RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: Walton (Joshua J.) Hall Complex

Historic building name: Men’s Dormitory No.2 (South wing) & No.3 (North wing), 1956 - 1957; George Rebec Hall, Jan. – March 1958.

Building address: North wing: 1593 E. 15th Street; South wing: 1595 E. 15th Street

Ranking: Non-Contributing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Early Modern

Building plan (footprint shape): H shaped with attached E shaped arms

Number of stories: 4

Foundation material(s): Concrete

Primary exterior wall material: Brick (running bond)

Secondary exterior wall material: Metal (low carbon hot rolled new billet steel), porcelain enamel panels

Roof configuration/type: flat

Primary roof material: unknown

Primary window type: Casement

Primary window material: Metal (low carbon hot rolled new billet steel)

Decorative features and materials: brick pattern work

Landscape features: arcaded interior courtyards with benches, bike racks, and small shrubs and trees

Associated resources: Promenade to the north and 15th Avenue Axis to the south

Comments: The Housing Office moved their office into Walton in 1978, taking over the spaces of five unused dining rooms and part of the kitchen of Walton Hall.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1957 - 1959

Architect: Church, Newberry, Roehr, Schuette

Builder/Contractor: J.O. Olsen Mfg. Company & Waldo S. Hardie and Sons (General); Chase Plumbing Company (sheet metal), Portland Wire and Iron (metal roof decks), Lewis Riffel incorporated (misc iron & steel), Atlas Sheet Metal (kitchen equipment), Springfield Glass (glasswork), Builders Insulating & Roofing Company (roofing and waterproofing), Midgleys Mill Work (interior millwork) & Rubenstein Furniture Company (floor covering).

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


Currently, there is a proposed future renovation or replacement of the complex to increase occupancy capacity.
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): University/Dormitory
Current use(s) or function(s): University/Dormitory
Area(s) of significance: Education, Architecture
Period of significance: 1957 – 1959

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):
Walton Hall was built in the period after WWII in response to effects of the baby boom, which increased student enrollment at the University. It was built along with the Earl (1954-55), Hamilton (1962), and Bean Complexes (1964). The original name of the residence hall was changed from George Rebec Hall to Joshua J. Walton Hall in 1958 after the members of Rebec House protested the use of the same name. Joshua J. Walton was a Eugene city judge and served on the Board of Regents from its inception, from 1872 – 1906.

The design concept of Walton, according to then Housing Director, H.P. Barnhart, was based on the idea of creating small unit living with large unit management. This meant a centralized kitchen, but separate dining halls in each unit; additionally, a recreation room, snack machines and laundry facilities in the basement for the entire complex, but individual lounges in each separate unit. The unit design of Walton also allowed the University to house both men and women in the same complex, but in different units. At one point in time, men were housed in Adams, Clark, DeCou Halls and women in the remaining seven halls. The design concept also included the idea of outdoor living, providing residents with easy access to outdoor patios through sliding glass doors from the lounge areas.

Walton Hall is comprised of ten separate halls, each housing between 60 to 70 students. The south wing was built first in 1957 and consists of, in counter-clockwise direction, Adams, Clark, Douglass, Smith and Sweetser Halls. Adams Hall was named after Percy Paget Adams, a Professor of Graphics from 1901 - 1946 and sometime Assistant and Acting Dean; he was also the responsible architect for Engineering Hall. Clark Hall was named after Dan Elbert Clark, Head of the History Department from 1940 – 1951 and co-founder of Pacific Historical Review. Douglass Hall was named after Matthew Hale Douglass, a university librarian from 1908 – 1942. Smith Hall was named for Warren DuPre Smith, Head of the Geology Department from 1914 – 1947. Sweetser Hall was named for Albert Raddin Sweetser, Head of the Botany and later Biology Department from 1902 – 1932 (various dates listed)

The north wing was completed in 1959 and added five units to the complex. It consists of, in clockwise direction, DeCou, Dyment, Hawthorne, McAlister, and Schafer Halls. DeCou Hall was named after Edward DeCou, the head of the Math Department from 1902 – 1939. Dyment Hall was named after Colin Dyment, the Dean of the College of Literature, Science and Arts from 1920 – 1925. Hawthorne Hall was named after Benjamin Hawthorne, Psychology Professor from 1888 – 1909, and who also established the first psychology lab on the Pacific coast. McAlister Hall was named for Edward McAlister, the Dean of the College of Engineering from 1902 – 1925. Schafer Hall was named after Joseph Schafer, the head of the History Department from 1900 – 1920.

Walton Hall Complex is not yet 50 years old, has little significance, and lacks distinction. For the present, despite its excellent integrity, Walton Complex is categorized as a non-contributing campus resource due to its very low significance.

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Historic Significance (check one): X Very Low or None
Integrity (check one): x Excellent _ Good _ Fair _ Poor
Condition (check one): x Excellent _ Good _ Fair _ Poor
Building designation: _ City Landmark _ National Register _ National Historic Landmark x Not listed

Preliminary National Register eligibility findings
Building 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 _
B. Associated with significant persons _
C. Distinctive architecturally _
D. Archaeologically important _
If applicable, building qualifies under NR Criterion Considerations: _ Yes _ No
If yes, which apply:
Building is NOT eligible: X Intact but lacks distinction or _ Altered/loss of integrity or x Not 50 years old
DOCUMENTATION

Indicate resources consulted when researching this building (check all that apply):

- University archives
- Sanborn maps
- State Archives
- Local Historic Society
- Biographical encyclopedias
- UO Planning Office files
- Building permits
- State Library
- Personal interviews
- Obituary indexes
- Newspapers
- SHPO files
- State Historic Society
- Historic photographs
- Other

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newspaper Articles


Original Documents

Alphabetical Subject File, Box 1, “Adams, Percy,” Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries.

Alphabetical Subject File, Box 1, “Clark, Dan E.,” Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries.


Alphabetical Subject File, Box 4, “Smith, Warren D. (Geology), Personalities,” Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries.

Alphabetical Subject File, Box 4, “Sweetser, Mrs. Albert Raddin,” Special Collections and University Archives, UO Libraries.

“Res. Hall History,” Office of Marketing, Public Affairs and Assessment, University Housing. (Original documents are from the Special Collections and University Archives).

(see Continuation Sheet 1)

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Erica Steverson and Sarah Helwick, March 13, 2006
Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006
Photo number or name: Walton Hall Complex
HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
University of Oregon Cultural Resources Survey
Eugene, Lane County, Oregon
Summer 2006

Continuation Sheet 1
Section ______ Bibliographical References _________________ Page 3 __________

Websites


