

NARRATIVE SECTION

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|-------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Study Unit | Other | Date Of Construction: | <u>1907</u> |
| Ethnic Heritage | | Architect: | |
| Architecture/Landscape Architecture | | Builder: | |
| | | Engineer: | |

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No
Property is located in a historic district (National and/or local): No
Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

Statement of Significance One of the fine, large homes built around the turn of the century by prosperous Olympia citizens, the house also has gained historic prominence because of its association with the YWCA. The house was built in ca. 1907 by J. F. Kearney, local grocer. Kearney, born in New York came with his parents Thomas and Mary Kearney in 1874. J. F. Kearney attended St. Martin's College and began clerking in the store of his uncle, Hon. John Byrne. In 1897 he opened his store which served Thurston and Mason Counties. In 1948-49 a group of active community women who had founded a YWCA in Olympia at the site of the United Churches purchased the Kearney House for use as a clubhouse. Miss Mildred Lemon was especially instrumental in gaining the benefits of a larger building which was used as a residence for working women and center for a host of women-oriented activities. Listed on the Olympia Heritage Register.

Description of Physical Appearance This is a rectangular, two-and-one-half-story wood frame structure built in the Foursquare style on a concrete block foundation. Its bellcast hip roof is covered with composition shingles and has brad eaves, with paired brackets below the soffit; it is broken by two brick chimneys and by hip-roofed dormers. Walls are clad with shingles. Spanning the front facade is a one-story porch with a low hip roof, tapered Tuscan columns and a simple balustrade; the porch shelters the paneled main entry door with its sidelights. Flanking the door are wide single-hung window. Other fenestration is double-hung sash with one-over-one lights. At the rear is a flat-roofed, one-story porch. The interior retains the original fir woodwork and beamed ceilings, and a tiled living room fireplace with window seats. The house is used by the YWCA and maintained in good condition. To the west is a gable-roofed garage building converted into a meeting

Major Bibliographic References Prosser, William F.
A History of the Puget Sound Country Lewis Publish Company, New York, 1903.

PHOTOS



View of SW corner
taken 10/17/1985
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
27-34A
Comments: