

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

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: Earl (Virgil D.) Hall Complex
Historic building name: Virgil D. Earl Hall
Building address: 1333 East 15th Avenue
Ranking: Non-Contributing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Modern
Building plan (footprint shape): irregular
Number of stories: 4
Foundation material(s): concrete
Primary exterior wall material: brick
Secondary exterior wall material: terra cotta tiles
Roof configuration/type: flat
Primary roof material: asphalt
Primary window type: six 8, large central panes flanked by operable casement and hopper windows
Primary window material: metal
Decorative features and materials: terra cotta tile, marble casing on entry doors, belt course; colonnade on east side, lunar lights
Landscape features: interior courtyards lined with light posts, perimeter plantings
Associated resources: Attached to Straub Hall; adjacent to Emerald Axis, 15th Avenue Axis and Promenade
Comments:

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1953-55
Architect: Church, Newberry & Roehr
Builder/Contractor: W.H. Shields Construction Company
Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): N/A
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: General renovations and upgrades to the interior over the life of the building; 1983, 1985 exterior wall restoration; 1985 interior painting and refinishing; 2005 exterior accessibility upgrade & removal of covered walkway roof.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Men's Dormitory

Current use(s) or function(s): Co-ed Dormitory

Area(s) of significance: Education, Architecture

Period of significance: 1955

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

The Earl Complex, also identified as Virgil D. Earl Hall, was completed in 1955 as an addition to Straub Hall. The design reflects the International style popular in the post-war period. This complex was named for Virgil D. Earl, University of Oregon alumnus and Athletic Director (1923-31) as well as Dean of Men (1931-45). Earl Hall is comprised of units named for former faculty: Edgar McClure (Chemistry), Davis Walter Morton (first dean of Administration), Frederick George Young (first dean of Graduate School), Orin Fletcher Stafford (Chemistry Department head), Henry Davidson Sheldon (founder of Oregon State Teachers Assoc., first dean of School of Education). It was built as a dormitory to house incoming freshmen men, including five separate units for 330 students. There have been minor renovations over the life of the building, including the restoration of the exterior tile wall portions in 1983 and 1985. This restoration included the removal and replacement "in-kind" of broken and cracked tiles. In 1985, the entire interior was painted. In 1991, the entire building was re-roofed. It is used for coed housing today. Dining and kitchen facilities are no longer situated in the complex. The former dining rooms have been converted into a lounge space in each of the 5 units. Laundry facilities have also been incorporated into the basements. Most recently (2005), Earl Hall has received universal accessibility alterations (ADA elevator, partial removal of covered walkway). This building is sited between the Emerald Axis, 15th Avenue Axis and Promenade and it is connected to Straub Hall.

While this building has continuity of use, has good integrity, and is in good condition, it does not meet any of the criteria of significance for listing on the National Register. It has been ranked as a non-contributing resource due to its very low significance compared to 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 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 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

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RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Kathleen Mertz, Elise Mendonca, Winter 2006v
 Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006
 Photo number or name:

PHOTOGRAPH



SITE PLAN

