

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

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: Carson Hall

Historic building name: Women's Dormitory, Building 76

Building address: 1450 East 13th Ave.

Ranking: Tertiary

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: International

Building plan (footprint shape): Essentially square core, with four offset rectangular wings extending to the four points of the compass. Kitchen has a rectangular footprint and is attached to the north elevation at the first floor.

Number of stories: Five

Foundation material(s): Concrete

Primary exterior wall material: Brick

Secondary exterior wall material: Concrete

Roof configuration/type: Flat

Primary roof material: Bituminous buildup

Primary window type: Grouped in fours, rectangular glass arranged vertically, divided in two (offset), all surrounded by steel casement

Primary window material: Metal

Decorative features and materials: Travertine facing at east entry, concrete slab cantilevers over west entry, vertically corrugated glass at corner stair towers, concrete cornice

Landscape features: Graded on slight rise, various shrubs, deciduous, and evergreen plantings surround

Associated resources: 13th Ave Axis, Emerald Axis, Promenade

Comments: Most landscape plantings placed an acceptable distance from the building. Overall, this building has changed little on the exterior and interior since it was first constructed, with the possible exception of the Dining Hall/Kitchen areas.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1949

Architect: Lawrence and Lawrence

Builder/Contractor: Soule Steele Company (windows)

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

Description/dates of major additions/alterations: More thoroughly listed in the Bibliographic Section under "Plans." Apparently, minor changes were made to the main lobby, and other changes were made over time to the HVAC system, electrical, fire apparatus, and kitchen/dining facilities over time.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Student dormitory

Current use(s) or function(s): Student dormitory

Area(s) of significance: Education

Period of significance: 1948

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

Ellis Lawrence approved the preliminary design for Carson less than one week before his death in February 27, 1946. The original design called for two units (mirroring each other), but only one was constructed due to high construction costs. Bids opened on July 22, 1947, construction began in 1948 and finished in January of 1949. Due to high construction costs, the building was modified from its original design.

Newspaper articles touted the to-be-built Women's Dormitory design as among the most up-to-date on college campuses. Particular emphasis was placed on its fire-resistance due to concrete construction, and the modernity of its all-electric kitchen. D.L Halverson, Director of Residence Halls at the University of Wisconsin was the consultant in planning the first kitchen facilities, which included refrigerators for separate foodstuffs, and even for garbage - - a nod to increased sanitation standards. Additionally, the basement housed a butcher shop and bakery (for the entire campus), and dishwashing facilities, the latter equipped with a conveyor belt to accept dirty dishes from the first floor dining room.

Construction was well underway as workers poured concrete for the second floor in November of 1948, as an article published in the Daily Emerald on the 30th noted, "The splendor of the building as revealed in the blueprints seems a far cry from the bare concrete forms which rise across from Emerald hall (sic); but through the rain, cold, and sludgy mud of a late Oregon fall, workers continue to hammer and pour, and the dream gradually nears reality."

The Carson Hall dining facility apparently took extra time to complete, for it didn't formally open until February 1st, 1950. The first meal consisted of apple pie and roast pork. Marjory Bush wrote in the Daily Emerald on February 2, 1950, "(The dining facility) is highlighted by full-length windows at one end and half of one side. Flowered draperies carry out the color scheme of teal, cream, and bright rose. Interior decorator was Brownell Frasier, professor of interior decorating." Furniture was described in the same article as "oak tables seating four... chairs are of maple, covered with teal blue Duran plastic... the acoustical (sic)-treated ceiling has indirect lighting...outstanding feature is a parquet floor of red oak hardwood."

Formally dedicated in February of 1950 to Luella Clay Carson, Professor of English and Elocution (1888-1909) and Dean of Women (1895-1909), Carson Hall has changed in exterior and interior appearance very little since it was first constructed, and it continues to be utilized as a dormitory, albeit a co-ed dormitory at present. It is unknown when Carson Hall ceased being a women's-only dormitory. Carson Hall, although designed by Lawrence, was altered between design and construction, thus lowering its significance. It has been ranked as a tertiary resource, due to its low significance compared with other campus buildings.

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTHistoric Significance (check one): High Medium Low Very Low or NoneIntegrity (check one): Excellent Good Fair PoorCondition (check one): Excellent Good Fair PoorBuilding designation: City Landmark National Register National Historic Landmark Not listedPreliminary National Register eligibility findingsBuilding 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 checked="" 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>see below</u> |

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Carson Hall," Ellis Lawrence Building Survey. v.2 (Eugene). Compiled by the Historic Preservation Program, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon; project directors Michael Shellenbarger, Kimberly Lakin. (Salem, OR.): State Historic Preservation Office, 1989.

Northeast Central Campus Diagnosis, University of Oregon, December, 1999, pp. 7, 13, 14, 16, 17, 27, 28, 31.

Shellenbarger, et. al. Harmony in Diversity: The Architecture and Teaching of Ellis F. Lawrence, 1989.

Teague, E. H. (2004, Oct. 10). *The Architecture of the University of Oregon*. Retrieved Mar. 1, 2006, from <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon/>

Telephone conversation with Nancy Wright, Director of Facilities and Capitol Improvements, March 10, 2006

Newspapers

"New dormitory for 200 coeds to be built." *Daily Emerald*, 08/16/1945, 4.

"State Board approves funds for radio station; University gets permission to draw plans for new science building, coed dormitory.." *Daily Emerald*, 1/23/1946, 1.

"State board approves women's dorm plans." *Daily Emerald*, 10/1/1946, 1.

"Dormitory plans newest in design, new women's dormitory to be erected on 14th between Emerald and Beech." *Daily Emerald*, 10/8/1946, 1.

"Engineer avers new dorm best quarters on campus, artists sketch", *Daily Emerald*, 10/29/1946, 1, il..

"Go ahead given ads for bids on building of new dormitory." *Daily Emerald*, 5/15/1947, 1.

"Bid call for new women's dorms ok'd by board of higher education, Architects sketch." *Daily Emerald*, 5/21/1947, 1, il..

"Women's dorm construction begins today." *Daily Emerald*, 4/28/1948, 1.

"New dorm under construction, Ground breaking ceremonies." *Daily Emerald*, 4/29/1948, 7.

"Work on Women's dorm advances as planned." *Daily Emerald*, 11/30/1948, 3.

"New dorm design for easy comfort, by Bill Clothier." *Daily Emerald*, 5/10/1949, 8.

"Women's dorm tour offers new horizons." *Daily Emerald*, 11/4/1949, 7.

"Oregon to unveil new buildings; dedication planned for Saturday." *Daily Emerald*, 2/8/1950, 1.

"Office enlarged during vacation, of director of dormitories." *Daily Emerald*, 1/7/1953, 4.

(See Continuation Sheet 1)

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Susan Johnson and Karl Dietzler, March 14, 2006

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

Photo number or name: Carson Hall, East Elevation

PHOTOGRAPH



SITE PLAN



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Eugene, Lane County, Oregon
Spring 2006

Continuation Sheet 1

Section Bibliographic References Page 3

Plans (On file at the Housing Office, Walton Complex and on file at the Campus Planning Office/Facilities Services):***Housing Office:***

Tube C-1: Carson Plot and Elevations, 1947
Tube C-2: Carson Electrical, 1947
Tube C-3: Carson Plot, Tunnel, Material Schedule, Floor Plans, Roof Plan, Schedules, Details, Sections, Kitchen, 1948
Tube C-4: Carson Structural
Tube C-5: Carson Mechanical (1948) and Ventilation Changes (1965)
Tube C-6: Carson Mechanical (2 copies), 1948
Tube C-7: Carson Original Prints, 1948
Tube C-8: Carson Fire Protection System, 1978
Tube C-9: Carson Automatic Fire Protection System, 1978
Tube C-10: Carson Re-lamp and fluorescent, 1987

Housing Office, continued:

Tube C-11: Carson Kitchen/Dining HVAC Upgrade (partial) and partial basement/1st Floor Electrical upgrade, 1993
Tube C-12: Carson Kitchen/Dining HVAC Upgrade (complete), 1993
Tube C-13: Carson Dining Upgrade, 1995
Tube C-14: Carson Kitchen Remodel, 1996
Tube C-15: Carson Chiller Control System, 1998
Tube C-16: Carson Chiller Control System, 1998
Tube C-17: Carson Lighting Retrofit, 2001
Tube C-18: Carson Lighting ECM Upgrade, 2001
Tube C-19: Carson Mechanical, 1950

Plans, *Planning Office & Facilities Services (some overlap with Planning Office files):*

Carson Lighting ECM Upgrade, 2001
Carson Food Service Upgrade, 1993
Carson Kitchen/Dining HVAC Upgrade, 1993
Carson Sand Volleyball Court, South Lawn, 1992
Carson Exterior Restoration, 1986
Carson ECM Upgrade, Fixtures and Switches, 1986
Carson Automatic Fire Protection Systems, 1978
Carson Ventilation Changes Fire Diagram, 1967
Carson Ventilation Changes, Basement, 1965