

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

**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

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Current building name: Onyx Bridge  
Historic building name: Science Building East Wing  
Building address: 1230 Franklin Blvd.  
Ranking: Non-Contributing

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

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Architectural style classification: Structural Expressionism  
Building plan (footprint shape): rectangular  
Number of stories: 4  
Foundation material(s): concrete  
Primary exterior wall material: concrete  
Secondary exterior wall material: structural steel  
Roof configuration/type: flat  
Primary roof material: BUR  
Primary window type: modular units with metal frames in a variety of arrangements using large rectangles and small rectangles  
Primary window material: metal  
Decorative features and materials: exposed structural steel diagonal trusses  
Landscape features: none  
Associated resources: straddles Cascade Annexes East and West , attached to Pacific Hall (to the west) and Klamath Hall (to the east)  
accessible via glass enclosed walkway with offices; adjacent to Science Courtyard  
Comments:

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

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Date of construction: 1962  
Architect: Lawrence, Tucker, Wallman  
Builder/Contractor: Vik Construction Company General Contractor  
Moved? (yes/no): No      Date of move(s): n/a  
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: Exterior trusses were originally covered with asbestos fireproofing, which was removed in 1984.

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE**

Original use(s) or function(s): Offices and Laboratories

Current use(s) or function(s): Offices and Laboratories

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

Period of significance: 1962

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

In 1960 construction was underway on the new East Wing to the Science Building. The building was constructed to house laboratories and offices. Later named Onyx Bridge, so named because it was designed to straddle Onyx Street (although the street was closed during construction and never reopened), the unique building was a result of a new type of architectural design - an external structural support system. The entire building is supported by steel girders, covering the outside, and towers at each end of the "bridge." By using this method, no further support was required within the structure. The idea behind this design was so that the internal structure could be changed at any time without concerns of load support or stress on the structure. Therefore, with no permanent interior floor plan, the windows were placed without regard to what they would look like on the exterior. The criss-crossed exterior girders are supposed to be the only noticeable feature of the completed building. Faculty later complained of too few windows and vibration.

After the building's completion and subsequent inspection, the exterior supports were covered in asbestos as a fire safety precaution. By 1984, removal of the asbestos was ordered and an exterior fire sprinkler system was installed. As originally designed, four additional stories were planned for Onyx Bridge for a total of eight stories. This design was never carried forward.

Due to the fact that the building is less than 50 years old, it is not eligible for the National Register. Its lack of architectural significance means that it is not likely to be eligible in the future. At present, it is categorized as a non-contributing resource with good integrity but only very low significance.

**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):

 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 type="checkbox"/> Historic photographs   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical encyclopedias     | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary indexes                    | Other <u>See below</u>                          |

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

## Newspapers

- Daily Emerald, "New science building to have eight stories," 05/19/1960, 6  
 Daily Emerald, "Cold damages Science addition," 01/25/1962, 1  
 Daily Emerald, "Strange science building design resembles giant checker board," 10/10/1961, 3  
 Daily Emerald, "Four scientists will dedicate new building", 04/05/1962, 4

UO Planning Office, Facilities Services, building drawings.

Skidmore Owings and Merrill, Preliminary Architects, UO Science III, Report of 31 March 1967  
 Onyx Bridge – General File

**RECORDING INFORMATION**

Researched: Melissa Stoller/Kathryn Burk, Winter 06  
 Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006  
 Photo number or name:

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**SITE PLAN**

