

**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

36.18 & 36.2

Aerial Number

J-14

Resource Classification

A

Resource Number

589

Historic Significance

Historic Information

Date of Construction

1894

Early Additions/ Remodels

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Historic Name

Original Use

Common Name

Present Use

Observatory

Observatory, Classes

Condition of Structure

Comments (at time of Survey)

Building Type

Outbuildings

Building Style

Stories

None

Italianate

2

Porch

Basement

Roof Style

Flat

Roof Type

Moved

Demolished

Year/Date

1960's

Permit Number(s)

00B0913

Additions/ Alterations

Interior T.I.

Resource Information

Recorded By

Elizabeth Atly

Date

1-1984

Sources

State of Oregon Inventory, Historic Sites and Buildings, March 9, 1976

Historic Resource Survey
City of McMinnville
Yamhill County, Oregon

Statement of historical significance and description of property:

A589

“The Linfield College Observatory was erected in 1894. It was one of the earliest astronomical observatories in the Pacific Northwest. The now razed observatory of the University of Oregon on Skinner’s Butte in Eugene may have predated this building. The trustees of McMinnville College built this two story wooden frame building (resided and covered with bricks in a stretcher bond about 1955) to house a thousand dollar telescope that was bequeathed to the college by A.W. Kinney. The six-inch telescope is yet in the building and is mounted in a two story domed tower. Adjoining the tower is a two-story Italianate building (with a flat roof). The windows in it are simple one-over-one with plain surrounds.

“This building and its telescope have been used for the teaching of astronomy at the college since 1894. The building originally stood adjacent to Failing Hall approximately 400 feet east of Pioneer Hall. The exterior of the building included sections of imbricated shingling. (The college has historic photographs of this building available.)” (As recorded from State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings, March 1976.)

This building is currently in use for small classes by the Linfield athletic department.

A caption under a photograph in the Linfield College archives reads that the observatory “mounts a fine 6 in object glass equatorial telescope, the gift of the Albert Kinney estate. The glass cost \$1500.”

Historic Resource No. A589



Photos November 2000



Original 1983 Survey Photos