

## **Olsen's Queen Anne Cottages**



*East side of Harrison Street between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Streets.*

Boundaries: East side of Harrison Street between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>-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 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.




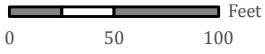
City & County of San Francisco Planning Department  
 Eastern Neighborhoods Mission Area Plan  
 South Mission Historic Resources Survey

**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



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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	

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 Puoz 2 0062
	15 Puoz 2 0062

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	2824 22nd St

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