

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

RECEIVED

JAN 29 1979

DATE ENTERED

APR 6 1979

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Edward S. Kearney House/
McGough's Tavern/Cosmopolitan Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NJ 18

9 State Highway 18

CITY, TOWN

East Brunswick

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Middlesex 023

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Marian Thomas

STREET & NUMBER

#9 Highway 18

CITY, TOWN

East Brunswick

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Bayard Street

CITY, TOWN

New Brunswick

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (#957.2)

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Probably built sometime in the third quarter of the 19th century this is a 2 1/2 story, 3 bay, center hall, frame and clapboard structure with a large two story frame wing appended to the rear.

The roof of the front unit is gable with returns and a center cross gable. There are brackets and dentil coursing beneath the molded eaves. The two brick chimneys are on the interior as is characteristic of Victorian buildings. The main unit of the house has an I form. Windows are 4/4 sash with the front facade fenestration having decorative cornices with brackets. Shutters are on the front only and are louvered. The center entrance has a fashionable Victorian double door with octagonal panels (rectangular on the interior). Above the doorway is a large transom. Entrance to the north or tavern room is made by a simpler door which opens directly into the room. Across the front facade is a one story porch with ornate cast-iron columns

The foundation of this main unit is stone and there is brick nogging providing insulation throughout the exterior walls.

The large rear wing was added sometime later (ca. 1886). This two story, four bay, low pitch roof frame unit had purely utilitarian purpose and exhibits no elaborate architectural features. This section has four rooms on each floor for eight total rooms. Windows are 2/2 sash.

A one story screened-in porch and enclosed storage area with leanto roof on the rear (west) completes the building.

The interior of the main unit is a center through hall with stairway. The stair is set against the south wall of the hall. A single room is located to either side of the hall, the tavern was probably in the north room of this floor. The second floor configuration is identical save for an additional partition in the north half to provide for bath and storage.

Throughout the building most of the woodwork, hardware, molding, and other detailing is intact and dates from the third quarter and last quarter 19th century.

The house is on a three acre lot situated atop a slight knoll along State Highway 18, a major thorofare from New Brunswick to Freehold.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture

The Edward Kearney House/Cosmopolitan Hotel is characteristic of the vernacular pattern book buildings being constructed in the 3rd quarter of the 19th century in New Jersey. It is one of the few such extant examples in East Brunswick Township.

Commerce

An inn for nearly fifty years the Cosmopolitan Hotel is one of only two extant historic taverns in East Brunswick Township. (The other being Riverside Hotel in the Old Bridge Historic District. National Register 6/29/1977.) Known as McGough's Place from the 1880's to about 1910, the name apparently changed to Cosmopolitan Hotel sometime after the first decade of the twentieth century. Characterized by pious members of the area as a rowdy place for youngsters to avoid, many men thirsting for an alcoholic beverage at the end of a long working day nonetheless gathered here to drink and discuss matters of the day.

It appears that McGough's began as the private residence of Edward S. Kearney in the 1850's, but his insolvency forced the sale of the property to Barthy McGough in 1886. Apparently it was McGough who established the hotel and inn.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Middlesex County Deeds - Book 210, p. 530
 Edward Kearney to Barthy
 McGough. 1886.
 - Book 48, p. 466
 Jarvis Wanser and wife to Edward Kearney, 1848.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME New Brunswick

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 549790 448,107,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies city block 5.04, lot 3.01 and is shown on the map entitled "Survey Sketch for Clarence & Marion Thomas, May 1955".

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terry Karschner, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/1978

STREET & NUMBER

109 West State Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 292-2028

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Signature]

1-21-79

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

[Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9.6.79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE April 5, 1979

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Edward S. Kearny House/Cosmopolitan Hotel
East Brunswick Township
Middlesex County New Jersey 034

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

Significance (continued)

Historical Narrative

EDWARD S. KEARNEY

Edward Kearney came from Ireland around 1840(1), and was part of a large Irish influx to the United States at around that time.

Edward bought property at Westons Mills (East Brunswick) in the early 1850's, (2) (3) and probably erected the house soon after.

The 1870 Census gives us some idea of what the Kearney household was like. It shows that both Edward and his wife Julia were born in Ireland (Edward became an American citizen), while all his children were born and educated here. It shows that all the children up to an including the 19 year old attended school that year of 1870, receiving a rather good education for those days. The census shows that the family

1. New Historic Atlas of Middlesex County, by Everts & Steward, 1876. Page 79.
2. 1850 Map of Middlesex County, by Otley & Kelly, shows the house and the name Kearney, misspelled "Carney".
3. 1852 Deed from James Wyckoff & Wife to Edward Kearney, Book 100, P. 231.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

Significance (continued)

consisted of the following:

"1870 Census"

"Edward Kearney,	Age 50,	Huckster	Worth \$3,000 in real estate, \$200 in personal estate.
Julia	Age 50,	Keeps house.	
Margaret	Age 30,	At home	
Julia	Age 20	Schoolteacher	
Jane	Age 18	At Home	
Edward	Age 16	At Home	
James	Age 19	At Home	
George	Age 7	At Home	
Samuel	Age 4	At Home	

Edward Kearney's occupation changes from "Huckster" in 1870. to "Small Fruit Grower" in 1874.(4). Fruit growing was quite a successful trade in this area, because the soil was suitable for the cultivation of apple, peach and other fruit trees(5). Across the road, down School House Lane, close to where the present boat docks are, was a fruit-canning factory(7).

Mr. Kearney seems to have prospered at this business, for by 1880, we see that he has employed his sons in his business, we see that he has added "buildings" near his house, and that his occupation is listed as "Trucker."(8) In 1880, a "Trucker" provided surrounding farmers with produce, transportation to market via horse and cart.

Unfortunately for Edward Kearney, the luck of the Irish did not stay with him. We find him widowed in 1886, and owing \$735.00 in back taxes to East Brunswick Township. This debt apparently forced him to sell his house and lands.

- (4) New Brunswick Directory, 1874-75.
- (5) History of Union & Middlesex County by Clayton, P. 707.
- (6) "Lilac Hill" House. Deeds, Vol. 22, P. 267.
- (7) See (5), Page 769.
- (8) New Brunswick Directory, 1880.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Significance (continued)

There is one bright spot, however. His house and lands were bought by a relative named Barthy McGough, and a provision is put in the deed of sale between the two, that assures Kearney that he would not be left completely destitute:

"Subject also to the right and privilege of the party of the first part (Kearney) to remain and live in the house upon said premises for and during the term of his natural life." (9)

BARTHY MCGOUGH

Barthy McGough came from New York City. At the same time that he owned the hotel at Westons Mills (10), he also owned a Bar and Resaturant called the "Good Luck" near the Railroad Station in New Brunswick, N. J. (11). It is quite possible that traveling salesmen that got off the train and stopped at the Restaurant were referred to the hotel at Westons Mills. Much of the hotel's business was made catering to salesmen who rested there before calling on their rural farmer customers. (12)

- (9) Deed, Edward Kearney, to Barthy McGough, Book 210, Page 530. (Enc.)
- (10) Directory of New Brunswick, etc. 1901-1902, Page 172
- (11) New Brunswick Directory, 1891, Page 289.
- (12) From an interview with Frank Newmeyer, 1986 Rt. 18, East Brunswick.

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East Brunswick Township
Middlesex County
New Jersey 088
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Bibliographical (continued)

Director of New Brunswick 1901-02. J. Heidings -
held, Publisher, New Brunswick, N.J. (p. 173)

New Historic Atlas of Middlesex County. Everts & Stewart,
1876 (p. 79)

1850 Map of Middlesex County. Otley & Keily. Map
shows the house with owner Carney.

Affidavits attesting to operation as an inn around 1900 signed
by: Charles Skistimas
Etta Quackerboss Skistimas
Dora Goldman
Mame Gluck

EDWARD S. KEARNY HOUSE /
COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL
EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
NEW JERSEY 034

~ SURVEY SKETCH ~
FOR ~

CLARENCE & MARION THOMAS RECEIVED

JAN 29 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER

SITUATED IN
TOWNSHIP OF EAST BRUNSWICK
MIDDLESEX CO. NEW JERSEY

MAY 1955
SCALE 1"=30'
LIC # 2493

SURVEYED BY -
KARL H. WILBER RE.
SAYREVILLE, N.J.

BOUNDARY LINE

STILLWELL DRIVE

PATTON DRIVE

BLK 5-D

Strike N 62-28' W
40.0

Strike

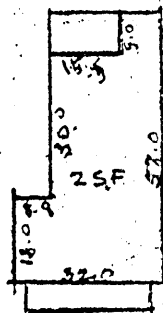
N 44-31' 33" W
40.622 (6)

R 573.69
10' X 1' (clear)

Patton Drive

N 83-32' W
123.00

40.0



40.0

40.81

R 122.22
Route # 10 S-28

TE HIGHWAY S-28

425.12' S