

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

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: Friendly Hall
Historic building name: East Hall
Building address: 1161 East 13th Ave.
Ranking: Primary

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Georgian
Building plan (footprint shape): main building is rectangular, with T-shaped addition
Number of stories: main bldg 3.5, addition 2.5, with basement
Foundation material(s): concrete or parged masonry (further research needed)
Primary exterior wall material: brick
Secondary exterior wall material: wood
Roof configuration/type: gable with flared eaves, parapets on end gables, flat roof dormers
Primary roof material: wood shingles
Primary window type: 1 over 1, double hung sash
Primary window material: wood
Decorative features and materials: brick keystone lintels, quoins, concrete water table
Landscape features: planted with grass, trees on West side
Associated resources: 13th Ave. Axis, Old Campus Quad
Comments: This was the 4th building constructed on campus specifically for the university and the 3rd was demolished, making this building the next oldest to University and Villard Halls. Collier House predates Friendly but was originally a private residence, only later being added to the university's property holdings. The 1914 addition matches the original portion of Friendly Hall in all ways except the number of stories and the brick is slightly more red in color. Otherwise, it is in keeping with the design and intent of the building.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1893
Architect: Whidden & Lewis
Builder/Contractor: 1893- W.H. Adams; 1909/1914 – W.V. Heckart
Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): N/A
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1909/1914: addition/remodel by W.C. Knighton, architect; additions in 1920 & 24 as well; remodels in 1933, 1951, 1961 ('61 by Wilmsen, Endicott & Unthank, added dormers and possibly fire escapes, enclosed stairwells/added fire doors in stairwells); 1950s South wooden wing of Friendly, which housed alumni offices, demolished; 1975: safety upgrades; 1981: misc. changes by Unthank, Seder & Poticha; 1985, 2000, and more. Accessibility ramp added 2001. 2003 internal design/refurbishment by Pelletier & Pelletier, 2004 terraced landscape area at southeast corner – part of AAA design/build Campus Heart project. Elevator addition 2021.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

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

Current use(s) or function(s): University offices

Area(s) of significance: Education, 19th c. architecture

Period of significance: 1893 - 1932

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

Friendly Hall was the fourth building to be constructed by the University of Oregon. It was designed by architects Whidden and Lewis, who were outstanding in their field. According to the campus architecture guide compiled by Ed Teague, Whidden worked for the firm of McKim, Mead and White before going into partnership with Lewis. Whidden and Lewis together designed many projects, including the Portland City Hall. Friendly Hall was originally designed in the Georgian style as a co-ed dormitory with separate gender entrances (south for men, north for women) and a common dining hall. It reportedly switched to a men's dormitory soon after opening. Its period of significance is the construction date, 1893, through when it last served as a dormitory, 1932. Being of three and a half story brick bearing walls, the original portion has a foundation mystery. According to architecture professor Donald Peting, Friendly, University and Villard Halls all have parged masonry foundations. The 1914 building plans for Friendly indicate a mix of brick and concrete in the foundation at that time. Further research could possibly clarify what the foundation material(s) are.

According to UO Facilities Services' website, the East Hall Dormitory was renamed for Samson H. Friendly, "a pioneer Eugene store merchant and founding regent of the university from 1895 to 1915."

Wiley Griffen (1867-1913), was the first African American employee at the University of Oregon, a janitor in Friendly Hall (c. 1890s) and one of Eugene's earliest black residents (first resident mentioned by name). Despite exclusion laws in effect at the time forbidding the presence of non-white American citizen in Oregon and Eugene, Griffen came to live here. Following repeal of the exclusion law in 1926, Bobby Robinson and Charles Williams, two young high school football stars from Portland became the first black student-athletes at the University of Oregon and, eventually, the first black students allowed to live on campus. Originally, they were not allowed to live on campus, but following a petition by their white teammates, in 1927, the university permitted Williams and Robinson to live in the men's dormitory, Friendly Hall. Rather than being given a room in the main part of the building, however, they were forced to occupy an apartment that was part of the dormitory but which had an outside entrance. (UO Unbound)

When Straub Hall opened in 1928, Friendly was used as a dormitory for a few more years, as there is evidence of student residents living in Friendly Hall from a Eugene City Directory dated 1932. However, its role changed shortly thereafter. Since then, the building has housed many departments including the current Languages Departments (Romance, East Asian, and Germanic).

(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 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 checked="" 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 see below |

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Teague, Ed. "The Architecture of the University of Oregon: A History, Bibliography, & Research Guide" (<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon>) Created 1 June 2004, Modified 27 Sept. 2004

1923 model of Ellis Lawrence's campus plan. (Currently in AAA lobby)

UO Campus Planning & Facilities Services files and blueprints

Personal interview with Don Peting, Emeritus Architecture/Historic Preservation, University of Oregon.

UO Facilities Services website. <http://facilities.uoregon.edu/>

Eugene City Directory, 1932.

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Susan Johnson/Karl Dietzler, Winter 2006

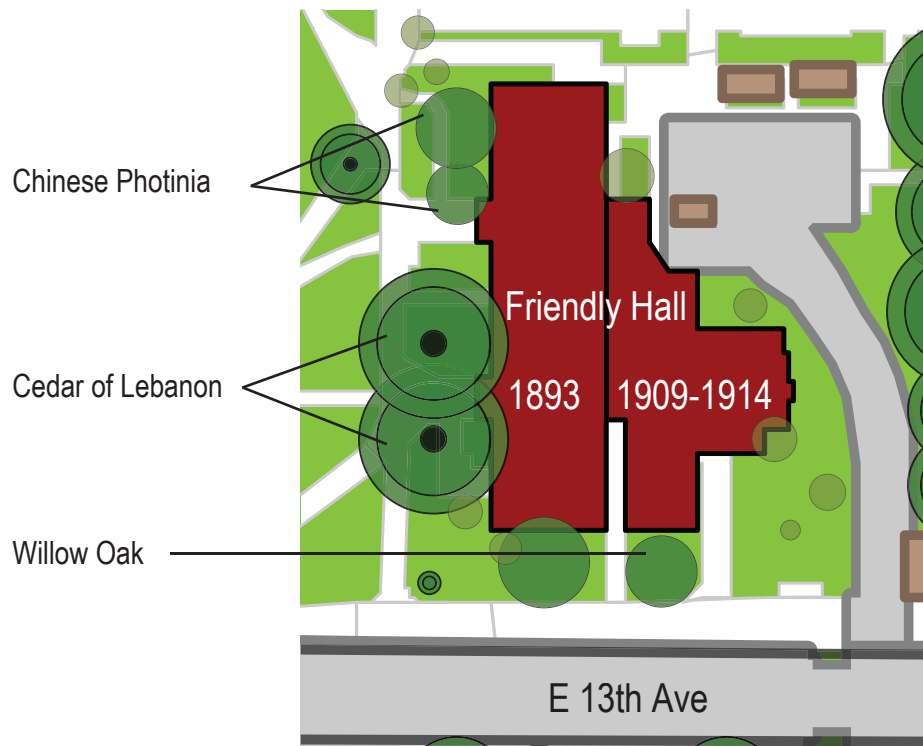
Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

Photo number or name:

PHOTOGRAPH



SITE PLAN



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

From an exterior perspective, Friendly Hall is significant in that it contributes to campus character, was one of the original buildings constructed on campus, has not been moved, and has a high level of integrity (apart from dormers and an elevator being added, which do not detract from the building's ability to convey its period of significance). Internally, there is little historic fabric remaining, and the lower level floor plans/uses have changed much over its history. Originally a dormitory with separate living areas and entrances for men and women, it now houses only offices and classrooms for various University departments.

This building should be considered significant under Criterion A for its contribution to the early campus heritage as the first dormitory and as part of the Old Campus Quad. It is also significant under Criterion C as an example of Georgian style architecture by the notable firm of Whidden and Lewis. It has good exterior integrity and is in good condition. Given its high significance to early campus development, location on the Old Campus Quad, and its good exterior integrity, it is ranked as a primary resource.