

**Historic Resources Survey
City of McMinnville
Yamhill County, Oregon**

Site Information

Site Address

900 SW Baker St.

Owner at Time of Survey

Linfield College

Map/Tax Lot

R4420DD00400

Current Zoning

R-4PD

Special Tax Assessment

No

Downtown Historic District

No

Subdivision Name

Block

Lot

Lot Size

Quadrant

SW

Site Number

23.4

Aerial Number

J-13

Resource Classification

A

Resource Number

548

Historic Significance

Historic Information

Date of Construction

1929 (1928 Sanborn)

Early Additions/ Remodels

Builder/Architect

A.E. Doyle & Associates (Pietro Belluschi)

Historic Name

Melrose Hall

Original Use

Admin/Classrooms/
Offices/Science Lab

Common Name

Melrose Hall

Present Use

Administration/
Classrooms/Offices

Condition of Structure

Excellent

Comments (at time of Survey)

Building Type

Outbuildings

None

Building Style

T-Shaped

Stories

3

Porch

Basement

Roof Style

Hip

Roof Type

Moved

Demolished

Year/Date

Permit Number(s)

06B0286; 06B0287;
12B0177

Additions/ Alterations

Interior Remodels

Resource Information

Recorded By

Elizabeth Atly, Misty Henderson

Date

12-1983

Sources

Oregon Historical Society Photo Collection;
Building Plans Collection, Cozine Hall, Linfield
College; Conversation with Pietro Belluschi by
Telephone 1-12-84

Historic Resource Survey
City of McMinnville
Yamhill County, Oregon

Statement of historical significance and description of property:

A548

A three-story T-shaped brick mass with hip roof and classical detailing and proportions, Melrose Hall faces north on Campus Drive and houses the administrative structure of the college. The entry façade is symmetrical, consisting of a pedimented portico supported on four two and a half story unfluted sandstone Ionic columns. Pilasters of a Tuscan Doric derivation project from the façade in line behind the columns. The pediment contains a circular seal of the college in light relief.

The entry has three bays, the center containing a recessed high arched door with cast stone surround and console keystone. The paired doors have six lights each over paired recessed panels. An eight light transom over the door is topped by a half round light behind cast-iron ornamental screen. Over the doorway is a tall stairwell light consisting of 12/12/12 triple hung sash. Rectangular 12/12 double hung windows flank the entry.

On either side of the entry, the rectangular frontal mass continues in seven bays, each divided by 2-3-2 by vertical columns of projecting brick rectangles repeating the surface modulations of the brick quoins at corners. A cast stone belt course indicated the level of the first floor. The windows of this floor are distinctive, featuring recessed herringbone brick arches over 12/12 double hung sash windows. All other windows are 8/12 double hung sash.

Rectangular recessed doors with transom lights and cast stone architrave mouldings are symmetrically placed below tall double hung arched windows at either end of the rectangular mass. The rear wing of the T contains a small auditorium (ca. 250-300 seats) and continues the high arched window motif.

A dentilled cast stone cornice with plain frieze caps the building.

Prior to 1929 Linfield's football field occupied this site. At the time Melrose was built, a campus plan was created by Samuel Lancaster, who also was the designer of the Columbia Gorge Highway.

An anonymous donor to Linfield College gave the college \$10,000 worth of Standard Oil stock at \$17/stock. When its value rose to \$38/stock, the donor advised then president Riley to sell. From the proceeds, Melrose Hall was built. The name of Melrose Hall was selected by this anonymous donor after a site in the British Isles for which he had a special affinity.*

* Telephone conversation with Professor "Stein" Jonassen, December 20, 1983.

Historic Resource No. A543



Photo November 2001



Original 1983 Survey Photo