

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

**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

Current building name: Chapman Hall  
Historic building name: Humanities Building  
Building address: 990 East 13th Ave.  
Ranking: Primary

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Architectural style classification: Mediterranean  
Building plan (footprint shape): rectangular  
Number of stories: 2 on a raised basement  
Foundation material(s): concrete  
Primary exterior wall material: brick  
Secondary exterior wall material: terra cotta  
Roof configuration/type: flat  
Primary roof material: elastic membrane  
Primary window type: 24 light, fixed-type windows with two hopper light insertions  
Primary window material: steel  
Decorative features and materials: Decorative red and white terra cotta tile and cornices, Roman arches, pilasters, brick ornamental bands, brick basket-weave patterns below the upper windows, Art Deco detailing  
Landscape features: Several mature trees and foundation plantings (Rhododendron, Photinia)  
Associated resources: PWA-sponsored mural in room 223 (E. R. Scott, 1942); Memorial Quad, 13th Ave Axis, Condon Hall, Johnson Lane Axis  
Comments: Built as a Public Works Administration project, it is difficult to define Chapman's architectural style. This is true of many of Ellis Lawrence's buildings on the University of Oregon campus as he skillfully drew from such diverse styles as Eclecticism, Modernism, and Neoclassicism.

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

Date of construction: 1939  
Architect: Lawrence, Holford, Allyn  
Builder/Contractor: Stein Brothers, Eugene, general contractors; Mercer Steel, metal sash and doors; Marlatt Heating and Plumbing, Eugene; Barnes and Martin, Eugene, plaster; Oregon Art and Tile, Portland  
Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): N/A  
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1966: two north doors added; 1989: Honors College interior remodel; 1990: Universal access alterations; 1993: elastic membrane roof installed; 2001: auditorium remodel; 2005: Room 307 remodel

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE**

Original use(s) or function(s): classrooms, offices, University Bookstore

Current use(s) or function(s): classrooms, offices

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

Period of significance: 1939

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

Chapman Hall, designed by Ellis Lawrence, was constructed in 1939. The building is named for Charles H. Chapman, President of the University from 1893-1896. The project was funded by the Public Works Administration, a New Deal era program. It is part of the Lawrence plan for the central campus area anchored by the Memorial Quadrangle. Originally, it was part of a three-wing humanities complex intended to mirror the similar science complex of which Condon Hall was the only section constructed. Like its sister buildings on the Memorial Quad, Chapman Hall is stylistically complex and difficult to classify. The arrangement of the diverse elements that constitute the architectural composition is generally Classical in feeling. The individual elements draw on a wide range of Greek and Roman archetypes and there are even a few Egyptian echoes, such as the corner pilasters that represent bundled reeds. Much of the terra cotta detailing has a definite Art Deco or Moderne machine-inspired feeling. This represents the last use of terra cotta ornamentation on a U of O campus building. Chapman reflects design elements common to the other buildings on the Memorial Quad, such as the frieze with round arch details, to create a unified design language. These stylistic elements are perhaps best understood in Lawrence's own terms. In his 1914 campus plan, he recommends that "the more monumental buildings... be erected in the Classic style, while the buildings of the minor groups in Renaissance and Colonial styles..." Lawrence himself characterized it as a "composite, not a true historical style." As a matter of interest, Chapman Hall was designed to mirror Condon Hall architecturally yet Chapman's structure is concrete walls with brick veneer while Condon is made of brick bearing walls. Chapman Hall displays a high level of craftsmanship in its detailing. One especially noteworthy interior feature is the mural in room 223 by E. R. Scott. It is executed in the New Deal social realist style and depicts a number of American radicals and social thinkers including Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, and Thomas Dewey. It was completed by Scott as part of his thesis work for a Masters degree from the U of O.

The lower level of the building served as the student's cooperative bookstore from 1939-1966, an area which now houses the Graduate School. Originally, the second floor housed the English department and the third floor housed the modern home economics facilities. Since then, the upper floors have served as offices and classrooms for various departments and now house the undergraduate Honors College.

(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 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                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other : <u>see below</u> |

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Getty Foundation Campus Heritage Grant Application, University Planning Office and Facilities Services.

Shellenbarger, Michael and Kimberly Lakin. Ellis Lawrence Building Survey. Oregon Inventory of Historic Places, 1989. vol.2 (Eugene). Compiled by the Historic Preservation Program, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon. Salem, OR: State Historic Preservation Office, 1989.

Long, Stephen. Historic Continuity: A Diagnosis Report. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon Office of Planning and Campus Development, 1980.

"Stories Behind the Buildings", Old Oregon, December 1951.

Plans and Specifications for Chapman Hall, Facilities Services, Physical Plant, University of Oregon.

Historic Photo Inventory, Physical Plant, University of Oregon.

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

**RECORDING INFORMATION**

Researched: Shawn Lingo/Jeremy Mauro, February 2006

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

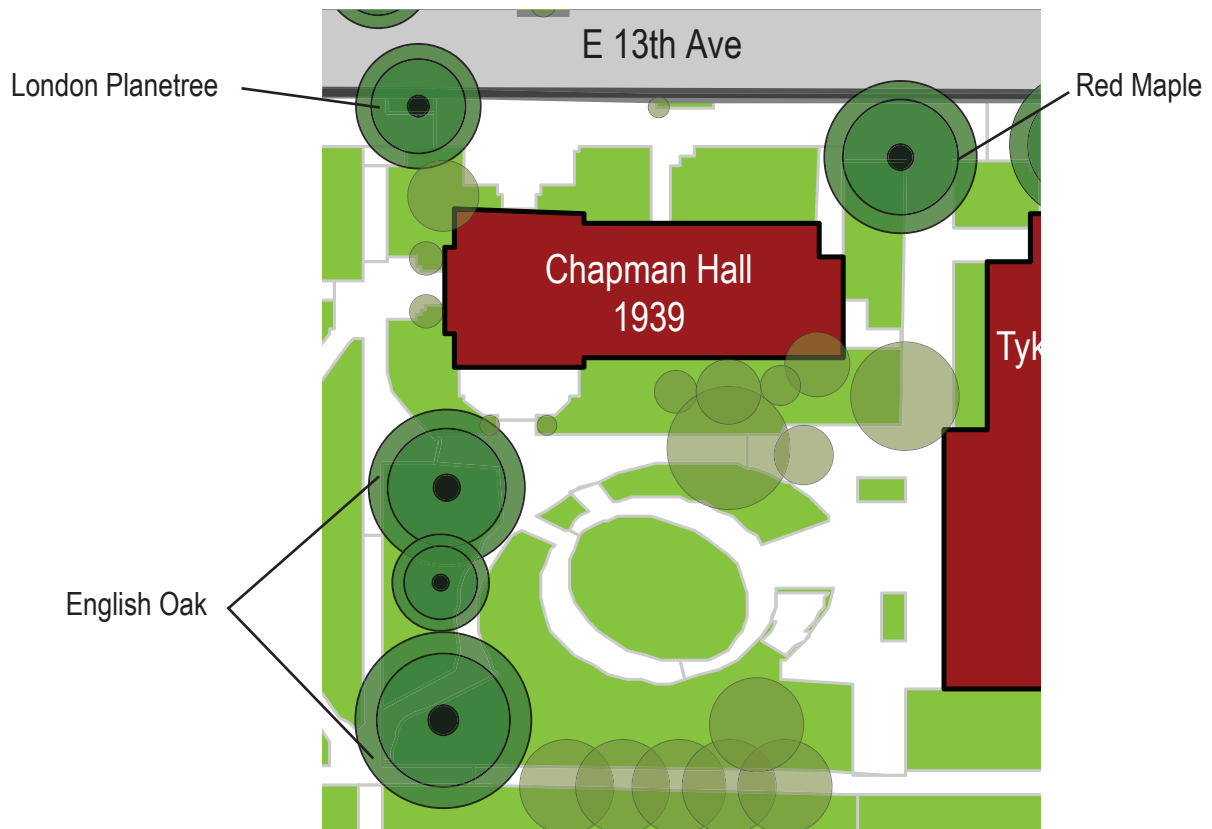
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**PHOTOGRAPH**



(See Continuation Sheet 1 for additional photos)

**SITE PLAN**



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**Continuation Sheet 1****Section            Statement of Significance            Page 2**

Chapman Hall has architectural significance as the work of Ellis Lawrence and as a major component of the Lawrence campus plan along with the existing built landscape. It has excellent integrity, the few modifications have been done in a sensitive manner, and the interior spaces retain much of the original fabric and feeling. Not only was Chapman designed by a significant Oregon architect and a man important to the history of the architecture program at the U of O, the building is located in a place crucial to the story of the campus' development under Lawrence. That is, it is an integral member of an ensemble of buildings referred to as one of Lawrence's greatest works. The building is also significant in the area of education as an important building on the U of O campus and as the former University Bookstore (Student Cooperative Store). The high degree of integrity, quality of workmanship and architectural design by Ellis Lawrence make Chapman Hall individually eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. Chapman also possesses some significance under Criterion A for its importance as a University landmark and connection to the relief programs of the Great Depression/New Deal era; this would extend its period of significance. Due to its excellent integrity and high significance to the UO campus, it is ranked as a primary resource.

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**Continuation Sheet 2**

**Section**

**Photos**

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**Figure 2. Chapman Hall, main entry detail.**



**Figure 1. and 3. Chapman Hall, decorative details.**

