

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Minnesota
COUNTY:	Hennepin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 31 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Olson, Floyd B., House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Olson, Floyd B., House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1914 West 49th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Minneapolis

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fifth

STATE Minnesota	CODE 22	COUNTY: Hennepin	CODE 053
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Helweg

STREET AND NUMBER:
1914 West 49th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Minneapolis

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hennepin County Courthouse - Registrar of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
between Third and Fourth Avenues South and Fourth and Fifth Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Minneapolis

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 5/15/74

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Minnesota Historical Society

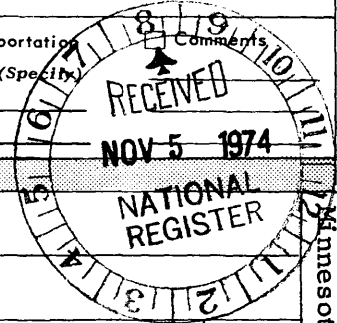
STREET AND NUMBER:
690 Cedar Street

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Paul

STATE:
Minnesota

CODE:
22

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Minnesota
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Floyd B. Olson House, located at 1914 West 49th Street, Minneapolis was built in 1922. This one and one half story house is an example of the bungaloid design that was popular in the 1920s. The exterior of the house is constructed of red brick and stucco with mock half timber gable decoration. The interior of the house contains six rooms and a finished basement which was used by Olson and his associates for the purpose of holding political and staff meetings.

The house is in an excellent state of preservation and has not been altered since its construction.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1922-1936**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The political career of Floyd B. Olson marks one of the most interesting and remarkable periods of Minnesota history. He is revered in Minnesota as "the crusader for social justice." Nationwide, Olson was one of the most formidable leaders of the 1930s. At the time of his death, at the age of forty five, he had already served ten years as Hennepin County attorney, won three terms as governor of Minnesota, and made careful preparations to campaign for election to the United States senate. His importance in Minnesota political history lies in the fact that he arrested the disintegration of the reform movement in the 1920s and 30s and organized it into a viable and successful political party -- the Farmer-Labor party.

Olson first came upon the political scene in Minnesota as a Democrat, unsuccessfully seeking election to congress from the 5th Minnesota district in 1918 and 1920. With the aid of influential Minneapolis Republicans he secured an appointment as assistant county attorney of Hennepin County in 1919 and 1920. He was elected to full terms as county attorney in 1922 and 1926.

During this period he joined in the organization of the Minnesota Farmer-Labor Association, an outgrowth of the Nonpartisan League. Olson remodeled the old Nonpartisan League into a militant and successful Farmer-Labor party and used it as a vehicle for his political ambitions.

In 1924 Olson became the first Farmer-Laborite to enter the Minnesota gubernatorial race. Although Olson ran strongly he lost the election to Theodore Christianson by 43,000 votes. He was handicapped in this election due to the fact that he was virtually unknown to the farmer wing of the reform movement, he espoused political radicalism, and he took ambiguous stands on many issues.

After this defeat Olson immediately set about the task of reorganizing the reform movement. He advocated such wide-spread reforms as a union of "all persons in agriculture and other useful industry to promote the economic welfare of the wealth producers", and the abolition of private monopolistic privilege and its replacement by a system of public ownership to increase the total wealth of society and abolish unemployment. Olson took a place on the executive committee of the Farmer-Labor Association and agreed to participate in organizational work -- in reality he was the sole figure who molded the Farmer-Labor party into the most successful third party in American political history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Christianson, Theodore, Minnesota: A History of the State and its People, (Minneapolis:1951).

Mayer, G. H., The Political Career of Floyd B. Olson, (Chicago:1935).

Floyd B. Olson Papers, Minnesota Historical Society Collections.

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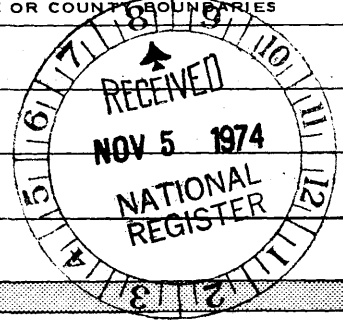
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 54' 52"	93° 18' 14"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Lynne Van Brocklin and Charles Nelson

ORGANIZATION: Minnesota Historical Society DATE: 26 August 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Building 25, Fort Snelling

CITY OR TOWN: St. Paul STATE: Minnesota CODE: 22

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Russell W. Fridley
 Russell W. Fridley, Director

Title Minnesota Historical Society

Date October 31, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

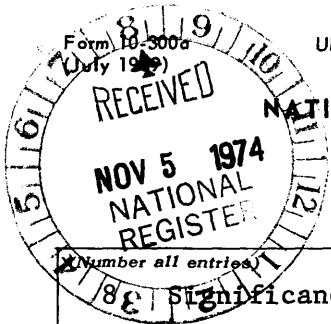
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date DEC 31 1974

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 31 1974



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Minnesota	
COUNTY	Hennepin	
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		DEC 31 1974

8c Significance

In 1930, Olson ran for governor on the Farmer-Labor ticket and defeated his Republican opponent by a large majority of the votes. Never before had a Republican candidate been so roundly defeated in Minnesota. Those who voted for him voiced a protest against the accumulating misfortunes caused by depression.

Olson's first administration was conservative -- with a Republican legislature there was little chance of getting controversial measures passed by his opponents. With his reelection in 1932, however, Olson effected a political alliance with Franklin D. Roosevelt, and thereafter his policies reflected those of the New Deal.

The deepening depression created a general spirit of desperation in rural areas; farmers began to adopt some of the tactics of trade unions. This radical drift of popular sentiment was most congenial to Olson; he edged slowly leftward in order to extend the functions of government for the benefit of the underprivileged.

During his second term as governor Olson was primarily responsible for the suspension of mortgage payments -- which provided a measure of relief until the federal government could institute a large scale program for agriculture. He approved a cluster of labor bills which prohibited yellow-dog contracts, limited women on industrial jobs to a fifty-four hour week, and outlawed the use of injunctions in labor disputes. Constructive work was done in the field of conservation. Besides conservation, labor, and tax legislation Olson effected a strengthening of the securities law and a beginning of statewide old age pensions.

The fall of 1933 saw the emergence of Olson as a national figure. His exposition of radicalism, his dramatic threat to invoke martial law to relieve destitution, his participation in a delegation of northwestern governors demanding agricultural price relief in Washington, and his support and constructive criticism of the New Deal recovery program all attracted nationwide notice.

Olson won a second reelection in 1934. The most constructive work accomplished during his third term as governor was in the field of labor. In 1935 he played a major role as mediator in a number of strikes. The successful strikes of 1935 climaxed Olson's long fight for collective bargaining.

On August 22, 1936 Olson died at the Mayo Clinic of pancreatic cancer. After a moving display of public grief he was buried in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis. Olson's death marked the apex of Farmer-Labor power. Thereafter, the party declined rapidly as an independent political force.