

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

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Current building name: Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
Historic building name: The Art Museum, The Museum of Art
Building address: 1430 Johnson Lane
Ranking: Primary

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural style classification: Exotic with Postmodern addition
Building plan (footprint shape): rectangular with central courtyard
Number of stories: 3
Foundation material(s): concrete
Primary exterior wall material: brick veneer
Secondary exterior wall material: cast concrete
Roof configuration/type: flat
Primary roof material: elastic membrane
Primary window type: plate glass (addition)
Primary window material: plate glass (addition)
Decorative features and materials: decorative brickwork, cast concrete panels, columns, etc.; steel, bronze, and wrought iron doors by I. K. Tuerck; courtyard stone capitols and lunette panels by Richard Bock; brick diaper patterns and string courses; ceramic tile accents
Landscape features: Interior PLC Courtyard, perennial foundation plantings, large *Quercus robur* (English Oaks) along front
Associated resources: 4 sculptural groups: "The Family Group," John Geise, 1974; "Prometheus," Jan Zach, 1958; Sculpture, Duane Loppnow, 1974; "Indian Maiden with Fawn," A. Phimster Proctor (moved from front of building to courtyard). Memorial Quad, Knight Library Axis, and Johnson Lane Axis.
Comments: The original south facing windows are now internal. The Art Museum is difficult to categorize stylistically, as are Lawrence's other buildings around the Memorial Quad though all share common aspects.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Date of construction: 1930
Architect: Lawrence, Holford, Allyn, Bean
Builder/Contractor: Ross B. Hammond, Inc. (Portland); Urban Heating Co. (Portland); Willamina Pacific Brick Co., Eugene Foundry & Machine Co., Ernest Thomas Cast Stone Co.
Moved? (yes/no): No Date of move(s): N/A
Description/dates of major additions/alterations: 2004: major rear addition, staircase removed and other major alterations; 1990: general repairs, vegetation removal, repointing; 1986: restoration of cast stone work, repointing masonry; 1982: modifications to improve ADA access; 1966: basement remodel, mechanical systems update; 1956: front exhibit halls remodeled as reference library.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS & SIGNIFICANCE

Original use(s) or function(s): Art Museum

Current use(s) or function(s): Art Museum

Area(s) of significance: Education, Art, Architecture

Period of significance: 1930

Statement of Significance (use continuation sheet if necessary):

The University of Oregon's Museum of Art was constructed in 1930 for the purpose of housing Gertrude Warner's collection of Asian art and antiquities as well as the Condon fossil collection (now stored in the Museum of Natural History). Beginning in 1925, funds for the construction were raised by public subscription. Work was delayed and the design, originally a 3-winged plan, was changed due to the Great Crash of 1929. The building has been surrounded by controversy ever since its construction. Gertrude Warner initially refused to allow her collection to be housed in the new museum, citing security concerns. Other controversies have included cost over-runs, design disagreements (the original Lawrence plan was for 3 wings instead of 1), and the effects and benefits of the 2004 rehab and expansion work.

The Museum of Art was the work of Ellis Lawrence. Stylistically it is difficult to classify due to the various opinions and unique characteristics. Marion Dean Ross, the University of Oregon's eminent architectural historian, noted Romanesque, Gothic, Islamic, Eclectic, and Modernistic influences. This survey follows the assessment given in the Lawrence Survey of 1989 with the classification of "Exotic." Lawrence's use of materials and modern mechanical systems was commented on favorably by Frank Lloyd Wright during that great architect's visit to Eugene.

The magnificent English Oaks that front the building on the Memorial Quad were planted c.1940 and are defining landscape features for both the museum and the quadrangle. The front façade is an outstanding example of the use of decorative brick and cast stone to achieve rich textural effects, a device Lawrence employed to compensate for the windowless design of the original building. The highly skilled workmanship evident in the façade adds to the building's significance. In spite of the historicism of the detailing, Lawrence was concerned with giving local relevance. Much of the detailing of the façade and courtyard show Oregon flora and fauna. The cloistered courtyard with its mosaics and pond is a beautiful counterpart to the dramatic entrance. I. K. Tuerck's iron and bronze gates and oak doors are equally important defining characteristics and should be treated with great care. Richard Bock, U of O sculpture professor, worked as a concrete caster before his academic career and completed some of the cast stone work along with students.

The 2004 addition and remodel work provides state of the art curatorial facilities for the important Warner Collection. Unfortunately, it has damaged the building's integrity, especially the interior transition between the entrance and the courtyard, by the removal of the twin marble staircases that flanked the entry lobby. The building additions have also affected the view from the courtyard. The Museum of Art was listed on the National Register in 1986 before the 2004 remodel. Although the addition is large (similar to Lawrence's original plan) it does not affect the façade or the immediate view along the Memorial Quad's central axis.

The Museum is ranked as primary, given its National Register status.

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 importantIf 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> |

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ellis Lawrence Building Survey, Oregon Inventory of Historic Places, 1989. v.2 (Eugene). Compiled by the Historic Preservation Program, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon; project directors, Michael Shellenbarger, Kimberly Lakin. [Salem, Or.] : State Historic Preservation Office, [1989].

Long, Stephen. "Historic Continuity: A Diagnosis Report." Eugene, OR: University of Oregon Office of Planning and Campus Development. 1980.

Plans and Specifications for the Museum of Art, Eugene, OR: Facilities Services, University of Oregon.

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Old Oregon, Summer 1982, "Art Museum Houses Treasures," March 1948. pps. 9, 24.

Teague, Edward H. "Museum of Art" *The Architecture of the University of Oregon*. 10 Oct. 2004. Accessed 15 March 2005 from <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon/>.

Journal & Magazine Articles [from Teague]

"Art Museum Is Formally Dedicated." *Old Oregon* 4 no. 4 (June 1922): 7.

"All-Oregon 1925 Exposition Benefits Art Museum." *Old Oregon* 8 no.1 (Oct. 1925): 10.

Lawrence, Raymond. "When Art and Industry Met." *Old Oregon* 8 no.2 (Nov. 1925): 6.

Newspaper Articles (Arranged by Date) [from Teague]

"Arts building fund solicited," *Daily Emerald*, 11/19/1924, 1.

"Cash pledges for building exceed \$7,000," *Daily Emerald*, 10/07/1925, 1.

"Club formed to raise art building funds," *Daily Emerald*, 10/21/1925, 3.

"Arts building money asked. Postal-card drive nets \$10,000 for edifice," *Daily Emerald*, 11/17/1925, 4.

"Cornerstone of Fine Arts home to be laid in Fall," *Daily Emerald*, 05/28/1926, 1.

"Art Building to be memorial to Campbell. \$160,000 structure to be dedicated Thursday.," *Daily Emerald*, 10/19/1926, 3.

"Memorial site dedicated to P.L. Campbell," *Daily Emerald*, 10/22/1926, 1.

"Student drive will support new memoir," *Daily Emerald*, 12/08/1926, 1.

"Fine arts building gains \$375 during Christmas holidays," *Daily Emerald*, 01/11/1927, 1.

"Sculpture students to cast models for Campbell memorial," *Daily Emerald*, 11/16/1927, 1.

"Barker sees early start on building," *Daily Emerald*, 01/31/1929, 1.

(See Continuation Sheet 1)

RECORDING INFORMATION

Researched: Jeremy Mauro, Shawn Lingo, February 2006

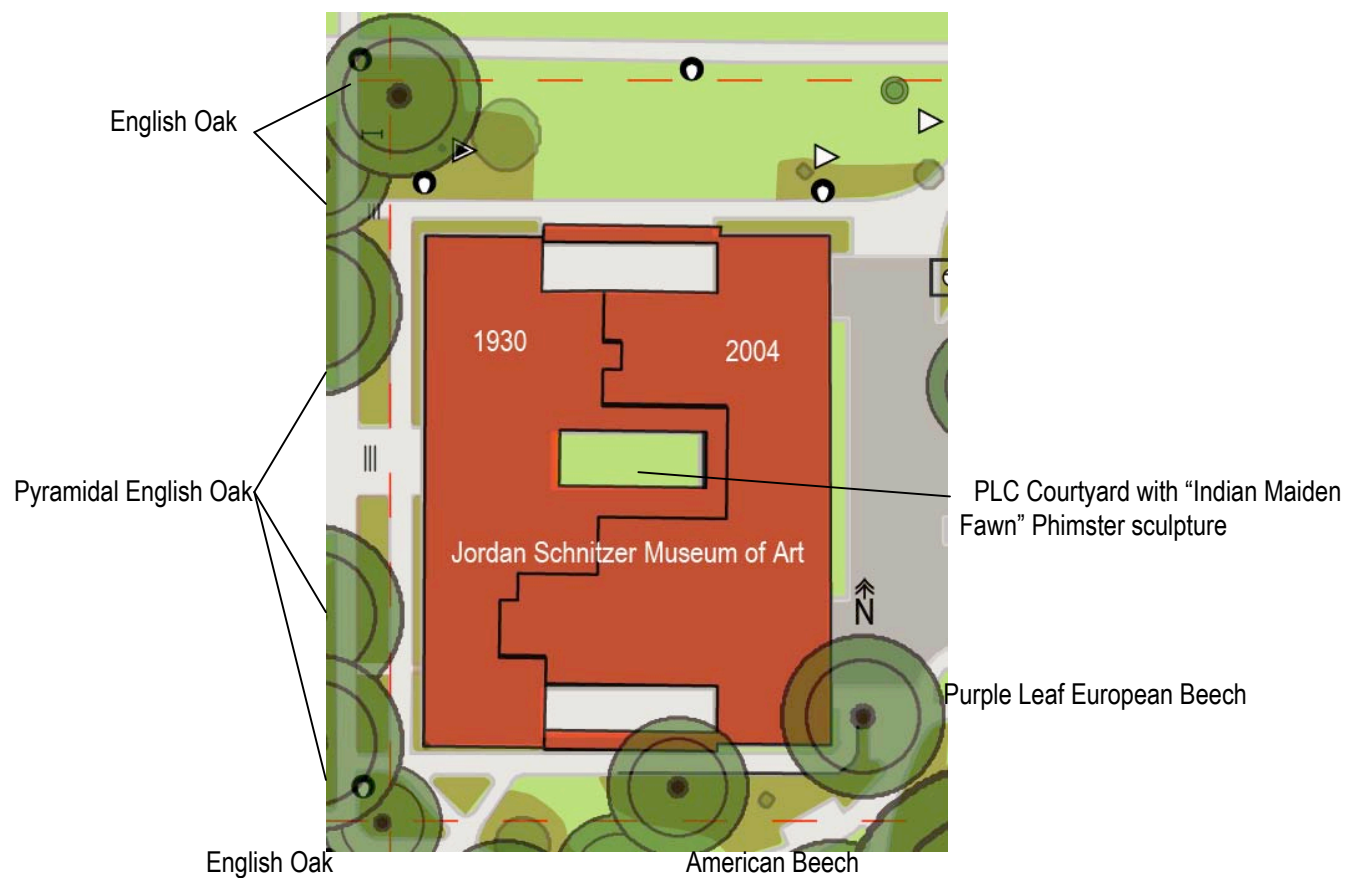
Recorded: Susan Johnson and University Planning Office, Summer 2006

Photo number or name: museum1bw.jpg

PHOTOGRAPH



SITE PLAN



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Spring 2006

Continuation Sheet 1

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- "Cornerstone of Fine Arts home to be laid in Fall," *Daily Emerald*, 05/28/1926, 1.
- "Art Building to be memorial to Campbell. \$160,000 structure to be dedicated Thursday.," *Daily Emerald*, 10/19/1926, 3.
- "Memorial site dedicated to P.L. Campbell," *Daily Emerald*, 10/22/1926, 1.
- "Student drive will support new memoir," *Daily Emerald*, 12/08/1926, 1.
- "Fine arts building gains \$375 during Christmas holidays," *Daily Emerald*, 01/11/1927, 1.
- "Sculpture students to cast models for Campbell memorial," *Daily Emerald*, 11/16/1927, 1.
- "Barker sees early start on building," *Daily Emerald*, 01/31/1929, 1.
- "Art Museum construction starts May 1," *Daily Emerald*, 04/03/1929, 1.
- "Delta Gamma donates \$1000 for building," *Daily Emerald*, 04/09/1929, 1.
- "Initial unit of Fine Arts Building will be masterpiece of architecture," *Daily Emerald*, 04/13/1929, 4.
- "Regents call for bids on art museum ," *Daily Emerald*, 05/25/1929, 1.
- "Arts museum to be ready this spring," *Daily Emerald*, 10/08/1929, 1.
- "Concrete work progresses on art memorial," *Daily Emerald*, 11/08/1929, 1.
- "Campbell memorial cornerstone placed," *Daily Emerald*, 05/03/1930, 1.
- "Prince Campbell art museum will soon be finished," *Daily Emerald*, 05/10/1930, 2.
- "Bust of President Campbell arrives for memorial court," *Daily Emerald*, 10/30/1930, 1.
- "Museum grounds to be embellished by 1930 class gift," *Daily Emerald*, 01/30/1932, 1.
- "Drive planned for art museum," *Daily Emerald*, 03/12/1935, 1.
- "Scribe gains entrance to Campbell Memorial," *Daily Emerald*, 05/04/1946, 1.
- "Windowless" building draws student comment, curiosity," *Daily Emerald*, 01/13/1950, 7.
- "Oregon's oriental art museum pattern of Japan's national building, ...Building (info. Disclosed in lecture by Jiro Harada)," *Daily Emerald*, 05/09/1951, 6.
- "Japanese Buddha sculptures shown at Art Museum tour," Summer Sun, 07/27/1955, 4.
- "Buddhist sculpture given to museum," *Daily Emerald*, 10/30/1957, 8.
- "Art museum gets rare sculpture," *Daily Emerald*, 11/04/1957, 3.
- "Museum features rugs, sculptures," *Daily Emerald*, 11/12/1959, 3.
- "Tri Delts donate Hardy sculpture of Museum of Art," *Daily Emerald*, 10/26/1960, 6.
- "Art museum exhibits sculpture of Pegasus," *Daily Emerald*, 11/15/1962, 3.
- "Sculpture given to UO museum, by A. P. Proctor," *Daily Emerald*, 11/27/1962, 1.
- "Art Museum receives gift of two African sculptures," *Daily Emerald*, 08/03/1965, 4.
- "Indian sculpture graces museum," *Daily Emerald*, 11/20/1969, 1.

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Continuation Sheet 2

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Figure 1. Museum of Art rear elevation/2004 addition