RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION
Current building name: McKenzie Hall
Historic building name: Law Center, Grayson Hall
Building address: 1101 Kincaid Street
Ranking: Secondary

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION
Architectural style classification: Brutalist
Building plan (footprint shape): Irregular, rectilinear
Number of stories: 4
Foundation material(s): concrete
Primary exterior wall material: brick
Secondary exterior wall material: concrete
Roof configuration/type: flat
Primary roof material: elastic membrane
Primary window type: fixed pane plate glass
Primary window material: metal
Decorative features and materials: horizontal brick coursing at water table level and to emphasize floor divisions; strong geometric play of shapes and the contrast between building materials
Landscape features: extensive architect designed landscape, sunken courtyard
Associated resources: Dads’ Gates located at northeast corner of building; Deady Hall Walk
Comments: McKenzie Hall is an exemplar of the Brutalist style of Modern architecture with its overscale geometric massing and use of rough cast concrete for textural effect. Board form shadows are evident in various locations. The yellow brick in the veneer is similar in color to Fenton Hall, which it is supposed to evoke.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY
Date of construction: 1970
Architect: Wilmsen, Endicott, Unthank, AIA; Lloyd Bond and Associates, landscape
Builder/Contractor: Todd Construction Co.
Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): N/A
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 1999-2000: general renovation and conversion to general campus offices and classrooms, SRG Partnership, Architects
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Law School
Current use(s) or function(s): Classrooms/Offices, Computing Center, History Department
Area(s) of significance: Education, 20th c. Architecture
Period of significance: 1970

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

McKenzie Hall was completed in 1970 to house the Law School, which had outgrown its previous home, Fenton Hall. McKenzie has an interesting interplay of Modern architecture elements with strong references to Fenton Hall. This is accomplished through its massing, brick building material, and even the color of the brick veneer. With its exposed concrete construction, it is a Modern interpretation of Fenton, the campus’ first library and an important resource to the University. Designed by architects Wilmsen, Endicott and Unthank, McKenzie Hall is a fine example of the Brutalist style with its overscale geometric massing and use of rough cast concrete for textural effect. Wilmsen, Endicott, Unthank, all graduates of the UO School of Architecture, designed numerous Eugene buildings together and individually. Decorative elements are limited to the strong geometric play of shapes and the contrast between building materials. The extensive modern landscape planning by Lloyd Bard and Associates adds to the building’s potential significance.

One of the most important events to have occurred at McKenzie Hall was the address given at its grand opening as the Law Center by United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. It is bounded on the south by the terminus of the historic Deady Hall Walk Axis and on the east by the Dads’ Gates Axis.

The building is in good condition. The general renovation work in 1999-2000 by SRG Partnership, Architects to convert to general campus offices and classrooms, has left the building intact both inside and out. McKenzie Hall possesses excellent integrity and architectural significance as a good example of modern architecture by the well known Eugene firm of Wilmsen, Endicott, and Unthank (Criterion C). It could be individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places once it reaches 50 years of age. It is considered a secondary resource for campus planning purposes given its medium significance and excellent integrity.

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Historic Significance (check one): __ High __ Medium ~ Low __ Very Low or None
Integrity (check one): ~ Excellent ~ Good _ Fair _ Poor
Condition (check one): ~ 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: X Individually or _ As a contributing resource in a district only

If eligible individually, applicable criteria (check all that apply):
  _ A. Associated with significant events X 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: _ 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
- Newspapers
- Building permits
- State Library
- Personal interviews
- Obituary indexes
- SHPO files
- State Library
- State Historic Society
- Historic photographs
- Other __ See below

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


University of Oregon School of Law; Law Center Dedication, September 25, 1971. [Bound Scrapbook]. University of Oregon Special Collections.

University Planning Office & Facilities Services, Plans and Specifications for McKenzie Hall.

Magazines and Newspapers (from Teague)

- "New Legal Center Opens." UO School of Law Newsletter. 4 no.1 (Nov. 1970): 1, ill.

RECORDING INFORMATION

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