Historic Resources Survey City of McMinnville Yamhill County, Oregon

Site Information

				Owner at Time of Survey Linfield College					
									Map/Tax Lot
R4420DD00400			R-4PD		No		No		
Subdivision Na	me			Block	Lot	Lot Siz	ze Qua	adrant	
							SW		
Site Number			Resource Classification			Historic S	storic Significance		
36.18 & 36.2	J-14		<u>A</u>	589					
Histo	oric	Inform	ation						
Date of Constru	ction	Early Add	ditions/ Remod	els Builde	er/Archi	tect			
1894				Unkno	own				
Historic Name		Original Use Comm		Commo	on Name Present Use				
		Obse	ervatory				Observatory	, Classes	
Condition of Str	ucture	e Comm	nents (at time o	f Survey)					
Building Type		Outbuildings None			Building Style		Stories		
							2		
Porch Basem		Roof Style Flat	ı	Roof Type		Moved ✓	Demolished	d Year/Date	
Permit Number((s)	Addition	s/ Alterations						
00B0913		Interior T	`.l.						
Reso	urce	Inforr	nation						
Recorded By			Date		Source	s			
Elizabeht Atly 1			1-198	34		f Oregon Inventory, Historic Sites and gs, March 9, 1976			

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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 doomed 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.

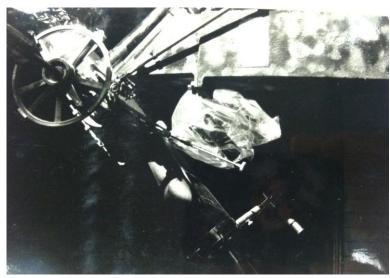
A caption under a photograph in the Linfield College archives reads that the observatory "mounts a fine 6 in object glass equatorial telescope, the gift of the Albert Kinney estate. The glass cost \$1500."

Historic Resource No. A589



Photos November 2000





Original 1983 Survey Photos