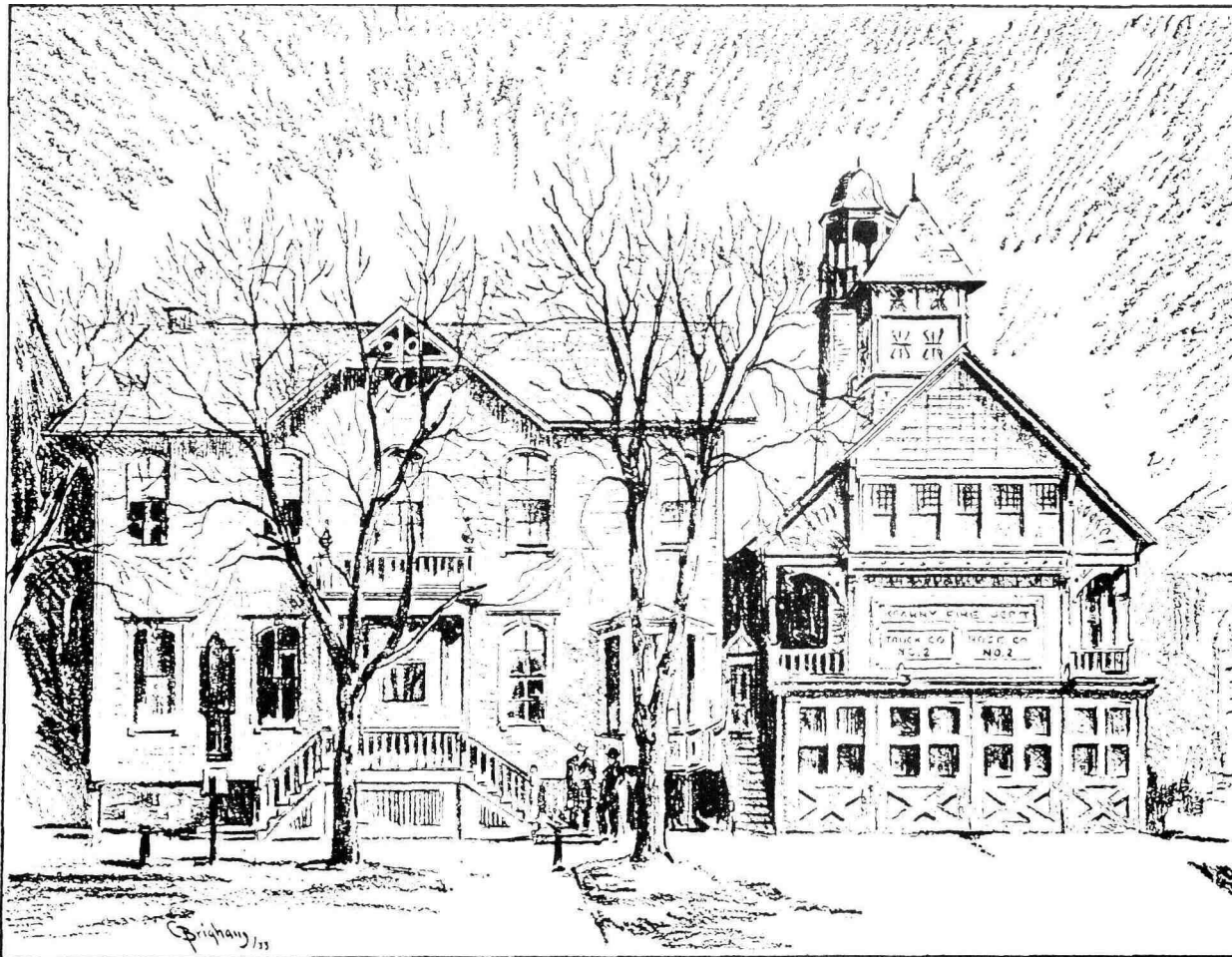


OLD TOWN HALL AND FIRE HOUSE



To Kearny's younger generation the old town hall and fire house mean nothing, but older citizens remember vividly the time when these buildings at the corner of Keamy and Woodland Avenues were the pride of the town. The hall was a rambling old frame structure. Built in the early '70s, it was used as a combination school house, court house and town hall. After the center of government was moved from the old Lodi Hotel in Harrison, this building was used until the present quarters of the municipal

government were built in 1909. In 1887 there was no fire house south of Quincy Avenue, and a committee petitioned the town fathers for fire protection. So, in that year an appropriation was made and Truck and Hose Company No. 2 was established. The bell in the tower was pulled by hand, and it was the ambition of every small boy in the neighborhood to swing on the rope which brought the doughty volunteers running to answer the alarm. The property eventually was purchased by the Knox Presbyterian Church.