

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

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: Peterson Hall
Historic building name: Education Building, Oregon Hall, Gilbert West
Building address: 955 East 13th Ave.
Ranking: Secondary

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Mediterranean (from Ellis Lawrence Building Survey)
Building plan (footprint shape): L shaped
Number of stories: 2 with raised basement
Foundation material(s): concrete
Primary exterior wall material: brick (common bond)
Secondary exterior wall material: terra cotta
Roof configuration/type: flat roof w/parapet
Primary roof material: Bituminous built up roof
Primary window type: 9/9 multi-pane horizontal pivot
Primary window material: wood
Decorative features and materials: Front entrance has terra cotta surround with engaged columns and bracketed oval pediment, pilasters w/terra cotta capitals, decorative terra cotta tiles below parapet, copings, cornice and "education" book symbol. Three multi-paned windows above main entrance capped by three brick arches atop engaged columns.
Landscape features: paved courtyard as part of axis with Memorial Quadrangle and Dad's Gates; Yellow Buckeye, foundation shrubs and trees
Associated resources: Peterson Hall is now part of Lillis Business Complex (attached); adjacent to 13th Ave Axis, Dads' Gates Axis, Gilbert Hall, Memorial Quadrangle
Comments: Peterson is a brick building most noted for its staircase entryway on the east façade of the building. This staircase and entryway faces into the courtyard and mirrors the image of Gilbert Hall, which is located directly across from the courtyard of Peterson.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1916
Architect: Lawrence & Holford
Builder/Contractor: N.E. Hoover
Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): N/A
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: Gabled parapet removed, courtyard elevated and front entry stair reconfigured prior to 1952. 1952: Connected to the Commonwealth Building via hyphenated addition, total interior remodel; 2003: Commonwealth Building razed and replaced by Lillis Business Complex, courtyard redesigned, new planters/paving installed.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

Area(s) of significance: Education, Architecture

Period of significance: 1916

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

Peterson Hall, formerly known as the Education Building, is a brick, Mediterranean style building constructed in 1916. It was designed along with Gilbert Hall, formerly known as the Commerce Building, to be twin "entry pylons" for the Memorial Quadrangle. Lawrence designed primary campus buildings such as Peterson and Gilbert in exotic styles, as seen in his other works on Memorial Quad, while he reserved the Colonial Revival style for secondary buildings (Education East, Education West, Women's Memorial Quad buildings). Peterson was also Lawrence's first building to be built on campus. These two buildings, along with Condon and Chapman Halls, Knight Library and the Museum of Art, form the major group of campus buildings of Lawrence's career. Peterson was built to house the School of Education, which began in 1910 and was the university's fourth professional school. Peterson Hall housed the School of Education for five years before it was relocated to Lawrence's new Education Building in 1921. Peterson Hall next housed the Law School until it moved to Fenton Hall. Peterson then became the center of the Liberal Arts College housing the department of languages and social studies.

Circa 1951 there was a large addition to both Peterson and Gilbert Halls. The ensemble became known as the Commonwealth Complex. (The Commonwealth Building was later completely razed for construction of the new Lillis Business Complex.) The early 1950s held many alterations for Peterson (Education) and Gilbert. The Commonwealth addition obstructed the Dads' Gates Axis originally intended by Ellis Lawrence and caused a need to elevate the grade of the courtyard. The first flight of Gilbert and Peterson's entry stairs was removed to meet the level of the new re-grade. The most startling alteration was the truncation, or flattening, of the gabled parapets on their entry façades. The Yellow Buckeye tree in the courtyard was received from the governor of Ohio and Ohio State University in 1958 as the result of a bet on that year's Rose Bowl game between Ohio State and Oregon.

Ellis Lawrence designed the Memorial Axis with points from Knight Library to Dads' Gates. As aforementioned, Peterson is one of the buildings which created this axis along with Gilbert, Chapman, Condon, Prince Lucien Campbell, and the Museum of Art. Peterson's interior is on par with Gilbert's in terms of integrity of materials, layout, and other character defining features. Both buildings retain portions of their original facades at the interior junction with Lillis. For the exterior, integrity is fair. The original bricks of the old parapet have been found underneath the stairway, so in theory the parapet could be rebuilt.

Peterson Hall was the first building by Ellis Lawrence on the UO campus, and the first of the buildings on the Memorial Axis. It is significant under Criterion C for being an architecturally distinctive work of a master architect. Peterson is in good condition and has fair integrity. Its diminished integrity means Peterson Hall may not be eligible for the National Register individually but it clearly would be a contributing building in a district. Assuming it is nominated under Criterion C, the Period of Significance is 1916 (year of construction). Peterson is ranked as a secondary resource given its fair integrity and high significance.

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 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 REFERENCESUniversity Archives

Special Collections, Alpha subject files, box 1&2 of 12
 1916 historic photo, UO Special Collections
 Ellis Lawrence Building Survey, V.2, UO Library

Newspapers

Daily Emerald, "New unit will house school of education and law department," 01/18/1916, 1
 Daily Emerald, "Oregon Hall to undergo remodeling," 04/18/1951, 6
 Daily Emerald, "Oregon Hall first education building", 11/02/1951, 5.

Internet Sources

Teague, Edward H., The Architecture of the University of Oregon: A History, Bibliography and Research Guide,
<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon/>

Other

Ellis Lawrence Building Survey, Oregon Inventory of Historic Places, 1989. v.2 (Eugene). Compiled by the Historic Preservation Program, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon; project directors, Michael Shellenbarger, Kimberly Lakin. [Salem, Or.] : State Historic Preservation Office, [1989].

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Melissa Stoller/Kathryn Burk, Winter 06

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

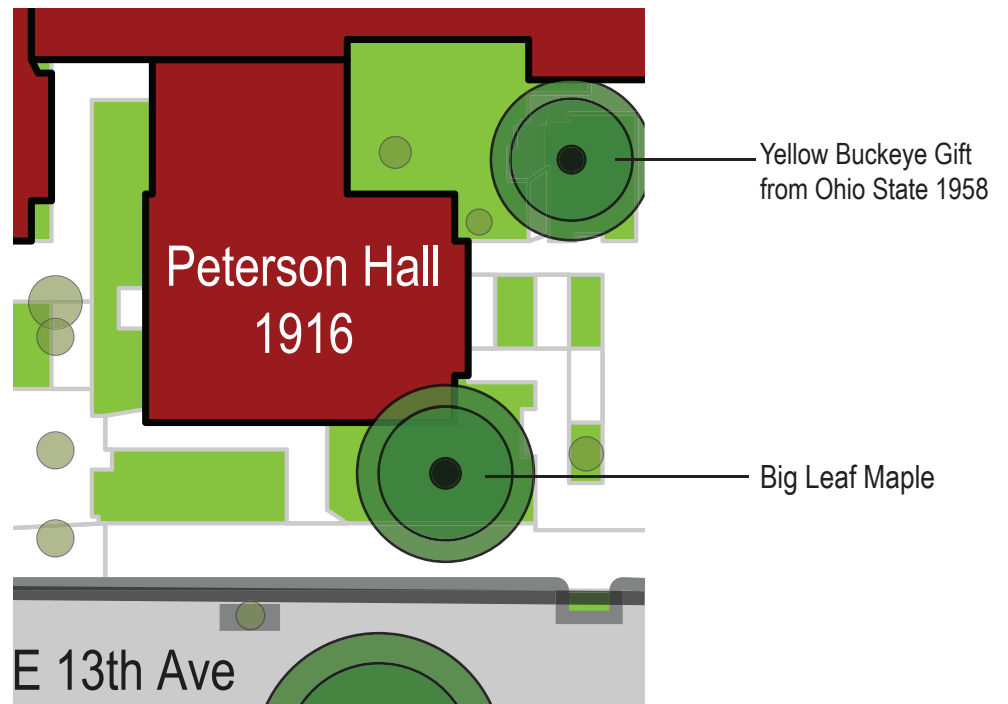
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PHOTOGRAPH



(See Continuation Sheet 1 for additional photos of this building)

SITE PLAN



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Continuation Sheet 1

Section Photos Page 4



Clockwise from top left:

Peterson Hall's main entry detail, south façade detail, interior connection to Lillis Hall (looking back at Peterson's façade)