

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Kearney Woman's Club

Other names/site number Hanson-Downing House (BF05-165)

Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number 723 West 22nd Street

City or town Kearney State Nebraska County Buffalo

Not for publication Vicinity

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

SHPO/Director

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

History Nebraska – State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official

Date

Title

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- Private
- Public-local
- Public-state
- Public-federal

Category of Property (Check only **one** box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
0	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall
DOMESTIC/Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN
Queen Anne Revival
Queen Anne: Eastlake

Materials (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Façade: Wood

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Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

The Hanson-Downing house is a one-and-a-half-story residence located at the intersection of West 22nd Street and 8th avenue that served as a private residence. Built for Wallace A. Downing and family, they gave it to the Kearney Woman's Club in December of 1930 who turned it into a meeting space. The house architecturally is Eastlake influenced Queen Anne and was constructed in 1886 by Charles E. Hanson. The house has a cross-shape plan with a gable roof, dormer window, and jerkinhead on each side bay. The square tower has quartered stained glass windows, with stained glass fanlights, fish-scale shingle wall surface, pseudo-dentilled cornice, scrolled brackets and keystones. The frontal recessed curved porch has vault-like construction with supportive pillars forming archways. Engaged pillars frame the large frontal window with stained glass borders. The house facades have fish-scale shingle wall surface, corner scrolled brackets, and windows with shed hoods and bracket supports. The carved floral and sun decorative motifs adorn the entire house including gable peak and brackets. The frontal door is elaborately carved, and has an inset, round red glass window with stained glass transom window.¹ The home features two covered porches, one on the east side of the buildings, as well as a large front porch on the south that is suitable size for gathering. The Hanson-Downing home has had several renovations in order to preserve and protect its deteriorating features since its use by the Kearney Woman's Club. The most notable renovations include a new cypress wood porch and window renovations. However, they do not affect the location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, or association of the home and have no effect on the historic integrity of the home.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

Setting

The Kearney Woman's Club, also known as the Hanson-Downing House, is located on the west side of town and situated on the corner of a quiet residential 4-way intersection. It is located within the University of Nebraska Kearney/Watson Boulevard Neighborhood, surrounded by other older single-family residences.

Kearney is a city that lies in Buffalo County on the north bank of the Platte River, about 130 miles west of Nebraska's capital city of Lincoln.² The town consists of 33,790 residents according to the 2020 census. Named after the once prevalent herds that roamed the area, Buffalo County is the fifth most populous county in Nebraska.³ After being created in 1855, the Union Pacific Railroad came to the area in 1866 with settlers to establish the area. As it grew, creating a government became a necessity. In 1869, Patrick Walsh, Martin Slattery, and Sergeant Cody petitioned the governor to officially organize Buffalo County in 1870. While the county seat was originally located in Gibbon, it was voted that it be changed to Kearney in 1874.⁴ The town of Kearney grew sizably large, and the drive to build a community was substantial. As social clubs were heightening in popularity, the Kearney Woman's Club was established by a Kearney resident as the Nineteenth Century Club in 1888.

Exterior

The Hanson-Downing home is a cross-gable pattern and each side bay has a jerkinhead roof. The primary façade is located on the south public-facing side. This south facade features a large frontal recessed bamboo porch that has a vault-like

¹ State Historic Preservation Office, and Joni Gilkerson, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form Hanson-Downing House (1980).

² "Government", *City of Kearney*, retrieved Dec 16, 2019.

³ Lillian L. Fitzpatrick, *Nebraska Place-Names*, (University of Nebraska Press: 1960), 24.

⁴ Bowman, J.R., Shearer, Fredrick E. (ed), *The Pacific Tourist, J.R. Bowman's illustrated transcontinental guide of travel from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean*, New York (1882), 33.

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design. As consistent with most Eastlake homes, the porch features rectangle patterned fence posts and carved square balusters. The pillars that support it form tall, round archways and frame the large frontal window with a stained-glass border. Fish-scale shingles decorate the wall surfaces, while wood siding wraps the rest of the exterior. Carved sun and flower motifs are displayed on the entirety of the home, including the gable peak and brackets. The frontal door is elaborately carved, and has an inset, round red glass window with stained glass transom window.

The west façade features a jerkinhead side bay that has four top-tier stained glassed double-hung windows, and a large stained-glass border window on the second story that is divided with red painted muntins. All first-floor windows on the west are covered with carved and roofed awnings. A brick chimney stack is able to be seen from the west of the home, as well as the furnace smoke stack protrudes from the northwest side of the home.

The north side of the Hanson-Downing house has likely seen some change, as it appears that the now storage room was once a rear open porch. It has a door on the east side of the addition that opens to the inside. Today, it has been enclosed and features a door that leads to the cellar and a small window and decorative brackets. Above it, in line with the rest of the home, the second floor features a large window on the jerkinhead sidebay with a multi-colored stained-glass border.

East-Porch

On the east side of the building is the second large porch, covered by the jerkinhead side bay and decorated with carved flowers, fish scale siding, and pillars that form archways. The door, though far less intricate than the frontal door, is surrounded by stained glass transom and side windows around its border. The southeast corner, a large tower with stained glass windows that form a sunroom and serves as quite an eye-catching piece, as it is visible from the frontal view of the home. Just below it on the east side is the remnants of a boarded-up round window. The second story once again features a large window on the second story side bay with a stained-glass border.

The home has had a number of exterior improvements that have had no effect on its integrity. It has had a new roof, new cypress wood porch, and new exterior paint. It has also undergone window renovation as well as touch-up and repair to the east side porch. The front porch was repaired in June, 2014.

Interior

Upon entering the Hanson-Downing home from the main entrance on the south facade, one is greeted by a tall wooden door, decorated with carved flowers and a circular stained-glass window in the center. A multi-colored stained-glass transom sits above the door, encompassed by a carved wooden frame. Just next to the door along the same south facade is a large, double-hung stained-glass leaded window, decorated with a collage of rectangles that make up the shape of a cross. Similarly styled windows are featured all around the living room interior, totaling six windows that feature a clear diamond shape surrounded by stained-glass rectangles. Two of these windows surround the wooden door of the east porch entrance, which also features a non-functioning stained-glass transom above it. Across from it on the west, the other four windows adorn the walls of a nook. The southwest corner of the home features a sitting area which proudly displays a fireplace with an ornately carved wooden mantel and mantel shelf. The surround of the fireplace features diamond-patterned tile, and the hearth still has patterned brown and tan tile. The overmantel incorporates a mirror, surrounded by carved wooden shelves and a flower design decorates the frieze of the entablature. A large double-hung window surrounded by stained-glass transoms and sidelights completes the fireplace area. After suffering from water damaged, the living room ceiling was removed and replaced, however the original crown molding and brass fixtures still remain.

Moving towards the north side of the home extends a hallway that houses the kitchen on the east, and doors to the upstairs, basement, and a bedroom on the west side of the hall. The hallway itself has had wood paneling removed and been restored. The kitchen has had substantial renovations. The original kitchen flooring has been replaced with a tan stone tile. The wooden floor and wall cupboards that warp around the east wall and extend across the south wall has been renovated, as well as the laminate granite countertops and drawers. The southern-most kitchen wall has a full functioning pass-through window, where food could be passed from the kitchen to the living room. Up against the northern wall is a small, new cabinet of similar style and a stacked washer and dryer are nestled in northeast corner between two large, historic double hung windows. Extended from the northern half of the kitchen is a door that leads to a small storage room. The storage room has wood paneling and doors on the east and west walls that lead to the outside. The south façade hosts

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cupboards along the wall, and across from them on the north is a small window that's divided by muntins. It is likely that this storage room was once an open rear porch due to the nature of material change from the storage room to the interior of the kitchen.

Across the hall from the kitchen on the main floor is the only bedroom on the first floor. Connected to it is a bathroom, which also has a door that leads to the living room. Though the bathroom has had renovations done, it still has a laundry shoot that is original to the house.

Next to the bedroom entrance are the entrances to both the basement, and upstairs. Two flights of stairs surrounded by wood-paneled walls and a non-translucent window that breaks up the landing space lead to the upstairs. The upstairs has been converted into an apartment space, complete with three bedrooms, one bathroom, and a viewing room. The upstairs has had heating and air conditioning installed, and the bathroom has been renovated with all new counterspace, sink, shower, and toilet. The upstairs carpet and wallpaper were removed and replaced due to damages. Each upstairs bedroom features a large window, with colorful stained glass. The northern-most bedroom has an attached storage space with unfinished walls. Traveling down the upstairs hallway is the renovated bathroom with all new fixtures and appliances. However, at the end of the hallway in the southeast corner of the home is a tower with a sunroom room. It has two large windows with stained glass borders that allow for a magnificent view of the front lawn and street of the home. The hallway veers to the west side of the home, leading to the other two bedrooms. Both are small, with one having a closet and the other a unique dresser built into the wall. In all of the bedrooms are the original brass wall sconce, used to turn on natural gas to fuel a lamp. The bedrooms upstairs all feature mansard ceilings.

The downstairs basement is unfinished, as the floor is made up of poured cement. The walls of the basement are brick, with areas of original stone foundation peeking through. In the main room of the basement is a wooden double door, likely used for storage space that now is inaccessible due to dirt from the unfinished floor that was piled in front of the door. A second room on the east side of the basement still has the remnants of a brick chimney.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** Removed from its original location.
- C** A birthplace or a grave.
- D** A cemetery.
A reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- E** A commemorative property.
- G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1886-1972

Significant Dates

1886- House built

1930- Transferred to Kearney Women's Club

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Charles E. Hanson

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Kearney Woman's Club, originally known as the Hanson-Downing House, is significant at the local level under Criterion A and C. Architecturally, It is an excellent example of a late Victorian home, built in the style of Queen Anne Rival with Eastlake influence. It was designed and built by Swedish architect, Charles E. Hanson. The house has been the clubhouse and meeting place of the Kearney Woman's Club since they received the home as a gift in 1931 and still continues to house their club outings today. Since 1888, the Kearney Woman's Club has participated in a variety of community projects and

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facilitated the support and funding of many local organizations including establishing child welfare programs, providing scholarships in music and vocal programs, and supporting women's rights in the social, political, and economic spheres. The period of significance expands from the year it was built in 1886 to 1971 in order to reflect its current and continued use by the Kearney Woman's Club which has significantly impacted the Kearney community.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Please note: For a more in-depth history on the home as the Hanson-Downing home, please see the original Hanson-Downing House nomination (NRIS 80002440).

The Kearney Woman's Club became nascent during the late 19th century, where the common sentiment of the time expressed that the woman's sphere strayed little from the home and family life. Aside from the occasional opportunities of involvement within the church, school, and periodically business, the woman's home imprisoned her to a life of domestics and homemaking. Her role, confined to her part as a care-giver and moral influencer as a wife and mother, excluded political activism, civic reform, and community involvement from the woman's domain. In an attempt to broaden involvement in the social, political, and economic fields, women in New York and Boston in the late 1860s spurred a nationwide female renaissance referred to by historians as the Club Movement. Previously, most organizations for women were auxiliaries of groups for men or were church-related. According to the General Federation of Women's clubs, women were first able to reach out of their homes through religious institutions⁵. By getting involved in church or charitable groups, women were able to find companionship and a way to come together to facilitate change in their communities.⁶ In the following years, women's involvement in organizations outside of the church expanded. By the late 20th century, a large population of middle-class women, emboldened by the club movement, began to establish clubs within their own communities to redefine the constructs of femininity and alter the roles women play within the public world. Hundreds of clubs across the country participated in regular meetings in order to form networks that resisted conventions through the study of intellectual topics and current events, solving civic issues through volunteerism, and organizing for social reforms at the local, state, and national levels.⁷

The women of Kearney were no exception and made haste in the establishment of a Woman's Club, what would later be recognized as the Kearney Woman's Club. The origins of the club can be traced back to 1887, just sixteen years after the first homestead claim in the area and at the tail-end of Kearney's population boom thanks to optimistic entrepreneurs. Kearney resident, Nora Jones, formed a small literary coterie with her closest friends that focused discussion around local and world news, as well as bible studies.⁸ The vice president of Tennessee's National Suffrage Association, Elizabeth Lisle Saxon, was invited to give a lecture entitled, "Equality of Women Before the Law" in June of 1888 in which the Clio Club was in attendance. Following the discourse, the women united to form an official organization in November, 1888 to which they named, "The Nineteenth Century Club", symbolic of Victor Hugo's declaration that "The nineteenth century is pre-eminently the age of woman"⁹ Like most early women's clubs of the time, the group was composed of mostly white, protestant women, who describe themselves as "an organization of Kearney ladies working on literary and self-culture lines".¹⁰

The inner workings of the club functioned hierarchically and harmoniously, headed by a president and vice president, and supplemented with a treasurer to manage club funds and a secretary to help pen the club's rules. They decided on peacock blue as their club color and had their programs printed in that shade and "XIX" engraved on silverware sets in anticipation of the events to come.¹¹ The women worked together to draft a constitution that recognized that the

⁵ "Club movement", *Encyclopedia Britannica*, December 1, 1999, archived from the original on April 20, 2016, Retrieved January 26, 2017.

⁶ Wilson, Linda D, (2009), "Women's Club Movement", *Oklahoma Historical Society*, archived from the original on March 1, 2017, Retrieved January 28, 2017.

⁷ "Women's Clubs", *National Women's History Museum*, March 17, 2014.

⁸ De Witt, Barbara, "Kearney Woman's Club House Is Meant for the Everywoman", *The Kearney Hub*, July 23, 2016.

⁹ "Kearney Women's Club 1888 Beginnings", *The Kearney Daily Hub*, October 24, 1938.

¹⁰ "The Nineteenth Century Club as Entertainers", *Semi-Weekly Kearney Hub and Central Nebraska Press*, Nov 24, 1898.

¹¹ De Witt, Barbara, "Kearney Woman's Club House Is Meant for the Everywoman", *The Kearney Hub*, July 23, 2016.

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rights of women will only be expanded as a result of the united efforts of women and their allies. The constitution outlined the rules of membership, to which it was decided that any woman who so wished to be in the club, could be permitted to join. The club felt it only fair given their group cause to be inclusive of those women who were searching for a better life despite past misdeeds. Two years later the women coined the motto "Interdependence, not independence", cautious to evade characterization with the more progressive women's rights groups of the time.¹² Rooted in this notion, the group romanticized balance and interconnectedness between genders stating that "interdependence between sexes...[is the] 'key note of a beautiful harmony, the psalm of life, the poetry of existence'".¹³

At first, participation in the club was scarce, consisting of three or four members in regular attendance.¹⁴ Largely at fault was Kearney's economic bubble which burst during the early years of club formation and reduced the population of the city to merely 5,634 residents in 1890.¹⁵ Over time, turnout did improve with relentless effort and the aid of Kearney's steady rebuilding of population growth. With an influx of citizenry and inevitably, club membership, the woman's club triumphantly hosted the state meeting of the Woman Suffrage Association in 1889. Ten years later in 1899, the woman's group was officially federated, though the Kearney Hub Newspaper reported member attendance at the meeting of the State Federation of Women's Clubs as early as 1894.¹⁶ In 1901, it was decided to devise the group into three departments to include American literature, household economics, and music. Departments took turns meeting each week of the month, and the fourth week was reserved for a general club meeting. A history department was added in 1903, and an assortment of other departments were added over the course of the next year to include a very active civic department, child welfare, homemaking, and art sectors.¹⁷ The turn of the century brought many other developments for the Nineteenth Century Club, including a 1921 name change to the Kearney Woman's Club.

Each year, the Woman's Club raised the majority of the group's monetary resources through the annual sale of Christmas seals among a wide variety of fundraising efforts. The funds that they raised were then used for donation, support, and community services, including providing much of the monetary resources for a substantial amount of dental and medical work for underprivileged children. The services provided thanks to the Woman's Club included fitting glasses, nutrition work, throat surgery, and X-ray work. In addition, the club had a hand in the founding of the first college in Kearney, the Nebraska State Normal School, now known as the University of Nebraska Kearney, through their substantial support and endorsement. Likewise, the club was the first to back the formation of a public hospital. A sufficient amount of funds was generated by the club's members and allocated to the affair¹⁸.

The Kearney Woman's Club frequently rose to the occasion in most other community matters, advocating for the support of women on the school board, females as physicians, and even played a crucial role in establishing school nurses through activism and support using club funds. Perhaps though, the most active topics that the women so often addressed since the earliest years of the club's conception were the women's views on prohibition and suffrage. Like the sentiment of the time, the ladies stood by the conception of prohibition and expressed the necessity for women to vote to ensure the outlawing of alcohol products and consumption. The nineteenth-century club suggested that "if men had the help of women in regards to voting, that we would have 'plowed out the traffic by the votes'".¹⁹

Despite their long list of accomplishments, for more than 50 years the Kearney Women's Club had no meeting place to call their own. In the beginning, meetings were held at the homes of the members, mindful to rotate who hosted. For a short time in 1880, the women had the pleasure of meeting in the city council room that was new at the time. Then, for many years they held their gatherings in a room at Midway until 1912 when they acquired a meeting place in the second-story rooms of the Federal Annex Building. But, as of 1914 the club's meeting spot changed locations once again, leading the club to congregate in the Henline Building, and then the Odd Fellows Hall. The women assembled in rooms on

¹² "Kearney Women's Club 1888 Beginnings", Newspapers.com, *The Kearney Daily Hub*, October 24, 1938.

¹³ "The Nineteenth Century Club as Entertainers", Newspapers.com, Accessed December 29, 2021.

¹⁴ "Kearney Women's Club 1888 Beginnings", Newspapers.com, *The Kearney Daily Hub*, October 24, 1938.

¹⁵ History of Kearney, NE - Official Website, Retrieved March 8, 2022.

¹⁶ "Kearney Women's Club 1888 Beginnings", Newspapers.com, *The Kearney Daily Hub*, October 24, 1938.

¹⁷ "Kearney Women's Club 1888 Beginnings", Newspapers.com, *The Kearney Daily Hub*, October 24, 1938.

¹⁸ 24 Oct 1938, 25 - The Kearney Daily Hub at newspapers.com, Newspapers.com, Retrieved March 8, 2022.

¹⁹ "Ladies Were Loyal", Newspapers.com, July 1890.

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the second story of the Hub building during the days of the Boys Club and Community Club, until the Community club offered their meeting rooms to the ladies located at the Opera House Building. Eventually, the Commercial Club changed meeting spaces, leaving the Crystal room and Italian room at the Hotel the selected meeting space of the Woman's Club. The Woman's Club finally saw their day in December of 1930, when Mrs. C. O. Norton announced on behalf of Maren Downing Morrison, daughter of the once prominent Kearneyite, W. A. Downing, that her childhood home at 723 West 22nd Street was to be gifted in honor of her estranged parents to the Kearney Woman's Club. The only stipulation to her generous gift was that she reserved the right to name the memorial, to which she titled it "The Downing Memorial Home", and that the home must be cared for and used for the purpose of club engagement by the Kearney Woman's Club. The Club jubilantly acknowledged the terms and conditions of the offer and held their first meeting in their new club home in April of 1931.²⁰

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The presence of a new home meant that the Kearney Woman's Club could expand operations. Having a meeting space of their own meant opportunity for member growth, vastly varying cultural content, and a larger variety of projects to participate in. The content that women learned broadened as societal norms did the same. In 1954, the ladies of the Kearney Woman's Club indulged in rather taboo topics such as mental health and American folklore. From 1963 to 1964, the ladies sought to stimulate and promote interest in the development of old Fort Kearney, encouraged those who need protection to the advantages of the use of medic alert and carry out National Federation of Women's Club projects as designated by the administration.²¹ This represents the Kearney Woman's Club's activism and constant desire to be involved in the progressive topics of the day.

At the same time, in the years following the club's acquisition of the Hanson-Downing House, the Kearney Woman's club faced a slow decline in membership population as societal standards for women slowly expanded, and gender roles shifted once again. The decline in membership is reflected in the Kearney Woman's Club's by-laws. In 1948, a quorum necessitated 50 club members, but by 1964, quorum only constituted the need for 10 members.^{22 23} Additionally, at some undetermined point the club began renting out the upper bedrooms to other Kearneyites to stay in. As funds became an issue, the Club had to get creative with how they funded operations and cared for the home. Another way in which they raised money was through bake sales, which funded the replacement of the shingles in 1954.²⁴ Many various fraternal groups have suffered similar fates, and the Woman's Club is no exception. While the specific reasons for this numerical decline are untraceable using the information on hand, speculation might say that this is due to a perceived less dire need for activism.

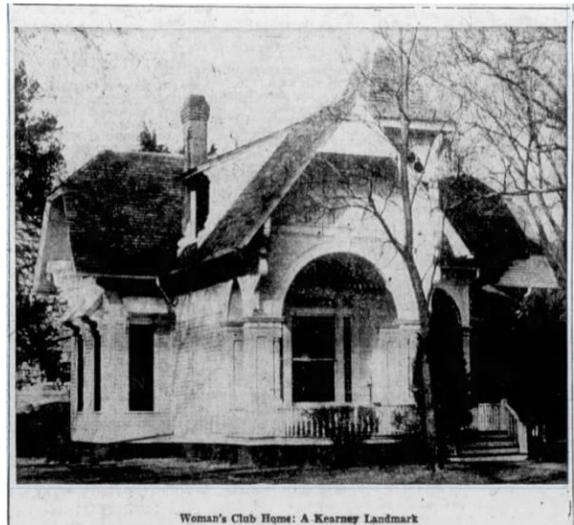


Image 1; The Kearney Woman's Club Home, *The Kearney Daily Hub*, March 13, 1954, 6.

The declining attendance has not dwindled their involvement in the community, however, and they continue to work with other organizations. What has changed with the declining attendance is their scope. Now much more limited to Kearney, the club still sponsored music programs, guest speakers, sanitary initiatives, arts, homemaking, gardening, drama, and more.²⁵ Their continued use of the home highlights the link between the historic home and important community initiatives, meaning the building is well worth the added area of significance of Social History.

²⁰ Kearney Women's Club 1888 Beginnings", *The Kearney Daily Hub*, October 24, 1938.

²¹ Kearney Woman's Club Pamphlet, 1963-1964.

²² "Constitution and By-Laws," *Constitution and By-Laws* (Kearney, NE: Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc., 1948).

²³ "Kearney Woman's Club 76thYear 1963-1964," *Kearney Woman's Club 76thYear 1963-1964* (Kearney, NE, 1963).

²⁴ "Woman's Club Dedicated to Project of Preserving Kearney Landmark", *The Kearney Daily Hub*, March 13, 1954, page 6.

²⁵ *Ibid*, 6.

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The original nomination was nominated under the state level of significance for its architectural significance as a cottage orné home. While modern nomination standards might not recommend it eligible at the state level for architecture, the building has achieved statewide significance for association with the Kearney Woman's Club and their activities over the subsequent fifty years. During the height of the Women's the Club Movement and the culmination of the Women's suffrage movement that saw increased public activism on the part of women across the country, the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs consisted of 275 clubs across the state and 14,000 members, though numbers were limited to Caucasian women. These clubs often met in member's homes or public meeting spaces to conduct their meetings, however, there were exceptions. Clubs located in more heavily populated cities that had wider fundraising capabilities wanted a permanent meeting space of their own to accommodate larger numbers of women and had clubs of a size that could charge dues able to sustain property ownership. Today, there are only two extant examples of buildings that solely held the activities of women's clubs in the state. Those were the Grand Island Woman's Club in Hall County, and the Kearney Woman's Club in Buffalo County. Both were architecturally significant single-family homes that evolved to encompass several different uses over time. The Kearney Woman's Club home is in excellent condition and has been carefully maintained by the group for almost a century. It is a rare and significant resource that illuminates the importance of clubs that brought women together for social, philanthropic and political purposes in the early 19th century, but rarely has an extant property used solely for this purpose within the state of Nebraska.

It is because of this significance that the historic name of the house is being changed from the Hanson-Downing House (NRIS 80002440) to the Kearney Woman's Club. It is also the community name, and has been since 1930. Additionally, while the period of significance only extends through 1972, the period of significance is likely to end when the Kearney Woman's Club no longer uses or inhabits the house.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (Insert bibliography here – cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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"Ladies Were Loyal." *The Kearney Daily Hub*. July 3, 1890.

Sawyers, H Keith, and Peter Olshavsky. "Kearney Women's Club." *Society of Architectural Historians*. September 24, 2019. <https://sah-archipedia.org/buildings/NE-01-019-0048>.

Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office and Joni Gilkerson. National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, *Hanson-Downing House*, (1980).

"The Nineteenth Century Club as Entertainers." *Semi-Weekly Kearney Hub and Central Nebraska Press*. Nov 24, 1898. Newspapers.com. Accessed December 29, 2021..

Wilson, Linda D. (2009). "Women's Club Movement". *Oklahoma Historical Society*. Archived from the original on March 1, 2017. Retrieved January 28, 2017.

"Women's Clubs," National Women's History Museum, March 17, 2014, <https://www.womenshistory.org/articles/womens-clubs>.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary location of additional data:

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other (Name of repository)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): BF05-165

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre USGS Quadrangle Kearney Quadrangle

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

- | | | | | |
|----|----------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Latitude | <u>40.69814074231621</u> | Longitude | <u>99.0919065187858</u> |
| 2. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 3. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |
| 4. | Latitude | _____ | Longitude | _____ |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is located on W1/2 lots 7, 8, block 6, Ashland Addition to Kearney, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Name of Property

County and State

The boundaries of the Hanson-Downing house encompass the original plat of the land that has been historically associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Jade Mendoza</u>	date	<u>12/20/2021</u>
organization	<u>History Nebraska</u>	telephone	<u>402-429-7465</u>
street & number	<u>1500 R Street</u>	city or town	<u>Lincoln</u>
city or town	<u>Lincoln</u>	state	<u>NE</u>
email	<u>Jade.Mendoza@nebraska.gov</u>	zip code	<u>68508</u>

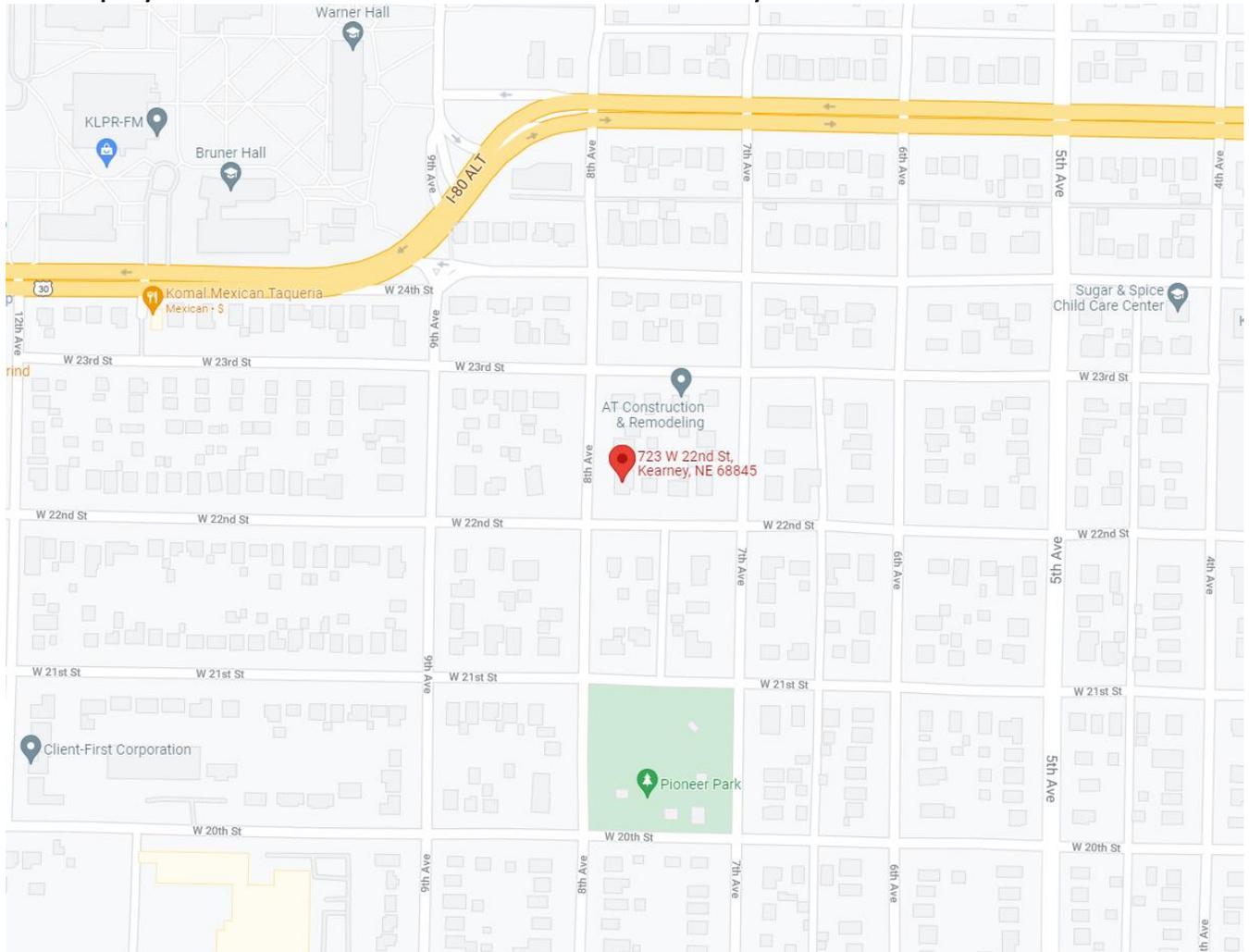
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO for any additional items.)

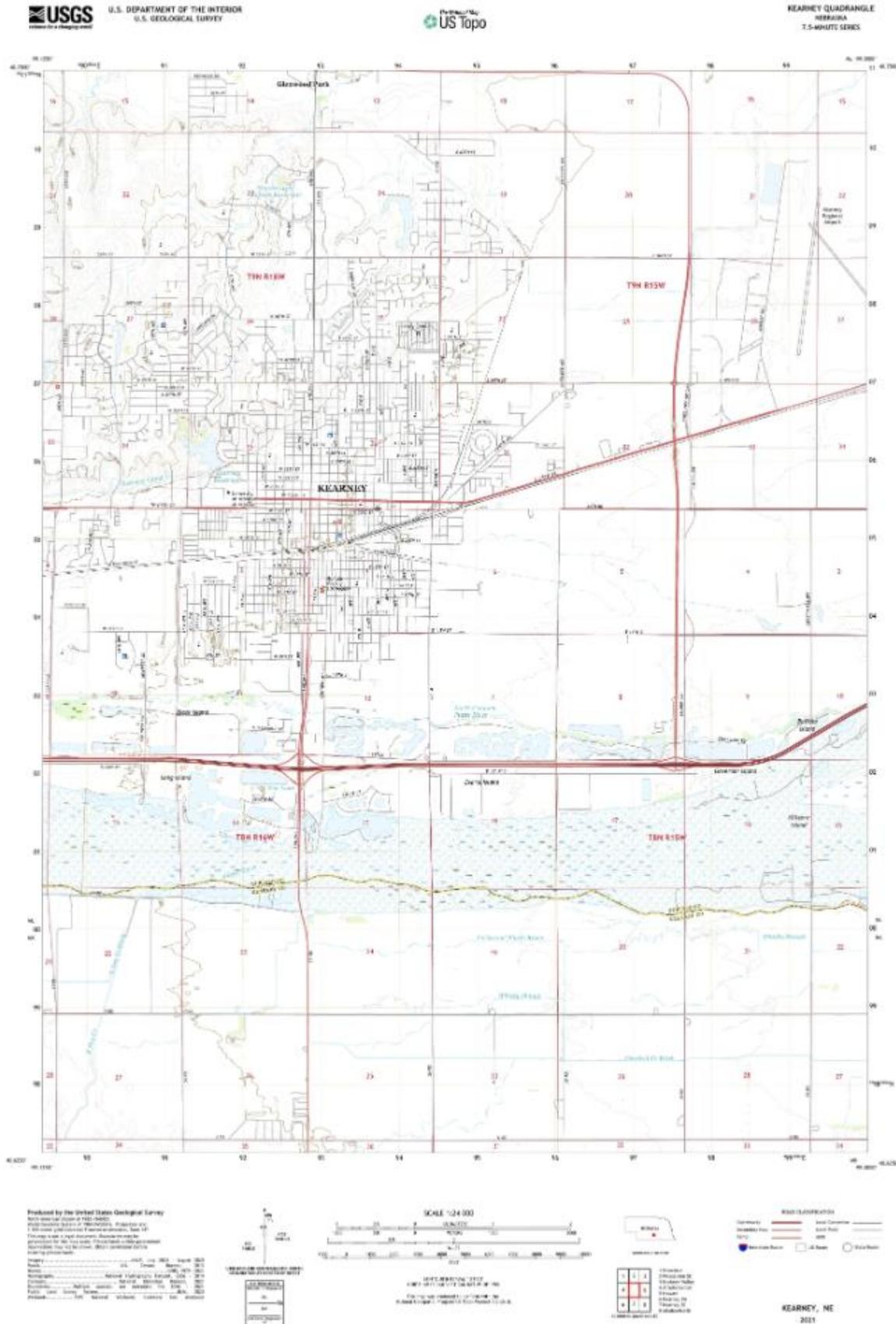
Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property Kearney Woman's Club

City or Vicinity Kearney County Buffalo State Nebraska

Photographer Jade Mendoza Date Photographed 2/16/2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

1. Exterior South façade, view north
2. Exterior West Façade, view east
3. West façade, view southwest
4. North façade, view south
5. North façade, view southeast
6. East Façade
7. East Façade
8. First-floor interior, east façade stained-glass window
9. First floor east façade stained glass window
10. First-floor interior, south façade stained-glass window
11. South façade, main entrance door with red stained glass window and stained glass transom
12. Fireplace, southwest corner of first-floor living room
13. Full view of the southwest corner of the living room
14. Northwest corner of the livingroom
15. Full view of livingroom from southeast corner
16. North portion of the kitchen, door leads to small pantry room.
17. Northeast corner of the kitchen, new cupboards, counter tops, and washer dryer
18. 1st floor bedroom, taken from the southeast corner, displaying north and west walls
19. 1st floor bathroom, connected to first-floor bedroom and accessible from the front living room as well
20. covered porch attached to kitchen
21. Stairway to second floor, consists of two flights of stairs
22. Northernmost bedroom on the second floor
23. Upstairs north bedroom closet/storage space located on the west side of the room
24. second-floor hallway, bathroom located on the west and northernmost bedroom located at the end of the hall
25. Second-floor northwest bedroom, child's bedroom with stained glass window on west wall.
26. Transom located above entrance to second-floor northwest bedroom
27. Second-floor southwest bedroom
28. Built in dresser-second-floor southwest bedroom

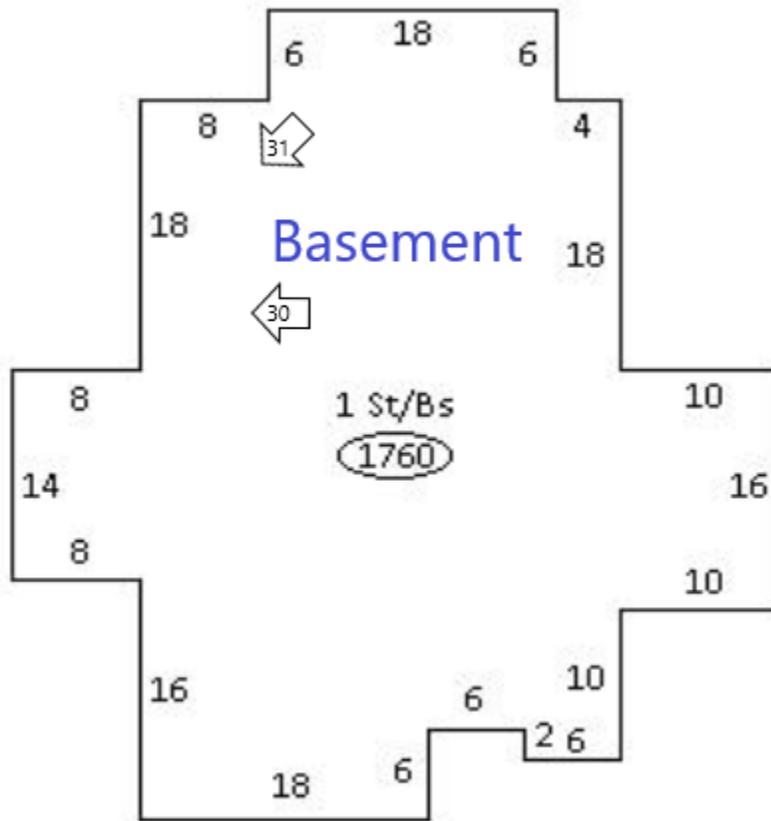
Name of Property

- 29. Interior of tower-stained glass windows
- 30. Basement stairway
- 31. view of basement taken from northeast portion of the basement

County and State

Name of Property

County and State



Name of Property

County and State

1.



2.



Name of Property

County and State

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Name of Property

County and State

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Name of Property

County and State

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Name of Property

County and State

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Name of Property

County and State

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11.



Name of Property

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Name of Property

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Name of Property

County and State

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Name of Property

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22.



Name of Property

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24.



Name of Property

County and State

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26.



Name of Property

County and State

27.



Name of Property

County and State

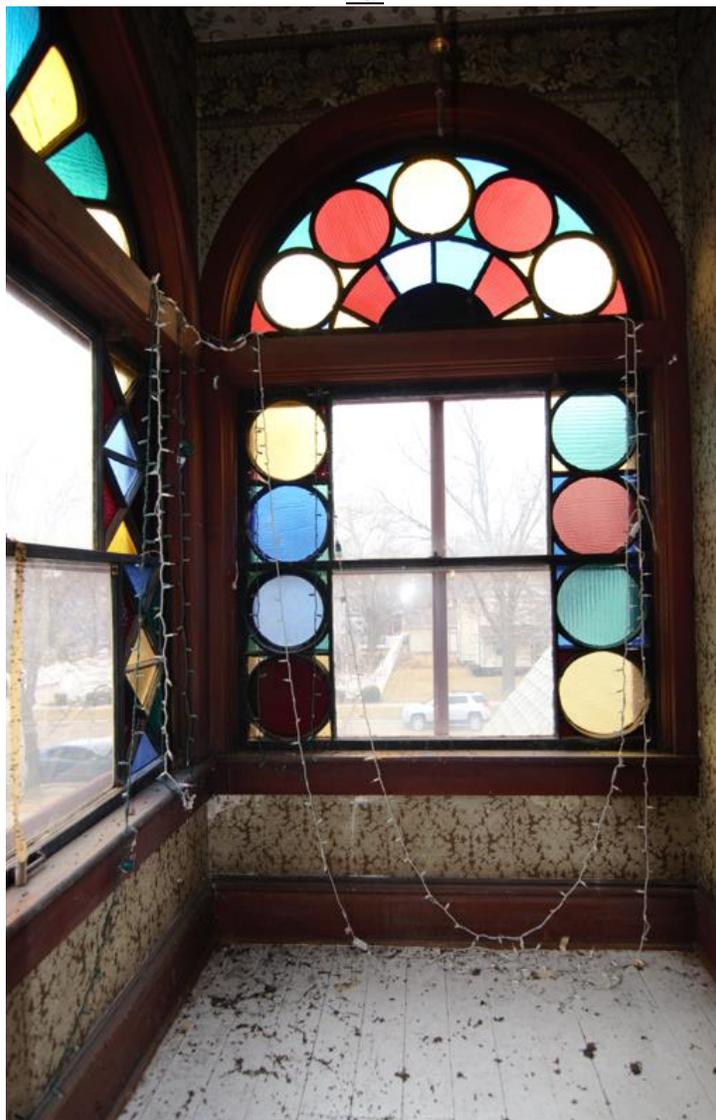
28.



Name of Property

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29.



Name of Property

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30.



31.

