**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

- **Current building name:** Earl (Virgil D.) Hall Complex
- **Historic building name:** Virgil D. Earl Hall
- **Building address:** 1333 East 15th Avenue
- **Ranking:** Non-Contributing

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

- **Architectural style classification:** Modern
- **Building plan (footprint shape):** irregular
- **Number of stories:** 4
- **Foundation material(s):** concrete
- **Primary exterior wall material:** brick
- **Secondary exterior wall material:** terra cotta tiles
- **Roof configuration/type:** flat
- **Primary roof material:** asphalt
- **Primary window type:** six 8, large central panes flanked by operable casement and hopper windows
- **Primary window material:** metal
- **Decorative features and materials:** terra cotta tile, marble casing on entry doors, belt course; colonnade on east side, lunar lights
- **Landscape features:** interior courtyards lined with light posts, perimeter plantings
- **Associated resources:** Attached to Straub Hall; adjacent to Emerald Axis, 15th Avenue Axis and Promenade
- **Comments:**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

- **Date of construction:** 1953-55
- **Architect:** Church, Newberry & Roehr
- **Builder/Contractor:** W.H. Shields Construction Company
- **Moved? (yes/no):** no  
  **Date of move(s):** N/A
- **Description/dates of major additions/alterations:** General renovations and upgrades to the interior over the life of the building; 1983, 1985 exterior wall restoration; 1985 interior painting and refinishing; 2005 exterior accessibility upgrade & removal of covered walkway roof.
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Men’s Dormitory  
Current use(s) or function(s): Co-ed Dormitory

Area(s) of significance: Education, Architecture  
Period of significance: 1955

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

The Earl Complex, also identified as Virgil D. Earl Hall, was completed in 1955 as an addition to Straub Hall. The design reflects the International style popular in the post-war period. This complex was named for Virgil D. Earl, University of Oregon alumnus and Athletic Director (1923-31) as well as Dean of Men (1931-45). Earl Hall is comprised of units named for former faculty: Edgar McClure (Chemistry), Davis Walter Morton (first dean of Administration), Frederick George Young (first dean of Graduate School), Orin Fletcher Stafford (Chemistry Department head), Henry Davidson Sheldon (founder of Oregon State Teachers Assoc., first dean of School of Education). It was built as a dormitory to house incoming freshmen men, including five separate units for 330 students. There have been minor renovations over the life of the building, including the restoration of the exterior tile wall portions in 1983 and 1985. This restoration included the removal and replacement “in-kind” of broken and cracked tiles. In 1985, the entire interior was painted. In 1991, the entire building was re-roofed. It is used for coed housing today. Dining and kitchen facilities are no longer situated in the complex. The former dining rooms have been converted into a lounge space in each of the 5 units. Laundry facilities have also been incorporated into the basements. Most recently (2005), Earl Hall has received universal accessibility alterations (ADA elevator, partial removal of covered walkway). This building is sited between the Emerald Axis, 15th Avenue Axis and Promenade and it is connected to Straub Hall.

While this building has continuity of use, has good integrity, and is in good condition, it does not meet any of the criteria of significance for listing on the National Register. It has been ranked as a non-contributing resource due to its very low significance compared to other campus buildings.

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Historic Significance (check one):  
- High  
- Medium  
- Low  
X Very Low or None

Integrity (check one):  
- Excellent  
X 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  
- C. Distinctive architecturally

- B. Associated with significant persons  
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  
- Not 50 years old
DOCUMENTATION

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

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

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Architecture at the University of Oregon http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon/


University of Oregon 125th Anniversary http://anniversary.uoregon.edu/tour/collier.html.

University of Oregon University Housing http://housing.uoregon.edu/APPLYING/choices.html.


RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Kathleen Mertz, Elise Mendonca, Winter 2006
Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006
Photo number or name: