

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon	
COUNTY: Benton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 4115	DATE DEC 11 1972



1. NAME

COMMON: _____

AND/OR HISTORIC: Philomath College

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street Oregon First Congressional District

CITY OR TOWN: Philomath Representative Wendell Wyatt

STATE <u>Oregon</u>	CODE <u>41</u>	COUNTY: <u>Benton</u>	CODE <u>003</u>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Historical museum and library facility is planned</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Philomath College Building Restoration Committee, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 551

CITY OR TOWN: Philomath STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Benton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: Corvallis STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Section

STREET AND NUMBER: Oregon State Highway Division

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Benton

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: DEC 11 1972

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set back from Main Street, on the crest of a gently-sloping hill, Philomath College overlooks the main route of travel through the town which is located on the west side of the Willamette Valley, between Corvallis and the Coast Range. It is today, as when completed in 1867, the focal point of the community.

Plans called for a large building. However, due to lagging sales of townsite lots at first, the United Brethren decided to build only the gable-roofed central pavilion, which is of brick construction on a stone foundation. The original two-story block measures 40 by 60 feet. Exterior walls are 24 inches thick. Bricks were made on the site by Lewis Wilson at a cost of \$6.95 per 1,000. It reportedly took 50,000 bricks to build this section of the school. Wood beams and joists support the floors, and the roof is carried by trusses of hand-hewn timber. A box cornice continues across the gable end, and the tympanum is lighted by coupled lunettes. Each of three bays is set off by brick pilasters continuing the height of two stories, terminating in simple capitals at the cornice. In the openings, double-hung sash windows have many small panes. Brick detailing under hooded lintels and the overall organization of the facade are reminiscent of Waller Hall on Willamette University campus in Salem completed by Methodists in the same year but started as early as 1864. The lower floor was originally divided into two classrooms, the entrance being on the south side. The second floor was used as a chapel.

Throughout the remainder of the 19th century the original block stood alone, and other buildings were added to the campus. These included a dormitory to the west (1877), a two-room structure for the elementary departments to the east (1897-1899), and a gymnasium (1902-1903). None of these later buildings stands today.

In 1905 the west wing was added to the original building, and its counterpart on the east side was completed in 1907, thus giving the structure a cruciform plan. It is doubtful that east and west wings conformed to the original building plans in detail. The shingled, hipped gambrel roofs with bellcast lines, dormers, and upper window sashes of as many as 25 lights owe more to the then current mode of the colonial revival than to earlier historical styles. Exterior walls are not solid brick construction, but brick veneer on wood frames. With the addition of the wings, which provided new entrances, the porch and doorway in the center bay of the facade of the main block were removed and replaced by a window opening. Detailing of the wings differs from that of the main block which was derived from the classical revival. Window openings in the wings have segmental arch heads, and those windows forming the outer bays are coupled. The sills are brick, rather than wood. The eaves are somewhat consistent with the original in design, but not in height. An octagonal louvered belfry with cornice and shallow dome, a feature of the original block, is set forward of the transverse center line. Interior walls and ceilings are plastered, and the original wainscoting is intact.

Through the intervening years, the building has remained in sound condition, though there is some surface wear and deterioration. After the college was closed, in 1929, the building was held and frequently used by the United Brethren Church until the completion last year of a new church within the historic eight-acre parcel, immediately to the southeast of the college. Recently, at the behest of the City of Philomath, a Portland architectural firm prepared a preliminary cost study for the building's restoration for use as a combination museum and library facility. Spearheading the restoration effort is a private, non-denominational group which incorporated in June, 1972, as the Philomath College Building Restoration Committee and acquired the building and 1.88 acres.

S E E I N T R U C T I O N S

6. SIGNIFICANCE

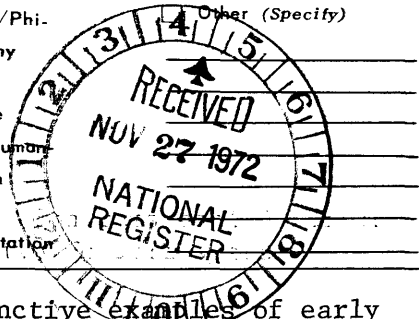
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1867**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Philomath College is one of several distinctive examples of early collegiate building in Oregon. The project was undertaken in 1865 by the United Brethren in Christ as part of a program of expansion in the West. Typical of the state's early sectarian enterprises, the school was the nucleus around which the town of Philomath grew. The plan called for purchasing a section of land, selecting a site for the building, and selling the remainder in small lots for a new townsite. In 1866 the town was incorporated and the college building was well on the way to completion.

Upon the arrival of the United Brethren missionary train in Oregon in 1853, it was decided to divide Oregon into two conference districts, each comprising an area of 3000 square miles. The south, or Willamette District, was in charge of the Reverend T. J. Connor. It was the ambition of either district not only to provide necessary church buildings for the growing congregations, but also to build suitable schools for the higher religious and literary training of the young people who were remote from educational centers.

In February, 1865, a large group of settlers in the Willamette District met to consider the feasibility of building a school. The meeting resulted in pledges of \$3,000 for a building, and \$12,000 for land and endowment. A half section of land was purchased for \$2,510, eight acres of which were set aside for the college. The remaining 312 acres were divided into lots for sale to settlers. The proposal, along with the assets and pledges, was presented to the United Brethren Church.

Thus aided by local settlers, the United Brethren of the Willamette District founded Philomath College as the sectarian school for Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and California. The College was opened for use in October, 1867. It was chartered as a Christian college for the liberal education of both sexes, and for the training of ministers. The charter also provided, in accord with sectarian ethic, that no intoxicating liquors were permitted to be sold within a mile of the school. Philomath College prospered and became popular enough that there was at one time a move to make it a state institution, but the Church could not agree to surrender its interest due to binding clauses in the school charter.

Philomath College served well in equipping young men for ministerial careers. Among the school's earlier students was the Reverend Louis Albert Banks, a native Oregonian and author, mostly of religious writings, who became pastor of several of the nation's leading Methodist Episcopal churches. His best known title, published in 1897, is An Oregon Boyhood. No less than 100 ministers and as many prominent lawyers and physicians and business men and women were trained in the liberal arts at the college. However, with the (cont'

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, McMath, Hawkins, Architects, Preliminary Planning Report, Restoration of Philomath College, Philomath, Oregon (December 1, 1971). 30 pages.
 Constance, Clifford L., Chronology of Oregon Schools, 1834-1958 (Eugene: University of Oregon Books, 1960), 64.
 Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binforde and Mort, 1956), 20, 196.
 Pemberton, Earl, "Early Colleges in Oregon," The Commonwealth Review, Vol. 13, No. 4 (November 1931), 277-278.
 Theurer, Audrey, "Philomath College Still Dominates Landscape," Oregon Journal (April 22, 1970), 10.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44°	32'	29"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	123°	22'	10"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

10/14/70650
4931875
HF

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.88 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Paul Hartwig, Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Parks and Recreation Section DATE: November 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: Oregon State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: George M. Baldwin

Title: Administrator of Highways

Date: November 17, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/11/72

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12/19/72

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Oregon
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		DEC 11 1972

(Number all entries)

PHILOMATH COLLEGE

2. Location

Philomath College is located in the NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 12, T. 12 S., R. 6 W., of the Willamette Meridian, in Benton County, Oregon.

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

advent of state-supported institutions of higher learning in the mid-Willamette Valley, Philomath College gradually languished for lack of patronage, and in June, 1929, the doors of the college were closed.

