

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

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



982

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

**1. Name**

historic Keeler's Korner

and/or common same as above

**2. Location**

street & number 16401 Old U.S. Highway 99 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Lynnwood \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 2nd - Al Swift

state Washington code 53 county Snohomish code 061

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Jerry Chinn (206) 743-0608

street & number 16401 Old U.S. Highway 99

city, town Lynnwood \_\_\_ vicinity of state Washington 98036

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Snohomish County Courthouse

street & number 3001 Rockefeller

city, town Everett state Washington 98201

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Washington State  
title Cultural Resource Inventory - has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
Snohomish County

date 8/80  federal  state  county  local

M.S. KL-11

depository for survey records Office of Arch. & Hist. Preservation 111 W. 21st Ave.

city, town Olympia state WA 98504

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

Keeler's Korner is a two story, gabled roofed, wood frame structure featuring bevel siding and a rectangular basic plan form. Located in the NW 1/4 of Sec. 10, T27N, R5E., W.M., the building faces west onto U.S. 99. The west elevation of the building is dominated by a portico sixteen feet wide and extending ten feet from the building's facade. The portico is surmounted by a decorative parapet below which on all three sides of the portico is a shallow pent roof. Beneath the portico at its west end is a single concrete slab service station island which supports two old style hand operated, gravity flow, glass top gas pumps and related service station paraphenalia. Also, prominent on the facade is a recession at its south end forming an alcove six feet deep, twelve feet wide and the full height of the facade. Fenestration comprises sixteen frames, fourteen of which contain paired casement windows. The major fenestration element on the ground floor of the facade is a continuous band of windows reaching from the north edge of the elevation to the commencement of the alcove. The two northern most frames in this series display the only windows in the facade which vary from the casements described. They are single light replacements of the original mullioned casements. A one door transomed entry adjacent to the single light windows features a door with twelve lights, harmonizing with the style of the casements.

The south elevation is somewhat asymmetric as a consequence of the facade's alcove. Fenestration comprises four windows, a mixture of double-hung and casement types. Approximately a foot to eighteen inches of the elevation's east edge is shared with a story and one-half well house. A single story lean-to garage, post dating the main structure, abuts the east half of the elevation on the ground story.

The east elevation has been altered by the partial blocking of some windows and the recent addition of a deck, converting this elevation to a second floor entry. Fenestration comprises a mixture of casement and double-hung sash windows.

The north elevation features a single story lean-to addition reaching two-thirds of the way across the elevation from the east edge. Fenestration comprises five casement windows of the pattern previously described. The lean-to addition has three fixed windows of three over one pattern in its west elevation.

The story and a half gable ended well house previously mentioned is contemporary with the main building and constructed of identical materials. Its west elevation features a lean-to garage across the full width of its lower half, centered above which is a double-hung sash window of one-over-one pattern. The south elevation is plain with the exception of a single central double-hung sash window of one-over-one pattern. The east elevation features a similar window off-set to the south and a single door entry to the north. The north elevation was originally identical to the southern; however, the south end of the main building's rear deck now abuts this elevation about midway up the wall. The original window opening, as a consequence, is now blocked up.

The north, west and south elevations of the main building are painted a two tone white over green combination with white trim. The west and south elevations of the well house are solid green while the east and north elevations of it and the entire east elevation of the main structure are white.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1927 **Builder/Architect** C. Keeler

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The significance of Keeler's Korner lies in its status as a rare, surviving example of an early automobile service station. The building's intact condition greatly enhances its instructional value as a relic of the early years of America's "automobile culture."

When the city of Everett was established in 1892, Seattle, thirty miles to the south, was sufficiently well established to frustrate Everett's bid for commercial supremacy on Puget Sound. Nevertheless, strong commercial ties soon developed between the two cities. This, in turn, led to well patronized steam packet service uniting them. By the end of the 1890's, considerable freight and passenger service was also being provided by the rail links between the two cities. The next step in the evolutionary process occurred during the first decade of the twentieth century with the advent of interurban service. Rapid, inexpensive and independent of the weather, the interurban offered the additional advantage of numerous intermediate stops.

By the 1920's, the private automobile had emerged as a reliable and economically feasible means of transportation throughout the United States. The increasing use of the automobile soon manifested itself in the construction of more and better roads and the appearance of roadside enterprises catering to the specific requirements of the motorist. Locally, these forces eclipsed the earlier modes of transportation and resulted in the opening of the Seattle-Everett highway in 1927 (the present U.S. 99). This comprised an important element in the motor route connecting the United States and Canada.

Prompted by the heavy use of the new highway, Mr. Carl Keeler built a service station on it during its inaugural year. Located about half way between Seattle and Everett, Keeler's Korner was an oasis for motorists and soon became a noted local landmark. As a service station, Keeler's Korner provided the automobile driver with fuel, oil, tires, batteries, automotive accessories and mechanical service. However, the establishment also catered to residents of the local area with an inventory of hardware and groceries. Too, from its inception, the station served as a bus stop.

With the passage of time, Keeler's Korner became a local institution. It served as a convenient reference point in discussions about local distances and directions (as it still does). Its half-way position on a major thoroughfare between Everett and Seattle ensured its patronization by travelers. Additionally, Keeler's Korner served as an anchor for a small community serving recreationists bound for nearby Martha Lake and Silver Lake. Located to the south of the main building was a group of rental summer cabins. To the north was a roadhouse known as the "Willows".

Structurally, Keeler's Korner remains virtually intact. While the present commercial use is as an antique shop, the owner has made a conscientious effort to maintain the building's ambience. This has been accomplished by adorning it with artifacts of the early service station era. Attesting to this success are the many stories on Keeler's Korner which have been featured in the news media and the selection of the station as a background for numerous commercials and advertisements. The building serves a valuable instructional function as a commentary by as well as about the early years of America's "automobile culture".

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Mr. Jerry Chinn, June 4, 1980.

Interview with Mrs. Frank Keeler, June 10, 1980.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Edmonds East, Wash.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 0	5 53 0 00	52 9 96 16 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Legal description describes lot which includes building and its immediate grounds. See enclosed parcel map.

## 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 Brent Lambert, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Snohomish County Planning Dept. date 10/16/80

street & number 3001 Rockefeller Ave. telephone (206) 259-9324

city or town Everett state Washington 98201

# 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

title John E. Irons date 2/11/82

For HCFS use only	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
<u>Valerie Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register	<u>4/29/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register		

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration