

1855

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Olsen, Lena House
other names/site number Smith, Norma House

2. Location

street & number 706 Buena Vista
city, town Pascagoula
state Mississippi code MS county Jackson code 59 zip code 39567

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [x] private, [ ] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal
Category of Property: [x] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [ ] structure, [ ] object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 1 buildings, 1 sites, 1 structures, 1 objects, Total 1

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Pascagoula, MS

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [x] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Kenneth A. D. Pool, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: Oct. 24, 1991

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[x] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper: Guy M. Lapley
Date of Action: 12/20/91

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lena Olsen house faces west on Buena Vista Street. Set towards the front and to the north, there is a generous back yard with an outbuilding about two-thirds back from the front and one-third in from the south property line. There is one tree to the northwest corner, some foundation shrubs, and some young trees in the back, but the landscaping is not significant.

A one and a half story frame house, with modern shingle roof, weatherboarded, with corner boards, a water table and small skirt fascia, it sits on brick piers about two feet above grade on a rather level site. The house is a gable-ended structure, with a large front cross gable out over the front porch, and projecting back along the east side, into a back wing about half the width of the main front mass, and gable-ended on the east end.

Thin boxed verges project about a foot from the walls. At the front and along the eaves of the roofs, a simple boxing projects out from the porch soffit beam and from the fascia on the walls of the house, this boxing running the length of the front porch. On the sides, the eaves run onto the house walls just enough to receive the verges, and then return on themselves. The peaks of the verges are decorated with a small fan-like ornament of jigsaw and spindles.

Just below the peak of both south and west gables, two small rectangular ventilators are set into the weatherboards. On the west, front gable there are placed symmetrically two six-over-six sash, extending down to attic floor level. The top trim board is tapered, with a molding following the taper, in the Greek Revival mode.

The front gable, which suggests the form of a slightly steep-pitching, classical pediment, extends most of the front width of the house and is supported by a three-bay front porch, the posts of which are square-sectioned wood turned above the bottom length, which supports a handrail with three turned balusters, and below the top length, which supports on each side a fan-like ornament of jigsaw and turnings. At the walls of the house, posts are applied on turned posts set to the walls, the weatherboards butting them. Access to the porch is up about three feet on wood steps the width of the center porch bay; there are later simple iron railings at each end of the steps.

The openings on the front porch are centered about the front door frame of crossette design with full-length mullions on each side of a single-acting door and a three-light transom. On each side of the mullions are three-light-over-panel side light sash.

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Located symmetrically to each side of the entrance door are two full-length, six-over-nine double-hung windows with louvered blinds.

The gable-end openings are a pair of double-hung sash at the attic level and a pair on the first floor, both centered on the peak, but the first floor openings are wider apart. The first floor opening towards the southeast corner has a pair of blinds.

In plan, the Olsen residence is a center-hall cottage. The stairs to the half-story have Italianate, turned wood banisters and a replacement square newel post. The north pair of rooms are separated by a pair of sliding pocket doors. The west room is the living room, and the east the dining room, which has a centerpiece in the ceiling. On the south side of the hall are a pair of bedrooms. Across the rear is the kitchen with its exposed wood walls, a bathroom, bedroom, and open porch. Walls are wood; doors are four-panel with simple, flat-board trim and square backband. The interior historic fabric of this cottage is intact.

Off the southeast corner of the house is a non-contributing garage with gable roof, wood siding, asphalt shingled shallow gable roof, and various types of openings. There is space for one car and ample storage space.

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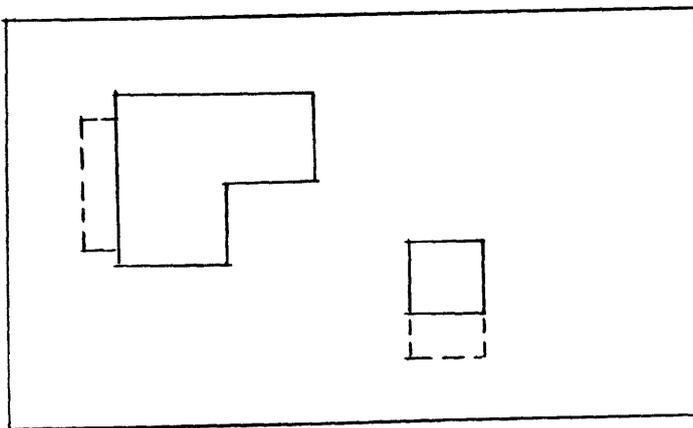
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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

For Bibliography See Context Statement.

N/A  See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	6
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3	5	0	9	7	5
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3	3	5	7	9	2	5
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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N/A  See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

BK 3, N 100' of Lot 40 E Baptiste TR S/D E/S Buena Vista DB 133-458, 350-87  
40A, 40B M866.16      SEC 8-8-6

N/A  See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the property.

N/A  See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Robert J. Cangelosi, Jr., Architect  
organization Koch and Wilson Architects, A Prof. Corp. date 3 June 1991  
street & number 1100 Jackson Avenue telephone 504/581-7023  
city or town New Orleans state LA zip code 70130

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)    N/A  A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1891  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1891  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Lena Olsen residence is architecturally significant within the context of Pascagoula's residential elements. It exhibits a design that was prevalent during a period of rapid growth in Pascagoula as a result of the flourishing port and the prospering lumber, shipbuilding, and resort industries (see cover nomination). More specifically, the house serves as a tangible link to the Golden Age of the resort community of "East Pascagoula." It is representative of a well-maintained middle-class house, made possible by a flourishing economy.

The Eastlake details of the porch are combined with Greek Revival details of the entrance and windows. The lingering Greek details are representative of a prevalent trend in Pascagoula's architectural legacy (see cover nomination). With just a few modifications to the porch details, this residence could easily be classified as Greek Revival. The plan and massing of this center-hall cottage are relatively simple, also in keeping with the Greek Revival, and very similar to the Italianate styled 1403 Washington Avenue (1885). Frame residences are the norm in Pascagoula, a tribute to its once-flourishing lumber trade.

This part of East Pascagoula was subdivided by Eugenia Baptiste in 1883. Baptiste sold the property to Martin Freeman, who sold it to Lena Olsen in 1904; however, Olsen was assessed for the house and lot as early as 1892.