

Henry and Olga Olson House (George Cornelius House)  
71 Tamarack  
Wallace  
Shoshone County  
Idaho

HABS No. ID-87

HABS  
ID.  
40-WAL,  
14 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Idaho		COUNTY Shoshone	TOWN OR VICINITY City of Wallace
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Harry and Olga Olson House (Source: Harry Olson, son of builder, previously unnamed)			HABS NO. ID-87
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE George Cornelius House			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 71 Tamarack, Wallace, Idaho (Legal NP First Addition, Lot 8, Block 5)			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1934-35 (Son of builder)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not known	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) See supplement.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) See supplement			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) See supplement			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE See supplement			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) See supplement			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Newer roof, gas forced air furnace installed; aluminum siding added: (dates unknown).			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Condition good, presently vacant.			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE House is scheduled to be torn down in 1988 to make way for a motel-restaurant-gift shop complex.			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places, Safeco Title Co., Shoshone County Assessor's Office Sanborn Fire Maps, Barnard-Stockbridge Photo Collection, Richard Magnuson, Harry Olson, Wallace Public Library Minnesota State Historical Society			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Michael J. Green, Depot Productions, Wallace, Idaho			DATE March 31, 1988

HENRY AND OLGA OLSON HOUSE  
(George Cornelius House)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry and Olga Olson House is a compatible element of the Wallace Historic District and is located in a residential area containing homes constructed between 1910 and 1920.

The City of Wallace was first settled in 1884. It is located along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and at the mouth of three side creeks and gulches amid North Idaho's steep Panhandle. The founding of the town followed discovery of fabulous lead-silver deposits in the surrounding mountains. As mining activity quickly grew, so did the town. By 1887 the population was 500, which grew to 2,816 by 1920 (U.S. Census Bureau).

The town flourished from mining activities, and Wallace became known as the Silver Capital of the World because more silver has been extracted from the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, with Wallace as the hub, than any place on earth.

Much of the town was located on a cedar swamp, which was drained as growth occurred. The west end of town containing this house was drained and developed last. Northern Pacific Railway first owned this land in west Wallace. NP leased to private individuals this land, on which built many homes. NP deeded the land to the homeowners in a period from 1920 to 1925. This addition to the town is known as the NP First Addition.

Dating exact construction of most of the houses is difficult because the first deeding of the property occurred after the homes were built. The Minnesota State Historical Society, Archives Manuscripts Division, which possesses defunct NP's records, could not locate copies of the original leases. Early fire maps and photographs show no homes built in that area prior to 1910. Most of the homes, then, were constructed from 1910-1920.

These dates were confirmed by Harry Olson, who has lived in west Wallace since 1922. He said in an interview most of the houses in west Wallace were already constructed when he moved there in 1922. He was 10 years old at the time.

Olson remembers nothing distinctive about west Wallace other than it being an ordinary residential part of town. Its residents were a mixture of business and working people, including miners, a druggist, county commissioner and even "bootleggers." The streets were paved in the addition about 1920, Olson said. A flood in 1933 caused considerable damage to the streets and homes, he

said.

As mining activity in the district began to decline in the 1970s and 1980s, so did the number of jobs and demand for homes. The 1988 population of Wallace was 1,460 (source: Association of Idaho Cities). The character of some homes changed as they went from owner-occupied to rentals. Some deteriorated from lack of care. (Some had been rentals for most of their existence.)

Because of the fast growth of the town in a short time span, Wallace contains a unique homogenous blend of architecture, which led to first a few buildings, then the downtown district, then the entire core of town listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mining towns tend to have a transient population, and many homes have had numerous owners as a result. The names provided for the houses reflect the longest-term owners. This particular house, however, can be traced from its inception.

The house was built in 1934-35 by a carpenter from nearby Mullan for Henry and Olga Olson, the parents of Harry Olson. Harry Olson said the house replaced two smaller houses on the site that received considerable damage in the 1933 flood. Harry knows of no surviving drawings. Olga Olson died in 1955, and on Nov. 18, 1956, the house was deeded to George and Dorothy Cornelius. George died and Dorothy continued to live in the house until it was sold to J. Kimball Barnard of Spokane, Wa., on Dec. 1, 1987 (recorded date).

#### EXTERIOR FEATURES

The house is one and one-half story and nearly square. It is wood frame with a concrete block foundation. The crawl space contains duct work for a forced-air furnace. Access to the crawl space is by an outside (against north wall) trap door. The house has been completely covered with aluminum siding. The original siding is wood shiplap. The house has a gable roof with corrugated metal roofing. The rear, partially enclosed back porch has a shed roof. This back porch also contains the gas furnace. A cinder block chimney protrudes from the crest of the roof. The eaves are boxed. All windows are sliding, two-light, aluminum frame.

Outbuildings include a garage with an attached shed and a "cabin" used more recently only for storage. Olson said the cabin was built about 1939 to provide quarters for his grandmother. The cabin has a wood pier foundation and wood shiplap painted white. It is wood frame with a gable roof and corrugated metal roofing. The floor is softwood covered with linoleum, and the walls are

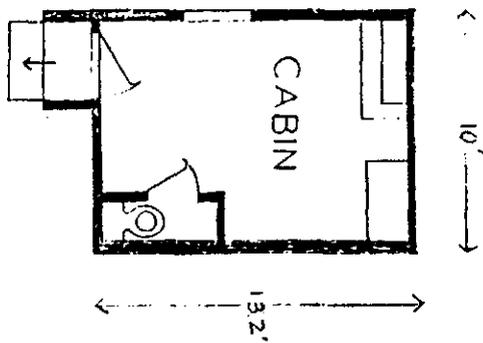
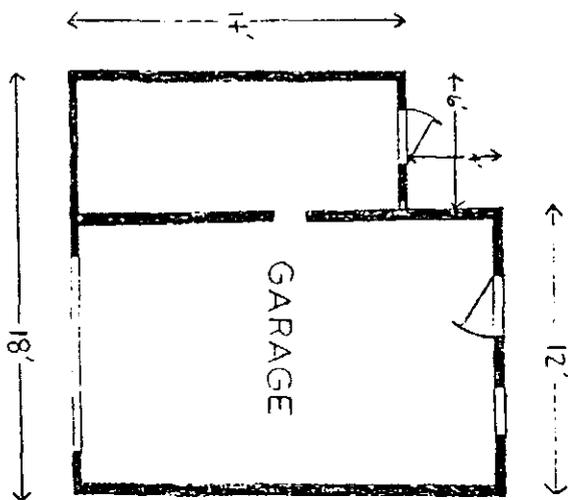
sheetrock. The interior has storage shelves, a single-basin porcelain sink and an enclosed toilet. The two windows are 4/1 double-hung sash. The toilet-room window is casement. The garage has a concrete foundation and floor. It is wood frame with a shed roof and corrugated metal roofing. It is sided with fiberboard painted white. The attached shed is wood frame with a shed roof and rolled composition roofing. It is sided with wood shiplap siding painted white.

#### INTERIOR FEATURES

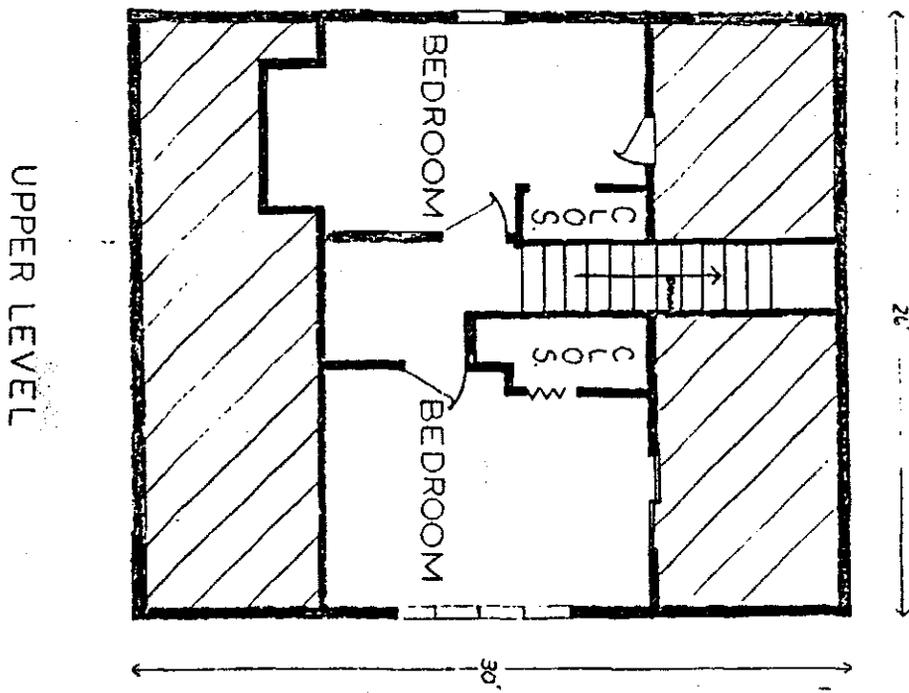
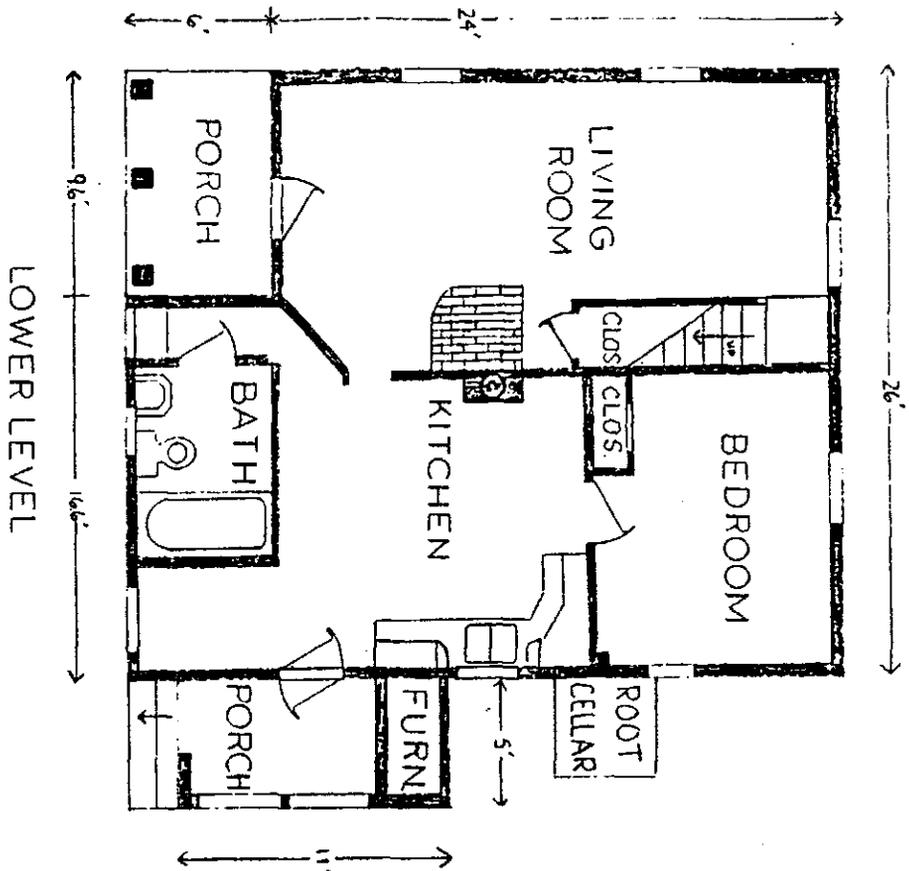
With the bedroom as the exception, the entire first story has paneled walls. Under the paneling is several layers of wallpaper over (horizontal) tongue-and-groove wood. The first-story bedroom walls are sheetrock. Window trim is paneling trim. A chimney is located in the kitchen with an opening in the living room where there is a newer brick base for a wood stove. Behind this base is a Z-Brick section of wall. The chimney hole is about three feet above the floor. All first-story floors are carpeted.

The kitchen has softwood cabinets and a double aluminum sink. The bathroom has been remodeled with masonite walls, tiled linoleum and sliding shower doors on the bathtub.

The stairs to the second story are quarter-paced with no handrail. The stairs has a carpet runner, and the tread nosing is round. The two bedrooms on the second story have sheetrock walls, and the softwood floor is covered with linoleum. The outside ceiling areas slant with the slant of the roof.



 SCALE 1/8"=1'  
K.A. STALEY



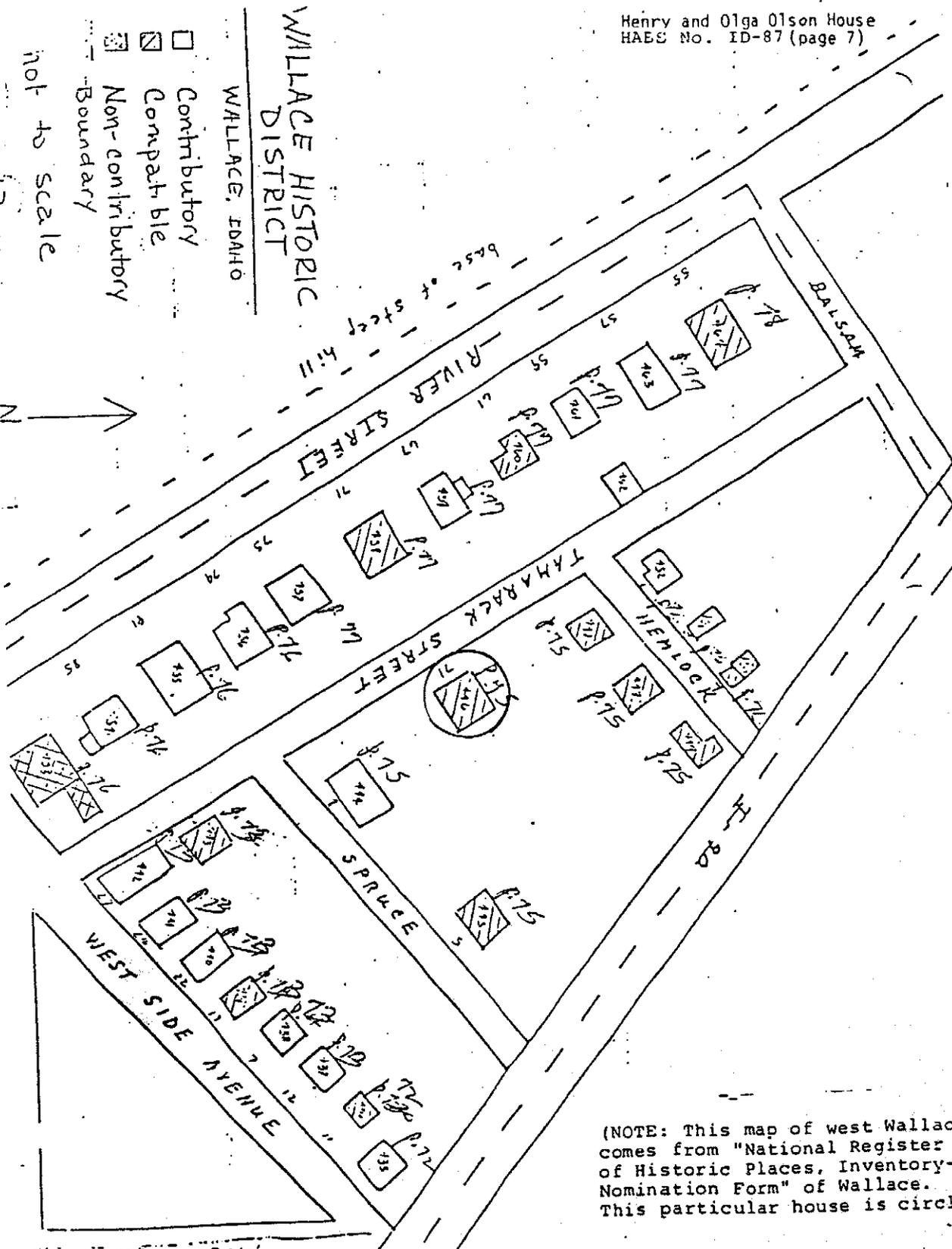
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# WALLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT

WALLACE, IDAHO

- Contributory
- Compatible
- Non-contributory
- Boundary

not to scale



(NOTE: This map of west Wallace comes from "National Register of Historic Places, Inventory-Nomination Form" of Wallace. This particular house is circled)