

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

9:0-2
12:33-37

County Linn
Ranking _____
Name
(Common) Lebanon Middle School
(Historic) Union High School/Lebanon School
Address 60 Main Street
Present Owner School District #16
Address 485 Fifth Street
Original Use High School
Date of Construction 1909
Map Reference Number 8

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Union High School is a three-story building originally constructed in the Italianate style. The original structure had a rectangular floor plan and a low pitched hip roof. The building was remodeled inside and out in 1948, by the Portland architectural firm of Freeman and Hayslip. The contemporary building has a T-shaped floor plan. The facades have been completely modernized, one-story wings with gable roofs were added on each side and a central heating plant was built at the rear. The classroom wings and the base of the original structure have been clad with brick and the upper floors stuccoed.

The center of the east facade now projects out and contains six windows on each upper floor. The upper floors of the side bays each have four similar windows and a narrow one next to the center bay. The base has four windows in each side bay and five in the center bay. The windows have two single-light, hinged sashes below fixed multi-light transoms. There is a door on the left side of the center bay and large entries on each side of the original building. The side entries added at the corners of the original structure are flanked by piers with vertical molding and contain three recessed, single-light doors with a multi-light transoms and sidelights.

(continued)

Recorded by Heritage Investment Corporation, 813 SW Alder, Portland, OR 97204 (228-0272)
Allen, McMath-Hawkins, Architects, 213 SW Ash, Portland, OR 97204 (228-5154)

Initials _____ Date _____

Sources consulted: see attached.

The original facade was divided into three bays. The center bay was recessed with a projected four-story tower above the main entry. The ground floor was rusticated concrete and the upper floors were brick. The base of the tower featured a large round arch at the top of a flight of stairs. There were sunbursts above the entry, panels between floors, and tall round arch windows on the third floor. The fourth floor was open featuring large square columns with capitals below a pyramidal roof and housed a large bell that had been shipped around the Horn to Lebanon.

There were five four/one, double-hung windows with multi-light transoms on the upper floors of each end bay. Six four/one, double-hung windows with semi-circular transoms were located on each side of the tower at the third floor. The corners of the projected side bays contained smaller windows, which remain at the inside corners but have been filled above the new entries. All the windows have been replaced. Pilasters in each corner of the projected bays remain with their capitals removed. The bracketed, projecting cornice is replaced with a low parapet wall. Dormers containing Palladian windows have been removed from the low-pitched hip roofs above the side bays.

The new wings on the north and south have a continuous band of windows with two single-light, hinged sashes below fixed, multi-light transoms. A three-story, hip roof bay off the southwest corner has been removed. At both ends, all the window openings have been closed except one in the center of the third floor. On the west elevation the four/one, double-hung windows and multi-light transoms have been replaced with two single-light, hinged sashes below larger multi-light transoms. At the center there is a low hallway with a side entry that connects to a one-story tall wing with stucco walls and a truncated hip roof. On the west end of the wing there is a major entry featuring double doors, a three-light transom, flanking piers with vertical molding and a small window at each side. There is a tall brick chimney on the north side and a flat roof, stuccoed addition on the southwest corner.

History

The history of the Lebanon High School is intertwined with that of the Santiam Academy. When the town was platted the Methodist Conference was given a 10-acre tract for church and school purposes from Jeremiah Ralston and Morgan Kees. The Methodist Conference operated the Santiam Academy as a secondary school from 1854, making it one of the first educational institutions in Oregon.

The academy was the center of the community's cultural life and produced many well known personalities including Judge M. C. George, former Oregon congressman; General W. H. Odel who became Surveyor-General of Oregon; and Judge Owen Denny, who was Consul-General to China and later legal advisor to the Emperor of Korea. Judge Denny lived much of his early life on the Denny homestead west of Lebanon. In 1881, while working in China, he saw the ring neck pheasant and decided to ship some to Oregon, where they were turned loose on Peterson's Butte.

The Santiam Academy had upwards of 150 students in the early 1870's but the establishment of public schools then caused a rapid decline in enrollment. It finally had to close its doors in the 1903-04 school year, and the Methodist Conference turned over the building and land to the Lebanon School District for use as a high school with a 99 year lease.

In 1909, the Lebanon High School was built just to the north of the academy building. In the late 1930's the academy building was torn down and lumber reused in building the Girl Scout house. The bell, which had tolled for Lincoln's assassination was hung in the new high school cupola and rung to announce home team athletic victories.

Continuation Sheet 2 of 2
Union High School
60 Main Street
Map Reference Number: 8

Sources Consulted:

- 1 Irvine, Jim. "Our First School: A Small, Log Cabin," Lebanon Express. July 1, 1976.
- 2 Goetze, June "Santiam Academy Begins Education," Lebanon Express. June 5, 1947.
- 3 "Local School History Given in Two Addresses," Lebanon Express. March 26, 1930.
- 4 "Span of Nearly a Century Since Settlers Established First Linn County Churches," Lebanon Express. June 5, 1947.
- 5 Welsh, William. A Brief History of Oregon City and West Linn, Lebanon, Oregon, Crown Zellerbach Corporation. 1941.

