

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

### **RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

Current building name: Education (B) (West)

Historic building name: Education West, University High School

Building address: 1571 Alder St.

Ranking: Secondary

### **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Architectural style classification: Georgian Colonial Revival

Building plan (footprint shape): rectangular

Number of stories: 1

Foundation material(s): concrete

Primary exterior wall material: brick

Secondary exterior wall material: n/a

Roof configuration/type: gabled hip with swept dormers

Primary roof material: composition shingle

Primary window type: multi-pane horizontal pivot

Primary window material: wood

Decorative features and materials: wood louvered cupola, broken scroll pediment at south entry, broken pediment at west entry (missing urn), panels below windows, brick soldier head and base course, molded fascia

Landscape features: mature trees and large lawn along Alder St., entry walks

Associated resources: covered walk on east side, courtyard, Education East, Education South

Comments: Education B, or Education West as it is commonly known, was designed as part of the 1921 Education complex by Ellis Lawrence. The covered walk between it and Education East is original to the Lawrence campus plan.

### **ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

Date of construction: 1921

Architect: Lawrence and Holford

Builder/Contractor: Davis Bldg. Co. (masonry); Sturges & Sturges (plumbing/heating); A. Lombard (plastering); J. C. English Co., Portland (lighting fixtures); Stein Bros., Eugene (concrete); A. H. Andrews Co. (blackboards)

Moved? (yes/no): no      Date of move(s): N/A

Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1939: interior classroom space added; (unknown year): open-air gymnasium demolished; 1953: high school closed, minor interior alterations; 1980: courtyard addition, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor & dormers added?; 1992: roof and exterior restoration

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE**

Original use(s) or function(s): Education classes

Current use(s) or function(s): Education classes

Area(s) of significance: Education, 20<sup>th</sup> c. Architecture

Period of significance: 1921

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

The Education B Building, or Education West, designed by Ellis Lawrence, was built at the same time as the Education East building. Education West was originally built as the home for the University High School when it opened in 1921. The 1924 Oregonian praised the newly constructed building and described the functions of the University High School. It says, "A model high school... furnishing an excellent laboratory for the training of teachers and working out of new methods in educational practice. The [university] students not only do actual teaching under supervision here, but also have the opportunity of observing some of the best specimens of educational work done in the state." A notebook containing the minutes of the Senior Class Meetings of 1924 records visits of University professors visiting the weekly gatherings (all Seniors were expected to attend) to give lectures and musical performances. During the U.S Depression, the University High School faced serious financial cuts and nearly closed its doors. The teachers and principal fought to keep the school open and endured large paycuts that left them with salaries lower than teachers in nearby Corvallis. At this time, Dean James Ralph Jewell restructured the school by having subjects such as math and science taught elsewhere. The High School remained open until 1953. It now houses the U of O's School of Education along with the other buildings in the Education Complex.

The Colonial Revival style was recommended for secondary buildings like the Education buildings by Lawrence in his 1914 Campus Plan. Education West's detailing, especially the broken scroll pediment at the south entry and broken pediment over the west entry, place it within that style. Other decorative features include a brick soldier head and base course, a wood louvered cupola, and molded fascia.

This 1-story building is an important part of the Education Complex and in the history of the School of Education at the U of O. As seen in Lawrence's other groupings (Women's Memorial Quad, The Memorial Quad, etc.), the Education Complex uses buildings organized with clear relationships to each other and which form exterior spaces. The scholar's walk between Education East and West is part of the original Lawrence plan, while the enclosure of the courtyard follows the principles of the Oregon Experiment. Education A/East encloses a courtyard (formerly the high school exercise court) that was designed by Will Martin, a U of O architecture graduate who also designed the Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland. The covered walk between East and South is also attributed to Martin and was added in 1980, the same year as the courtyard enclosure. According to the Lawrence Survey, "the 1980 addition to the School developed and enhanced this courtyard, forming one of the most successful spaces on campus." Exterior restoration work was done in 1992 and the building maintains good exterior integrity. Despite minor interior remodels in 1953 and possibly again in 1980, the interior clearly communicates its original function through its woodwork, finishes, floor plan, and details like transoms over doorways.

The style, material and orientation to a central courtyard make this building a unique and architecturally significant work of Ellis Lawrence. It may qualify individually for the National Register under Criterion C as a Lawrence designed building and as a good representative of the Colonial Revival style on the U of O campus. Hence, its period of significance is its date of construction, 1921. If considered under Criterion A for its role in social history and U of O's development, the period of significance would likely be extended. This building has been ranked as a secondary for its medium significance and good integrity.

**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  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):

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Associated with significant events  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Distinctive architecturally |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B. Associated with significant persons | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 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                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other _____ see below |

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"The Education Building," *Oregana*. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon, 1924.

Plans and Specifications for Education West, Facilities Services Office, University of Oregon.

Shellenbarger, Michael and Kimberly Lakin. *Ellis Lawrence Building Survey*. Oregon Inventory of Historic Places, 1989. vol.2 (Eugene). Compiled by the Historic Preservation Program, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon. Salem, OR: State Historic Preservation Office, 1989.

Soderstrom Architects. *Education Buildings Roof and Exterior Restoration Project Manual*. Portland, OR: Soderstrom Architects, P.C., 1992.

Teague, Edward H. "Education Buildings." The Architecture of the University of Oregon. 10 Oct. 2004. Univ. of OR Lib., Eugene, OR. Accessed 15 Mar. 2005 from <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon/>

**RECORDING INFORMATION**

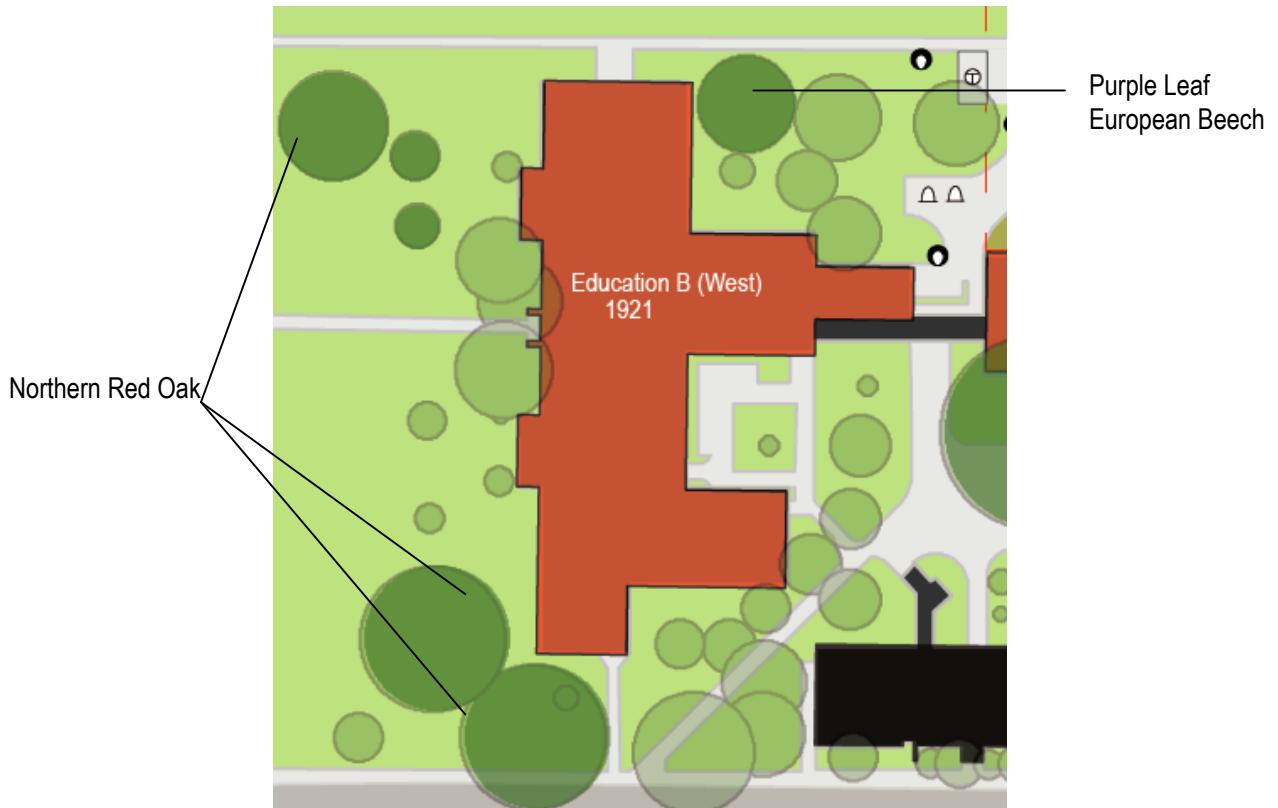
Researched: Shawn Lingo, Jeremy Mauro, Winter 2006

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

Photo number or name:

**PHOTOGRAPH**

(See Continuation Sheet 1 for additional photos)

**SITE PLAN**

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**Continuation Sheet 1**

Section Photos Page 4



**Figure 1.** Education West building with cupola evident



**Figure 2.** Education Complex courtyard