

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Buehner, Philip, House (preferred)

and/or common Armstrong Hall

2. Location

street & number 5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd. _____ not for publication

city, town	Portland	vicinity of	congressional district	3rd			
state	Oregon	code	41	county	Multnomah	code	051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	XX occupied	agriculture	museum
XX building(s)	XX private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	XX educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	XX religious
object	in process	XX yes: restricted	government	scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
		no	military	other:

4. Owner of Property

name Western Conservative Baptist Seminary

street & number 5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

city, town	Portland	vicinity of	state	Oregon	97215
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5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 SW 4th Avenue

city, town	Portland	state	Oregon	97204
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6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Portland Historic Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

city, town	Portland	state	Oregon	97204
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7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Basically rectangular in plan, the Buehner House is a large (40x80'), 2½-story, wood frame building with horizontal clapboard siding and a low-pitched hipped roof of composition shingles over an attic story. No information could be found concerning the original roofing material, though presumably it could have been wood shingles milled at Philip Buehner's lumberyard. The bulk of the material used in the construction of the house probably came from his mills. A low foundation with brick facade of American bond is crowned by a six-inch-wide concrete water table. The full basement has 11 single-pane, casement windows and one outside entrance--on the north side of the building.

Oriented to the west, the Colonial Revival house is situated at the top of a knoll which intersects Hawthorne Boulevard at 55th Avenue (the boulevard jogs at that intersection, thus giving the illusion that the Buehner House is the terminus). The site affords a spectacular prospect. From the west front, a scenic panorama unfolds of southeast Portland, the downtown area, and the West Hills beyond. The house, in turn, is visible from the west for more than a mile-and-a-half. It dominates the landscape as one travels east on Hawthorne. The house was an example for further development of the Mt. Tabor area, which today is dotted with many fashionable homes. The contemporary buildings erected behind and to the north of the house by the Western Conservative Baptist Seminary since 1944 are not visible from the west and thus do not inhibit the dramatic view nor compromise the integrity of the setting.

The west (front) elevation is a generous five bays wide and is dominated by a two-story portico with paired fluted columns of the Greek Corinthian order sheltering the main entry. Atop the portico is a deck with balustrade which can be reached from a third floor dormer. Above the cornice overhang, frieze, and architrave, the attic story is broken by four pedimented dormers with eave returns and round-arched casement windows. The cornice, supported by modillions spaced two feet apart, encircles the house. Fluted corner pilasters, also of Greek Corinthian order, frame the formally-organized projecting section in which paired double-hung sash windows with one over one lights flank the portico. The two bays of the northerly portion of the facade are set back from the principal wall plane.

The two-panel front door with narrow side lights is framed by two fluted pilasters and an entablature of the Roman Doric Order with a broken and scrolled pediment. Two small casement windows flank the entrance. Above the entrance is a tripartite window with top lights, central, circular stained glass sections and many small leaded panes to light the stairhall landing.

A pergola with square columns projects from the south end elevation. It shelters a concrete porch with balustrade, driveway, and brick-paved walk. An exterior brick chimney, flanked on the first story by two eight-foot double doors with vertical glass panels above a single wood panel, breaks the roofline beside a small dormer which is centered above the cornice. The chimney is decorated with a cast iron crest of the Buehner family.

(continued)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Buehner (Philip) House

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The east elevation faces the seminary campus which was developed on the property. The principal wall plane is broken by a two-story pavillion with hipped roof which projects 12' from the building. To the south of the pavillion is a classical columned veranda paved with nine-inch brick tiles. Two square columns which serve as the main structural supports are used in combination with Tuscan columns. The entrance sheltered by this veranda now operates as the principal access to the building from the seminary "quadrangle." The entrance is a double-leaf glass door with side lights. On the north side of the pavillion, in the corner against the main body of the house, is an exterior chimney which rises two stories then angles sharply into the house and projects through the roof beside one of the three east side dormers.

A single-story pantry wing, with plain cornice and frieze board, projects from the north end elevation. It is topped by a deck with balustrade with a glass paneled door leading into the second floor of the house. A brick chimney runs through the interior of the pantry and up the exterior of the second story, breaking the roofline beside one of the two north side dormers. A wood fire escape was built on this end c. 1970 at the firm request of the City. It is a straightforward stair which does not attempt to duplicate any of the house's decorative detail, but which is nonetheless relatively unobtrusive because of its placement.

The exterior of the Buehner House is in excellent condition with no structural changes since its construction. The fire escape is the only addition. In 1977, the house was painted beige, and the louvered shutters blue. The front door also was painted blue. According to Gary Wilson, Director of Planning and Public Information for the Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission gave advice and direction in the painting.

The interior of the Buehner House is in fine condition and has undergone no structural changes. With the exception of the dining room on the first floor and the third floor ballroom, wall-to-wall carpeting has been introduced to make the building warmer and quieter, but also to protect the hardwood floors from the volume of use the building receives. One bathroom on the second floor has been converted into an office. The offices on the second and third floors have been painted, for the most part, with sensitivity to the integrity of the building.

The main body of the first floor centers on the entry stair hall which is lighted during the day by the leaded glass window on the landing overlooking the hall. At the south end of the hall, and occupying the width of the house, is the living room--presently being used as the seminary's business office. Portable partitions have been erected in the room; however, they do not hinder close inspection of the well-preserved room. Hardwood paneling rising to a height of 6'5" lines the room and is capped by picture molding. The ceiling is plaster with exposed beams which are finished with the same material as the wainscoting. Centered on the south wall is a

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four-foot-wide fireplace with black marble surround and a seven-foot-long wood mantle of classical design. On the northwest wall is a 4'6"-high bookcase with glass doors which runs from the entrance of the room to the west wall. Three fluorescent light fixtures have been added to the room.

Access to the dining room, which is located in the pavillion on the east side of the building, is through an eight-foot double pocket door which is now kept open at all times. The wainscoting with vertical panels is eight feet high and crowned by a cast plaster rinceau frieze. The door is framed between two built-in five-foot china closets. The fireplace is similar to the one in the living room, but with red marble. The coffered ceiling is finished with plaster relief ornament within octagonal and square wood units. Four electric light chandeliers have been added since 1944.

The stair hall is painted the original white and is characterized by 9½-foot ceilings with exposed beams, baseboard and chair rail, picture molding, and molded doorway architraves. Two doors have been added to the music room opposite the dining room since 1944. However, they are the same style as the other first-floor doors. The pocket doors of this opening are no longer used. The present doors open into the hall. At the north end of the hall is a doorway, flanked by two narrow closets, to the north portion of the house which contains the butler's pantry, breakfast room, kitchen, and back stairwell. All the doors in the first floor hall are eight feet and are solid core, as are the other doors in the house.

The stairs from the main hall to the second floor are five feet wide wth twelve treads leading to the 6x18' landing which affords a magnificent view of Portland from the leaded glass window. A 4½-foot wainscoting with three horizontal panels, capped by picture molding, runs the length of the landing. Seven steps lead to the second floor. The four bedrooms, guest room, and sewing room of the second floor have become offices. The floor is laid out around a long wide hall which runs from the two south side bedrooms to a door opening onto the north side deck. The 7'6" doors of the second floor have four horizontal panels. The baseboard and ceiling trim are the same as the first floor and the hall is painted the original white. Two rooms of the floor have been either paneled or wallpapered in recent years in a manner which does not reflect the original character of the building.

The attic story contains three bedrooms which served as servants' quarters. It can be reached only by a stairwell located at the north end of the house. The stairs are in their original state with plain wainscoting following the stairs from the first floor. Unfortunately, a wide blue stripe has been painted, also following the rise of the stairs. This, like the other paint and wallpapering, is not irreversible. Fire regulations require that the door at the top of the stairs be removed. Seven other doors face the third floor hall, all of them standard 6'8" with four horizontal panels and plain trim. Five of the doors are crowned by transoms. The dominant feature of the floor is a 38x40' ballroom which is paneled entirely of 4"-wide soft wood and has

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hardwood flooring. The floor was built atop springs so it would gently give under dancing feet. The ballroom has a fireplace against the south wall. Stairs leading to one of the five dormers allow occupants to gain entrance to the portico deck. One fluorescent light has been installed in the ballroom.

Only surface changes, essentially, have occurred to the interior of the Buehner House since the property was purchased by the Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, and none of the modest modifications is irreversible. The Seminary administration has expressed a desire to maintain the building in as close to a historical nature as possible while still meeting the school's needs. The Buehner House, in fact, is one of the least altered and best maintained of the numerous fashionable houses designed by Whidden and Lewis for Portlanders in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> XX	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> XX education	<input type="checkbox"/> XX	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> XX engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> XX	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			

Specific dates 1905–1906

Builder/Architect Whidden and Lewis, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Philip Buehner House is significant to Portland as an exceptionally intact example of Colonial Revival architecture by leading early-day architects Whidden and Lewis. Commanding a spectacular view of the city to the west from its elevated site at the head of Hawthorne Boulevard at 55th Avenue, it was designed for Philip Buehner, a local lumberman and engineer who was a figure of importance in Portland's economic development from 1887 to 1940. The house was constructed in either 1905 or 1906 on the site of an 1849 farmhouse (purchased by Buehner in 1898) which had served as an overnight roadhouse for the stage running between Vancouver and Oregon City. Since 1944, it has been owned and occupied by Western Conservative Baptist Seminary, which uses the house as an administration building. Despite being owned by a religious organization, the Buehner House (known as Armstrong Hall since being purchased by the Seminary) deserves consideration because it is an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival style and because of its association with important figures in the City's history, namely Whidden and Lewis and the Buehner family. The Seminary's prominence in modern-day religious education in Portland and the Northwest will be a factor in the significance of the property as time goes on.

Architecture

Whidden and Lewis made up Portland's foremost architectural firm from 1890–1910, though the firm continued in business past Whidden's retirement in 1920 until Lewis' death in 1933. Both men were educated at MIT and launched their careers on the East Coast—Whidden with the prestigious New York firm of McKim, Mead & White, and Lewis with Peabody and Stearns in Boston. Whidden also was trained in Paris at the Ecole des Beaux Arts. He was sent to Portland by his employers to oversee the construction of the Portland Hotel in 1883. When the project was halted by the collapse of Villard's financial empire, Whidden returned to the East. In 1888 the unfinished hotel project was rescued by a local syndicate, and Whidden was hired to finish the work. In 1889 Whidden was visited in Portland by his MIT classmate, Ion Lewis, who was persuaded to stay on and enter into the partnership with Whidden which was established in 1890.

Whidden and Lewis were responsible for most of Portland's finest buildings of the turn-of-the-century period. Among these are City Hall, Good Samaritan Hospital, the Concord and Stevens Buildings, Multnomah County Courthouse, and numerous fashionable houses including those for the Lang, Koehler, Isam White, Ayer, MacKenzie, Milton W. Smith, and Buehner families. Whidden and Lewis were influenced greatly by McKim, Mead and White, progenitors of the Colonial Revival style. The Buehner House reflects that influence.

Engineering

Philip Buehner was a mechanical engineer when he came to Portland in 1887. He received his degree from Washington University of St. Louis in 1879 and worked in the Midwest for a boilermaker and railroad until 1883 when he came to the Pacific Northwest to work on waterworks projects. Buehner engineered the first modern waterworks system

9. Major Bibliographical References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one (c. 25,200 sq ft)

Quadrangle name Portland, Oregon-Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	3	0	8	1	0
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5	0	3	1	9	7	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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E

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G

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the SW corner of Block 5 of Buehner's Addition to the Plat of Portland, thence north along the west boundary of said Block 5 approx. 180', thence east in a line perpendicular to said west boundary approx. 140', thence south in a line parallel with said west boundary approx. 180' to south boundary of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see continuation sheet)

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

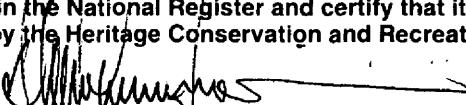
name/title	Scott Cline		
organization	graduate student, Public History Program Portland State University		
street & number	4909 SW Nevada Ct. #2	date	June 1980
city or town	Portland	telephone	503/244-2396
		state	Oregon 97219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

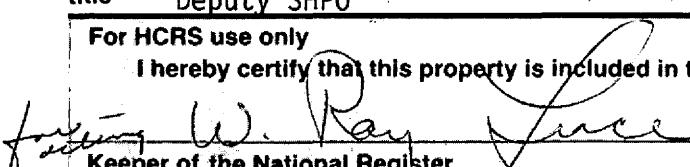
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title	Deputy SHPO	date	July 28, 1980
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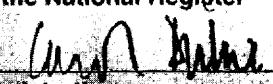
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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


keeper of the National Register

date 10/24/80

Attest:


chief of registration

date 10/21/80

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for Spokane, as well as the first large hydropower dam in Washington. He came to Portland in 1887 and engaged in several waterworks projects. In 1890 he joined a partnership, forming Wolff, Zwicker and Buehner Iron Works. The firm, under Buehner's direction, built the first water pipeline from Bull Run to Portland, finishing construction in 1893.

Industry

Buehner entered the lumber business in 1898 when he helped establish the Eastern Lumber Company. From then until his retirement in 1927, he was one of Oregon's leading lumbermen. In 1902 Eastern merged with the Western Lumber Company to form the Eastern and Western Lumber Company under the direction of Buehner and Winslow B. Ayer. In 1912 Buehner left the company and established the Buehner Lumber Company at Carlton, Oregon. In 1916 the mill at Carlton burned and Buehner built a mill in North Bend. His son, Henry, was now a partner in the business. In 1927, Philip Buehner sold his interest in Coos County to the Stout Lumber Company and established the Buehner Investment Company which he had a hand in until his death in 1940. Buehner was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Waverly Country Club, and the Arlington Club.

Education

After Philip Buehner died, the Buehner House remained in the family until 1944, when it was purchased by the Western Baptist Theological Seminary (now the Western Conservative Baptist Seminary). The Seminary was founded in 1927--graduating its first class that same year--by five local ministers. It was the first Baptist seminary on the Pacific Coast and is still the only such institution in the Pacific Northwest. The opening of the Seminary made it possible for local students to receive training in the ministry without having to travel as far away as Illinois or Missouri. Seeking to expand from its limited original quarters at 27th and Salmon, the Seminary purchased the Buehner House in 1944 for \$30,000. The historic house stood on 5½ acres which presented the pleasant possibility for growth. The building was named Armstrong Hall after the family which had donated the first building used by the Seminary. The Buehner House was used for classrooms during the early years and today is the school's administration building.

Since 1944, the 5½ acres sold to the Seminary have been developed considerably, but not at the expense of the essential integrity of the historic house, which still commands the site. Two outbuildings were removed to accommodate expansion. In all, seven buildings--including the Buehner House--now occupy the property. This nomination encompasses only a half-acre which is the immediate environment of the Buehner House.

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Oregon Journal, Portland, Oregon. October 15, 1940 (Philip Buehner obituary).

Oregonian, Portland, Oregon. October 16, 1940 (Philip Buehner obituary).

Vaughan, Thomas and George A. McMath. A Century of Portland Architecture, Portland, 1967.

Wardin, Albert. Baptists in Oregon, Portland, 1969.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los Angeles, 1970.

Interviews with: Betty Johnstone, Librarian, Western Conservative Baptist Seminary,
March 13, 1980.

Patricia Pritchard, Business Manager, Western Conservative Baptist Seminary
March 19, 1980.

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(11/78)

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said Block 5, thence west along south boundary of said Block 5 approx. 140' to point of beginning; containing in all 25,200 square feet or .58 acre, more or less.