# RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY

## LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

**15th Avenue Axis (z)**

### HISTORIC NAME(S)

15th Avenue

### CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Axis

### CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

No historic designation

### ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

- Lawrence/Cuthbert Era
- Mid-Century Era

### LEVEL OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Low

### LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Good

### RANKING

Tertiary

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View looking west with Earl Hall at right and the Student Recreation Center at left.
Some of the Douglas firs planted near the Onyx Intersection may date back to the Inception Era.

Crimson King Norway maples were planted during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era.

Retaining wall appeared during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era.

* note: Period of Significance refers to the project period of 1876-1974.
SUMMARY OF EXISTING HISTORIC FEATURES

Most of the historic features associated with the 15th Avenue Axis are street trees. The row of Douglas firs between Straub Hall and University Street, and the row of Norway maples in front of the Student Recreation Center’s (SRC) outdoor playing field are all from the eras of significance. The Douglas firs appear to date back to the Inception Era, and the large retaining wall of the SRC field and the Crimson King Norway maples are from the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era. The street has been associated with Hayward Field since the 1920s, though the north end of that facility was completely redesigned fairly recently.
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
1919: Hayward Field’s east grandstand is constructed.
1922: The north grandstand of Hayward Field is constructed.
1928: Straub Hall is constructed.
1936: Esslinger Hall is constructed.
1955: Earl Hall is constructed.
1959: Walton Hall is constructed.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE
Circa 1970: Emerald Street was converted into a pedestrian pathway.
1991: The Bowerman Family Building is constructed.
Circa 2000: the construction of the Student Recreation Center completely redesigned the southern edge of the 15th Avenue Axis across from Straub Hall Green.
2005: Redesign of Hayward Field’s entrance on the corner of 15th Avenue and Agate Street and the construction of a brick entry gate, a plaza and parking reconfiguration.
2006: The construction of the Living Learning Center has replaced the last of the tennis courts that once stretched from Emerald to Agate Streets.

ERA DESCRIPTION:
The Inception Era (1876-1913)
15th Avenue is unpaved during this time. The southern edge of the Axis is a vacant field that was characterized as marshy and was most likely treeless. The northern edge of the Axis is a sparsely developed residential area, and most of the dwellings are west of the Emerald Street. East of Emerald Street the 15th Avenue Axis is most likely a vacant field. The Douglas firs planted near the Onyx Street intersection probably date back to this era.
ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

During this era the sidewalk meets the road on both sides of the street. A number of university buildings were constructed, and family residences are located on the site of Straub Hall Green. The curving north grandstand of Hayward Field meets the sidewalk. A row of young Crimson King Norway maples street trees line the front of the athletic field between Hayward Field and Esslinger Hall. A retaining wall is constructed along the play field west of Hayward Field.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

A long row of temporary student housing trailers extend from east of Straub Hall to Agate Street, eventually replaced by the Walton and Earl Residence Halls. Straub Hall Green now occupies the northeast corner of 15th Avenue and University Street. The large Douglas firs along this stretch of the Axis are the oldest trees on the street. The north grandstand of Hayward Field has been razed and parking along the Avenue is at a premium. Cars park diagonally in front of the Walton Complex, and these spaces have moved the sidewalk slightly to the north. Parallel parking is provided along the remaining length of the Axis on both sides of the Avenue.
DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

LAND USE
Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.
This Axis functions as a traditional street with two lanes of traffic, head-in and parallel parking, and heavily used sidewalks on both sides. It is a designated bicycle route, sharing the street with autos. It is an important connection to East Campus and allows for entry to many of the residence halls.

DESIGN INTENT
Describing the overall design intent of the Area.
As depicted in Ellis Lawrence’s 1932 plan, the intention of this Axis is to provide east/west pedestrian and vehicle circulation through campus. It is a typical city street in layout and use.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION
Describing the arrangement of physical elements that create a three-dimensional sense of space.
At its western end, the Axis intersects with University Street. It is formed on one side by the entrance terrace to the Student Recreation Center. North of the recreation center are the Straub Hall Green and Straub Hall itself. East of Straub Hall the Axis lacks definitive form but takes some shape from the fencing along the recreation fields, the northern edge of the Bowerman Family Building, the Living Learning Center, and Powell Plaza. The tree canopy is nearly continuous along the Straub Hall Green, however there are few large trees along the remainder of this Axis.

TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION
Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.
The topography of the 15th Avenue Axis slopes towards the east at a 3-5% slope (see diagram below). The greatest solar exposure can be found along the Student Recreation Center athletic fields where no structures cast shadows.

VEGETATION
Describing tree, plant, shrub, ground layer groupings and arrangements.
Six large Douglas firs line the parking strip of the Straub Hall Green and two others are located in the southwest corner of Straub Hall. It is presumed that these trees date back to the Inception Era. Three Crimson King Norway maples are remnants of street trees planted during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES
Describing natural processes, water flow, and habitat, if applicable.
The Axis is primarily paved with few large trees and of little habitat value. The Axis drains to the east before settling into one of the many curbside storm drain catch basins.
BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES
Describing built physical elements in and around perimeter of the Area, and their relationship to the landscape.

Buildings from the eras of significance along this Axis include Hayward Field (1920s), Straub Hall (1928), Esslinger Hall (1936), Earl Complex (1955), and Walton Complex (1959). Newer buildings include the Student Recreation Center and the Living Learning Center.

SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS
Describing elements such as monuments, markers, seating, fences etc.

There are few small-scale elements of note, one of which is a concrete retaining wall along the field west of Hayward Field, dating from the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era. Other small scale elements are associated with the newer building projects.

EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES
Describing the perimeter of the site and important adjacent connections to spaces beyond.

The 15th Avenue Axis is defined by the Student Recreation Center and the athletic field along its southern edge, and the residence halls and the Straub Hall Green along its northern edge. This Axis intersects with the Emerald Axis, Onyx Street Axis, University Street Axis, and Straub Hall Green.

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

The 15th Avenue Axis is an important pedestrian connection to East Campus (see diagram, pg. 6). The gateway elements at the intersection of this Axis with Agate Street offers a welcoming gesture to those entering the university. This Axis connects to an important pathway that crosses through the athletic fields and terminates at 18th Avenue.

VIEWS/VISTAS
Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.

The eastern view along the 15th Avenue corridor itself has been enhanced by the installation of entry pylons at Agate Street. At the western terminus there is a good view of the southern and eastern facades of Gerlinger Hall and long linear views north and south along University Street (see diagram, pg. 6).
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 15th Avenue Axis meets Criterion C for its association with Ellis Lawrence’s 1932 campus plan. In this plan, 15th Avenue is a designated vehicle and pedestrian route providing east/west circulation through campus. Distinctive elements of the Axis include the row of Douglas firs and Crimson King Norway maples.

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?

Important historic elements include the large Douglas firs and the Crimson King Norway maples, and the circulation use of the Avenue.

DESIGN

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

The footprint and alignment of the Axis is similar to what it was at the end of the Mid-Century Era.

MATERIALS

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

The Douglas firs street trees and the Crimson King Norway maples are defining elements of the Axis that survive from the eras of significance.

WORKMANSHIP

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

The most articulated architectural detailing can be found along the western and southern facades of Straub Hall.

FEELING

Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?

The large street trees and adjacent historic structures help evoke the eras of significance, however, this feeling is diminished by the non-historic additions that line the Axis.

ASSOCIATION

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

15th Avenue Axis remains a vital automobile and pedestrian circulation route through campus. This function is consistent with the original intention of this space.

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

- 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).

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.


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


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


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

Rice, Donald B. ed. The Oregana volume V (Eugene: the class of 1914, 1914).


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 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

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