

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received **NOV 12 1980**date entered **DEC 10 1980**

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

1. Name

historic Hanson-Downing House (BF05-165)
and/or common Kearney Woman's Club

2. Location

street & number 723 West 22nd Street _____ not for publication
city, town Kearney _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Third
state Nebraska code 31 county Buffalo code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social

4. Owner of Property

name Kearney Woman's Club
street & number 723 West 22nd Street
city, town Kearney _____ vicinity of _____ state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Buffalo County Courthouse
street & number _____
city, town Kearney _____ state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date On-going federal state county local
depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society
city, town Lincoln _____ state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

The Hanson-Downing house is a one and one-half story cottage orné (ornamented cottage). It is of frame construction in a cross-shape plan with 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.

The Hanson-Downing house was built by Charles E. Hanson and later sold to Wallace A. Downing. The house served as a private residence until December, 1930, when it became the club home of the Kearney Woman's Club in Kearney, Nebraska, and today is still used as the club home.

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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1886 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecturally, the Hanson-Downing house is significant as a fine and well-preserved late-19th-century, American cottage orné (ornamented cottage). The assymetry of forms, variation in roof sections, and textural variety create a very picturesque effect and demonstrate the versatility of wood as a building medium. In England, the cottage orné was typically treated with a thatched roof and rough-hewn wooden columns. In America, however, the idea of an artfully rustic dwelling became, in the late 1800's, a frame residence with multiple sections and a profusion of Eastlake details.

Charles E. Hanson was born in Sweden November 19, 1855, and came to America, arriving in Chicago, Illinois, May 25, 1869. During the first five years in Illinois, Mr. Hanson worked at farming and then in the spring of 1878 he came to Nebraska and settled in Phelps Center, Phelps County. He soon became postmaster for the area and served as such until December 1881. Following, Mr. Hanson travelled to Kearney, Nebraska where he opened his own business in the spring of 1882 and was a dealer in all kinds of agricultural implements, dealing largely in broom corn seed. The Hanson-Downing house was built in 1886 by Charles E. Hanson and purchased the following year by Wallace A. Downing.

Wallace A. Downing was born April 27, 1841, in Vermont and came to Kearney, Nebraska, in 1871. Upon his arrival Mr. Downing engaged in the saddlery and harness business in which he continued until ill health forced him to retire. Mr. Downing took an active interest in the development and upbuilding of city, county and state. The Black Hills country was coming into prominence and Mr. Downing assisted in the laying out of the Black Hills Trail and in the establishment of a daily stage service. He served as president of the Kearney National Bank for a number of years and was one of seven leading local directors who built the Kearney Opera House. Mr. Downing served on the city county several terms and was representative for Kearney on the board of county supervisors. As a businessman, he was also financially interested in many other Kearney institutions.

The Kearney Woman's Club was originally named the Nineteenth Century Club and was organized in 1888. Its prime object was the study of women's work with municipal suffrage as well as culture and education. Their motto was "interdependence not independence." The founders recognized the supreme importance of education as a defender of the nation's freedom and greatness. Through the years the federation has remained consistent in its dedication to the cause of education. They first met in members' homes and later held

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Kearney, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4
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4	9	2	2	1	0
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4	5	0	5	0	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is located on W $\frac{1}{2}$ lots 7, 8, block 6, Ashland Addition to Kearney, Nebraska.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joni Gilkerson, Survey Associate

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date October, 1980

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-3270

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mervin D Knott 10/24/80

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For HCRS use only

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

Mervin D Knott
for Keeper of the National Register

date 12/10/80

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Significance

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regular meetings in a clubroom on the top floor of the opera house. The club was federated in 1911 and the name was changed to Kearney Woman's Club in 1935. In addition to the general club, the organization in Kearney includes a fine arts department and a garden club. In 1930, the Downing-Morrison families donated their family home to the club as a memorial to their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace A. Downing. The house is to be used exclusively for a club home and if used otherwise, will return to the Downing heirs.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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"Death Claims Early Settler", Kearney Daily Hub, January 2, 1912, pg. 2.

"Draw up articles of Incorporation on new Club Home", Kearney Daily Hub, December 10, 1930, p. 8.

Kearney Business and Professional Women's Club, Where the Buffalo Roamed, 1967. "Downing and Gibbons Families", pp. 184-185, "Woman's Club", pp. 538-541.

"Prominent Resident Passes Away Monday" Kearney Morning Times, January 2, 1912, p. 1.

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"Woman's Club receives gift of a Club Home", Kearney Weekly Tribune, November 27, 1930, p. 1.