

WESTERN ASSET VARIABLE RATE STRATEGIC FUND INC.

Form SC 13D

August 03, 2007

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549 SCHEDULE 13D

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Western Asset Variable Rate Strategic Fund Inc. (GFY)

(Name of Issuer) Common Stock

(Title of Class of Securities) 957667108

(CUSIP Number) George W. Karpus, President
Karpus Management, Inc.,
d/b/a Karpus Investment Management
183 Sully's Trail
Pittsford, New York 14534
(585) 586-4680

**(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person
Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)** August 3, 2007

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(Date of Event which Requires Filing of this Statement) If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition that is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of 240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f) or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box. 127

CUSIP No. 957667108

1. Names of Reporting Persons. I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only). Karpus Management, Inc., d/b/a Karpus Investment Management I.D. #16-1290558

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a) 127

(b) 32 32X

3. SEC Use Only

4. Source of Funds (See Instructions) AF

5. Check if Disclosure of Legal Proceedings Is Required Pursuant to Items 2(d) or 2(e) N/A

6. Citizenship or Place of Organization New York

Number of Shares Beneficially Owned by Each reporting Person With:

7. Sole Voting Power 416,990 **8. Shared Voting Power** N/A **9. Sole Dispositive Power** 416,990 **10. Shared Dispositive Power** N/A

11. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person 416,990

12. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (11) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions) N/A

13. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (11) 5.01%

14. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions) IA

Item 1. Security and Issuer.

Common Stock

Western Asset Variable Strategic Fund Inc.

c/o Legg Mason Partners Fund Advisors

125 Broad St.

New York, New York 10004 **Item 2. Identity and Background.** (a) Karpus Management, Inc., d/b/a Karpus Investment Management (“KIM”), George W. Karpus, President, Director, and controlling stockholder, Jo Ann Van Degrieff, Vice-President and Director, and Sophie Karpus, Director. (b) The address of KIM’s principal place of business and principal office is: 183 Sully’s Trail, Pittsford, New York 14534. (c) Principal business and occupation - Investment management for individuals, pension plans, profit sharing plans, corporations, endowments, trusts and others. (d) None of George W. Karpus, Jo Ann Van Degrieff or Sophie Karpus (the “Principals”) or KIM has been convicted in the past 5 years of any criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations). (e) During the last 5 years none of the Principals or KIM has been a party to a civil proceeding as a result of which any of them is subject to a judgment, decree, or final order enjoining future violations of or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, federal or state securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws. (f) Each of the Principals is a United States citizen. KIM is a New York corporation. **Item 3. Source and Amount of Funds or Other Considerations.** KIM, an independent investment advisor, has accumulated 416,990 shares of GFY on behalf of accounts that are managed by KIM (the “Accounts”) under limited powers of attorney, which represents 5.01% of the outstanding shares. All funds that have been utilized in making such purchases are from such Accounts. **Item 4. Purpose of Transaction.** KIM has purchased Shares for the Accounts for investment purposes. However, KIM reserves the right to contact management with regard to concerns that they have with respect to the Fund. This may include letters to the Board and/or other communications with Fund management. Being an independent registered investment advisor, with a specialty focus in closed end funds, the profile of GFY fit the investment guidelines for various Accounts. Shares have been acquired since March 3, 2006. **Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer.** (a) As of the date of this Report, KIM represents beneficial ownership of 416,990 shares or 5.01% of the outstanding shares. Karpus Investment Management, Inc. presently owns 1,100 shares. Karpus Investment Management Profit Sharing Plan purchased shares on May 23, 2006 at \$16.99 (775 shares) and on May 24, 2007 at \$17.00 (325 shares). None of the other principals of KIM presently own shares of GFY. (b) KIM has the sole power to dispose of and to vote all of such Shares under limited powers of attorney. (c) Open market purchases for the last 60 days for the Accounts. There have been no dispositions and no acquisitions, other than by such open market purchases:

Date Price Per Share

6/13/2007	(1,500)	\$17.42
6/27/2007	7,550	\$17.16
7/5/2007	1,750	\$17.47
7/9/2007	1,600	\$17.42
7/10/2007	5,850	\$17.42
7/11/2007	4,000	\$17.42
7/12/2007	890	\$17.44
7/13/2007	2,800	\$17.42
7/16/2007	600	\$17.43
7/17/2007	10,600	\$17.42
7/18/2007	14,900	\$17.36
7/19/2007	1,600	\$17.36
7/23/2007	7,600	\$17.33
7/24/2007	5,200	\$17.18
7/24/2007	(850)	\$17.15
7/26/2007	14,200	\$16.87
7/27/2007	1,400	\$16.60
7/27/2007	(4,400)	\$16.71
7/30/2007	200	\$16.74

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The Accounts have the right to receive all dividends from, and any proceeds from the sale of the Shares. None of the Accounts has an interest in Shares constituting more than 5% of the Shares outstanding. **Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings, or Relationships with Respect to Securities of the Issuer.** Except as described above, there are no contracts, arrangements, understandings or relationships of any kind among the Principals and KIM and between any of them and any other person with respect to any of the GFY securities. **Item 7. Materials to be Filed as Exhibits.** Not applicable.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete, and correct.

Karpus Management, Inc.

By: /s/

Name: Cody B. Bartlett Jr., CFA

Title: Investment Strategist

Date: August 3, 2007