

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

**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

Current building name: Villard Hall  
Historic building name: Villard Hall, New College Building  
Building address: 1109 Old Campus Lane  
Ranking: Primary

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Architectural style classification: Second Empire  
Building plan (footprint shape): Rectangular  
Number of stories: 2 \_ (3 floors)  
Foundation material(s): Brick  
Primary exterior wall material: Concrete stucco (or parging?) over brick  
Secondary exterior wall material: n/a  
Roof configuration/type: Mansard roof with flat top  
Primary roof material: Wood shingle on Mansard portion / metal roof on flat portion  
Primary window type: 1/1 double hung sash  
Primary window material: Wood sash with cast iron sills  
Decorative features and materials: Four square towers set at each corner; Mansard roof with decorative iron railings and wooden balustrades; molded cornice; brackets; rounded arches; triangular pedimented windows in towers; second-story window aedicules with square-pilasters of the Corinthian order, entablature and oculus windows in the tympanum; balustraded portico at east side.  
Landscape features: "Class of 1897 Condon Oaks and 1893 stone memorial in old campus quadrangle  
Associated resources: Normal Gate (1885), Dads' Gates (1940), the Hello Walk, the old stairway at 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Villard Green, Old Campus Quad, attached to Robinson Theatre  
Comments: Villard Hall is listed as a National Landmark

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

Date of construction: 1885-1886  
Architect: Warren H. Williams  
Builder/Contractor: W.H. Abrams, contractor; Lord Nelson Roney, construction superintendent  
Moved? (yes/no): No      Date of move(s): N/A  
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1895: interior remodel and gallery added in assembly room; 1926: remodeled – E. F. Lawrence, architect; 1948-9: interior remodel / University Theatre attached at West side; 1976: remodel/fire sprinklers. 1987: Historic Preservation Program porch restoration; 1989: handicap access remodel/elevators; 1997: third floor remodel by UO Facilities Design Services

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Current use(s) or function(s): Classrooms, theater, offices

Area(s) of significance: 19<sup>th</sup> c. Architecture, Education

Period of significance: 1886

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

Designed by Warren H. Williams, noted architect of iron front buildings from Albany to Portland, Villard Hall was the second building constructed on the University of Oregon campus due to a grant from University patron Henry Villard. It was referred to as the New College Building during construction but by the dedication ceremony it received the name Villard Hall, in honor of Henry Villard. He had assisted the university in 1881 with a donation of \$7000 to erase the remaining debt from the construction of Deady Hall (he was a friend of Matthew Deady). He also donated \$1000 for a library, \$1000 for science equipment, established five \$250 scholarships and a \$50,000 endowment to UO.

Henry Villard was born in Bavaria as Ferdinand Heinrich Gustav Hilgard. He changed his name when he was 18 years old and immigrated to the US. He settled in Illinois where he became an English reporter for the German newspapers and was purportedly a friend of Abraham Lincoln. He married Abolitionist Fannie Garrison. He studied finance and supervised US holdings of German businessmen. He amassed great wealth through his land holdings on New York's Madison Avenue and through his ownership of the Northern Pacific Railroad and General Electric. McKim, Mead & White designed his house in New York.

The decorative iron cresting was designed by Williams and made at the Cherry and Parks Iron Works in Albany. Villard has decorative wooden balustrades, brackets at the molded cornice, rounded arched window bays, with triangular pediments above the tower windows and oculus windows above the windows in the main body of the building. The windows are double hung wood sash framed in aedicules with square pilasters of the Corinthian order. Villard originally had large urns atop the balustrade and ornamented shields in each pediment which have deteriorated and have been either removed or lost.

Villard Hall was built originally as offices on the first floor for administration and now notable staff (including Dr. Thomas Condon, President Chapmank, and Dr. Luella Clay Carson) and with classrooms and a large (held 1,000 occupants) auditorium. In 1895 a gallery was added to the auditorium. In 1946, Villard's third floor was used to temporarily house returning veterans from WWII and became known as "Old Soldiers Home." In 1949, the interior of Villard was completely remodeled, including removal of two of the three main doors at the Franklin Street entrance, the interior double entrance stair, and the West porch. Originally built with 2 floors and an attic, a third floor was added. Robinson Theatre was then attached on the west side.

The building was listed on the National Register for Historic Places in 1972 (#72001083) and is a National Historic Landmark as of May, 1977. The University of Oregon's Historic Preservation students undertook the restoration of the East porch in 1987 and the roof in subsequent years. Villard Hall currently houses the Theater Arts Department and the Comparative Literature Department. Multiple remodeling projects over the years have dramatically altered the interior of this building. The building is in good condition, However, many of the historic architectural features of Villard Hall are either missing or in disrepair and in need of restoration. The interior integrity, for reasons aforementioned, is fair. The exterior integrity is good despite the presence of Robinson Theatre with its contrasting building style, massing, decoration, and building material. Villard Hall is a primary resource for the UO campus, due to its high significance associated with the early University of Oregon development, Henry Villard, and architectural excellence.

**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 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 REFERENCES**

## Archival Materials

Old Oregon, October 1948, p. 13.

Special Collections Alphabetical files,

Box 1 and 2 of 12. File: Buildings, History of

Box 11 of 12. File: Villard Building, File: Villard Cornerstone, File: Villard Building. "Fragments from Villard Hall: A Survey of Architectural Elements with Recommendations for Restoration," manuscript produced by graduate students from a special term class in historic preservation, investigated the issues, problems and potential solutions associated with the restoration of Villard Hall, printed 1988

Box 12 of 12. File: Villard Endowment Letter, File: Villard Hall Centennial, 1 & 2 of 2

## UO Planning Office &amp; Facilities Services Files:

Construction set of building plans dated 1949

Villard Hall building file

## UO Building Records – Projects and Improvements, February 2006 disc

## Newspapers

"February Completion Scheduled for Villard," Oregon Daily Emerald, January 15, 1949.

"Landscaping the Theatre," Oregon Daily Emerald, October 21, 1949.

## Handout

Shellenbarger, Michael. *University of Oregon Architecture: A Personal Tour*. Historic Preservation Department, 1986.

## Website

National Register for Historic Places at <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/OR/Lane/state.html>

## Other

National Register nomination

**RECORDING INFORMATION**

Researched: Kathryn Burk, Melissa Stoller, Winter 2006

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

Photo number or name: Villard Hall

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**SITE PLAN**

