

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

**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

Current building name: Lawrence Hall  
Historic building name: Architectural Hall, Commerce Hall, Sociology Hall, Mechanical Hall  
Building address: 1190 Franklin Blvd.  
Ranking: Tertiary

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Architectural style classification: Varied due to multiple additions and modifications – see Continuation Sheet 2 for description  
Building plan (footprint shape): “  
Number of stories: “  
Foundation material(s): “  
Primary exterior wall material: “  
Secondary exterior wall material: “  
Roof configuration/type: “  
Primary roof material: “  
Primary window type: “  
Primary window material: “  
Decorative features and materials: “  
Landscape features: courtyard (undergoing renovation 2006) and planters, retaining wall and bicycle/ wheelchair ramp, the Bison sculpture by Keith E. Stephns, 1958; and bust of W.R. B. Wilcox by Oliver Barret  
Associated resources: University St. Axis, Old Campus Quad, connected to Power Plant and Pacific Hall  
Comments: Lawrence Hall is an amalgamation of three buildings plus numerous additions. The 1901 Mechanical Hall is now the northwest part of Lawrence Hall; its cupola was removed by Lawrence (Teague, 2004). The 1914 Architecture Building (Georgian Style, hipped roof, quoins) was built parallel to Mech. Hall and “designed to be similar in appearance;” it is now the north facade.

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

Date of construction: 1901  
Architect: Lazarus (1), W. C. Knighton (2), Lawrence & Holford (3), Ellis Lawrence  
Builder/Contractor: unknown  
Moved? (yes/no): No                      Date of move(s): N/A  
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1940-41 northern additions to the connector, Ellis Lawrence; 1956 demolition of the Arts Wing; 1957 addition, Walter Gordon of Annand, Boone, and Lei; 1971 addition, Cambell Yost Grube Hall; 1991 addition, BOORA

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE**

Original use(s) or function(s): Classrooms/studios

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

Area(s) of significance: Architecture

Period of significance: 1901-1946

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

The building named for the founder of UO's architecture program and prominent Oregon architect is a complicated layering of additions and connections among buildings, which began before his time and continued well after. Ellis Lawrence's influences on the existing 1901 Mechanical Hall by Edgar Lazarus and the 1914 Architecture Building by Knighton include many minor alterations and major changes at three different times (1923, 1924, and 1940-41). Lawrence's School of Architecture and Allied Arts was founded in 1914 and quickly rose to national prominence. His low-budget ad hoc assemblage of buildings and additions housed his school until major additions were added in 1957 and 1970. The amalgamation shows the relatively small older buildings (Mechanical Hall, Architecture Building, and Power Plant) juxtaposed with three and four story modern additions (1957, 1971, and 1991 portions). Overall, there is quite a bit of history that can be traced to the complex's growth and changing appearance with the growth of the AAA School under Ellis Lawrence as well as the changing tastes in style over the last 100 years.

The oldest portion of Lawrence, 1901 Mechanical Hall portion, was designed by Edgar Lazarus (the builder is unknown). Today it comprises the northwest portion of the Lawrence Hall complex. According to Ed Teague's architecture research guide, Lazarus is best known for the Vista House, Crown Point (1916). He also designed two buildings at OSU. In 1914, W.C. Knighton, Oregon's first State Architect, built a parallel building, the Architecture Building, east of Mechanical Hall facing what was then University Street (the builder is unknown). The Architecture Building was designed to resemble Mechanical Hall and indeed they appear similar to this day. An old photo of Mechanical Hall shows the cupola that was later removed by Lawrence and dark colored siding – it cannot be determined whether the siding was brick or wood. W. C. Knighton also connected the two former buildings with an addition, originally one story. In 1923 Ellis Lawrence added a second story to the connector as part of his large Arts Wing project, made possible after the heating plant moved out to its new building. This added a second-floor main drafting room and library on the courtyard. Lawrence removed the Mechanical Hall's cupola and applied stucco to the entire ensemble to give a uniform, Mediterranean-style appearance (Teague, 2004). Other 1923-24, courtyard additions included a bay window and ambulatory. In 1940-41 Lawrence added two wings to the north, which extended the west facade and added studio space (the builder is unknown). They were funded by WPA (WPA # 1335).

(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 (all sections)  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 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                    | Other models (1923, 1994?)                               |

**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

Ellis Lawrence Building Survey. Compiled by Michael Shellenbarger & Kimberly Lakin. Salem, OR. SHPO, 1989.

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

period photographs (c.1920s) and reconstructed model of what Lawrence Hall looked like in 1923 with new Arts Wing. (AAA lobby)

UO Facilities Services blueprints, files (such as 1956 remodeling report).

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

**RECORDING INFORMATION**

Researched: Susan Johnson, Karl Dietzler, Heidi Granke, 2/22/06

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

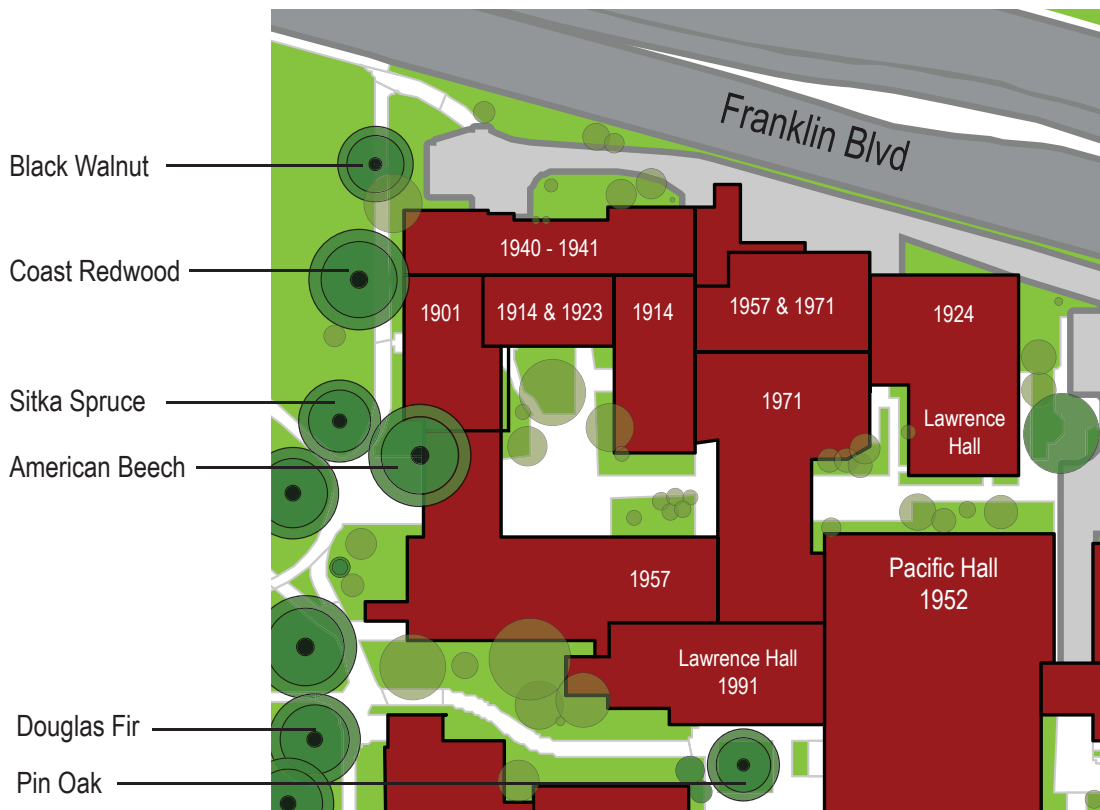
Photo number or name:

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(See Continuation Sheet 3 for additional photos) 1971 addition visible behind 1914 Architecture Building

**SITE PLAN**



**HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM**

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**Continuation Sheet 1**

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Overall, in Lawrence's era as Dean of the Architecture School, the complex had a uniform style and the buildings related strongly to each other, which is no longer true. Today, the massing, roof lines, and windows of the original Mechanical Hall, the Architecture Building, and the connector are still evident. In addition, much of the original detailing, including their quoins, stucco, and cornice moulding, are still intact. The windows on the connector's second floor, on the south side of the courtyard have half-turned spindles, which were part of the detailing added by Lawrence. They are the only turned building elements that remain, although the courtyard was once surrounded by similar details. The vestibule at the northwest entrance to the building was originally part of the Mechanical Hall and likely dates from 1901, or at the latest from the Ellis Lawrence era (per Don Peting). Also, the doors at the north side of the Power Plant are original to that structure (1924). However, these portions of the building complex are drowned out by the imposing size of the 1957 and 1971 additions.

The courtyard shown in photos from the 1920s reveals open ground with flagstone paths and covered arcades adorned with artwork. The courtyard is currently mostly concrete and the arcades are gone. Furthermore, the height of the buildings around the courtyard has increased, casting long shadows across the courtyard and making it a less desirable place to be. The Arts Wing built by Ellis Lawrence (1923) was destroyed in 1955 or 56 to make way for the new 1957 addition designed by Annand, Boone, and Lei in the Modern style. According to the Lawrence Survey, "This is the only major UO campus building by Lawrence which no longer exists; decorative art works were destroyed except for fragments of south wall tile panels." The building was renamed Lawrence Hall in 1957 in honor of the legendary dean and campus architect and planner. Lawrence Hall continued to grow in 1971 with the Brutalist style addition by Cambell Yost Grube Hall, which connected the Lawrence designed 1924 Power Plant to Lawrence Hall. The 1924 Power Plant lost its stack at this time and was converted to art studios and office space for the Art Department. The most recent addition (1991) expanded the Architecture and Allied Arts Library, added office space, and created a new main entrance facing south.

Lawrence Hall's period of significance begins with the original building's date of construction (1901) and continues through Lawrence's involvement at the University of Oregon (1914-1946). Although the original buildings from this time period (Mechanical Hall and Architecture Building and the connector between them, and the Power Plant) have high significance, they have fair integrity due to the large, piecemeal additions dating to a post-Lawrence era. As a result, the overall complex merits a tertiary ranking (low significance and fair integrity).

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**Continuation Sheet 2**

<b>Section</b>	<b><u>Architectural Description</u></b>	<b>Page <u>1</u></b>
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Lawrence Hall's construction and configuration are such that its architectural description is best addressed by section in paragraph format.

Mechanical Hall was built in 1901 and was designed by Edgar Lazarus. It is Mission style with alterations. The building plan is rectangular and composed of two stories. The exterior wall material is stucco and the foundation is unknown. The hip roof is covered with composite shingles. Windows are wood framed 1:1 sashes with transom, in pairs divided by split spindle mullions. Decorative features include the split spindle mullions, quoins at the building corners, and a cornice return at the roofline. There are also keystone concrete lintels above the windows. Landscape features include the courtyard of Lawrence Hall and the open space with large old trees to the west (Old Campus Quad) of the building. It has not been moved.

W. C. Knighton designed the 1914 Architecture Building to resemble Mechanical Hall. It is also Mission style with alterations, rectangular, two story, and covered with a composite shingled hip roof with skylights. While the foundation is unknown, the exterior wall material is stucco over brick (not proven but appears so in old photos). Windows are pairs of 1:1 sash windows with a transom, with each half of the pair separated by a split spindle mullion. Window frames are wood. Decorative features include the split spindle mullions, quoins at the building corners, and a cornice return at the roofline. There are also keystone concrete lintels above the windows. Landscape features include the courtyard of Lawrence Hall. It has not been moved.

A two story rectangular addition connects these two buildings (first floor constructed in 1914, second floor constructed in 1923). It has a very low gable roof, with matching stucco, windows (wood framed 1:1 with transoms, split spindle mullions and concrete keystone lintels), and unknown foundation. The roof is composed of built up roofing material and the landscape feature is the courtyard of Lawrence Hall.

To the south of Mechanical Hall, there is a 1957 bridge over the courtyard's west entrance with an enclosed second story that connects to a rectangular, three story Modern addition that forms the southern border of the courtyard. The bridge is concrete, with concrete support pillars, a continuous band of metal framed fixed pane windows over casement windows, and sheet metal siding. The roof is flat, composed of built up roofing material.

The three story addition (1957) it connects to has a concrete foundation and its walls are exposed concrete piers infilled with large fixed pane glass and sheet metal siding. The roof is flat and composed of built up roofing material.

The eastern boundary of the courtyard is a four story, concrete foundation/concrete wall structure (1971 addition) with fixed pane metal windows and a built up flat roof. This building has an irregular footprint (but is mostly rectangular, with a long north-south axis) and is in the Modern style. The eastern side of this addition is covered with stucco, perhaps in an attempt to blend with the older structures but the color does not come close to matching. Shellenbarger and Lakin refer to this addition as Brutalist style.

During the 1971 remodeling, a connection to the 1924 Power Plant (to the east of the complex) was built. The Power Plant is a one and two story structure with two decorative cast stone panels (Teague, 2004). The walls are sided in brick, the windows are metal frames with multipane glazing, and the roof appears to be flat. Roofing material is unknown but likely built up material. There is also a brick water table coursing below the windows on the one story section.

The most recent addition (1991) to Lawrence Hall forms a backwards L with the 1971 addition, to the south of the entire complex. This structure, designed by BOORA, has a concrete foundation, brick siding, metal fixed pane windows, and a projecting semicircular bay at the main entrance doors. The style could be classified as Post Modern or "educational vernacular." It is comprised of three stories with a flat, built up roof.

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**Continuation Sheet 3**

**Section**

**Photos**

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**Figure 1. Lawrence Hall, west facade (Mechanical Hall)**



**Figure 2. Lawrence Hall, south facade**