**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION**

Current building name: Peterson Hall  
Historic building name: Education Building, Oregon Hall, Gilbert West  
Building address: 955 East 13th Ave.  
Ranking: Secondary

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

Architectural style classification: Mediterranean (from Ellis Lawrence Building Survey)  
Building plan (footprint shape): L shaped  
Number of stories: 2 with raised basement  
Foundation material(s): concrete  
Primary exterior wall material: brick (common bond)  
Secondary exterior wall material: terra cotta  
Roof configuration/type: flat roof w/parapet  
Primary roof material: Bituminous built up roof  
Primary window type: 9/9 multi-pane horizontal pivot  
Primary window material: wood  
Decorative features and materials: Front entrance has terra cotta surround with engaged columns and bracketed oval pediment, pilasters w/terra cotta capitals, decorative terra cotta tiles below parapet, copings, cornice and "education" book symbol. Three multi-paned windows above main entrance capped by three brick arches atop engaged columns.  
Landscape features: paved courtyard as part of axis with Memorial Quadrangle and Dad's Gates; Yellow Buckeye, foundation shrubs and trees  
Associated resources: Peterson Hall is now part of Lillis Business Complex (attached); adjacent to 13th Ave Axis, Dads’ Gates Axis, Gilbert Hall, Memorial Quadrangle  
Comments: Peterson is a brick building most noted for its staircase entryway on the east façade of the building. This staircase and entryway faces into the courtyard and mirrors the image of Gilbert Hall, which is located directly across from the courtyard of Peterson.

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

Date of construction: 1916  
Architect: Lawrence & Holford  
Builder/Contractor: N.E. Hoover  
Moved? (yes/no): no  
Date of move(s): n/a  
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: Gabled parapet removed, courtyard elevated and front entry stair reconfigured prior to 1952. 1952: Connected to the Commonwealth Building via hyphenated addition, total interior remodel; 2003: Commonwealth Building razed and replaced by Lillis Business Complex, courtyard redesigned, new planters/paving installed.
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Classrooms/offices  Current use(s) or function(s): Classrooms/offices
Area(s) of significance: Education, Architecture  Period of significance: 1916

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

Peterson Hall, formerly known as the Education Building, is a brick, Mediterranean style building constructed in 1916. It was designed along with Gilbert Hall, formerly known as the Commerce Building, to be twin “entry pylons” for the Memorial Quadrangle. Lawrence designed primary campus buildings such as Peterson and Gilbert in exotic styles, as seen in his other works on Memorial Quad, while he reserved the Colonial Revival style for secondary buildings (Education East, Education West, Women’s Memorial Quad buildings). Peterson was also Lawrence’s first building to be built on campus. These two buildings, along with Condon and Chapman Halls, Knight Library and the Museum of Art, form the major group of campus buildings of Lawrence’s career. Peterson was built to house the School of Education, which began in 1910 and was the university’s fourth professional school. Peterson Hall housed the School of Education for five years before it was relocated to Lawrence’s new Education Building in 1921. Peterson Hall next housed the Law School until it moved to Fenton Hall. Peterson then became the center of the Liberal Arts College housing the department of languages and social studies.

Circa 1951 there was a large addition to both Peterson and Gilbert Halls. The ensemble became known as the Commonwealth Complex. (The Commonwealth Building was later completely razed for construction of the new Lillis Business Complex.) The early 1950s held many alterations for Peterson (Education) and Gilbert. The Commonwealth addition obstructed the Dads’ Gates Axis originally intended by Ellis Lawrence and caused a need to elevate the grade of the courtyard. The first flight of Gilbert and Peterson’s entry stairs was removed to meet the level of the new re-grade. The most startling alteration was the truncation, or flattening, of the gabled parapets on their entry façades. The Yellow Buckeye tree in the courtyard was received from the governor of Ohio and Ohio State University in 1958 as the result of a bet on that year’s Rose Bowl game between Ohio State and Oregon.

Ellis Lawrence designed the Memorial Axis with points from Knight Library to Dads’ Gates. As aforementioned, Peterson is one of the buildings which created this axis along with Gilbert, Chapman, Condon, Prince Lucien Campbell, and the Museum of Art. Peterson’s interior is on par with Gilbert’s in terms of integrity of materials, layout, and other character defining features. Both buildings retain portions of their original facades at the interior junction with Lillis. For the exterior, integrity is fair. The original bricks of the old parapet have been found underneath the stairway, so in theory the parapet could be rebuilt.

Peterson Hall was the first building by Ellis Lawrence on the UO campus, and the first of the buildings on the Memorial Axis. It is significant under Criterion C for being an architecturally distinctive work of a master architect. Peterson is in good condition and has fair integrity. Its diminished integrity means Peterson Hall may not be eligible for the National Register individually but it clearly would be a contributing building in a district. Assuming it is nominated under Criterion C, the Period of Significance is 1916 (year of construction). Peterson is ranked as a secondary resource given its fair integrity and high significance.

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Historic Significance (check one): X High _ Medium _ Low __ Very Low or None
Integrity (check one): _ Excellent _ Good X Fair _ Poor
Condition (check one): _ Excellent X 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 _ 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  
- Building permits  
- State Library  
- Personal interviews  
- Obituary indexes  
- Newspapers  
- UO Planning Office files  
- SHPO files  
- State Historic Society  
- State Archives  
- State Library  
- Personal interviews  
- Historic photographs  
- Other see below

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

University Archives

- Special Collections, Alpha subject files, box 1&2 of 12
- 1916 historic photo, UO Special Collections
- Ellis Lawrence Building Survey, V.2, UO Library

Newspapers

- Daily Emerald, “New unit will house school of education and law department,” 01/18/1916, 1
- Daily Emerald, “Oregon Hall to undergo remodeling,” 04/18/1951, 6

Internet Sources


Other


University of Oregon Campus Planning and Facilities Services hanging files and building plans.

RECORDING INFORMATION

- Researched: Melissa Stoller/Kathryn Burk, Winter 06
- Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006
- Photo number or name:
See Continuation Sheet 1 for additional photos of this building.

Yellow Buckeye
Gift from Ohio State 1958

Big Leaf maple
Clockwise from top left:
Petrson Hall’s main entry detail, south façade detail, interior connection to Lillis Hall (looking back at Peterson’s façade)