

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
University of Oregon Cultural Resources Survey
Eugene, Lane County, Oregon
Summer 2006

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: McKenzie Hall

Historic building name: Law Center, Grayson Hall

Building address: 1101 Kincaid Street

Ranking: Secondary

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Brutalist

Building plan (footprint shape): Irregular, rectilinear

Number of stories: 4

Foundation material(s): concrete

Primary exterior wall material: brick

Secondary exterior wall material: concrete

Roof configuration/type: flat

Primary roof material: elastic membrane

Primary window type: fixed pane plate glass

Primary window material: metal

Decorative features and materials: horizontal brick coursing at water table level and to emphasize floor divisions; strong geometric play of shapes and the contrast between building materials

Landscape features: extensive architect designed landscape, sunken courtyard

Associated resources: Dads' Gates located at northeast corner of building; Deady Hall Walk

Comments: McKenzie Hall is an exemplar of the Brutalist style of Modern architecture with its overscale geometric massing and use of rough cast concrete for textural effect. Board form shadows are evident in various locations. The yellow brick in the veneer is similar in color to Fenton Hall, which it is supposed to evoke.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1970

Architect: Wilmsen, Endicott, Unthank, AIA; Lloyd Bond and Associates, landscape

Builder/Contractor: Todd Construction Co.

Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): N/A

Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1999-2000: general renovation and conversion to general campus offices and classrooms, SRG Partnership, Architects

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Law School

Current use(s) or function(s): Classrooms/Offices, Computing Center, History Department

Area(s) of significance: Education, 20th c. Architecture

Period of significance: 1970

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

McKenzie Hall was completed in 1970 to house the Law School, which had outgrown its previous home, Fenton Hall. McKenzie has an interesting interplay of Modern architecture elements with strong references to Fenton Hall. This is accomplished through its massing, brick building material, and even the color of the brick veneer. With its exposed concrete construction, it is a Modern interpretation of Fenton, the campus' first library and an important resource to the University. Designed by architects Wilmsen, Endicott and Unthank, McKenzie Hall is a fine example of the Brutalist style with its overscale geometric massing and use of rough cast concrete for textural effect. Wilmsen, Endicott, Unthank, all graduates of the UO School of Architecture, designed numerous Eugene buildings together and individually. Decorative elements are limited to the strong geometric play of shapes and the contrast between building materials. The extensive modern landscape planning by Lloyd Bard and Associates adds to the building's potential significance.

One of the most important events to have occurred at McKenzie Hall was the address given at its grand opening as the Law Center by United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. It is bounded on the south by the terminus of the historic Deady Hall Walk Axis and on the east by the Dads' Gates Axis.

The building is in good condition. The general renovation work in 1999-2000 by SRG Partnership, Architects to convert to general campus offices and classrooms, has left the building intact both inside and out. McKenzie Hall possesses excellent integrity and architectural significance as a good example of modern architecture by the well known Eugene firm of Wilmsen, Endicott, and Unthank (Criterion C). It could be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places once it reaches 50 years of age. It is considered a secondary resource for campus planning purposes given its medium significance and excellent integrity.

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Historic Significance (check one): High Medium Low Very Low or None

Integrity (check one): Excellent Good Fair Poor

Condition (check one): Excellent Good Fair Poor

Building designation: City Landmark National Register National Historic Landmark Not listed

Preliminary National Register eligibility findings

Building is potentially eligible: Individually or As a contributing resource in a district only

If eligible individually, applicable criteria (check all that apply):

- A. Associated with significant events C. Distinctive architecturally
 B. Associated with significant persons D. Archaeologically important

If applicable, building qualifies under NR Criterion Considerations: Yes No If yes, which apply:

Building is NOT eligible: Intact but lacks distinction or Altered/loss of integrity or Not 50 years old

DOCUMENTATION

Indicate resources consulted when researching this building (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University archives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UO Planning Office files | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Building permits | <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO files |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library | <input type="checkbox"/> State Historic Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Historic Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal interviews | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical encyclopedias | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary indexes | Other <u>See below</u> |

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Southwest Oregon Chapter, AIA. *Style and Vernacular: A Guide to the Architecture of Lane County Oregon*. Portland, OR: Western Imprints, 1983.

Teague, Edward H. "Condon Hall." *The Architecture of the University of Oregon*. 10 Oct. 2004. 15 Mar. 2005. Univ. of Oregon Library, Eugene, OR. <<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon/>>.

University of Oregon School of Law; Law Center Dedication, September 25, 1971. [Bound Scrapbook]. University of Oregon Special Collections.

University Planning Office & Facilities Services, Plans and Specifications for McKenzie Hall.

Magazines and Newspapers (from Teague)

"New Legal Center Opens." *UO School of Law Newsletter*. 4 no.1 (Nov. 1970): 1, ill.

"State Bar President 'Enfeoffs' Law School Officials." *UO School of Law Newsletter*. 2 no.1 (Jan. 1969): 1, ill. About groundbreaking ceremony.

"Law School to Go at 11th and Kincaid." *Oregon Daily Emerald* 21 Nov. 1966: 1.

"Sites Chosen for Law, AAA." *Oregon Daily Emerald* 11 Jan. 1967: 1.

"At State Board Meeting: Law Center Approved." *Oregon Daily Emerald* 24 Jan. 1967: 1.

"Caw, Science Complex Plans Gain Approval." *Oregon Daily Emerald* 31 Mar. 1967: 3.

"Ground Breaking Ceremony Starts New Law Center." *Oregon Daily Emerald* 21 Nov. 1968: 1.

"Douglas (US Supreme Court Justice) Speaks at Dedication." *Oregon Daily Emerald* 27 Aug. 1972: 1.

"Douglas Speaks at Dedication." *Oregon Daily Emerald* 27 Sept. 1971: 1.

"Law Building Diagnosed as Unbalanced." *Oregon Daily Emerald* 7 Nov. 1973: 3.

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Shawn Lingo, Jeremy Mauro, Winter 2006

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

Photo number or name: mckenzie1bw.jpg

PHOTOGRAPH



SITE PLAN

