

HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM
University of Oregon Cultural Resources Survey
Eugene, Lane County, Oregon
Summer 2006, Updated 2025

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: Volcanology
Historic building name: Infirmary
Building address: 1255 East 13th Ave.
Ranking: Secondary

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Georgian
Building plan (footprint shape): rectangular
Number of stories: 2 stories plus penthouse
Foundation material(s): Poured concrete
Primary exterior wall material: brick (running bond)
Secondary exterior wall material: stucco and brick
Roof configuration/type: flat with parapet
Primary roof material: BUR
Primary window type: 12/12 and 9/9 double hung
Primary window material: wood
Decorative features and materials: Concrete (terra cotta?) pediment and surround on west, east and south façade doors and upper windows, brick quoins, parapet diaper pattern of recessed mortar joints, coping, wrought iron had rail at south entrance
Landscape features: foundations plantings on east and west sides, w/concrete planters around foundation on east side; trees and shrubs; Dawn Redwood, a Eugene Legacy Tree, planted from the original seed shipment from China; Cascade fountain; Science Walk; wall sculpture
Associated resources: 13th Ave Axis
Comments: One story concrete bunker, designed by William Wilson, on the north side of the building houses a four MEV particle accelerator. The walls and roof are solid concrete from 24" to 42" thick. The wall sculpture on the east side of the bunker, by Harold Balasz, is of symbols associated with sciences.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1936
Architect: Lawrence, Holford & Allyn
Builder/Contractor: Ross B. Hammond
Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): n/a
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: Penthouse for University Physician added 1951, designed by Lawrence, Tucker & Wallman; Concrete rear addition, by W.W. Wilson, added in 1964; Total interior remodel in 1968; Science Walk, Cascade fountain and concrete planters, 1989; 13th Avenue turn-around and associated landscaping by Cameron, McCarthy, Gilbert & Scheibe, 2005; Unknown date for ADA ramp.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Infirmary

Current use(s) or function(s): Classrooms and laboratories

Area(s) of significance: Education, Architecture

Period of significance: 1936

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

The Volcanology building was constructed in 1936 as the campus infirmary. It was initially planned as part of a larger three story complex in a different location. The current simplified two story version was built instead. The building is constructed of poured concrete with exterior wall material of brick and stucco. Decorative features include concrete pediment and surround on entry of south façade, as well as concrete pediments over upper windows on east and west façade. Other decorative features include brick quoins, a parapet diaper pattern of brick and recessed mortar joints, coping and wrought iron hand rail at south entrance. Final approval of construction was received in 1935 with the allocation of \$100,000 from the PWA. The infirmary was viewed as a campus/university hospital, it provided basic student health services. The location, the site of the former Drill Hall, was part of Ellis Lawrence's contribution to the campus expansion along 13th Ave. The Volcanology/Infirmary building is considered less significant than most of Lawrence's other campus buildings due to its relative isolation from his earlier projects. In 1951 a penthouse addition was added as a residence for the campus physician. In 1964 a rear addition was added as part of the science laboratories, in the form of a concrete bunker with 24" to 42" thick walls to house a four MEV particle accelerator. The particle accelerator is used in nuclear physics to produce beams of energy charged particles needed to observe objects as small as the atomic nucleus. In 1968 the building was renamed Volcanology and underwent an interior remodel, converting it to classrooms and offices.

Volcanology has excellent integrity despite its interior and exterior alterations. The building may have National Register eligibility due to its association with Lawrence (campus plan and building design). It is considered to be a secondary level resource (medium significance with excellent integrity).

NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTHistoric Significance (check one): High Medium Low Very Low or NoneIntegrity (check one): Excellent Good Fair PoorCondition (check one): Excellent Good Fair PoorBuilding designation: City Landmark National Register National Historic Landmark Not listedPreliminary National Register eligibility findingsBuilding 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: 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):

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> University archives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UO Planning Office files | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Building permits | <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO files |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library | <input type="checkbox"/> State Historic Society |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Historic Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal interviews | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical encyclopedias | <input type="checkbox"/> Obituary indexes | Other : <u>See below</u> |

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Oregana, vol. 15-17, May 1933- July 1936

Alpha subject files, box 1&2 of 12

Shellenbarger, Michael, Associate Professor of Architecture, "University of Oregon Architecture – A Personal Tour", Spring Meeting of the Northern Pacific Coast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, May 24, 1986.

Ellis Lawrence Building Survey, V.2, UO Library

Historic Photo Collection, Infirmary 1936

Newspapers

Daily Emerald, "New infirmary start in sight; plans complete, Work to depend upon P.W.A funds", 09/27/33, 1

Daily Emerald, "PWA officials allot \$199,000 for projects", 02/15/1935, 1

Daily Emerald, "PWA officials approve site of infirmary", 12/05/1935, 1

Daily Emerald, "Extending a valuable service", 04/15/38, 6

University Planning Office and Facilities Services building records and blueprints

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Melissa Stoller/Kathryn Burk, Winter 2006

Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

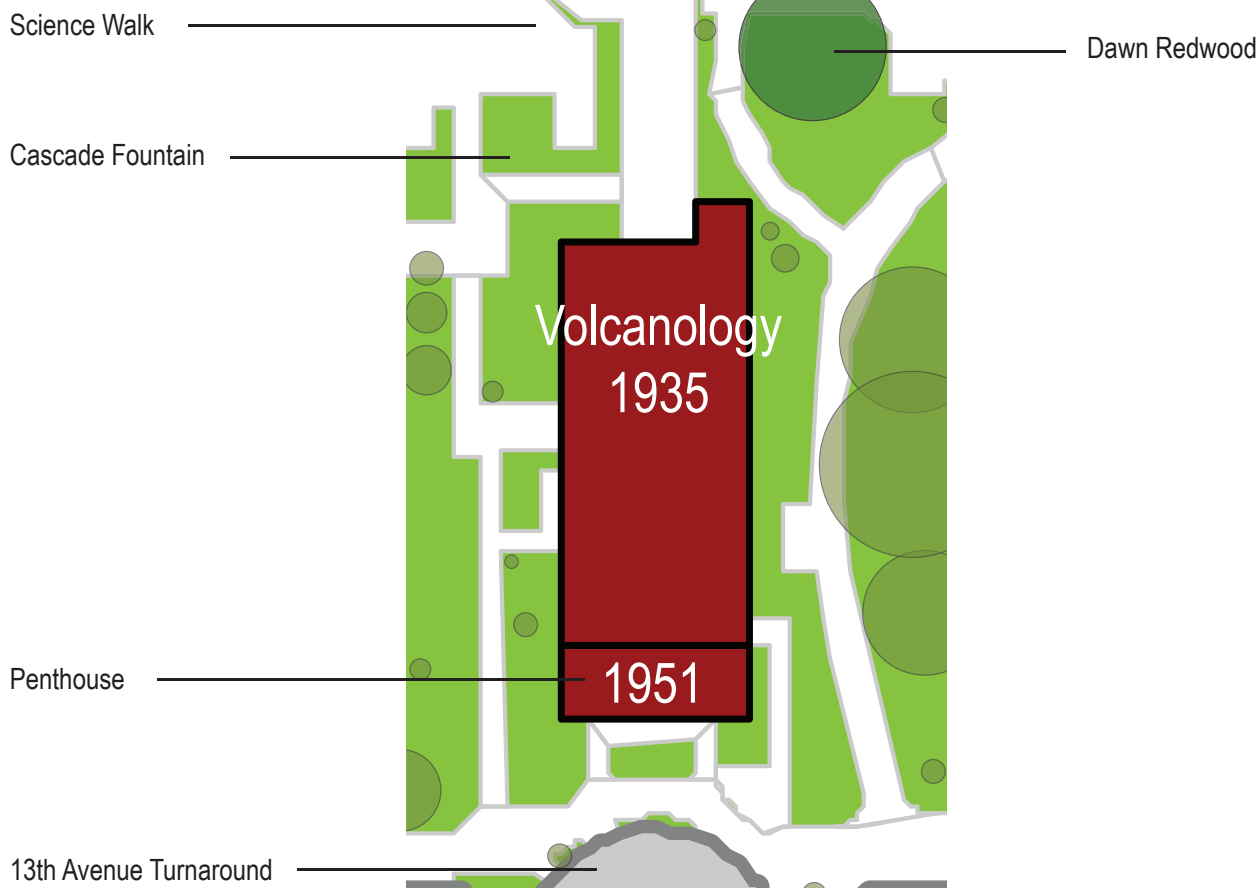
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PHOTOGRAPH



(See Continuation Sheet 1 for additional photos of this building)

SITE PLAN



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Continuation Sheet 1

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**Figure 1. East side of Volcanology bunker, art panel.
Photo by S. Johnson**

