

Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages



East side of Harrison Street between 21st and 22nd Streets.

Boundaries: East side of Harrison Street between 21st and 22nd Streets

Period of Significance: 1893

Eligibility: California Register of Historical Resources

Thematic Summary: This row of Queen Anne-style cottages, among the most impressive of the type in the Mission District, was built by Alfred Olsen (also spelled Olson), a carpenter/builder and resident of the eastern Mission District. The row represents the largest, most intact collection of Olsen buildings known to exist. The row also reflects the historic “working-class suburb” character of the eastern Mission District, particularly Harrison Street, which contained a railroad.

This historic district in the central Mission District, comprised of 6 contributors and 7 total properties, represent a typical row-house development by a late 19th-century commercial builder. The Queen Anne cottage was an extremely popular building type in San Francisco from the early 1890s, the period of construction for Olsen's cottages, until approximately 1910. Earlier Queen Anne designs typified exuberance, while later examples were more restrained in ornamentation.

*San Francisco Planning Department – South Mission Historic Resources Survey
Historic District Description*

In the 1850s and early 1860s, the historic district area was occupied by the Union Race Course. The half-mile racetrack was renovated in 1862 and renamed the Willows Trotting Park, but the increasing value of land in the Mission District proved more valuable than spectator ticket fees, and the final race was run on July 18, 1863. By 1864, the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad ran through the former racetrack on Harrison Street. Although the surrounding blocks developed into one of the Mission's earliest residential suburbs, spurred on by the extension of horse-drawn streetcar lines on Folsom and Howard Streets, the subject block and others like it along the railroad route of Harrison Street were slow to build out.



East side of Harrison Street between 21st and 22nd Streets, 1905. Northernmost Olsen cottage is visible at far right. (San Francisco Public Library Historical Photograph Collection Photo ID AAA-9981).

Olsen's cottages were the first and only buildings constructed on the east side of this block of Harrison Street – the “other” side of the tracks from the dense Folsom-Howard-Mission-Valencia Streets corridor – until after the turn of the century. The seven cottages on Harrison Street back up to another smaller, less intact grouping of Olson dwellings, including Stick/Eastlake-style and Queen Anne-style homes. Other small groupings of Olson-built dwellings exist in the

nearby eastern Mission District, but none as cohesive and well-preserved as the subject row of cottages.

Olson's identical cottages with mirrored plans include open porches featuring turned posts and arched brackets beneath spindle-work friezes. The gable ends also feature signature bands of fish-scale shingles crowned with floral buttons beneath paneled checkerboard details at the peaks. The better-preserved examples also include gable finials and wood steps with turned wooden balustrades.

In 1890, Alfred Olsen was listed in the City Directory as a carpenter living at nearby 1127 Hampshire Street, an extant cottage built by Gottlieb Knopf, another prolific commercial builder in the eastern Mission. By 1900, Alfred Olson was a contractor residing at 1541-½ Mission Street in the Inner Mission North.




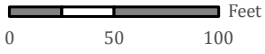
City & County of San Francisco Planning Department
 Eastern Neighborhoods Mission Area Plan
 South Mission Historic Resources Survey

OLSEN'S QUEEN ANNE COTTAGES HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Eligible for Listing in the California Register

10 Reference Number for Historic District

 Historic District Boundary

 Historic District Contributor



Printed: 3 September, 2010

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| son St | 828 Alabama St |
| son St | 830 Alabama St |
| son St | 832 Alabama St |
| ison St | 834 Alabama St |
| ison St | 836 Alabama St |
| ison St | 838 Alabama St |
| ison St | 884 Alabama St |
| Harrison St | 2860 21st St |
| Harrison St | 2858 21st St |
| Harrison St | 2854 21st St |
| Harrison St | 890 Alabama St |
| Harrison St | 4084 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 857 Alabama St | 854 Florida St |
| 861 Alabama St | 858 Florida St |
| 865-869 Alabama St | 864 Florida St |
| 871 Alabama St | 870 Florida St |
| 879 Alabama St | 876 Florida St |
| 2844 21st St | 2812-2816 21st St |
| 2832 21st St | 2818 21st St |
| 2824-2828 21st St | 2804 21st St |
| 4085 | |

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|-------------------|--------------|
| 811 Treat Ave | 2905 21st St |
| 835-845 Treat Ave | |
| 855 Treat Ave | 3613 |
| 867 Treat Ave | |
| 871 Treat Ave | |
| 877 Treat Ave | |
| 883 Treat Ave | 2930 22nd St |
| 2936-2946 22nd St | 2916 22nd St |
| 2934 22nd St | 2908 22nd St |
| | 2900 22nd St |
| | 15 Pu2 0062 |
| | 15 Pu2 0062 |

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|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2501 Harrison St | 2875 21st St | 2851 21st St |
| 2509-2515 Harrison St | 912 Alabama St | |
| 2517 Harrison St | 914 Alabama St | |
| 2519 Harrison St | 916 Alabama St | |
| 2521 Harrison St | 918 Alabama St | |
| 2523 Harrison St | 920 Alabama St | |
| 2525 Harrison St | 922 Alabama St | 4147 |
| 2527 Harrison St | 926 Alabama St | |
| 2529 Harrison St | 928 Alabama St | |
| 2531 Harrison St | 930 Alabama St | |
| 2573 Harrison St | 938 Alabama St | |
| 2577 Harrison St | | |
| 2896-2898 22nd St | 2850 22nd St | 2852-2856 22nd St |
| 2880 22nd St | 2858 22nd St | 2862 22nd St |
| 2870-2872 22nd St | 2866 22nd St | 2870-2872 22nd St |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 901 Alabama St | 2825 21st St |
| 923 Alabama St | |
| 925 Alabama St | |
| 927-935 Alabama St | |
| 937 Alabama St | |
| 943 Alabama St | |
| 945 Alabama St | |
| 951 Alabama St | 4146 |
| 957 Alabama St | |
| 963 Alabama St | |
| 965 Alabama St | |
| 971 Alabama St | |
| 979 Alabama St | |
| 2846 22nd St | 2818-2822 22nd St |
| 2836 22nd St | 2824 22nd St |
| 2830 22nd St | 2874 22nd St |

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| 3613 |
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| 4148 |
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| 4149 |
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San Francisco Planning Department - South Mission Historic Resource Survey
 Property Information Catalog (sorted by Street Address)

| Assessor Block-Lot | Address (Low #) | Address (High #) | Street | Attribute Code/Description 1 | Attribute Code/Description 2 | Year Built | Year Built Source | Primary Record (DPR 532A) | Architectural Style 1 | Architectural Style 2 | Historic District | CHRSC | Listing Type | Resource Eligibility | Notes |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 4147-030 | 2517 | 2517 | HARRISON ST | HP2. Single Family Property | | 1893 | SFPUC water tap | Yes | Queen Anne | | Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages | 3CB | Individual & Contributor | California Register | Builder A. Olsen. See SFPL Historical Photo AAA-9981 |
| 4147-029 | 2519 | 2519 | HARRISON ST | HP2. Single Family Property | | 1893 | SFPUC water tap | Yes | Queen Anne | | Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages | 3CB | Individual & Contributor | California Register | Builder A. Olsen |
| 4147-028 | 2521 | 2521 | HARRISON ST | HP2. Single Family Property | | 1893 | SFPUC water tap | No | Queen Anne | | Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages | 6L | none | determined not eligible for listing | Builder A. Olsen |
| 4147-027 | 2523 | 2523 | HARRISON ST | HP2. Single Family Property | | 1893 | SFPUC water tap | Yes | Queen Anne | | Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages | 3CD | Contributor | California Register | Builder A. Olsen |
| 4147-026 | 2525 | 2525 | HARRISON ST | HP2. Single Family Property | | 1893 | SFPUC water tap | Yes | Queen Anne | | Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages | 3CD | Contributor | California Register | Builder A. Olsen |
| 4147-025 | 2527 | 2527 | HARRISON ST | HP2. Single Family Property | | 1893 | SFPUC water tap | Yes | Queen Anne | | Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages | 3CB | Individual & Contributor | California Register | Builder A. Olsen |
| 4147-024 | 2529 | 2529 | HARRISON ST | HP2. Single Family Property | | 1893 | SFPUC water tap | Yes | Queen Anne | | Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages | 3CB | Individual & Contributor | California Register | Builder A. Olsen |