

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

■ **RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

Straub Hall Green (y)

HISTORIC NAME(S)

none known

CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Green

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

No historic designation

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

Mid-Century Era

LEVEL OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

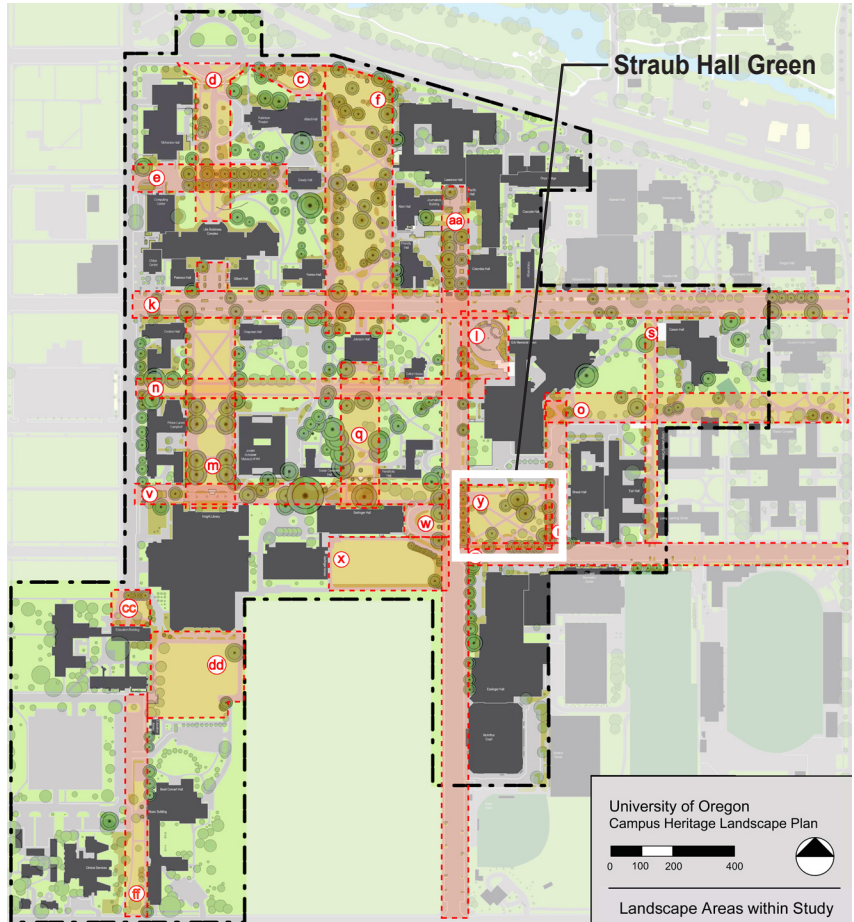
Medium

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

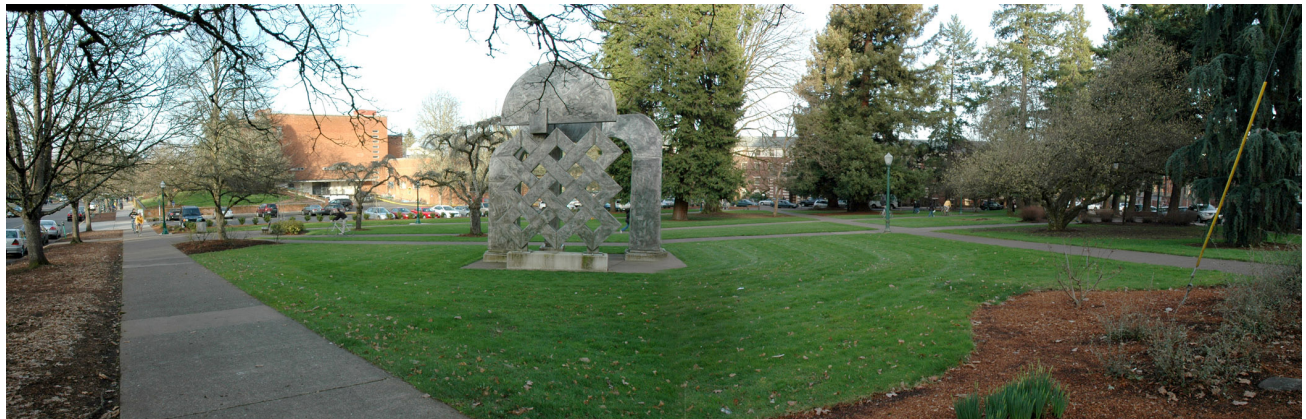
Good

RANKING

Secondary

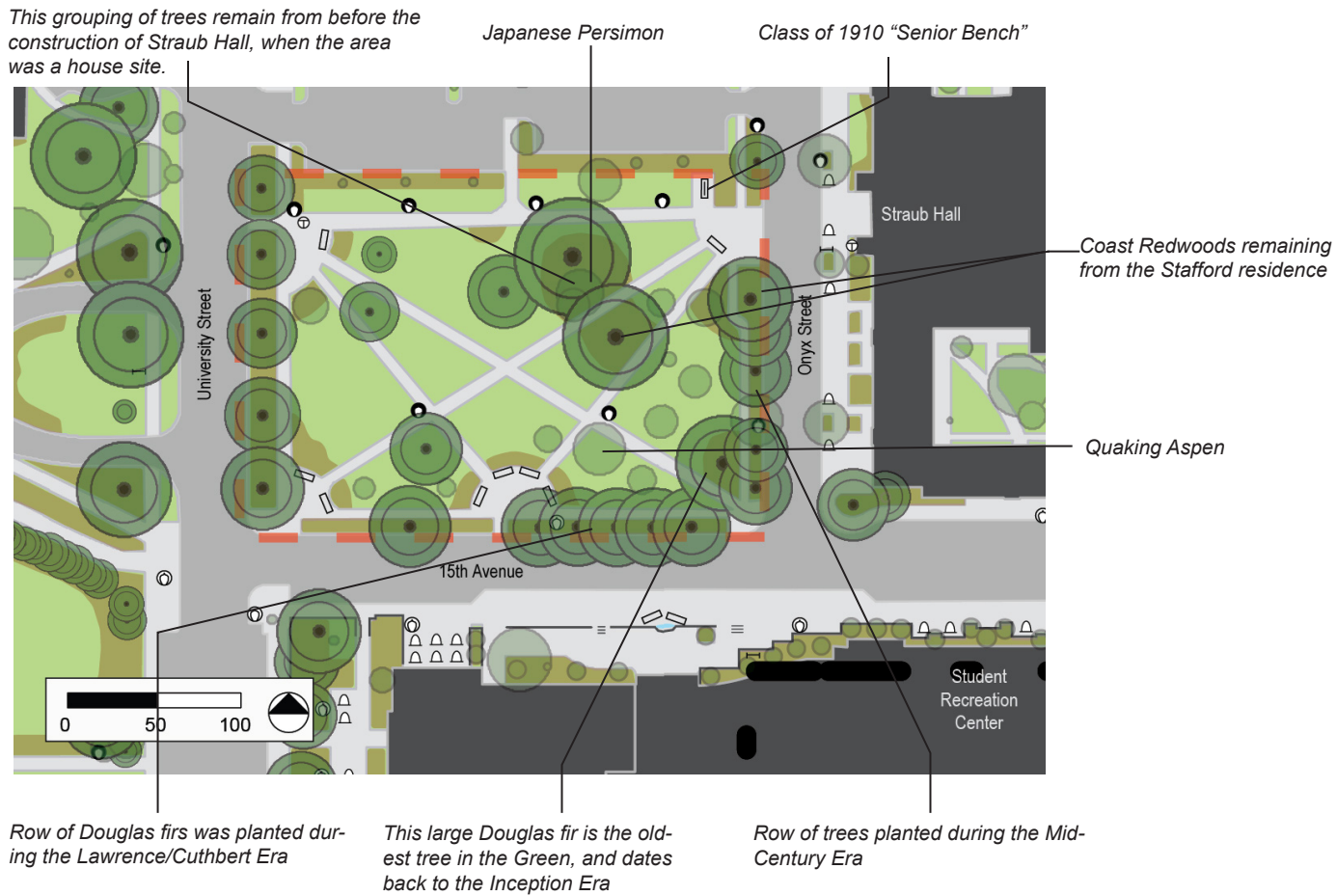


View looking northeast across the Green, with the Erb Memorial Union in the background.



Landscape Resource Survey
STRAUB HALL GREEN

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

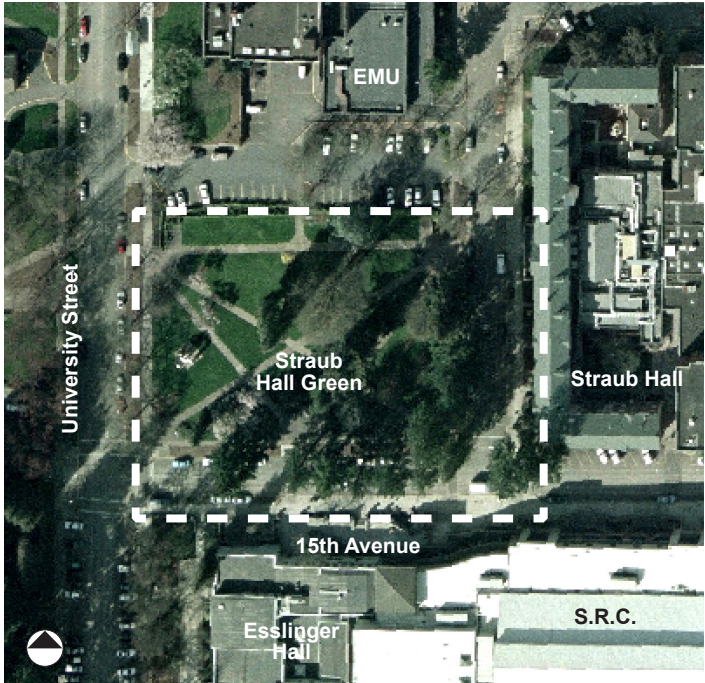


LEGEND			
TRASH CANS	⊕	BIKE RACKS	⌒
NEWS STANDS	Ⓝ	TREES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (dark green)
SMALL SCALE FEATURES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▲	MEMORIAL TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (medium green)
SMALL SCALE FEATURES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	△	CAMPUS TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (light green)
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	⋯ (red dashed line)
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**

The Straub Hall Green was constructed in 1951 in conjunction with the building of the EMU. Fred Cuthbert was the university landscape architect at the time, however, it is unknown whether or not he designed this space. The paths within the Green have not been altered since its initial design, and many of the trees are remnants of the Stafford residence that formally occupied the space. The oldest tree in the Green appears to be a large Douglas fir near the corner of 15th Avenue, and dates back to the early Inception Era. The 1910 Senior Bench was relocated to the Green shortly after its completion. The bench used to be located in the Old Campus Quad near Fenton Hall and is the only one of its kind on campus.



2004 aerial of the Straub Hall Green.



A northeast view of Straub Hall Green, with 15th Avenue at right.



View looking north toward the Erb Memorial Union.



View looking east across Straub Hall Green, with the Student Recreation Center at right.



Looking east toward Straub Hall.

■ **RESOURCE HISTORY**

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

Designated Eras within the Period of Historic Significance Determined for this Survey (1876-1967) 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

- 1921: Gerlinger Hall is constructed.
- 1928: John Straub Hall is constructed.
- 1936: Esslinger Hall is constructed.
- 1950: Erb Memorial Union is constructed.
- 1951: Straub Hall Green is constructed.

1953: Earl Complex is constructed.

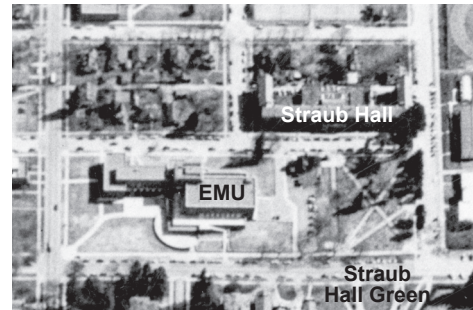
1958: Leighton Pool is added to Esslinger Hall.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE

1972: addition to the Erb Memorial Union.

Circa 2000: Construction of the Student Recreation Center completely redesigned the southern edge of 15th Avenue across from Straub Hall Green.

2002: The sculpture *Akbar's Garden* by Lee Kelly placed in the Green.

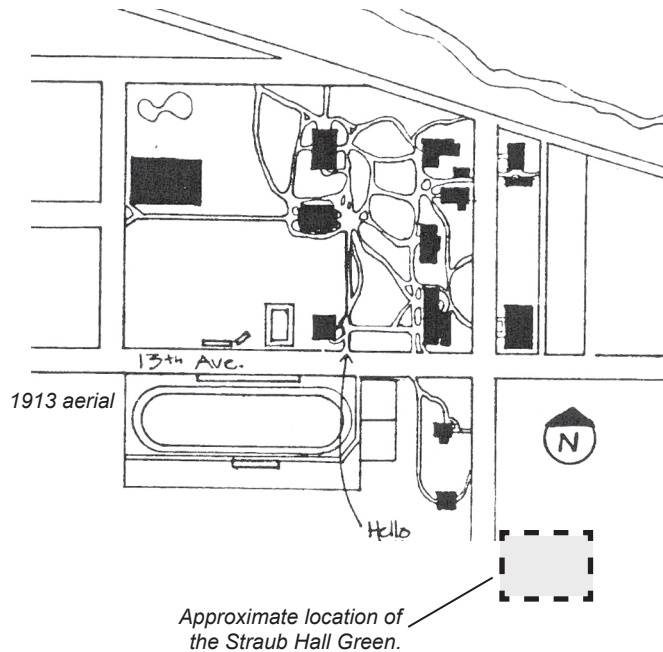


A circa 1951 aerial of the Straub Hall Green and its environs.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Inception Era (1876-1913)

The Green in the form it takes today had not been conceived during this era, and the site was part of the Stafford Homestead. By the end of the era the Green was a sparsely housed residential block near campus, with the closest university buildings being Mary Spiller Hall and the Collier House.

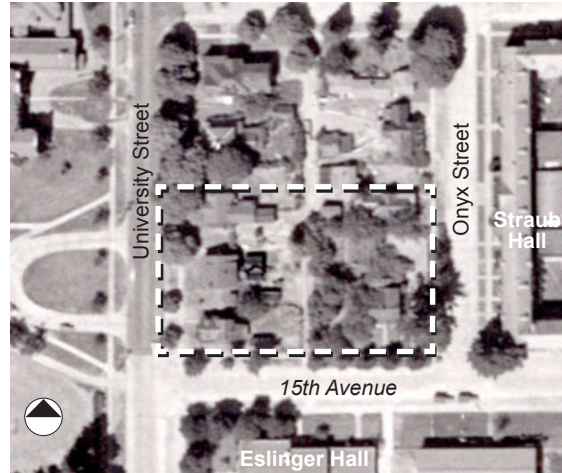


Approximate location of the Straub Hall Green.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

The future site of Straub Hall Green and the block across 14th Avenue were still residential areas. A large Douglas fir from the previous era is joined by six younger firs planted in a row along 15th Avenue. By the end of the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era, Gerlinger Hall, Straub Hall and Esslinger Hall were all built across from the Green.



1944 aerial

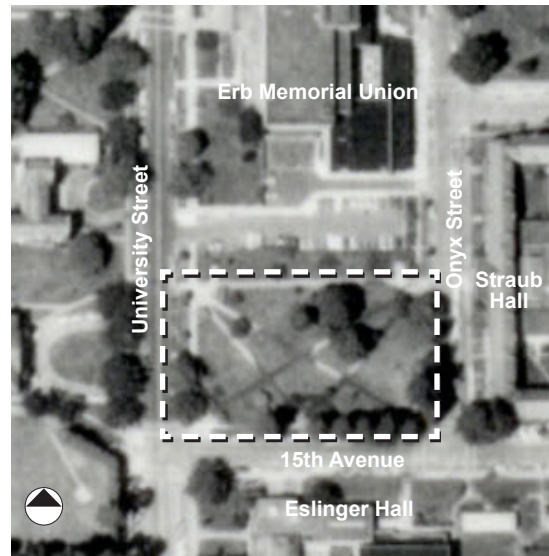


1922 aerial of the future site of Straub Hall Green. Note the large firs near the corner of 15th and Onyx.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

The Green was constructed in 1951, shortly after the Erb Memorial Union was completed. Several trees near the center of the Green were left standing after the houses were removed. Almost all of the trees on the street edges of the Green were spared, and the Senior Bench of 1910 was placed in the northeast corner. The Green had a park-like feel with a formal circulation pattern that emphasized corner-to-corner movement.



1968 aerial



1951 aerial of Straub Hall Green with Eslinger Hall and the R.O.T.C. building at top.

■ DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

LAND USE

Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.

The Straub Green is an unprogrammed open space that serves as a circulation route for pedestrians, and provides passive recreation for students. The wide assortment of specimen trees within the space are used for classroom observation.

DESIGN INTENT

Describing the overall design intent of the Area.

The Green is intended to be an open space and a pedestrian circulation route through campus, with heavy emphasis on corner-to-corner movement.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

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

Large street trees of the Green's perimeter form a natural walled edge to the site. The trees in the interior of the quad primarily serve as specimen trees – there are a mix of species that are all given a large amount of room to mature.

TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION

Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.

The topography of the Green is planar, and slopes towards the northeast corner at 5% grade (see diagram below). The highest point in the landscape is in the southwest corner.

Solar access is greatest along the western half of the Green where there are fewer and smaller trees.

VEGETATION

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

Mature street trees surround the Green. Along the southern border there is a mature colonnade of Douglas firs. Remnants from the Stafford residence include two large coast redwoods along the east portion of the site. One of the redwoods has received significant storm damage as evidenced from its broken top.

The placement of trees within the Green emphasizes specimen trees, both native and exotic. Several trees planted in the Green – a Japanese Persimmon and Quaking aspen – are some of the only species of their kind planted on campus. The only shrub or understory plantings occur in beds that are associated with the entrances and the corners where the circulation paths intersect. The majority of the Green is comprised of a lawn that extends up to the base of most trees.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

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

There are no storm drains within the Green. The water that falls on the Green either flows off site towards the northeast corner or percolates into the large expanses of lawn.

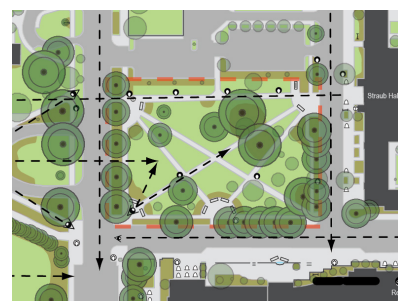
The assortment of large, mature trees within the Green, both exotic and native, provide habitat for



The area's topography.



Diagram showing circulation paths.



Significant views through the area.

squirrels and birds.

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES

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

The buildings with associations to the Green include Gerlinger Hall (1921), John Straub Hall (1928), Esslinger Hall (1936), and the Erb Memorial Union (1950). Although primary entrances face the Green, streets separate the buildings from the Green.

SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS

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

An important small scale historic feature within the Green is the class of 1910 bench, located at the northeast corner. This bench was originally located in the Old Campus Quad, and moved to the Green upon its completion. There is also an informational plaque near the large Redwoods in the center of the green on which it is written that Leila Straub Stafford and Orin Stafford planted the trees.

EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES

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

Along the perimeter of the Green are sidewalks, parking strips with mature street trees, and on-street parking for automobiles. To the north of the Green is a double-loaded pay parking lot, with a small hedge of laurel recently planted to act as a screen.

CIRCULATION

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

Circulation is primarily used by pedestrians, with the original diagonal paths that cross the Green providing a shorter route through the space (see diagram, pg.6). There are connections to a number of other routes, including the University Street Axis, the 15th Avenue Axis, Onyx Axis and Knight Library Axis.

VIEWS/VISTAS

Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.

The geometry and orientation of the circulation paths do not correspond to any discernable views. Due to the relatively consistent row of street trees along the perimeter, most of the views are directed towards the specimen trees and sculpture within the interior of the Green (see diagram, pg.6). There is a fairly significant view to the east end of Gerlinger Hall.

■ **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.

Not Applicable.

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 Straub Hall Green meets Criterion C for its association with campus landscape plans (possibly those by Fred Cuthbert). Distinctive elements of the Green include the formal star-like circulation pattern and the 1910 Senior Bench, which is the only one of its kind on campus.

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?

The configuration and alignment of the pedestrian circulation pathways remains largely unchanged since the end of the Mid-Century Era. The majority of the buildings around the Green were constructed within the era of significance.

DESIGN

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

There are a greater number of trees in the eastern half of the Green than were present during the era of significance.

MATERIALS

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

There has been an addition of trees, but most date from the era of significance. The concrete paths are original. The lawn has been slightly reduced due to the growth of trees and the incorporation of non-historic shrub plantings. The sculpture, *Akbar's Garden*, introduced in 2002, is much larger

than any other inorganic elements in the Green and does not contribute to the feeling of the Green's era of significance.

WORKMANSHIP

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

The exteriors of Straub Hall and Gerlinger Hall retain their characteristic workmanship and detailing. The Green's concrete paths retain a high degree of integrity.

FEELING

Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?

The feeling of the landscape does evoke its era of significance.

ASSOCIATION

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

The Green's association with the EMU is probably stronger than that with Straub Hall, as it appears that the Green was developed in conjunction with the student union.

■ **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

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

Lawrence, Ellis F. drawing for the “Plot Plan, University of Oregon,” 1914. Photograph of original kept in the University of Oregon Special Collections, University of Oregon Photo Collection, Box 3, Campus Plans folder.

Lawrence, Ellis F. drawing for the “Proposed Development Of The University Of Oregon Campus, Scheme No. 6,” 1932. Photograph of original kept in the University of Oregon Special Collections, University of Oregon Photo Collection, Box 3, Campus Plans folder.

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

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.

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/uoregon/>

Unruh, Richard L. *Campus Development Guidelines* (Eugene: University of Oregon Office of Planning and Campus Development, 1968)

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

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/hlpsurveyoflandareas.htm>

Survey research by Dustin Welch and Daniel Schaible.

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

Edited by the University of Oregon Planning Office, Spring 2007.
