

**HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM**  
University of Oregon Cultural Resources Survey  
Eugene, Lane County, Oregon  
Summer 2006, Updated 2025

**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

Current building name: Allen (Eric W.) Hall  
Historic building name: Allen Hall, Journalism Building, McClure Annex  
Building address: 1020 University Street  
Ranking: Tertiary

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Architectural style classification: Half Modern (1922-1923), Modern (1953-54)  
Building plan (footprint shape): Irregular  
Number of stories: 3  
Foundation material(s): Concrete  
Primary exterior wall material: Brick  
Secondary exterior wall material: Limestone  
Roof configuration/type: Flat  
Primary roof material: Built up roofing  
Primary window type: Casement  
Primary window material: Steel  
Decorative features and materials: Cast stone pinnacles, brick diaper pattern, stone bas-relief over the south entrance. Raised limestone plaques throughout west façade  
Landscape features: Entry plaza facing University Street Axis with seating walls, planters, walks, trees, shrubs and perennial plantings. Allen Hall, constructed in 1953 as an addition, is located on the east edge of the Old Campus Quad. Ted M. Natt 1st Amendment Plaza at the south entrance.  
Associated resources: Old Campus Quad, University Street Axis  
Comments: The building is named after Eric W. Allen, the first Dean of the School of Journalism. The original 1922-23 building was known as the Journalism Building. In 1953-54, Allen Hall was constructed as an addition to the west. Today, the two connected buildings, along with subsequent newer additions, are collectively known as Allen Hall. Further research needed as to when the cast stone pinnacles and wooden balcony over east entrance were removed as well as when the bas-relief sculpture was installed.

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

Date of construction: 1922-23 and 1953-54 (addition)  
Architect: Lawrence and Holford (1922-23), Church, Newberry and Roehr Architects (1953-54)  
Builder/Contractor: Thomas Muir (1922-23), JG Watts Construction Company (1953-54)  
Moved? (yes/no): No                      Date of move(s): N/A  
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1953, Major addition (Allen Hall) and remodel; 1999, Lobby added to south side creating a new entrance and interior remodel by Boucher, Mouchka, and Larson; 2013, Major addition by TBG and Yost Grube Hall.

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE**

Original use(s) or function(s): School of Journalism, University Press

Current use(s) or function(s): School of Journalism, General Classrooms

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

Period of significance: 1953

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

Designed by Lawrence and Holford and constructed by Thomas Muir, the 1924 Journalism Building was originally designed to be an annex to McClure Hall, with the intention that it would house the chemistry department. But when the old women's gym and Lawrence Annex burned down on July 30th, 1922, the university needed a home for the journalism program right away, and what was supposed to be McClure Annex became the Journalism Building. The University of Oregon's journalism program was the first comprehensive curriculum of its kind in the field, and the Department of Journalism that was established in 1912 was one of the first in the country. The University Press and the University Printing Department (formerly known as the Oregon Scholastic Press) were located on the first floor until 1996.

The 1924 Journalism Building is a rectangular structure of the Half Modern style. It has 3 stories, a concrete foundation, and has a brick wall exterior. The roof is flat and is composed of built up roofing. It has multi-pane, double hung windows made of wood and the brick exterior is laid in a diaper pattern. Some of its decorative features have been removed including the wooden balcony over the east entrance and the cast stone pinnacles. A bas-relief sculpture over the south entrance was placed on the building in 1936 and created by Louise Utter with Works Progress Administration funds. Utter also contributed to the design and creation of the Knight Library heads during the same time period. The sculpture's inscription reads: "A free & enlightened press the surest guarantor of liberty."

Allen Hall was constructed in 1953 by Church, Newberry and Roehr Architects. The contractor was J. G. Watts Construction Company. This 1953 addition (Allen Hall) replaced McClure Hall on the west side of the Journalism Building. It was originally designed to accommodate every aspect of the mass communications field and the entire first floor housed the University Press, with its letterpress, offset and bindery equipment. In addition, the seminar room was designed to be a replica of Dean Eric Allen's living room. Dean Allen, who joined the Journalism faculty in 1916 and served as its head for 28 years, died in 1944, (Sandahl). The 1953 building is of the Modern Style with a rectangular plan, three stories and a concrete foundation. While the walls are made of concrete, they have a brick and limestone veneer, with limestone being the primary surface material on the West façade. Decorative features include nine raised limestone plaques that represent old printers marks. A sunken patio on the Old Campus Quad was added to the West.

(See Continuation Sheet 1)

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT**Historic 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 importantIf 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 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**

Primary source materials, Allen Hall architectural drawings located in the Facilities Services hanging files.

Bivins, Thomas H., "The Evolution of Allen Hall," a framed report hanging in the Allen Hall lobby, 1998.

"Formal Opening – Eric W. Allen Hall," Eugene (OR) Oregon Daily Emerald, 8 October 1954, p. 1.

Shellenbarger, Michael and Kimberly K. Lakin. Ellis Lawrence building survey. Portland, OR: State Historic Preservation Office, 1989.

Shellenbarger, Michael, University of Oregon architecture: a personal tour. Eugene, OR: s.n. , 1986.

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

Sandahl, David Alan and Castro, Ricardo, An architectural history of the University of Oregon, s.l.: s.n., 1975.

Wardell, Jackie, "New J-Building to be Named for Late Dean," Eugene (OR) Oregon Daily Emerald, 2 April 1953, p. 3.

**RECORDING INFORMATION**

Researched: Dustin Welch and Andrea Blaser, Winter 2006

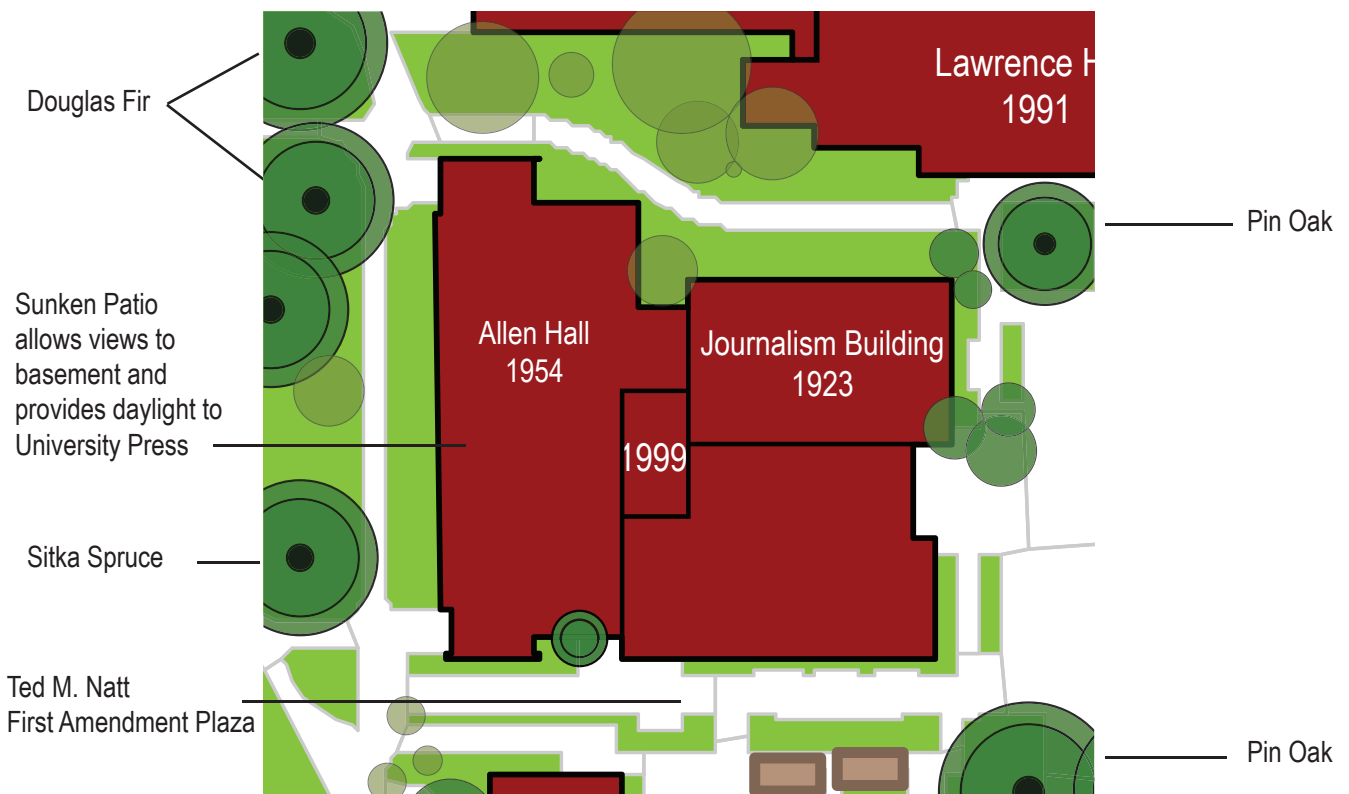
Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

Photo number or name:

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**SITE PLAN**



<sup>1</sup>The University of Oregon Catalog, 1924-1925, lists the University Press in the basement of McClure Hall and connected to the first floor of the Journalism Building. The University of Oregon Catalog, 1955-1956, lists the University Press in the basement of the new Allen Hall and is connected to the Oregon Scholastic Press located on the first floor of the old Journalism Building.

<sup>2</sup>"Formal Opening – Eric W. Allen Hall," Eugene (OR) Oregon Daily Emerald, 8 October 1954, p. 1-4.

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**Continuation Sheet 1****Section****Historical Associations and Significance****Page 1**

During Allen Hall's construction, the 1924 Journalism Building was completely remodeled as the East wing of Allen Hall. New concrete interior walls were added (the brick walls were no longer bearing) and decorative elements were removed (cast stone pinnacles, wood balcony, flower box).

In 1999, the loading dock was converted to a new building entrance (south lobby). The new south lobby, designed by Boucher, Mouchka, and Larson, connects Allen Hall with the Journalism Building. As part of this project, Cameron, McCarthy, Gilbert and Scheibe created the Ted M. Natt 1st Amendment Plaza and redesigned the entrance to the building along the University Street Axis.

In 2013, a large addition designed by TBG and Yost Grube Hall was constructed. The original 1923 southern façade was retained and is visible from the new atrium space. A new east entrance was created as part of this project. The entry plaza facing University Street Axis was enhanced with seating walls, planters, walks, trees, shrubs and perennial plantings.

The exterior of the building has maintained a fair amount of integrity and the interior has been substantially re-ovated and reorganized. However, it has a strong association with Ellis Lawrence as the chief designer and the Department of Journalism at the University of Oregon. The building is not eligible for individual listing the National Register. Due to its low significance compared with other buildings on campus, it has been ranked as a contributing resource.