### RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

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

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

- **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

### ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

- **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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original use(s) or function(s): Offices and Laboratories</th>
<th>Current use(s) or function(s): Offices and Laboratories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area(s) of significance: Education, 20th c. Architecture</td>
<td>Period of significance: 1962</td>
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</table>

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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Significance (check one):</th>
<th>_ High  _ Medium  _ Low  X Very Low or None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrity (check one):</td>
<td>X Excellent  _ Good  _ Fair  _ Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition (check one):</td>
<td>_ Excellent  X Good  _ Fair  _ Poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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  X Not 50 years old
Indicate resources consulted when researching this building (check all that apply):

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

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,” 10/10/19611, 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: