

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	300 SW 26th St Corvallis, Benton County (97331)		historic name: Weatherford Hall
assoc addresses:			current/other names:
location descr:			block/lot/tax lot:
			twtnshp/rng/sect/qtr sect: 11S 5W 34
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	Building	height (stories):	
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant		
prim constr date:	1928	second date:	1957
total elig resources:	total inelig resources:		
NR Status:	Listed in Historic District		
date indiv listed:			
primary orig use:	orig use comments:		
second orig use:			
primary style:	Mediterranean Revival		
secondary style:	prim style comments:		
primary siding:	Standard Brick		
secondary siding:	Stone:Other/Undefined		
plan type:	School (General)		
architect:	Bennes & Herzog		
builder:			
comments/notes:			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Survey/Grouping Included In:		Type of Grouping	Date Listed
College Hill West Nomination Survey		Survey & Inventory Project	2000
Oregon State University Historic District		Listed Historic District	06/25/2008
Farmstead/Cluster Name:		Oregon State University	
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	N/A	106 Project(s):	None
ILS survey date:		Special Assess Project(s):	None
RLS survey date:	05/16/2007	Federal Tax Project(s):	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
<p>Weatherford Hall is five-story, rectangular building with I shaped wings. It was constructed in Renaissance style and encompasses 105,090 square feet. The exterior is made of red brick with white concrete trim. The wings are three stories tall, and the central portion has a 5-story tower rising above a high, open archway flanked with stone pillars. The hall features arched window lintels on the tower. Windows are single pane, double hung. Alterations: Though a dining hall was added in 1957, the first large scale renovations occurred in the 1960s when the University remodeled the sleeping porches into floor lounges and transformed the study rooms into dorm rooms. Many superficial changes occurred within the building in the 1970s and 1980s as students were allowed to make non-structural alterations to their dorm rooms. In 2002, the roof was replaced, along with the original 1920s wiring and plumbing, and asbestos was removed. Some of the building's dorm rooms were expanded to create larger meeting areas. While the dining hall was removed (a courtyard was put in its place), a cyber café was added to the building. Landscape: Weatherford Hall is near the center of OSU campus. It is south of the academic quads and just north of a large intramural field. Setting: Weatherford Hall is on the OSU main campus and is in Sector C. Alterations: 1957: added Dining Hall; 2003 restored original removing dining hall;</p>			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>The Men's Dormitory was constructed to accommodate the influx of students at Oregon State University following the end of World War I. Enrollment nearly doubled in the early 1920s, causing a housing shortage. University President William Jasper Kerr envisioned the erection of seven buildings of similar size to Weatherford, laid out to create a large quadrangle between them. However, the Depression years cut funding short and caused enrollment to decrease, leaving the grand dormitory to stand alone. The Men's Dormitory was originally broken into five independent halls, named Buxton, Poling, Weatherford, Hawley, and Cauthorn, that housed a total of 332 men. Students enjoyed dances held under the arches of the building's entryway. Many war veterans lived in the Men's Dormitories after returning from WWII. They called themselves the "Weatherford Warriors," and held study groups to assist each other in the transition back to University life. In 1957 the five dormitories were renamed Weatherford Hall to honor James K. Weatherford, an OSU alumnus who graduated in 1872 and served on the University's Board of Regents for 44 years. In the 1970s and 1980s, students enjoyed the freedom to personalize their living spaces in Weatherford, painting murals and building sleeping lofts in rooms with vaulted ceilings. Though it had been a men's dormitory for nearly sixty years, it became a co-educational dorm in 1987. Weatherford's history of creativity and sharing continued into the early 1990s as residents built the first campus intranet, running phone cables room to room to connect their computers. Following Weatherford's example, the University expanded on the concept and created similar systems in all campus residence halls. The University decided to close the dormitory in 1993 because the building needed major renovation. This incited student protest and a petition to keep the dormitory open for one more year. Weatherford closed in 1994 and most of the building was vacant for many years, with space occasionally opening for workshops and training exercises. Efforts to salvage Weatherford started with a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant in 1997 that enabled a seismic analysis and funded repairs that would halt further deterioration to the building. In 2002, the private donation of \$4 million and \$14 million in bond funding allowed further renovation that converted the building into the center of OSU's entrepreneurship program, opening in 2004.</p>			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
Title Records	Census Records	Property Tax Records	Local Histories
Sanborn Maps	Biographical Sources	SHPO Files	Interviews
Obituaries	Newspapers	✓ State Archives	Historic Photographs
City Directories	Building Permits	✓ State Library	
Local Library:	University Library: OSU		
Historical Society:	Other Repository:		
Bibliography:			

"A grandson's gift." The Oregon Stater. April 2003. Allen, Chester. "Weatherford rehab." Corvallis Gazette-Times. March 18, 1994. "Campus Adorned By New Dormitory." The Oregonian. Oct. 7, 1928. Carter, Steven. "OSU plans center for entrepreneurs." The Oregonian. Date unknown.* Hogue, Theresa. "Big plans for Weatherford." Corvallis Gazette-Times. Dec. 7, 2002. _____. "A serious fixer-upper." Corvallis Gazette-Times. Feb. 23, 2003. _____. "Resurrected from the dead." Corvallis Gazette-Times. Oct. 31, 2003. Landis, Rebecca. "OSU Receives \$1 Million Grant To Renovate Weatherford." The Oregon Stater. Sept. 1997. _____. "Watching over Weatherford." The Oregon Stater. Feb. 1998. Lont, Steven. "Weatherford Waits." The Oregon Stater. Dec. 2002. Nording, Karen. "Remodeling plans come and go and hall remains almost untouched." Daily Barometer. March 6, 1973. "Rekindle the Spirit." The Oregon Stater. April 2003. Sanders, Rita-Lyn. Corvallis Gazette-Times. July 11, 1997. "Steady Growth of College Campus Leads to New Dormitory for Men." The O.A.C. Alumnus. Dec. 1928. "Women in Weatherford: A Proposal." Oregon State University. 1986.* * Available in the OSU Archives Memorabilia Collection, Box 31 – Buildings – Weatherford Hall