Schenectady and concur with the City's request for placement of this building on the National Register. It is our opinion that the existing building is a significant historic landmark in the city and the existing facade is an excellent example of 1920's Commercial Architecture.

We base our opinion on the following factors:

1. The site is the location of the 1873 original building and the only H.S. Barney Co. merchantile structures standing today.
2. The H.S. Barney Co. served as a landmark department store for a full Century (1873-1973) in the City of Schenectady.
3. The existing storefront is a facade constructed in 1923 to combine three (3) abutting buildings under one unified facade. The Architectural expression is a fine example of the "eclectic" style commercial building of the 1900-1920 period using the horizontal "Chicago" window.
4. The building facade is in sound condition, and except for the addition of a 1950's vintage sidewalk canopy and signage, has not been severely altered or destroyed.
5. The building maintains the historic continuity in the Urban fabric/facades along State Street.

11/20/81

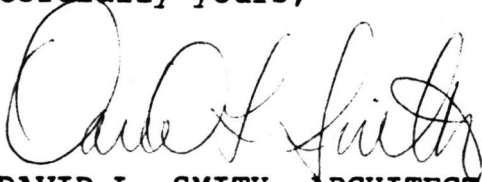
p. 2

James Kalohn
Housing Planner

RE: H.S. BARNEY CO. BUILDING/APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

The H.S. Barney building could easily and economically be restored to its 1923 facade and would serve as a reminder to the past "golden age" of urban department stores, while many small cities have seen these structures lost to the wrecking ball! Placement on the Historic National Register would aid in the preservation of this fine example of the period of American Urban Architecture often taken for granted.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David L. Smith".

DAVID L. SMITH, ARCHITECT, AIA



City of Schenectady



CITY HALL

MAYOR FRANK J. DUCI
City Hall, Jay St., 12305
Telephone 518-382-5000

November 16, 1981

Mr. Orin Lehman, Commissioner
New York State Historic Preservation
Division of the Department of
Parks and Recreation
Swan Street Building
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12210

Attn: Lenore Kuwik

Dear Mr. Lehman:

Enclosed please find letters of support for the National Register nomination of the Barney's Department Store. The letters were written by prominent Schenectady historians and architects. Additional information and photographs of Barney's and the surrounding area are also enclosed, to supplement the information sent to you October 1, 1981 by Mr. Kalohn.

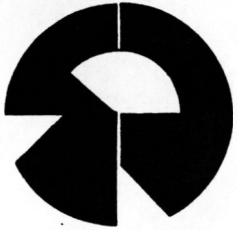
I believe the Barney's Department store is worthy of the National Register given its grand architectural scale and its historical contributions to the cultural growth of Schenectady during the Industrial Revolution. I view this building as a vital resource in preserving a fine example of old Schenectady mercantile trade.

Please contact James Kalohn of our Housing Department if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Duci
Frank J. Duci, Mayor
City of Schenectady



STRACHER · ROTH & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

November 10, 1981

Mayor Frank Duci
City Hall
Schenectady, NY 12305

Attn: James Kalohn-Dept. of Planning

Re: H. S. Barney Department Store

Dear Mayor Duci:

This is to express my strong support in favor of achieving National Register status for the H. S. Barney Department Store building on State Street here in our historic City of Schenectady. What a great loss it would be to the streetscape if this building which has been part of the scene for over 100 years were to be demolished or significantly altered by those insensitive to our history and architecture.

As an Architect privileged to serve for some time now as Commercial Facade Improvement Consultant and Neighborhood Revitalization Consultant to the City of Schenectady I have a firm belief and commitment directed toward preserving and using those buildings which best reflect our history and traditions, which are a product of the great enterprising minds, personalities and hearts of this land, and are outstanding examples of an era as reflected by its architecture as well.

The H. S. Barney Department Store which in strong measure meets all of these criteria is therefore a prime candidate in my mind for preservation and reuse and would greatly benefit by the protection and other significant advantages listing on the National Register would insure.

I would therefore appreciate your conveying my expression of support of National Register status for the H. S. Barney Department Store building along with other similar expressions, to the proper determining authorities.

Sincerely,


Donald G. Stracher RA, AIA, NCARB

1237 CENTRAL AVENUE, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12205
233 LIBERTY STREET, SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12305

518-459-4049
518-374-9412

November 10, 1981

Mayor Frank Duci
City Hall
Schenectady, New York

Attention: James Kalohn
Housing Planner

Dear Jim:

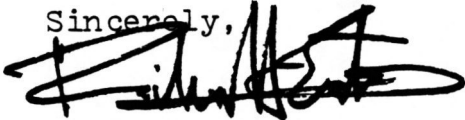
I would like to express my support for the inclusion of the H.S. Barney Department Store on the National Historic Register.

The structure is located on the southeast of the Stockade with building frontage along State Street.

The primary trail of the proposed Urban Cultural Park is recommended to pass directly in front of the Barney's store. It is important to point out that the Barney's store plays an important role in contributing to an Urban Cultural Park experience, as well as preserving a style of commercial architecture important to Schenectady's development.

I truly hope the H.S. Barney store is included on the National Historic Register. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Eats, L.A.
Principal

landscape architecture
environmental analysis
land use planning
land surveying
urban design
engineering

the environmental
design partnership



32 WASHINGTON AVENUE
SCHENECTADY, N. Y. 12305

November 12, 1981

Mayor Frank Duci
City Hall
Jay Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

SUBJECT: Support for the nomination of H.S. Barney Co. (Department Store) to the National Register

Dear Mayor Duci:

Summary:

Facade - Prime example of mercantile architecture in fine condition

Building - The changes and growth tell the dry goods story

Howland Swain Barney - An upstate Horatio Alger

Influence -

Lead the expansion of the Lower State Street Business District

Changed the landscape; instrumental in adding the curve in the Western Gateway Bridge

Historic landmark used as an identification focal point and as a collectible subject

Myriads of people paraded past heading west on Route 5

Thousands, far away, remember shopping there while training at G.E.

Touched the lives of all the families in the area, through their shopping, working, passing, reading, or personal contacts, for over a hundred years.

Mayor Frank Duci
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Although the Barney Story is fascinating, the facade come first. This facade is interesting, balanced, in fine condition, shouts mercantile, and is recorded in the mind's eye of the local people.

The layout of the building, included with the "Building-Structure Inventory Form," illustrates three methods of expansion in the early days of retail trade: combining buildings; adding new sections; and, building new ones near by.

H.S. Barney personified the "Great American Dream," a self-made man who succeeded greatly in the market place through hard work, judgement of character, and business acumen. This story needs to be told to counterbalance our present "gimme" society.

H.S. Barney influenced the local business climate, the local landscape, history, and the lives of the area people. With Barney's as a firm anchor, the Lower State Street Business District expanded southeast on both sides of the street to the Erie Canal. Political clout allowed the company to dictate a curve in the Western Gateway Bridge, so that the main highway would continue to run by the front entrance. Curving the bridge changed the local landscape.

I have posted scenes of Lower State Street circa 1905. You identify the area as follows, "Lower State Street looking toward the river with Barney's on the right." Barney advertising cards and blotters are also part of my collection. The Schenectady County Historical Society has documents, pictures, memorabilia, and art, including a 36" x 30" painting of H.S. Barney himself, a painting of his younger brother, Reubin, and several sketches of the store.

For a hundred years, travelers passing east or west looked in Barney's windows. In distant places, thousands remember shopping there while training at the General Electric Company.

One way or another Barney's touched the lives of every family in the area. Our family is a good example. I knew of Barney's from 1935 to 1951. I acquired background on department stores working at Myer's and Mayfair. During that time a co-worker transferred to Barney's, staying there for years after. My wife and I moved to Schenectady County and G.E. in 1951. We shopped in Barney's from 1951 until it closed in 1973.

My wife's father, Reverend LeRoy C. Brandt Ph.d (living), grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Brandt, and great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brandt, moved here in 1905 from Dunkirk with about 300 others in the

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transfer of work by ALCO from Brooks Locomotive to Schenectady Locomotive. Her aunt, Ottleen Brandt (living) was born in Schenectady in 1907. The whole family shopped at Barney's for years, having the added impetus of a life-long friend, Jean Murray (Mrs. Emslie), who was a longtime Barney employee. Barney items still exist in their home.

Because its conception, development, operation, and demise is a viable example of the fabric of our entire (pre-mall) department store history, Barney's should be placed on the National Register.

Sincerely,

Wayne H. Harvey

Wayne H. Harvey
President
Schenectady County Historical Society

paw/WHH

cc: James F. Kalohn