



SaveThe
Barclay
Grounds.org

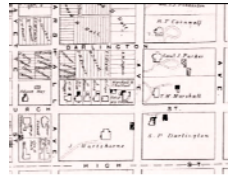
Barclay Grounds Preservation Update

Good news! The Borough of West Chester has now purchased half the Barclay Grounds and is scheduled to purchase the other half at the end of 2015. The full price must be raised through grants and donations by that date, however, or the property already acquired will be returned, the money refunded and houses will be built on the Barclay Grounds. While the bulk of the cost will be provided by County and State open space grants the BGPA has pledged to raise up to \$200,000 to cover any shortfall—so that the borough can preserve the Barclay Grounds, at *no cost to the borough taxpayers*. To date the BGPA has donated almost \$30,000 to the Borough, which was used to pay for the downpayment on the property and for grant writing services.

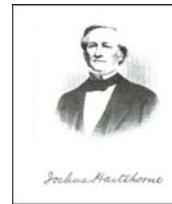
Please join us in our efforts to help the Borough of West Chester save this beautiful and historic property from development and preserve it as a Borough park for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

What are the Barclay Grounds?

The property bounded by N. High St., N. Church St., W. Virginia Ave. and W. Marshall St. in the Borough of West Chester is known as “The Barclay” – named after the Friends retirement home (The Barclay Home) that was located there (1935-1997).



In 1866, Joshua Hartshorne, purchased this 4.5 acre block on the northern edge of West Chester to create his estate, which he called North Hills. The building is set amidst park-like grounds that include many specimen trees, some of which date from the original development of the lot in the 1860s. This is the only remaining West Chester estate from that era.



Hartshorne was a Chester County merchant who served as an Assemblyman in the Pennsylvania legislature and as a Commissioner of Canals. He made his fortune in the Baltimore iron industry during the Civil War. Hartshorne owned the estate until his death, aged 80, in 1884. In 1931 Joshua Hartshorne’s heirs sold the property for \$43,000 to prominent local merchants Robert G. Kay and Edward H. Jacob—who subsequently donated the property to the Barclay Home for \$1.

In 2002, the Hartshorne Estate was accepted into the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). The grounds and plantings were cited as one of the four elements considered “essential” to its listing. “The lot contains many mature plantings, some of which appear to date from the original development

of the property as a nursery by John Rutter in the years after the civil war”.

Why do the Barclay Grounds need to be saved at this time?

In 2013 the owner of the property obtained planning permission to subdivide the southern part of the property into four building lots for the development of new houses. The plans made provision for most of the trees on the lots to be cut down to make way for the houses. The owners of the property support the efforts to preserve the Barclay Grounds as a new Borough park.



Why should the Barclay Grounds be saved?

The Barclay Grounds should be preserved because of its unique nature and its place in the history and present day quality of life of the Borough's residents. The Barclay Grounds ...

- Is one of only a few individually listed properties in the West Chester area in the National Register of Historic Places.
- The trees are noted in the National Register as one of the most diverse collections of historic specimen trees in the West Chester area. Many of these magnificent trees are well over 100 years old.
- In 1935, when donating the property to the Barclay Friends Home, Mr. Kay stated "... you will find these grounds a great addition to the value and attractiveness of the town, for it will be much like a public park." In the Borough's 1992 Open Space and Recreation Plan the Barclay Grounds was identified as a "quasi park".
- Several large developments under construction in West Chester will increase the Borough's population by 1,100 people in the next couple of years (an increase of >6%). As the population density in the Borough increases, open space like the Barclay Grounds will become even more important for the quality of life in the town.

What is the Barclay Grounds Preservation Alliance (BGPA)?

The BGPA is a group of citizens from the West Chester area who recognize the significance of the loss to the Borough if the Barclay Grounds is developed. We incorporated in 2013 as a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation. After collecting 2,100 signatures on a petition we successfully lobbied Borough Council to acquire the Barclay Grounds and preserve it as an official Borough park.



How you can help to save the Barclay Grounds

Visit www.SaveTheBarclayGrounds.org to:

- Make a pledge
- Register for fun events
- Volunteer to help with events and fundraising
- Learn more about the Barclay Grounds
- Join our mailing list to stay informed
- Like us on Facebook

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