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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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 401 Church Street N/A not for publication

city or town Sandpoint N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Bonner code 017 zip code 83864

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth Reid 3 May 01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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): _____

Edson H. Beall 5/30/01
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Name of Property

Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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 19th AND EARLY 20th

CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS:

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

WOOD: shingle

roof METAL: Aluminum

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1915

Significant Dates

1915

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- Other State agency
- 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
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Bonner County Historical Society

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Name of Property

Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/3/3/3/1/0 5/3/4/6/6/2/0 B 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1 D 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1/1

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lot 1, Block 9, Farmin's Addition to Sandpoint

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include all the property historically associated with the Charles A. and Mary Olson House.

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy F. Renk

organization Flume Creek Historical Services date 20 February 2001

street & number 2385 Sunnyside Road telephone (208) 263-7697

city or town Sandpoint state ID zip code 83864

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Vernon A. Barber and Heather Ann Hellier

street & number 401 Church Street telephone 208-255-7094

city or town Sandpoint state ID zip code 83864

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

Summary. The Charles A. and Mary Olson House, built in 1915, is a frame Craftsman-style bungalow standing one-and-a-half stories in height. The rectangular plan, broken by a bay window on the east side, includes an inset front porch. Wide gabled dormers break the sides of the gable roof. Both weatherboard and shingles provide textural variations to the walls. The interior, while remodeled, retains the original fireplace and woodwork typical of the Craftsman style. The house is set on a corner lot in an older residential neighborhood that is in transition into a commercial and professional district. The house retains its original landscaping of lawn and trees on the street facades. The original garage, however, has been replaced with a newer one that is compatible in scale. The house is in excellent condition and retains good integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Description. The Olson House sits at the edge of the gradually expanding business district. Almost all of the nearby historic homes have been converted to commercial or professional uses. Like its neighbors, the Olson House was remodeled for offices and has housed different businesses on the main floor since the late 1970s. The encroachment of the business district has brought newer buildings, including the 1967 post office, to the intersection of Church and Fourth streets. The Olson House sits on the southwest corner, facing north; a former church, now community meeting hall, is on the northwest corner; the post office is on the northeast corner; and a modest one-story office building is on the southeast corner. Despite the intrusion of newer buildings, the south side of the 400 block of Church Street retains its historic houses, lawns, trees, and sidewalks, helping to preserve the historic setting.

There is a full basement with concrete walls and floor under the Olson House; foundation walls contain small windows to provide light and ventilation to the basement area. Access to the basement was originally through an outside entry on the south wall; an interior entrance from the original kitchen now offers an alternative access at the south end.

The house has a simple rectangular plan, measuring 51 feet by approximately 29 feet. On the exterior, the frame walls are clad with weatherboard siding on the first story up to a line above the window lintel trim. From that point, shingle siding continues up to the eaves on the sides and covers the gable ends and dormers. Two contrasting paint colors emphasize this difference in textures.

The symmetrical facade facing Church Street contains an inset porch that spans the width. A lattice screens the porch piers and open area beneath. Low walls with scuppers encircle the porch, with square columns supporting the overhanging gable end. As originally designed, both the front and back porches had brackets trimming the openings. Prior to 1925, however, the brackets were removed and the openings enclosed with one-over-one, double-hung sash windows; there are three windows on each side of the center door and two on each side wall. The railing on the front steps was originally a solid wooden wall; this has been replaced with a simple, inset wooden railing, reducing the visual impact of the steps.

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Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

The porch shelters the main wooden entry door with a large rectangular window accented with beveled edges. The walls on either side of this door contain a large fixed pane window flanked by one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The gable end above the porch contains a row of four three-over-one, double-hung windows.

The east side of the house, facing Fourth Avenue, is marked by a simple bay window in the first-floor dining room. Windows in the bay feature large, fixed lower panes topped with narrow lights. A gabled dormer, with a triple set of three-over-one, double-hung sash, is set into the roof above the bay window. The living room has a large, fixed-pane window with narrow light above, while the kitchen features a pair of one-over-one, double-hung sash. The west wall is broken by several small windows set high in the walls, while the upper floor contains a dormer identical to that on the eastern slope. In addition, there is a set of concrete steps and a door on the west wall to provide outside access to the upstairs rooms; this entry was added after the 1940s. The south wall contains a door that led from the original kitchen onto the back porch. Another door at ground level provides access to the basement.

The house is topped with a front-facing gable roof. Eaves of both the main gable and dormers are supported by knee braces. Historic photos show the rafter ends exposed on the long sides of the house. At some point, however, these have been modified with a fascia board. The roof is clad with aluminum shingles, replacing the original wooden ones.

The first-floor interior contains a large living room spanning the width of the house; a large dining room, now divided into separate offices; a kitchen, now converted into a bedroom; and a bedroom with small bathroom. The upstairs, reached by both the outside entrance and a doorway off the living room, contains three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a large open landing.

Despite recent remodeling, the Olson House retains much of its original interior. The living room features a red brick fireplace with a green and maroon tile hearth at the west end. The fireplace is topped with a wooden mantle with dentils. A window seat completes the corner by the fireplace. The living room ceiling has open wooden beams stained dark. Pairs of truncated wooden columns atop a low wall divide the living room, separating the inglenook from the rest of the room. Identical columns and wall flank the entry to the dining room. Another window seat fits into the bay in the dining room. Floors throughout the house are vertical grain fir. Five-panel doors predominate. The original trim includes wide baseboards and simple window and door trim.

The Olson House has been altered at various times over the years. Both porches, originally open, were enclosed by 1925. This modification, practical for the cold weather of northern Idaho, does not detract from the original design and has achieved historical significance after more than 75 years. The removal of the rear porch during the late 1970s is a more serious loss

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Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

to the home's integrity, but the current owners plan to reconstruct the porch to return the house to the original plan. In addition, they plan to remove the office partitions from the original dining room to return the interior to its original configuration.

The current two-car garage is a simple frame building set on a concrete foundation in the approximate location of the original garage. The walls are clad with weatherboard painted to match the main house. The end facing the alley contains a wide metal garage door and a shallow gable roof tops the structure. The garage is a non-contributing element of the nomination due to its recent construction in the mid-1980s.

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Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

The Charles A. and Mary Olson House is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent representative of the Craftsman bungalow in Sandpoint, Idaho. It contains many of the important hallmarks of this style including a gabled roof with wide, unboxed eaves; decorative knee braces supporting gables; windows with multiple upper lights; wood shingle finish on upper walls and gables; and a full-width front porch. While the Olson house is larger than average for homes from this period, its relatively modest design is typical for Sandpoint, a working class town that depended on the timber industry for major employment until recent years. Other neighborhoods dating from the same time period include a mix of styles, with simple vernacular frame homes predominating. In houses with readily identifiable styles, American Colonial Revival style predominates, followed by Craftsman bungalows. Most have been remodeled over the years, with a resulting loss of design integrity.

Background History:

The lot at the corner of Church Street and Fourth Avenue contained a house by at least January 1909. The small, one-story frame house, topped with hip roof, faced Church Street, while a cluster of three small frame sheds lined the southeastern corner of the lot. Charles A. Olson purchased the lot in November 1914. It is not clear from the deed whether or not any buildings were included in the purchase price.¹

Charles and Mary Olson built their new house during 1915, completing it by at least December of that year.² Loose boards found in the basement, including a baseboard matching those of the main house, were stamped with the name of H. L. Mountjoy, suggesting that he was the architect/builder. Henry L. Mountjoy was a locally well-known architect during this period who designed private homes as well as a number of public buildings. He arrived in Sandpoint in 1903 and began practice soon after, working initially in partnership with architect S. Willis Foster until Foster's death in 1924. His public commissions in Sandpoint include the Southmayd School (1908), the Farmin Building (1909) and the Humbird (later renamed Lincoln) School (1909). In addition, he designed at least seven other schools in Bonner County between 1909 and 1937.³

Both Charles and Mary Olson immigrated to the United States from Sweden, settling first in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, before moving to Sandpoint in 1903. Olson owned and operated the White Swan bar and the Wisconsin Hotel for several years. He purchased the hotel in December 1910 and sold it in July 1913, more than doubling his money in the transaction. There is no record of his employment after this date.⁴

Olson may have been able to live off his investments, however. He began investing by August 1903 and continued for many years, often making several transactions in one year. His holdings included buildings and lots in the downtown business section of Sandpoint; residential lots; timbered acreage in the surrounding region; and interest in a number of mining claims in the

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Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

Moyie-Yakt mining district in the Idaho Panhandle. In addition, Olson patented 160 acres northwest of Sandpoint under the Land Act of April 24, 1820.⁵

Charles Olson deeded the house on Church Street to his wife, Mary, in December 1928. Although his obituary noted that he had moved to nearby Hope, Idaho, in 1926, Sandpoint city directories continued to list him living on Church Street at least until 1932. The Olsons were separated at the time of his death in 1937, when he was living in Hope. Mary Olson sold the house in 1935, but she continued to live in Sandpoint until her death in 1950.⁶

The Craftsman Bungalow:

With the rise of the American suburb, at the turn of the twentieth century, came a building boom of small, single-family homes. The automobile made the suburban home a possibility for vast numbers of people, necessitating the construction of affordable homes. The bungalow, sometimes referred to as the craftsman bungalow, fit the bill perfectly. Bungalow neighborhoods, filled with small and affordable homes, sprang up in cities all over the U.S. The style gained widespread popularity through publications such as *Craftsman* magazine, published in the early years of the century by designer Gustav Stickley. But plans could be had in other, more mainstream periodicals as well, such as *Ladies Home Journal*; or home kits could be purchased through mail order companies such as Sears.⁷ In the western United States, where many towns - such as Sandpoint - were just beginning to boom, the bungalow also nicely fit the bill as an affordable home that could be built quickly in high growth areas.

Characteristics of the style include: one-and-a-half-story houses, usually with a full-length front porch; gable roofs with wide, overhanging eaves; exposed rafter ends; dormer windows; decorative brackets; multipaned-over-one, double-hung sash windows; and the use of naturalistic materials. Examples of the bungalow can range from very simple homes with few of the decorative embellishments, to elaborate houses with great attention to the hallmarks of the style.

The Charles A. and Mary Olson House in Sandpoint is a fine example of a fairly substantial craftsman bungalow. The large, one-and-a-half-story house has many of the stylistic details found on a characteristic bungalow, such as: wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends and decorative knee braces; three-over-one, double-hung sash windows; a full-length front porch; and dormer windows. As such the Olson House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent local representative example of the Craftsman Bungalow.

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Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

Endnotes

1. Sanborn Map Company, Map of Sandpoint, Idaho, January 1909 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1909), 9; Photograph #10.286, ca. 1912, on file Bonner County Historical Society, Sandpoint, Idaho; Bonner County Deed Record, Book 29: 126.
2. Sanborn Map Company, Map of Sandpoint, Idaho, December 1915 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1916), 10.
3. "Greatest Building Year in History of Sandpoint," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 25 September 1908, 6; "Death Beckons to Henry L. Mountjoy," *Sandpoint News Bulletin*, 26 May 1955, Obituary File, Bonner County Historical Society, Sandpoint, Idaho; "Bonner County History," *Bonner County Daily Bee*, 1 March 1994.
4. "Idaho Pioneer Taken By Death," unknown newspaper, 8 May 1937, Obituary File, Bonner County Historical Society, Sandpoint, Idaho; Bonner County Deed Record, Book 21: 507, Book 31: 340-341.
5. Bonner County Deed Record, Book 6: 30, 165, 373, 408, 518, 602; Book 8: 686; Book 11: 321-322; Book 12: 132, 139-140, 229, 288; Book 13: 115; Book 17: 224, 301; Book 18: 468; Book 21: 506, 508; Book 23: 138; Book 29: 162; Book 34: 261; Bonner County Mining Deeds, Book 1: 213, 275, 306, 375; Book 2: 56.
6. Bonner County Deed Record, Book 48: 141.
7. Rachel Carley, The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture, (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1994), p. 212.

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Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books:

Carley, Rachel. The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Articles:

"Bonner County History," *Bonner County Daily Bee*, 1 March 1994.

"Death Beckons to Henry L. Mountjoy," *Sandpoint News Bulletin*, 26 May 1955, Obituary File, Bonner County Historical Society, Sandpoint, Idaho.

"Greatest Building Year in History of Sandpoint," *Pend d'Oreille Review*, 25 September 1908, 6.

"Idaho Pioneer Taken By Death," unknown newspaper, 8 May 1937, Obituary File, Bonner County Historical Society, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Unpublished Sources:

Bonner County Deed Record, various books. On file, Recorder's Office, Bonner County Courthouse, Sandpoint.

Bonner County Mining Deeds, various books. On file, Recorder's Office, Bonner County Courthouse, Sandpoint.

Photograph #10.286, ca. 1912, on file Bonner County Historical Society, Sandpoint, Idaho.

Sanborn Map Company. Map of Sandpoint, Idaho, January 1909. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1909.

Sanborn Map Company. Map of Sandpoint, Idaho, December 1915. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1916.

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Section No. Photos Page 1

Olson, Charles A. and Mary, House
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Charles A. and Mary Olson House
Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho
Photographs taken by Nancy Renk, Flume Creek Historical Services
Photographs taken, February, 2001
Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo #1 of 2: Charles A. and Mary Olson House, view looking southwest

Photo #2 of 2: Charles A. and Mary Olson House, view looking south