RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: University Health & Counseling Center
Historic building name: New Infirmary, Student Health Service Building, University Health Center
Building address: 1590 East 13th Ave.
Ranking: Non-Contributing

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Modern
Building plan (footprint shape): “H”-shaped
Number of stories: Two
Foundation material(s): Concrete
Primary exterior wall material: Reinforced brick (first floor)
Secondary exterior wall material: Pre-cast concrete panels (second floor)
Roof configuration/type: Low-sloped hipped roof with partial parapet
Primary roof material: Metal standing seam
Primary window type: Vertical casement windows
Primary window material: Metal frame
Decorative features and materials: Brick with pre-cast concrete arched lintels at doors and windows on first floor
Landscape features: Foundation plantings and sidewalks
Associated resources: 13th Ave. Axis
Comments: The University Health and Counseling Center is currently undergoing complete interior remodeling on both the first and second floors, the basement, and is receiving over 10,000 square feet with 2 new additions.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1966
Architect: Balzhiser, Seder & Rhodes, Eugene, OR
Builder/Contractor:  
Moved? (yes/no): No  Date of move(s): N/A
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: Various interior remodels since construction in 1966. Currently (2005-2006) undergoing major interior remodeling and addition of 10,770 square feet including a new one story addition at the southeast wing and a new two story addition on the north side; BOORA architectural firm, Portland, OR. Fortis Construction, Inc., Portland, OR.
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Infirmary/Health center/hospital  
Current use(s) or function(s): Health & Counseling center

Area(s) of significance: Education / Health, Architecture  
Period of significance: 1966

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

    Construction began on the new Infirmary in 1965 and was completed in early 1966 at a cost of around $1.0 million. This unassuming building was designed in the modern style by Balzhiser, Seder & Rhodes, a local architectural firm that has done a good deal of work on the UO campus. Originally “H”-shaped and of approximately 38,000 square feet, the Health Center has two floors and a basement. It has a concrete foundation and is built of reinforced brick walls on the first floor and pre-cast concrete panels on the second. There are concrete arched lintels over the doors and the metal-framed casement windows. It has a standing-seam metal roof.

    The ground floor arches appear to endorse the historical architecture on campus, yet the Health Center remains true to its modern form. Its architecture is non-descript.

    This building was designed to house the Infirmary and has continued to do so. When it was first completed the second floor was designed as an in-patient unit with hospital beds. Recently, the medical emphasis has been changed to that of outpatient services. Over time, the Center’s piecemeal alterations have separated related services into random areas of the building. It has undergone multiple interior remodels over the past forty years – room by room, almost yearly since its completion.

    Currently, the Health Center is undergoing a student fee-funded $10 million expansion and interior renovation, designed by BOORA architectural firm (which is also doing the additions to the School of Music). The remodel will unify all clinical services on the first floor. A two-story entrance addition with elevator will be added on the north side towards East 13th Avenue and a single-story addition will be constructed on the east side towards Agate Street. The new construction will add 10,770 square feet of usable space. The design will mimic the current building in massing, rooflines, materials and both window type and placement.

    In addition to its 3 primary care clinics, there is a counseling and testing center, an allergy clinic, a pharmacy, a dental office, an X-ray lab, physical therapy services and a health education office. The Health Center employs eight primary care physicians, five nurse-practitioners, one psychiatrist and assorted support staff. Approximately 60,000 students use the center’s various services each year.

    The University Health and Counseling Center is not yet 50 years old. It has only fair integrity due to the additions currently being constructed along with the high degree of interior space remodeling over the last forty years. It is ranked as a non-contributing resource due to its very low significance and fair integrity.

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Historic Significance (check one): __ High   _ Medium   _ Low  X 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:  _ 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

If applicable, building qualifies under NR Criterion Considerations: _ Yes  _ No  If yes, which apply:
Building is NOT eligible:  _ Intact but lacks distinction  or  X 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

X UO Planning Office files
- Building permits
- State Library
- Personal interviews
- Obituary indexes

X Newspapers
- SHPO files
- State Historic Society
- Historic photographs
- Other: see below

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

UO Planning Office and Facilities Services Files:
- Construction set of building plans dated 1965
- University Health Center building file

Newspapers
- “UO Student Health Center Remodel to Begin,” The Register Guard, Tuesday August 9, 2005.

Handout

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Kathryn Burk, Melissa Stoller, January 29, 2006
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