After extensive repairs following its purchase in 1949, the former Lincoln High building was rechristened Old Main in 1952 and the program was renamed the Portland State Extension Center, serving day students, who promptly renamed it Portland State College. The building also housed the Portland Center of the General Extension Division, serving night students.

Lincoln Hall—the "Old Main" moniker gave way decades ago—was built in 1911 on a design by the architectural firm of Whitehouse & Fouilhoux. Its classical revival style presents high Corinthian columns and balcony projections to the South Park Blocks side. It served for 40 years as Portland's Lincoln High School before it became Portland State's first building in 1952. The auditorium and stage were remodeled in 1975, and an extensive restoration into a performance education center was completed in 2010.