

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

■ **RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

**Emerald Axis (s)**

HISTORIC NAME(S)

Emerald Street

CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Axis

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

No historic designation

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

Mid-Century Era

LEVEL HISTORIC OF SIGNIFICANCE

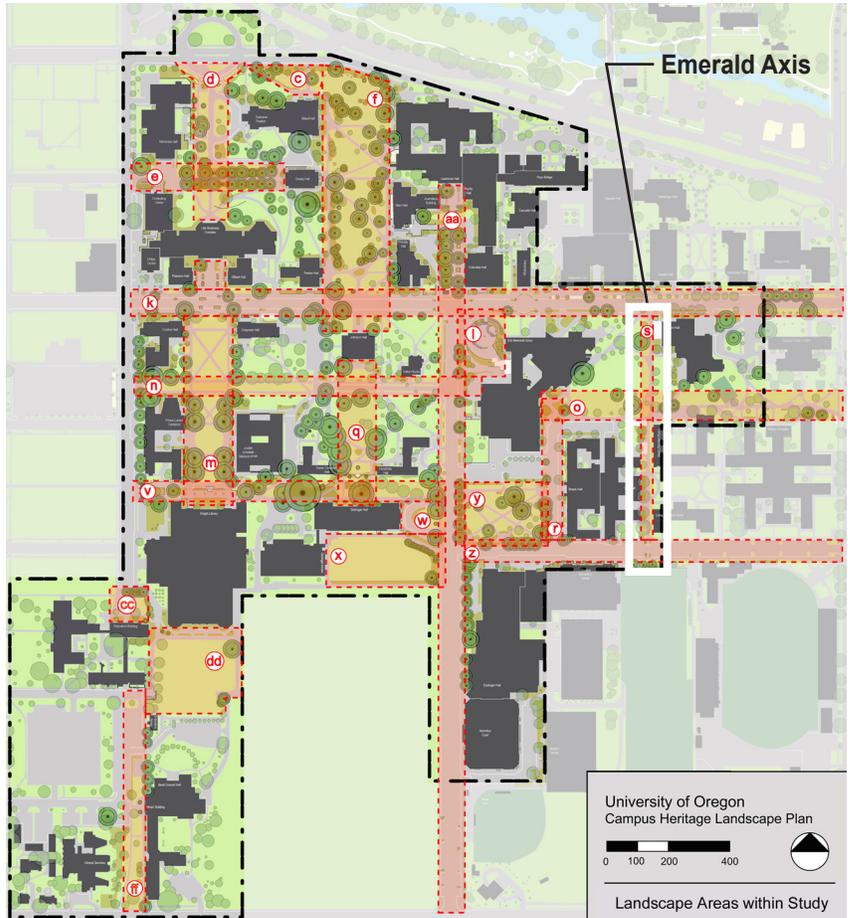
Low

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Poor

RANKING

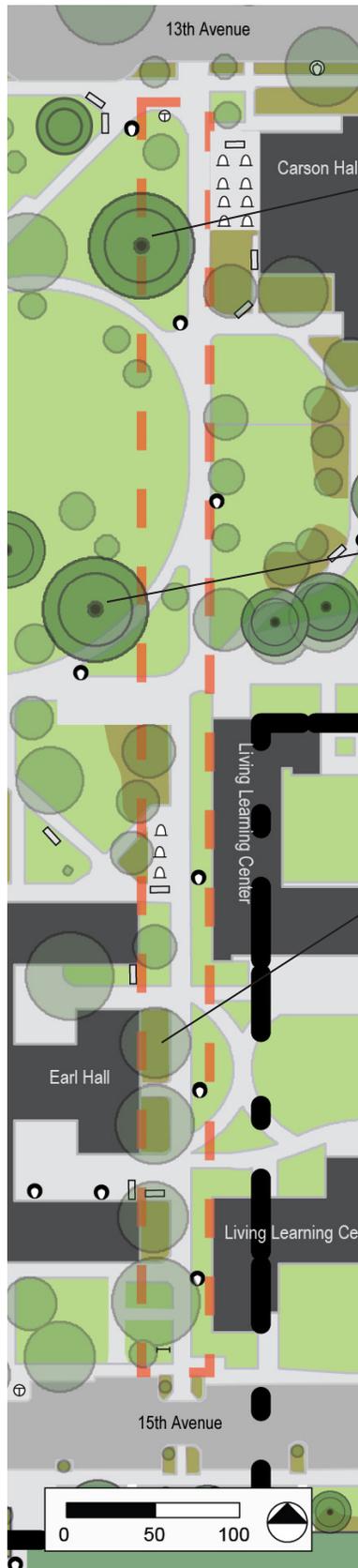
Non-contributing



*Panoramic view looking south  
 with Carson Hall to the left.*

Landscape Resource Survey  
**EMERALD AXIS**

**LANDSCAPE AREA SITE MAP** — Highlighting existing elements from the period of significance (1876-1967).



The Sarah Findly memorial tree (*Cedrus deodara*), a remnant of her backyard and the residential neighborhood that occupied the area prior to the construction of the EMU.

This Northern Red oak (*Quercus rubra*) was planted during the Mid-Century Era.

The trees in front of Earl Hall appear to have been planted after the Axis was turned into a pedestrian pathway circa 1972.

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**

The Emerald Axis, which was Emerald Street right up to the end of the Mid-Century Era, was converted to a pedestrian corridor around 1972. Some of the trees along the Axis date back to the construction of Earl Hall, but changes to the Hall along the Axis and the construction of the Living Learning Center has dramatically altered the space. One of the most interesting trees in the Axis is the Deodar cedar (the Sarah Findly memorial tree) across from Carson Hall, and is a remnant of the residential neighborhood that once existed here. The casual, rolling nature of the EMU east lawn adjacent to the Axis is a hallmark of the late Mid-Century Era of design.



View north with the new Living Learning Center under construction at right.



2004 aerial of the Emerald Axis



Southwest view from 13th



Looking southwest toward Earl Hall.

■ **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 1930: The university constructs tennis courts along the eastern edge of Emerald Street between 15th and 14th Avenues.

1949: Carson Hall is constructed along the eastern edge of Emerald Street between 13th and 14th Avenues.

1951: Homes between Carson Hall and the EMU are razed and replaced by an open lawn with scattered trees.

1955: Earl Hall is constructed along the western edge of Emerald Street between 14th and 15th Avenues.

1972: Emerald Street was converted into a pedestrian walkway and Erb Memorial Union expanded. The lawn across from Carson Hall was re-landscaped into the EMU East Lawn. The tennis courts across from Earl Hall have been replaced by the Living Learning Center.

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

2004: The Living Learning Center is constructed

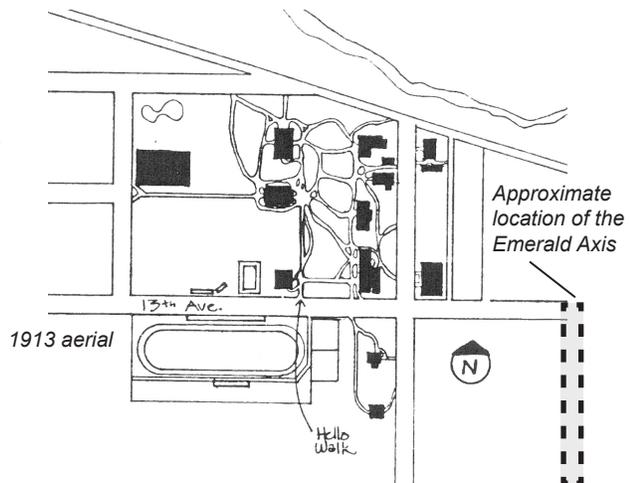


Carson Hall

**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

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

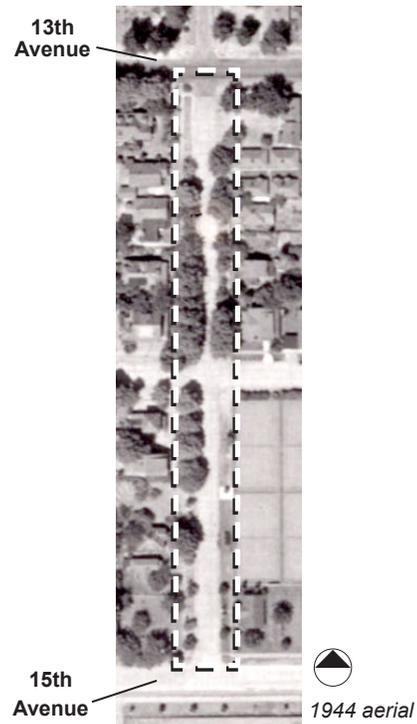
Emerald Street is a residential road that extends between 15th Avenue and Franklin Boulevard. About three-quarters of the lots along the street are occupied, with the block east of the street between 14th and 15th Avenues vacant.



**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

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

Emerald Street remains a residential road that is beginning to be surrounded by properties owned by the university. Residences line the western edge of the street between 15th and 13th Avenue, while the eastern edge of the street is lined with the university's tennis courts and private residences. The university's "Tennis House" is located on the eastern corner of 15th Avenue and Emerald Street.



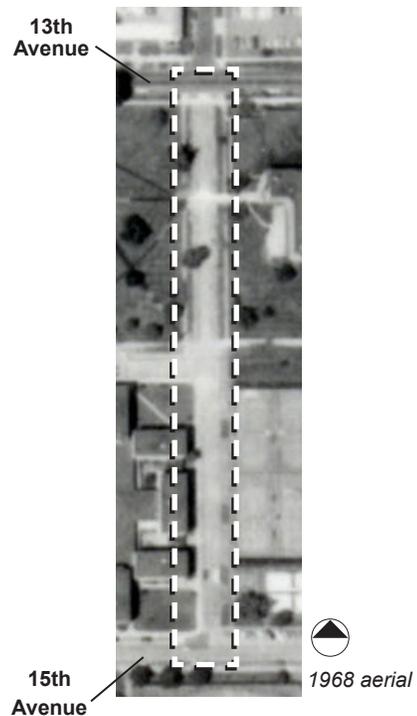
**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

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

The university now owns all the land between 15th Avenue and Franklin Boulevard along the Emerald Axis. The residence halls, Carson and Earl, have altered the once single family residential character of Emerald Street, and the road remains open to vehicular traffic until 1972 when the street was converted into pedestrian traffic. The "Tennis House" has been replaced with outdoor handball courts.



1966 aerial,  
 looking south



■ **DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS**

**LAND USE**

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

Emerald Axis is an exclusive pedestrian-use zone for movement between 13th and 15th Avenues. Historically it was open to vehicular traffic. Ellis Lawrence intended for this area of campus to house the residence halls and this plan is still seen in today's land use.

**DESIGN INTENT**

*Describing the overall design intent of the Area.*

The Axis was a typical street, converted to pedestrian and bike access to the residence halls that adjoin it.

**SPATIAL ORGANIZATION**

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

With the recent completion of the Living Learning Center, the southern portion of this Axis is much more restricted at its southern end. The northern portion opens up to the EMU east lawn to the west. There are many large trees within this Axis, but are spread far enough apart so that their canopy cover

is discontinuous.

**TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION**

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

The topography of the Emerald Axis slopes towards the north at a 1-3% angle (see diagram below). The highest solar exposure is found in the northern portion of the Axis along the EMU east lawn.

**VEGETATION**

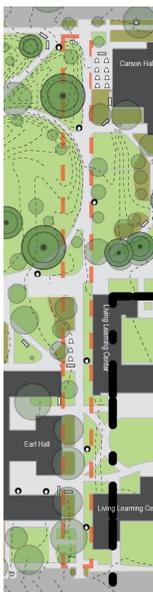
*Describing tree, plant, shrub, ground layer groupings and arrangements.*

The Axis is primarily a lawn and tree landscape. Trees planted along the edges of the pathway help define the Axis with liquidambar, oak and maple as the predominant species. The "Sarah Findly" Cedar was spared during the construction of the EMU addition, and is a remnant from her yard.

**NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES**

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

The large, non-native trees have diminished habitat value due to the wide spaces between them and the lack of a shrub layer understory. The ground layer of the Axis is a near even mix of pervious and impervious surfaces, however most of the rainfall collects along the concrete pathway that runs north



*The area's topography.*



*Diagram showing circulation paths.*



*Significant views through the area.*

towards 13th Avenue.

### **BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES**

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

There are several buildings from the Mid-Century Era that line the Emerald Axis. Historic buildings include Carson Hall (1949), Earl Hall Complex (1955), and the east addition to the EMU (1972). The most recent addition to the Axis is the Living Learning Center (2004).

### **SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS**

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

There are few notable small scale features within the Emerald Axis.

### **EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES**

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

The perimeter of the Emerald Axis is defined in its southern portion by the narrow passage that moves between the multi-story Earl Complex and the Living Learning Center. In its northern portion, the Axis is loosely defined by Carson Hall and the irregularly planted trees that dot the EMU east lawn. There are connections made from this Axis to a pathway that continues south to 18th Avenue and a pathway that continues north to a small courtyard

space between Willamette and Huestis Hall.

### **CIRCULATION**

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

This Axis is part of a north/south pathway that links 13th and 18th Avenues (see diagram, pg.6). It intersects three important east/west circulation routes, 15th Avenue, the Promenade, and 13th Avenue.

### **VIEWS/VISTAS**

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

There are few significant views from within the Emerald Axis. Minor yet noteworthy views include the expansive view of the EMU east addition and the short, linear north/south view that is aligned with the Axis itself (see diagram, pg. 6).

**■ DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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**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.*

Lawrence, Tucker and Wallman (Carson Hall)

**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 Emerald Axis meets Criterion C for its association with Ellis Lawrence's plans to turn the east border areas of campus into a residential space and create landscapes connecting them to each other. The informal undulating character of the EMU's east lawn is characteristic of landscape architecture during the later half of the twentieth century.

**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?*

Up to the very end of the Mid-Century Era, Emerald Street was open to automobile traffic. Today the street is a circulation route restricted to pedestrians and bicyclists. Both the Carson Hall and Earl Hall Complex are within the period of historic significance, with the Living Learning Center as a very recent and obvious addition.

**DESIGN**

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

The Emerald Axis retains its north-south passageway, though newer plantings and the addition of the Living Learning Center have changed important elements of the general structure.

**MATERIALS**

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

Many of the trees within the Axis were planted recently, with the notable exception being the “Sarah Findly Cedar”.

**WORKMANSHIP**

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

As far as the landscape goes, there is little workmanship to speak of.

**FEELING**

*Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?*

Large and recent changes to the Axis diminishes the sense of the era of significance.

**ASSOCIATION**

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

The Axis still reflects the residential nature of this part of the campus.

■ **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).

Eaton, Allen H. ed. The '02 Webfoot (Eugene: University of Oregon, 1901) 1-168.

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.

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

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/>

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

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.

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

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.

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