

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 5 1977  
DATE ENTERED SEP 22 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Hall

AND/OR COMMON

Same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

5000 N. Willamette Blvd.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Multnomah

CODE

051

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

X EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

University Corporation - c/o University Board of Regents

STREET & NUMBER

University of Portland - 5000 N. Willamette Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Portland

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

97203

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office - Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1021 SW Fourth - Room 102

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Registered Portland Landmark

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

City of Portland, Bureau of Planning

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1891</u>

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

West Hall is a four-and-one-half story brick building designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Portland architects McCaw, Martin and White used Henry Hobson Richardson's design for Sever Hall at Harvard University, reduced and simplified it for West Hall. With its siting on Wauds Bluff above the Willamette River, West Hall has one of the more attractive settings in Portland.

The exterior of West Hall is of running bond brick with square coursed grey stone masonry accenting the ground floor. It is 4½ stories with a truncated hipped roof, hipped dormers, a slightly projecting pedimented front entrance with the doorway set in a deeply recessed arch. Flanking the front entrance and in the middle of the rear facade, opposite the entrance, are cylindrical towers with conical caps. Window openings are straight-topped and rectangular, but the characteristic Richardsonian stone mullions and transoms are missing. Dividing the third and fourth stories are exterior cast-iron and brick water-tables, and the cornice is boxed with a frieze decoration.

When constructed, West Hall housed the entire university, housing all the facilities- everything from classrooms to dining hall. Fortunately, a copy of the original blueprint is on file in the University of Portland archives. The plans show that the first floor consisted of a dining room, assembly hall and kitchen; the second floor contained classrooms, offices, the library and music recital rooms; and the third and fourth floors were the men's and women's dormitories.

Over the years, West Hall was transformed from the entire campus of the University to the administration building. It now houses the offices of the President, Vice Presidents, the School of Business Administration, and other administrative offices. The interior has been remodeled to accommodate the offices, but this work has not detracted from architectural character of the building.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

McCaw, Martin and White

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

West Hall is an attractive adaptation of Henry Hobson Richardson's Sever Hall at Harvard University. It is the original building on the University of Portland campus which became the pioneer institution of the Congregation of Holy Cross in the Pacific Northwest. Wauds Bluff, on which West Hall is located, became the location of West Hall and the University of Portland, but it was also the furthest point on the Multnomah (Willamette) River reached by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

On April 3, 1806, William Clark left the main party of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806) to take a small scouting party down the Multnomah River. Clark's diary tells of a large bluff some 200 feet above the river they encountered, and once atop this bluff, the beautiful scenery they observed. Today, the Multnomah River is known as the Willamette River, the center of much of Oregon's trade and commerce; the bluff is today known as Wauds Bluff, upon which West Hall now sits. In March 1948, a bronze plaque commemorating the westernmost part of the northwest reached by the Lewis and Clark Expedition was placed just adjacent to West Hall.

In 1890, the Methodist Church purchased some acreage in an area that was called "University Park District". In that same year, the team of McCaw, Martin and White were commissioned to construct a proposed university. On August 24, 1891, the first brick was laid, and some time later the doors to the university were opened. The building they named West Hall, the institution, Portland University.

Portland University remained open until 1893, when under financial depression, the Methodists were forced to close it. There it remained closed until, as the story goes, Archbishop Alexander Christie, archbishop of Oregon City, noticed it on the high bluff above him as he was returning by boat to Portland after a journey. Upon investigation, Archbishop Christie found that the building was for sale and idealized it as a perfect place for a Catholic University.

On July 19, 1901, the archbishop agreed to buy West Hall and the 28 surrounding acres. The university was named Columbia University because of its proximity to the Columbia River and its first president was Rev. Edmund P. Murphy, C.S.C. When Columbia University officially opened on September 2, 1901, 52 students were enrolled.

Though the archbishop agreed to buy the property, he soon found that he was not able to come up with the \$20,000 purchasing price. He decided to go to South Bend, Indiana to request the Congregation of Holy Cross to buy and take charge of the University. He knew that this order could supply both the educational and religious needs of the community. It had started the University of Notre Dame in 1842 with about \$300 and three log buildings and by 1901 had developed it into a leading university in the USA.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives, University of Portland. Original building plans, university records and documents.

DeVoto, Bernard, ed. The Journals of Lewis and Clark. Boston: Houghton Mufflin Co. 1953.

Vaughan, Thomas and McMath, George. A Century of Portland Architecture, Portland, OR: Oregon Historical Society, 1967.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.26343

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	52,1594	5,04,63,0,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sharon L. Kallas, Assistant to the Director of Public Relations 8/18/76

ORGANIZATION

DATE

University of Portland - 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. (503) 283-7202

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Portland

Oregon

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE XX

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Handwritten Signature]*

TITLE State Parks Superintendent

DATE Dec. 28, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF HISTORIC AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*[Handwritten Signature]* DATE 7-22-77  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9.22.77

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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At first a bit hesitant, the order finally agreed. And so, in February of 1902, the Congregation of Holy Cross came to Oregon to run Columbia University. The first president after the Holy Cross Congregation took charge was Father Michael Quinlan, C.S.C. When the academic year of 1902 began in September, ninety students were enrolled

As a religious institution, the Congregation of Holy Cross had in mind providing their students with a well-rounded education in the spirit of Judeo-Christian culture. They ran and controlled the University until 1967 when the University changed hands under a lay administration, the University Board of Regents. But while the power of the University changed hands, the goals and objectives set by the university's founding fathers still remain today with the representation of the Holy Cross Congregation in the President, Academic Vice President, and ten percent of the University faculty.

As an educational institution, the University first began as a high school, with a few pre-college classes. It was strictly a boys' school. At that time, West Hall was the entire University; dormitory, kitchen, dining room, chapel, etc. From a one-building university, it slowly began to progress.

In 1921, the University adopted a junior college curriculum. Between 1925 and 1935 the University reached the status of a four-year accredited college. In 1934, the University was opened to women with the adoption of the University College of Nursing. Then in 1935, the University achieved university status, and in that same year, Columbia University became the University of Portland.

Today, men and women from 32 countries, including students from all over the United States, are enrolled at the University. In the fall of 1901, 52 students were enrolled. Seventy-five years later, 2,224 students were enrolled. Seventy-five years ago, one building, West Hall, was the entire university. Today, with a ninety acre campus, over twenty buildings make up the university.

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Whiffin, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to Styles. Cambridge, Mass, 1969.





SEP 22 1977

U of P.

#1

1. West Hall University of Portland
2. Portland, OR
3. Dr Leighton
4. 1973
5. Office of Public Information  
U. of Portland  
Portland, OR
6. Front (W) facade of building, looking E.
7. #273

Multnomah County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





U of P.

#1

1. West Hall University of Portland  
2. Portland, OR

*Multnomah County*

3. Don Leighton

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

4. 1973

5. Office of Public Information  
U. of Portland  
Portland, OR

6. Front (W) facade of building, looking E.

7. #2 73



SEP 22 1977

JAN 5 1977

1. West Hall, University of Portland
2. Portland, OR
3. Don Leighton
4. 1973
5. Office of Public Information  
U. of Portland  
Portland, OR
6. West and South facades of building, looking NE
7. #3 of 3

F

Multnomah County

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER