

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 1 1984
date entered AUG 30 1984

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

1. Name

historic Louis & Ellen Olson Home ~~Home~~ House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1513 Griffin Avenue not for publication

city, town Enumclaw vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county King code 033

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. & Mrs. Kirt M. Decker

street & number 1513 Griffin Avenue

city, town Enumclaw vicinity of state Washington 98022

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. 600 King County Administration Building

street & number 500 Fourth Avenue

city, town Seattle state Washington 98104

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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 Olson House is a large two and one-half story wood frame home located on a corner lot in the small town of Enumclaw. Though the business district is only two blocks to the east, the area surrounding the home is primarily residential. Stylistically, the exterior of the building could be described in the regional terminology as a "classic box." The home was expanded in the 1920's, but exterior finishes imitated the original. However, many rooms on the interior of the building were remodeled at that time.

The Olson Home is located at the corner of Griffin Avenue and Marion Street. The building's front facade faces southwest toward Griffin Avenue, but is deeply recessed from the street on its large lot. Surrounding the home are mature manicured plantings including a holly hedge along Marion Street. A number of trees are planted around the property. At the northern corner of the lot is a four car garage. Built in 1938, the garage has been altered and does not contribute to the significance of the property.

When erected in 1905, the Olson Home was largely rectangular with a few projecting bays. A hip roof with two dormers covered the structure. This is typical of Washington State "classic boxes." A popular regional building mode, these two-story boxy homes were often detailed with classical elements, or sometimes with Islamic or oriental motifs. The classic box building mode is similar to that type of home known nationally as "American Four-Squares," but classic boxes are generally more substantial and ornamental. In the 1920's, the building was enlarged and hip roof extensions were added to the southeast and northeast facades. The building still maintains many of its classic box features, though its symmetry was impaired by the additions.

The lumber for the home was hand-picked by Mr. Olson to be free of knots with clear grain. Measuring approximately 42 feet by 29 feet, the house has a raised concrete foundation and full basement. The first floor walls are sheathed in clapboards and between the first and second floors is a thin belt course of dentil-like wooden moldings. The second floor is stuccoed with a pebble finish. The shingled hip roof features a small hipped dormer on the south elevation to let air and light into the attic. The original chimneys pierce the roof on the east and west sides. A hip roof verandah with wide eaves extends the length of the first floor on the front facade. The verandah is detailed with carved, exposed rafter rails and five square posts. Between the posts is a solid clapboard railing. The post capitals are carved and ornamented with carved scrolled brackets. The total effect of this detailing is rather Islamic. Originally, the verandah extended around the corner of the building to the Marion Avenue facade, but this section was enclosed in the 1920's and a textile brick chimney was added in the southeast side.

The windows on the Olson Home are varied. The south facade has a large double-hung sash window with an elaborated leaded upper panel over a single lower pane. The facade also has its original wood and glass door. French doors were also installed when the verandah was enclosed. The windows throughout the second floor are also double-hung with single lower panes; but the upper panels have curved mullions that echo the exoticism of the verandah. Large multipaned casement windows were placed on the addition over the enclosed porch.

The bay window on the Marion Street facade has casement windows with leaded glass transoms. Other windows in the home include single pane and multipane fixed windows and single pane double-hung sash. Round-arch stained glass windows illuminate the stairwell that projects from the northwest facade. On the rear façade is a small porch with square

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posts and solid clapboard rail. It lacks the more flamboyant touches of the porch on the front facade. Also on the rear facade is a recent metal frame window which lights the kitchen.

When the home was enlarged in the 1920's the interior was also extensively remodeled. Consequently, decorative features from two distinct periods are to be found. Originally erected in what was referred to as a "Colonial" style by a local newspaper, the building featured wainscoting and beamed ceilings, which have been removed. Surviving elements include oak floors, stained "grained" doors, the general room arrangement, and the stairway, whose landing is illuminated by original stained glass windows.

Every main room on the first and second floors was remodeled with an ornately plastered frieze. The living room features a delicate pattern of may apple leaves and flowers, while the dining room with its curved bay displays classical moldings and bunches of grapes. The ceiling of this room also has plaster moldings in a bundled reed motif. Other rooms feature a variety of molding, either floral or classical. The continental elegance of these rooms reflects popular taste in interior design during the 1920's.

In the living room, sliding double doors have been replaced by French doors. This room also features a cast-stone mantle with classical human figures. The library has built-in bookcases detailed with pilasters and capped with Tudor arches. These bookcases flank a large, but rather plain, Colonial Revival mantle.

One of the most interesting features of the home are the tiled bathrooms, which appear to have also been redone in the 1920s. In two of these bathrooms, small tiles cover the floor while larger pastel colored tiles cover the walls. Curved tiles also form window and door surrounds. Built-in tile soap dishes, towel racks, and the cornice complete the composition. Porcelain sinks set on pedestals may date to the original construction, but the enameled tubs were probably installed in the 1920's.

The sleeping porch on the second floor of the rear of the house was created during the enlargement. Its single sash windows can be opened by pushing them down into the wall cavity below. The attic is finished in clear grain fir on the floor, ceiling, and walls.

Recent alterations to the home include the modernization of the kitchen and the addition of a sauna in the basement.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905 **Builder/Architect** W.C. Claude House, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Louis and Ellen Olson House is one of the most prestigious homes in the town of Enumclaw. The Olsons were major figures in the operation of the local White River Sawmill, the area's largest industrial employer. The building reflects the prominence of this family and its distinctive design and fine interior detailing have made the home one of Enumclaw's showplaces.

The first sawmill in Enumclaw was built in 1892, but was substantially damaged in a fire four years later. In 1897, the mill was bought at a receiver's sale by Louis Olson, Alexander Turbull, Charles M. Hanson, and Hanson's sons A.G., Charles, and Frank. The reconstructed mill was named the White River Lumber and Shingle Company and began production in the fall of 1897.

Olson's relationship with the Hanson's actually began many years before the purchase of the mill. The Hansons and Olson both lived in the same small Swedish village before they immigrated to America. Charles Hanson ran a sawmill in the old village and the Hanson boys and Olson were playmates. The Olsons and Hansons left Sweden at different times, but Louis Olson located Frank Hanson in 1890 in Eddyville, about fifteen miles from Enumclaw. Frank Hanson hired Olson to work in the Eddyville mill, and within seven years, the partnership of Olson and the Hansons led to the creation of the White River Lumber and Shingle Company. Initially, Louis Olson became the general foreman of one of the firm's field mills called Camp Ellenson. Camp Ellenson was named for C.M. Hanson's daughter Ellen, the future Mrs. Louis Olson. Louis Olson became the president of the company in 1920 and served in that position until 1930. The company was purchased by Weyerhaeuser at that time but Olson remained general manager at the mill until his retirement. The mill itself is still in operation.

The economic base of Enumclaw has been its lumber industry and the growth of the community has largely paralleled the growth of the White River Lumber Company. Louis Olson and A.G. Hanson became the dominant figures in the company and their management policies prevented Enumclaw from becoming a typical "company town." Enumclaw was looked upon as a model of progressive independence among so-called "mill towns" which often were totally dependent on company-owned stores and houses. Olson and A.G. Hanson urged the development of the Enumclaw business center and advocated ownership of homes by the employees.

Louis Olson and the Hansons spent a lifetime in developing the mill. It was a matter of pride with the officers of the company that its labor turnover was extremely low. There were men working for the firm who had been with the organization since it started, and scores of employees had been with the firm for more than a quarter of a century. This stable work force allowed the mill to manufacture high quality lumber products with great efficiency. It also helped to provide Enumclaw with a stable and secure industrial base. The Olson and Hanson homes that survive in Enumclaw reflect the accomplishments of these families that did so much for the economic development of the community.

Louis Olson married Ellen Hanson in 1905 and they moved into a new home at the corner of Marrion and Griffin. A contemporary newspaper account stated that "nothing has been

9. Major Bibliographical References

Enumclaw Courier Herald, November 17, 1985. Weyerhaeuser Archives, Federal Way.
 Hall, Nancy Irene, In the Shadow of the Mountain, Courier Herald Publishing, Enumclaw,
 1983. Enumclaw Public Library.
 Poppleton, Louise Ross, There is Only One Enumclaw, self-published, Enumclaw, 1981.
 Enumclaw Public Library.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Enumclaw

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification
 the Plat of Enumclaw.

Lots 1 through 8, Block 3, Blake's Addition to

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

state n/a code county code

state n/a code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joanne Decker Edited by Mark L. Brack
 Architectural Historian
 organization Archaeology & Hist. Pres.
 date December 31, 1983
 street & number 1513 Griffin Avenue telephone (206) 825-4622
 city or town Enumclaw state Washington 98022

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Joanne Decker*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 24, 1984

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

Entered in the National Register date 8/30/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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spared to make this a thoroughly and comfortable and elegant house" (Enumclaw Courier Herald, November 17, 1985). This reference also noted that the "general style and arrangement was suggested by A.G. Hanson after visiting many handsome residences in various parts of the state. The building was also wired for electricity, though it was not yet available in town.

Nearly all of the homes in Enumclaw are rather modest, usually one or one and one-half stories in height. Many of these buildings can be classified as bungalows and date from the first two decades of the century. A few late Victorian homes in the town do survive which are comparable in scale to the Olson House. One of these is Charles Hanson's home, a Queen Anne dwelling (now converted into apartments) directly across Griffen Avenue from the Olson home. Immediately to the northwest of the Olson building is the home of Selma Smith, Ellen Olson's sister. This home is also a "classic box," and was erected in 1905 by the same contractor.

A short distance to the west on Griffin Avenue is the A.G. Hanson home, which was built in 1923. This fine building is designed in the Colonial Revival Style and exhibits an abundance of ornamentation that is nearly unique in the community. While the architectural significance of any of these homes would not be as great in Washington's larger cities, the Olson and Hanson buildings are probably the finest early twentieth century residential structures remaining in the town of Enumclaw.

The 1920's interior alterations to the Olson home are also quite significant. Olson reportedly imported European craftsmen to execute the plaster ceilings. While out of character with the interior features usually associated with a "classic box," the remodelings were competently handled and resulted in some very lovely rooms that are typical of certain trends in interior design during this period. These rooms and those of the A.G. Hanson home remain Enumclaw's best example of that particular aesthetic.