

**LANDSCAPE RESOURCE SURVEY**  
 University of Oregon Campus Heritage Landscape Plan  
 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon • Spring 2007

**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

**13th Avenue Axis (k)**

HISTORIC NAME(S)

13th Avenue

CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Axis

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

No historic designation

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

- Inception Era
- Lawrence/Cuthbert Era
- Mid-Century Era

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

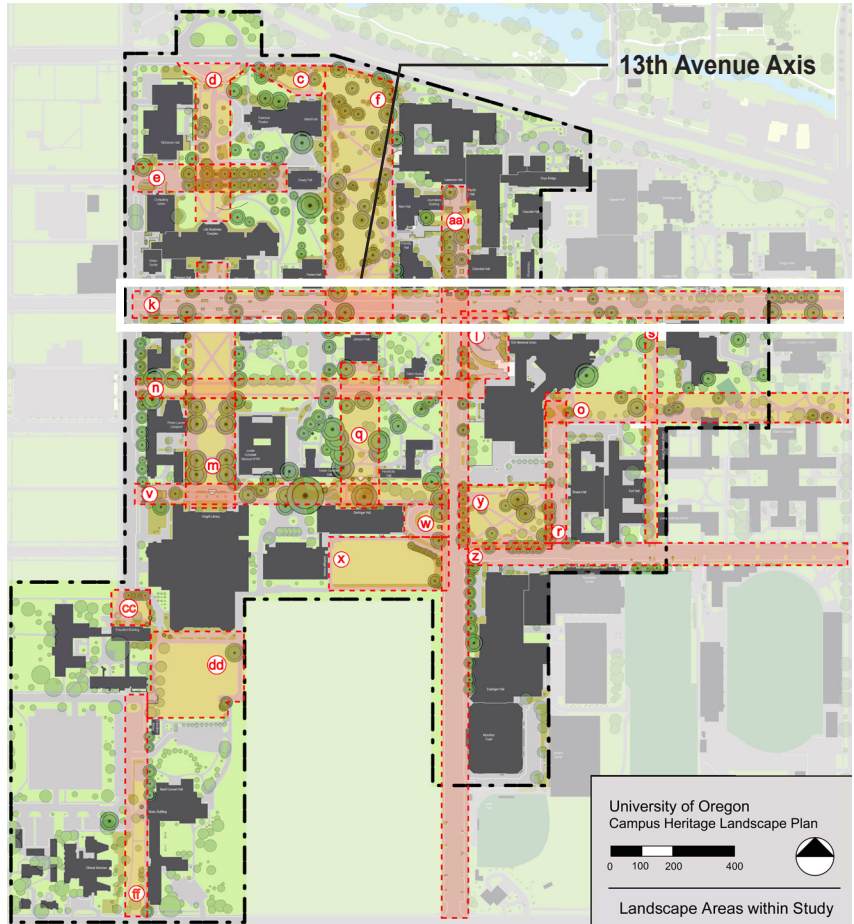
High

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Good

RANKING

Primary

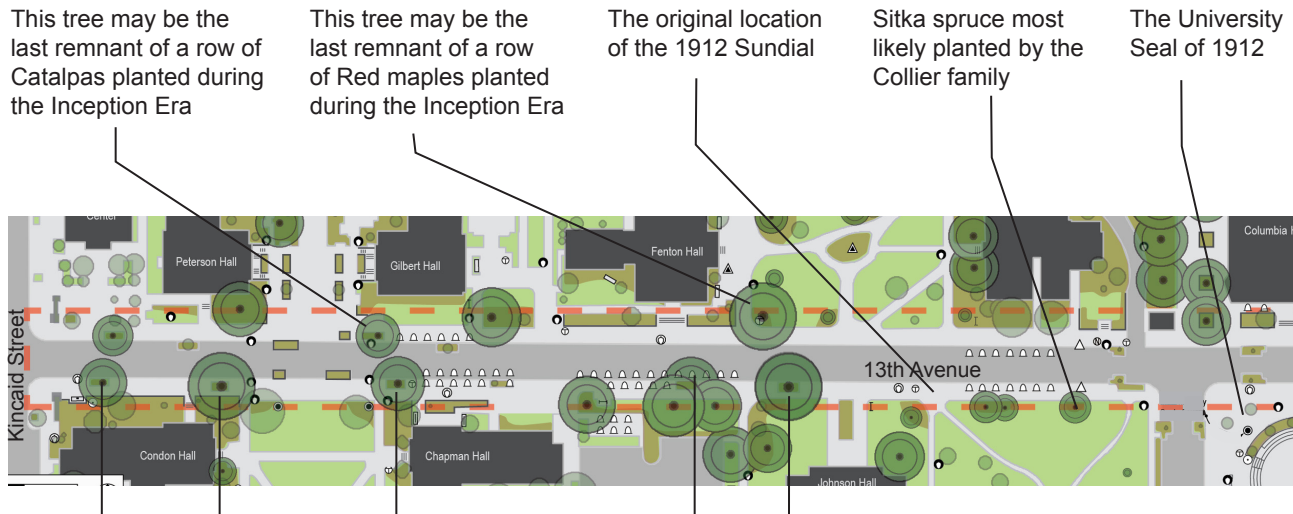


*View looking west down 13th Avenue, with Deschutes Hall and Huestis Hall to the right and Carson Hall to the left.*



Landscape Resource Survey  
**13TH AVENUE AXIS**

**LANDSCAPE AREA SITE MAP** — Highlighting existing elements from the period of significance (1876-1974).



A row of three Northern Red oaks were planted here in the Mid-Century Era

American Linden was most likely planted near the end of the Lawrence Era.

Douglas Fir, also known as the "Moon Tree" was grown from seeds carried to the moon by astronaut Stuart Roosa on Apollo XIV in 1971, it was moved from where Wilamette Hall now stands in 1987.

Norway maple was planted shortly after the construction of Carson Hall

Row of trees all planted in the Mid-Century Era

LEGEND			
TRASH CANS	⊕	BIKE RACKS	⏏
NEWS STANDS	Ⓝ	TREES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
SMALL SCALE FEATURES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▲	MEMORIAL TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
SMALL SCALE FEATURES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	△	CAMPUS TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●	UNIVERSITY STANDARD LIGHTPOSTS	⦿
PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	○	NON-UNIVERSITY STANDARD LIGHTPOSTS	⦿
BENCHES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬	LANDSCAPE AREA BOUNDARY	—
BENCHES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬		
MEMORIAL BENCHES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬		

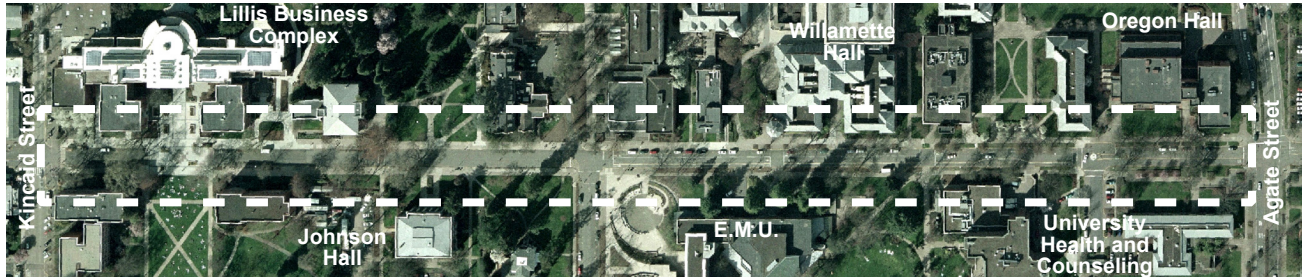
\* note: Period of Significance refers to the project period of 1876-1974



**SUMMARY OF EXISTING HISTORIC FEATURES**

Street trees are the primary historic feature associated with the 13th Avenue Axis from its days as a busy city arterial. In 1971 the university and the city formed an agreement to close a majority of the Axis to vehicular access following a student protest. A gradual transformation of the Avenue is occurring. Many of the street features associated with the Axis, like the curbs, parking strips,

sidewalks and roadbed are being altered as the Avenue continues to evolve into more of a bicycle/ pedestrian mall. Remnants of the street car tracks that once operated in Eugene are still visible in the roadbed, although large sections of the track were removed during the construction of the “Heart of Campus Project” and the Lillis Business Complex.



2004 aerial of the 13th Avenue Axis



View looking west and the visitor information booth near Agate Street.



Looking east with Condon Hall to the right.



A northwest view from the EMU and the Heart of Campus across to Friendly Hall.



A view across the turnaround and toward the Volcanology Building, left, and Willamette Hall, right.



■ **RESOURCE HISTORY**

**ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE**

Designated Eras within the Period of Historic Significance Determined for this Survey (1876-1974) are listed below. Check the era/eras determined to be of highest significance for this landscape area.

- Inception Era (1876-1913)
- Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)
- Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

**DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION DURING ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Circa 1913: 13th Avenue is paved and contains tracks for an electric street car. Boardwalks line either side of the street.

1914–1967: numerous campus buildings constructed along the Avenue.

**MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER THE ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE**

1970: students block traffic from entering 13th Avenue

**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

**The Inception Era (1876-1913)**

During this era 13th Avenue was a public street that entered university grounds between Kincaid and University Streets. The only campus buildings located along 13th Avenue were the Boy’s Gym, Friendly Hall, Collier House, and Fenton Hall. A baseball field was located on the site of the current Lillis Business Complex, and Kincaid Field was located on the sites of the Memorial Quad, Chapman Hall and Condon Hall. Tennis courts occupied the site of Johnson Hall and residences were located on 13th Avenue east of University Street. A row of Honeylocusts were planted along the southern edge of the avenue and a double row of street trees composed of Catalpas and Red maples lined the northern edge. Boardwalks lined the Avenue, and an electric streetcar ran on tracks down the middle.

during an Earth Day event.

1971: the university officially acquired the Avenue, closing it to public traffic at Kincaid Street.

1997: 13th & Kincaid entry gate featuring the John M. Amundson Garden dedicated.

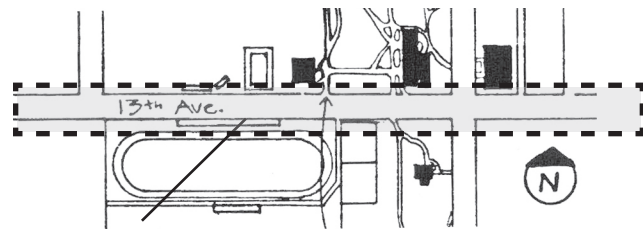
circa 2000: Information booth and turnaround constructed near Agate Street.

2003: 13th Avenue is reconfigured with the construction of the Lillis Business Complex.

2004: Intersection of 13th Ave. and University Street, known as the “Heart of Campus” is reconfigured.

2005: a turnaround designed by Cameron, McCarthy, Gilbert and Sheibe of Eugene is constructed on 13th Ave. between the EMU and the Volcanology Building.

Looking west down 13th Avenue, circa 1930.



A 1922 aerial view of 13th Avenue

**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

**The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)**

In this era 13th Avenue was a busy public street running through the campus, which was well established on the northern and southern sides of the Avenue between Kincaid and University Streets. The only university buildings east of University Street were the Men's Gymnasium and the Infirmary (later Volcanology), and this portion of the Axis was primarily residential. Concrete sidewalks replaced the boardwalks, and by the end of the era none of the Honeylocust street trees remained due to their old age. Very few Catalpas remained along the northern edge of the Avenue, also because of their old age. A majority of the street trees seen today date from this era.

*A 1936 image of Johnson Hall, with 13th Avenue in the foreground.*



*1944 Aerial*

**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

**The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)**

13th Avenue remained a busy public street, and the university now owned both sides of the Avenue between Agate and Kincaid Streets. The campus had grown significantly east of University Street and this intersection became even busier with the presence of the EMU and Columbia Hall anchoring the eastern corners. Parking lots were located on the site of Oregon Hall and Willamette Hall. The EMU east lawn was larger, flatter and more exposed to 13th Avenue, replacing an entire block of residences. Carson Hall and the Student Health Center were in place. There were fewer street trees in the eastern portion of the Axis, although a row of Sycamore trees appear to have been planted during this era. The large Red Oaks in front of the EMU appeared remarkably small in a 1968 aerial photograph. Major crosswalks were located between Commonwealth Hall and the Memorial Quad and between Fenton and Johnson Halls where "Hello Lane" intersected the Avenue.

*Looking west from Johnson Hall at a double row of street trees circa 1950.*



*1968 Aerial*



## DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

### LAND USE

*Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.*

Historically the 13th Avenue Axis was heavily trafficked by automobiles. After purchasing the street in 1971, the university closed it to vehicular traffic at Kincaid Street. Today it serves as the primary route directly into the Heart of Campus, and tangentially to the Memorial and Old Campus Quadrangles. The easterly portion of the Axis, between Agate Street and the Volcanology Building, functions as a typical street with minimal two-way car traffic, parking on one side, and sidewalks.

### DESIGN INTENT

*Describing the overall design intent of the Area.*

The 13th Avenue Axis was intended to be a major circulation route connecting downtown Eugene with points east. Ellis Lawrence incorporated the Avenue into his campus designs, recognizing its importance as a major campus axis. Cuthbert planned improvements that included a grassy median and circular turn-arounds at the Memorial Quad to slow traffic. These plans were not realized.

### SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

*Describing the arrangement of physical elements that create a three-dimensional sense of space.*

This Axis's traditional street design has been

recently modified by projects such as the Lillis Business Complex and the Heart of Campus project. Landscape elements within the paved street area have enhanced the street's pedestrian quality along key intersecting open spaces through the removal of curbs, new tree planting areas, and special paving. The large street trees along 13th Avenue help reinforce the linear nature of the Axis. These mature trees have a near continuous canopy cover along the majority of 13th Avenue with occasional breaks near the University Street intersection and areas adjacent to the Old Campus Quad and the Memorial Quad.

### TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION

*Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.*

The topography of 13th Avenue gently rises up at a 2-4% slope from Kincaid Street before cresting just past the Heart of Campus intersection (see diagram, page 6). At this point, it descends at a 3-5% slope towards Agate Street.

The large, mature street trees that line the majority of 13th Avenue keep much of the Axis shaded. The highest solar exposure can be found where the street trees thin out along the Heart of Campus intersection and adjacent to the Memorial Quad.



*The area's topography.*



*Diagram showing circulation paths.*



*Significant views through the area.*

## **VEGETATION**

*Describing tree, plant, shrub, ground layer groupings and arrangements.*

Remaining trees from the Inception Era are the last of the Catalpas outside Gilbert Hall and the Red maple outside Fenton Hall. A Sitka spruce planted by the Collier family also remains near the corner of 13th Ave and University Street. An American Linden planted near the end of the Lawrence Era still stands outside Willamette Hall. Many of the rest of the trees were planted during or after the Mid-Century Era. Sycamores have become the predominant street tree along the southern edge of 13th Avenue between Johnson Hall and Condon Hall. Oaks are the predominant street tree at the eastern end of the Axis. A row of Tilia is planted in the parking strip in front of Willamette Hall. The “Moon Tree”, a Douglas fir planted from a seed that traveled to the moon, is planted in the lawn near the EMU Craft Center.

## **NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES**

*Describing natural processes, water flow, and habitat, if applicable.*

The large street trees provide some mammal and bird habitat, however this has been diminished since the Lawrence Era when there were double rows of street trees on either side of 13th Avenue that were connected with nearly continuous planting strips.

With few exceptions, 13th Avenue has retained its impervious cover. There have been some attempts to mitigate the stormwater runoff generated along 13th Avenue including placing stormwater diversion planters along the curbs of the roadway.

## **BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES**

*Describing built physical elements in and around perimeter of the Area, and their relationship to the landscape.*

Buildings that front 13th Avenue span all three eras of significance, and tend to have a common, minor setback from the street. These buildings gain in size and massing as one moves eastward and the buildings have a newer construction date. The older buildings generally have their main entrances facing open spaces adjacent to 13th Avenue, while

newer buildings face directly onto 13th.

## **SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS**

*Describing elements such as monuments, markers, seating, fences etc.*

There are very few historic small scale elements of note within the Axis. More contemporary elements include an information booth placed in the middle of the Avenue, a variety of bollards, decorative curb plantings and raised brick planters.

## **EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES**

*Describing the perimeter of the site and important adjacent connections to spaces beyond.*

The 13th Avenue Axis provides access to many significant buildings, circulation routes and open spaces on campus. Primary circulation routes that connect to this Axis are the Memorial Quad, the Old Campus Quad, University Street, the EMU breezeway, the Emerald Axis, the Science Green, the Onyx Green, and Agate Street.

## **CIRCULATION**

*Describing movement paths and associated materials for: pedestrian; automobile; bicycle; other (e.g. system, alignment, materials, character).*

The 13th Avenue Axis is the major circulation route through campus for bicyclists and pedestrians (see diagram, page 6). Light automobile and service vehicle traffic use this Axis as well, with non-service vehicles restricted on the western portion. The eastern portion of the Axis, from Agate Street to University Street, provides some on-street parking. A traffic circle turnaround in front of the Volconology building prohibits non-service automobiles from passing through to University Street. The sidewalks along this Axis have been widened and there are fewer trees now than there were during the period of significance.

## **VIEWS/VISTAS**

*Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.*

The character defining view of the 13th Avenue Axis is the long tree-lined east/west view that runs along the Axis itself (see diagram, page 6). There are several significant views that intersect the Axis, and include the Memorial Quad, Dads' Gates Axis, Pioneer Axis, the University Street Axis, and the Science Green.

■ **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION**

- City Landmark
- National Register - full listing  
name:
- National Register - partial listing  
name:
- National Historic Landmark
- No historic designation

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

**Criterion A: Significant Events**

*Describe events with the landscape area that have influenced the broad patterns of campus history.*

The 13th Avenue Axis meets criterion A for the role it played in the student protests on Earth Day, 1970. Students blocked traffic from entering 13th Avenue between University and Kincaid Streets. This resulted in the street's closure to public traffic when the university acquired it in 1971.

**Criterion B: Significant People**

*Describe connections with the lives of significant persons, including designers.*

Not applicable.

**Criterion C: Distinctive Characteristics**

*Describe elements that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values.*

The 13th Avenue Axis meets criterion C because it is a part of the campus plans of master architect and designer, Ellis Lawrence. The original intent was for 13th Avenue to connect the University with downtown Eugene; it served this role until the University closed the street to public traffic in 1970. The avenue also contains many distinctive features from the period of significance. These include various street trees, and in particular the American Linden planted at the end of the Lawrence Era and the Catalpa, Red maple, and Sitka spruce from the Inception Era.

**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Rank the landscape area in term of its level of contribution to the historic significance of the university campus as a whole.

- High Significance**  
*Considerable contribution to the history of the campus and its growth.*
- Medium Significance**  
*Noteworthy contribution the history of the campus and its growth.*
- Low Significance**  
*Discernable contribution to the history of the campus and its growth.*
- Very Low/No Significance**  
*No discernable importance to the history of the campus and its growth.*



■ **DETERMINATION OF INTEGRITY**

*Integrity of the Landscape Area is evaluated based on the retention of the historic characteristics described in the categories below.*

**LOCATION / SETTING**

*Are important elements still in their original location and configuration?*

There have been several alterations to the 13th Avenue Axis since the end of the Mid-Century Era, but many important elements are still in their original location. Though no longer open to automobile traffic through part of its length, the general footprint of the Axis remains largely unchanged, including the retention of street trees. Also, the Axis still serves as a major circulation route.

**DESIGN**

*How has the general structure of the landscape changed since its period of significance?*

Since 1970, automobile traffic has been blocked from entering campus at Kincaid Street. Modifications to the street in this area have ensued to make it more pedestrian friendly, including curb removal, replacing concrete with pavers, and placing planters and bike racks along the street edge. Sidewalks have been widened and there are now fewer trees along the Axis than there were during the period of significance.

**MATERIALS**

*Are original materials/vegetation that were used to structure and shape the landscape still present?*

The majority of the wide-canopied street trees along the Axis date back to the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era, and the majority of the sidewalks are still concrete.

**WORKMANSHIP**

*Does the landscape retain characteristic workmanship from the period of significance?*

The nature of the street is still evident, though changes have taken place beyond the period of significance.

**FEELING**

*Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?*

Although no longer open to automobile traffic from Kincaid Street, the Axis still has the feeling of a city street. Furthermore, the large street trees and historic buildings lend the space a sense of antiquity.

**ASSOCIATION**

*Is it possible to associate elements of the landscape with significant people/events?*

The Axis retains integrity as a major circulation route through campus, and is also a primary entry point to many historic campus open spaces and buildings.

■ **INTEGRITY & CONDITION FINDINGS**

**HISTORIC INTEGRITY**

*Determine the level of historic integrity, based on the Era(s) of Significance – check one*

- Excellent Integrity  
*Retains a very high percentage of original fabric, and the original design intent is apparent.*
- Good Integrity  
*Retains a significant percentage of original fabric, with a discernable design intent.*
- Fair Integrity  
*Original fabric is present, but diminished.*
- Poor Integrity  
*Contains little historic fabric, and the original design intent is difficult to discern.*

**OVERALL CONDITION OF LANDSCAPE AREA**

*– check one*

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

## ■ RESOURCES

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— List all primary sources used (plans, maps, surveys, photographs, drawings, newspapers, periodicals, and autobiographies) and secondary sources (books, theses, guidebooks).

Dunton, F.E. and Schwan W.J., A Biological Map of the University of Oregon Campus: Showing the Specimen Trees on the Campus. July 1913. duplicate held by the University of Oregon Planning Office.

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Hendricks, Leland G. ed. The Oregana volume V (Eugene: the class of 1914, 1914).

Long, Stephen W. "Historic Continuity A Diagnosis Report" (Eugene: University of Oregon Office of Planning and Campus Development, 1980) 1-67.

Lowrie, Chris, "University acquires 13th Avenue." Eugene, Oregon Daily Emerald, 26 January, 1971.

Marshall Brothers, 1921 map of Campus, duplicate held by the University of Oregon Planning Office.

McMillan, Adell, A Common Ground. (Eugene, Oregon: Erb Memorial Union, 2003) 1-637.

The Oregana (Eugene: the class of 1945, 1945).

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Sandahl, David A. and Castro, Ricardo. "An architectural history of the University of Oregon," (unpublished manuscript, University of Oregon, 1975) Architecture and Allied Arts Library.

Shellenbarger, Michael. ed. Harmony in Diversity: The Architecture and Teaching of Ellis F. Lawrence (Eugene: University of Oregon, 1989), 1-91.

Teague, EH. (2004, Oct. 10). The Architecture of the University of Oregon. Retrieved Mar. 1, 2006, from <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/architecture/oregon/>

University of Oregon, 1935 map of Campus, duplicate held by the University of Oregon Planning Office.

University of Oregon, 1953 map of Campus, duplicate held by the University of Oregon Planning Office.

University of Oregon Catalogue: 1913-1914. (Eugene, Oregon: University of Oregon, 1914) 1-276.

University of Oregon Catalogue: 1945-1946. Campus Map (Eugene, Oregon: University of Oregon, 1945)

University of Oregon Catalogue: 1955-1956. Campus Map (Eugene, Oregon: University of Oregon, 1955)

University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection. Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1936.

University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection. Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1944.

University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection. Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1947.

University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection. Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1952.

University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection. Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1960.

University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection. Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1968.

Electronic version available on the University of Oregon Planning Office web page: <http://uplan.uoregon.edu/projects/HLP/hlp-surveyofflandareas.htm>

Survey research by Dustin Welch and Daniel Schaible.

Survey form completed in Spring 2006 under the supervision of Fletcher Farr Ayotte, Inc.

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