

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

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: Collier House
Historic building name: South Hall, President's House, Chancellor's House, Faculty Club
Building address: 1170 East 13th Ave.
Ranking: Primary

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Italianate
Building plan (footprint shape): irregular
Number of stories: 2
Foundation material(s): brick
Primary exterior wall material: horizontal wood drop siding
Secondary exterior wall material: none
Roof configuration/type: hip
Primary roof material: asphalt shingle
Primary window type: single hung sash, one over one
Primary window material: wood
Decorative features and materials: cornices, frieze panels, porch columns, porch balustrade, see comments below for more details
Landscape features: perimeter shrubs, winding concrete path, memorial hedge on west side, evergreen trees
Associated resources: Prince Lucien Campbell memorial hedge (1925); 13th Ave. Axis, Johnson Lane Axis and University Street Axis
Comments: This Italianate house has extensive decorative features, including wood fretwork balcony railing, round columns with capitals and entablature with dental course, porch balustrade (enclosed at portion of the east porch), second story bracketed window crowns, leaded fanlight and sidelights surround front door, decorative eave brackets on main house and small eave brackets on dining room addition. The accessible ramp/porch addition on the west facade is a simple, reversible, wood structure with slatted railing and lattice work.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1886
Architect: Unknown
Builder/Contractor: Unknown
Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): N/A
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1914: front porch and door rebuilt; 1930: associated barn razed; 1930s: east porch glassed in; 1932: fireplace added; 1935: east porch altered; 1950: associated garage razed; 1963: addition of dining room and porch on southwest side; multiple interior renovations throughout the life of the building but 1926, 1938, 1963, 1993, 2004 are notable.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Residence

Current use(s) or function(s): Classrooms/Offices

Area(s) of significance: Education, Architecture

Period of significance: 1896-1925

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

Dr. George Haskell Collier was a Physics professor at the University of Oregon from 1879-1895 and had bought 9.5 acres of land adjacent to the school for his family's residence. The Collier House was completed in May 1886, probably by the Collier family and based on pattern books and/or builder's guides for the layout and style; no architect or builder is documented. Some people suggest a stylistic influence of architect Warren Haywood Williams, however, there is no documentation to verify this link. The original house had no indoor plumbing but did have a fountain. There was extensive surrounding vegetation, including an orchard. According to the Collier House Restoration Proposal, remnants of the original landscape include the false cypress, sitka spruce, big leaf maple, Japanese maple, English Holly. In addition, the memorial hedge, donated in 1925 memory of Prince Lucien Campbell, is intact. Soon after the house was completed, it began to play a central role for community gatherings, meetings and parties. In 1896, Professor Collier retired from the University and sold the house, barn and acreage to the school for \$5,000. At this point, the UO President Charles Hiram Chapman moved into the upstairs with his family and the University library holdings were moved into the downstairs. From 1896-1900, the building was referred to as South Hall. In 1900, the Board of Regents voted to have it permanently house the university president and thus it became the President's House. During the occupancy of president Prince Lucien Campbell (1902-1925), a variety of small changes were made throughout the building. A room and bath were added to the southwest bedroom, the front stairs were remodeled, and a sleeping porch as placed above the drying porch. Ellis Lawrence redesigned the front porch and door in 1914, with the help of an architecture student Walter Enos Church. A fireplace was added to the west wall in 1932, which involved the rearrangement of some windows. Many accounts characterize the building as a center of social activity for the university during this period. After Campbell's death in 1925, the building was refinished prior to the next president's occupancy. The house was referred to as the Chancellor's House between 1932-1938 while the University was without a president. Around this same time, the barn was razed and a two-car garage was added to the south side (where the current dining room addition is located), the east porch was enclosed with glass, improved baths were added to the second story with exposed pipe work on the west side, and steam radiators replaced the wood basement furnace. In 1941, the Collier House became the Faculty Club. The associated renovations include turning the northwest parlor into a library and the southwest bedroom addition into a billiards room. The upstairs rooms were rented out to male faculty and the downstairs was used for meetings, special events and a restaurant. (see Continuation Sheet 1)

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers |
| <input checked="" 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 |

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Chaban, Matt. "Collier House closes after mold infests attic, cellar." Oregon Daily Emerald, 3/3/2006, 1, 14.

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(see Continuation Sheet 2)

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Kathleen Mertz and Elise Mendonca, Winter 2006

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

Photo number or name:

PHOTOGRAPH



SITE PLAN



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

This use led to the demolition of the garage and bedroom on the southwest corner to make room for a large dining room addition in 1963 by Eugene architects Wilmsen, Endicott & Unthank. A billiards room was housed below the dining room, the wood porch was added to the north side, the south stairs were remodeled and other miscellaneous interior modifications were made to support the dining room facilities. This is the general state of the building today although the Faculty Club closed in 2003. It now is used for faculty offices, classrooms and small music recitals. In 1980 the University officially changed its name to the Collier House. (see "Collier House Restoration Proposal" for more details)

In 1976, it was made a Eugene City Historic Landmark. This building has good integrity, including original historic fabric, its original location, and obvious high level of craftsmanship. It is significant to the development of the University Campus because it acted as a structural and social anchor for the university by housing former presidents and chancellors. Moreover, it has architectural significance as a remnant of the late-Victorian era of Eugene's development. It is ranked as a primary resource by the UO.

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Continuation Sheet 2**Section Bibliography Page 3**

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