OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTY
ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING INVENTORY
COUNTY: Lane

HISTORIC NAME: McARTHUR COURT, University of Oregon

COMMON NAME: Mac Court, University of Oregon
OTHER NAMEs: Basketball Pavilion
The Igloo
The Pit

RESOURCE TYPE: Building
STATUS: built & survives
LAWRENCE
(JOB#) YEAR: (1762) 1926
(JOB#) YEAR: (2180) 1948
(JOB#) YEAR: (2193) 1954
FIRST DATE: 1919
DESIGN BEG: Sept. 1925
DESIGN END: April 1926
CONSTR BEG: June 1926
CONSTR END: Dec. 1926
LOSS DATE:

CITY: Eugene Oregon
STREET: 1601 University Street
OWNER: State of Oregon

TOWNSHIP: 17S **RANGE:** 03W **SECTION:** 32
MAP#: 170332 & Index **TAX LOT:** 17-03-32-00-0300
ADDITION: University Addition **ORIGINAL USE:** university/gymnasium
BLOCK: **LOT:** E **QUAD:** **PRESENT USE:** university/gymnasium
ASSESSOR #: **SITE:** acres, approx.
THEMEs: 20C Architecture, Education, Performing Arts

DATA BELOW IS ON LAWRENCE FIRM'S DESIGN AS-BUILT:

ARCHITECT: Lawrence and Holford **CHIEF DESIGNER:** E F Lawrence
ENGINEERs & CONSULTANTs:
George E. Reed, Mechanical Engineer

CONTRACTORs:
A.J. Pujunen, Portland (General Contract)
Sigwart Electric Co. (low bidder on electric); Chase & Leslie (low bidder on heating); Williamson & Co. (low bidder on plumbing).
ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN:

STYLE: Half Modern
PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: rectangular (front long)
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: concrete **STORIES:** 1 **BASEMENT:** yes
ROOF/MATERIAL: vaulted /Bitum. builtup
WALL CONSTR: concrete **STRUC.FRAME:** nailed wood frame
PRIME WINDOW TYPE: steel horizontal-pivot sash
EXTERIOR SURFACE MATERIAL: stucco,
DECORATIVE FEATUREs/MATERIALs:
Utilitarian w/full-ht.pilaster/buttresses, ground-level blind arches & implied column capitols, mid-level cornice/string course, & diamond panels atop corners
OTHER:
Additions: rollaway bleachers (1949), north end bleachers (1953), 2 balconies, 4 columns removed, ext.roof trusses, metal panel stair towers in corners (1955)
CONDITION: good
MOVED: not moved
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS (dated):
new roof, repair trusses (1937); various acoustical improvements: burlap drapes (1928), firtex ceiling (c1932); (see "Other" above)
LANDSCAPE FEATURES:
perimeter shrubbery, ivy on building, adjacent playing fields; Howe Field adjacent

ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING INVENTORY

HISTORIC NAME: McARTHUR COURT, University of Oregon

ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES:
other UO campus buildings by Lawrence, esp. Physical Education & Hayward Field

SETTING:
located southeast of main campus, near University St. residences; IOOF Cemetery to west; athletic fields to east and south.

SIGNIFICANCE OF LAWRENCE FIRM'S DESIGN:

EXTER.DETAILS/CRAFTSMANSHIP: Ordinary construction with no special features.
INTER.DETAILS/CRAFTSMANSHIP: Better than average workmanship and materials.
EXTERIOR INTEGRITY: Moderate changes; some original character remains.
INTERIOR INTEGRITY: Moderate changes; some original character remains.
SITE INTEGRITY: Minor changes, but original character intact.
SETTING INTEGR: Minor changes to character and relationship of surroundings.

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT:
Clifton N. "Pat" McArthur, known as the "father of Oregon athletics" was the 1st president of the Assoc. Students Univ. of Oregon (ASUO) (1899-1900), 1st editor of the student newspaper, student director of athletics (1899-1900), Speaker of the Oregon legislature (member 1909-13), and Representative to Congress. The ASUO paid for the building of McArthur Court. It has housed athletic events, concerts, auto shows, a circus, graduations, rallies & lectures for over 6 decades. Seating is stacked close to the activity, making an unusually intimate & lively setting for such large gatherings. To cut costs, Mac Court introduced to the Northwest, and perhaps to the West, a new type of structure from Holland - the Lamella roof; here it spans 109' using 10' lengths of 2"x 12" lumber. It was designed initially for seating expansion and the 6000 initial seating grew to approx. 10,000 by 1955. The addition of exterior trusses & corner stair towers have considerably altered the original exterior.

SOURCES/DOCUMENTS: Description (Location)
photos, photo of rendering (Lawrence Col.,UO Library); photos (UO Archives); correspondence (Lawrence Col. UO Archives box 2-9)

linen construction drawings, drawn by GER, JWJ, T, April 1926, Revised Oct 26, "Basketball Pavilion" (UO Physical Plant, vault)

PACIFIC BUILDER & ENGINEER, 9/19/25 p4, 2/13/26 p5, 3/6/26 p37, 4/10/26 p4, 4/24/26 p5, 5/1/26 p37, 6/5/26 p33, 1/1/27 p23

Pennington, John W.,"The Eskimo Ice House",LANE CO. HISTORICAN, Fall 1987 p62-4

preliminary studies & sketch model & letter (UO Archives plan room box K-0)

DAILY RECORD-ABSTRACT, Portland 9/11/25 p1, 2/6/26 p1, 4/2/26 p1, 4/22/26 p1

PUBLICATIONs:
Clark, Dudley, "Basketball Pavilion Named for Alumnus", OLD OREGON Jan 1927 p18
Tacheron, Don, "What Can You Do With an Igloo", OLD OREGON June-July 1954 p26-7

SLIDE NO.: **RESEARCH BY:** CS, GK, MS **DATE:** 08/10/88
SHPO INVENTORY NO.: **RECORDED BY:** M. Shellenbarger **DATE:** 02/12/89

ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING SURVEY
HISTORIC NAME: McARTHUR COURT, University of Oregon

RECENT PHOTO NEGATIVE #s:
MS3-34A

First # above is upper-right photo; second # is just below. If no # above, see sources at bottom of page.

HISTORIC PHOTO/OTHER GRAPHIC SOURCE: Lawrence Col. photos, UO Library

OREGON INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTY
ELLIS LAWRENCE BUILDING INVENTORY

E V A L U A T I O N

HISTORIC NAME: McARTHUR COURT, University of Oregon

INTEGRITY OF:		NUMERICAL
1. EXTERIOR:	Moderate changes; some original character remains.	3
2. INTERIOR:	Moderate changes; some original character remains.	3
3. SITE:	Minor changes, but original character intact.	7
4. SETTING:	Minor changes to character and relationship of surroundings.	3
	INTEGRITY TOTAL	16

DISTINCTION OF:	
1. EXTERIOR DETAILS & CRAFTSMANSHIP: Ordinary construction with no special features.	0
2. INTERIOR DETAILS & CRAFTSMANSHIP: Better than average workmanship and materials.	3
3. STYLE: (Half Modern) It has distinctive features of its identified style.	2
Compared to Lawrence's other surviving Oregon buildings, this style is one of few (5 or less) in its city/town or rural area.	2
4. ORIGINAL USE: (university/gymnasium) Compared to Lawrence's other surviving Oregon buildings, this use is unique in Oregon.	9
5. ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN: Compared to Lawrence's other surviving Oregon buildings, this design is average quality and significance.	2
Is it part of an ensemble of surviving buildings by Lawrence? It's located in an ordered arrangement of Lawrence buildings	9
Are structural or technical aspects of the design significant? Of high significance.	9
6. LAWRENCE'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE DESIGN PROCESS: Lawrence is known to have been the chief designer.	9
DISTINCTION TOTAL	45

EDUCATIVE OR ASSOCIATIVE VALUE:	
1. HISTORIC EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES: Strong association with local historic events or activities.	5
2. HISTORIC PERSONs: Strong assoc. with person(s) of local historic significance.	5
3. SYMBOLIC ASSOCIATION WITH AN IDEAL, INSTITUTION, OR POLITICAL ENTITY: Major symbolic association with state ideal or institution.	7
EDUCATIVE OR ASSOCIATIVE TOTAL	17
GRAND TOTAL	78
RANK:	PRIMARY

NOTE: Only the built, surviving buildings in Oregon were evaluated.