

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

**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

**Knight Library Axis (v)**

HISTORIC NAME(S)

none known

CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Axis

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

National Register - partial listing  
 name: Library and Memorial Quad  
 Women's Memorial Quad

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

LEVEL OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

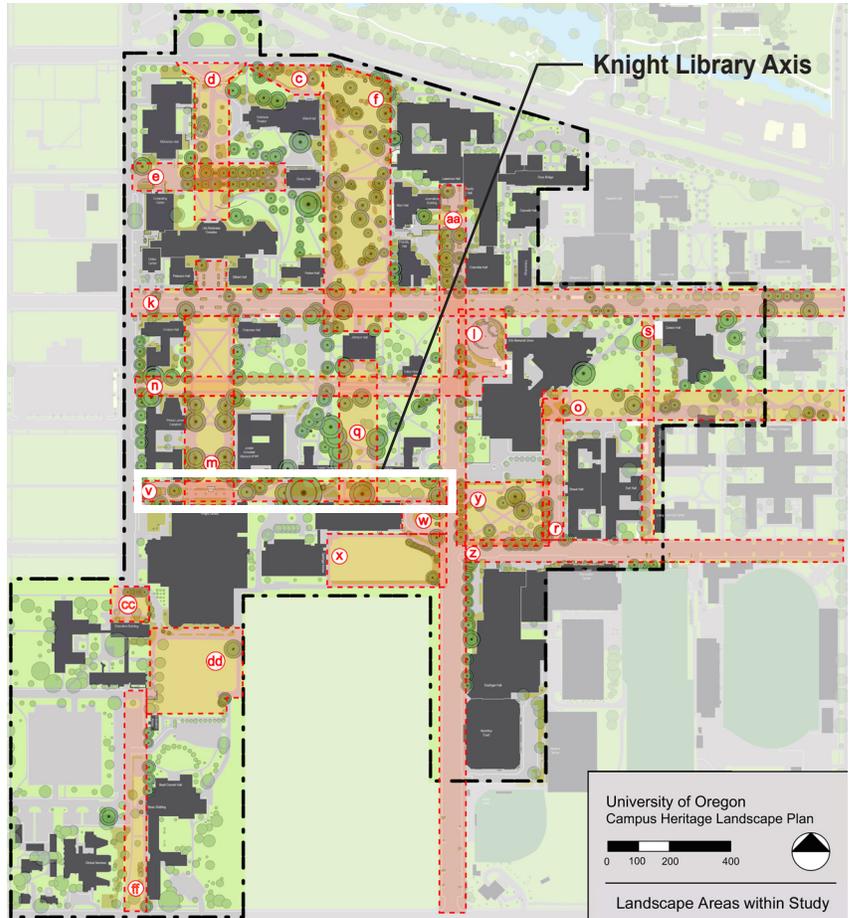
High

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Good

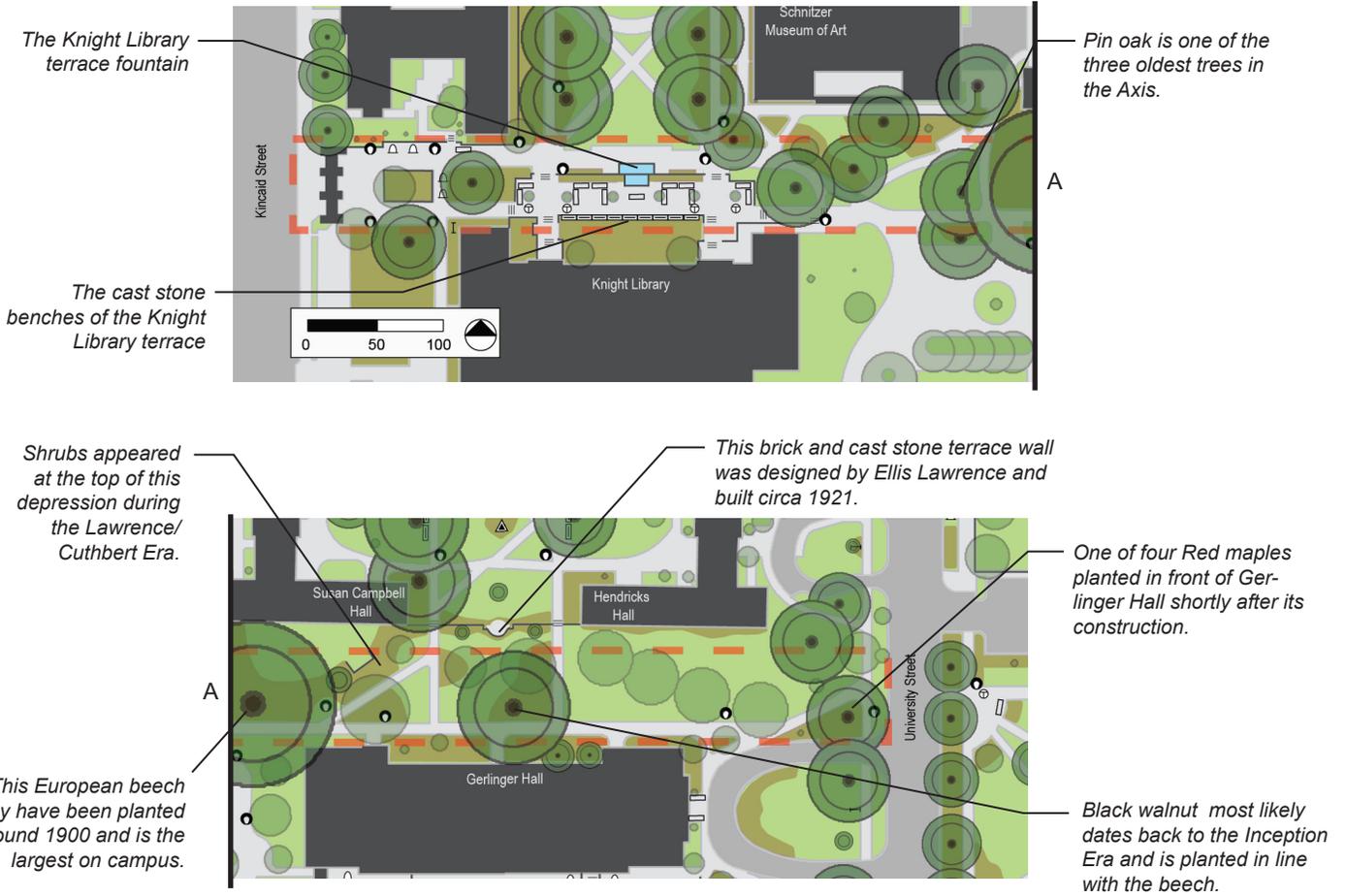
RANKING

Primary



Landscape Resource Survey  
**KNIGHT LIBRARY AXIS**

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



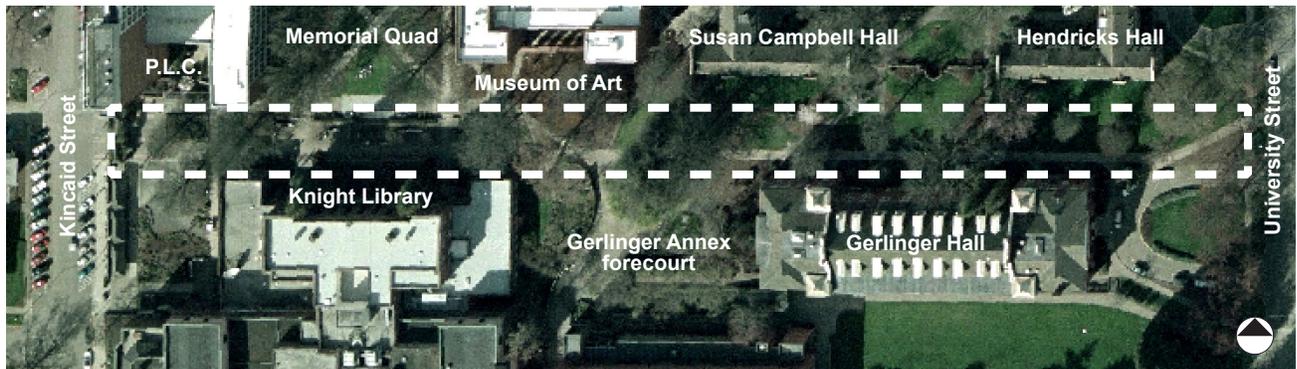
LEGEND			
TRASH CANS	⊕	BIKE RACKS	⌒
NEWS STANDS	Ⓝ	TREES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
SMALL SCALE FEATURES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▲	MEMORIAL TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
SMALL SCALE FEATURES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	△	CAMPUS TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS 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**

Conceived by Ellis Lawrence in his 1932 campus plan, the Knight Library Axis is an east-west circulation corridor between Kincaid and University Streets. A number of trees within the Axis are both historic and exceptional, the most notable being the Purple-Leaf European beech planted in 1900 near Susan Campbell Hall. Other notable historic features include the Knight Library's terrace and the brick and cast stone terrace wall between Hendricks and Susan Campbell Hall.

2004 aerial of Knight Library Axis



A view west with Gerlinger Hall to the left and Susan Campbell Hall to the right.



A northwest view through the trees with the Schnitzer Museum of Art at left.



The fountain at the entrance of Knight Library.

■ **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**

- 1918: Hendricks Hall is constructed.
- 1919: Gerlinger Hall is constructed.
- 1921: Susan Campbell Hall is constructed, brick and cast stone terrace wall between this hall and Hendricks Hall built.
- 1930: Museum of Art is constructed.
- 1932: Lawrence campus plan shows Knight Library Axis.

1937: Library is constructed.

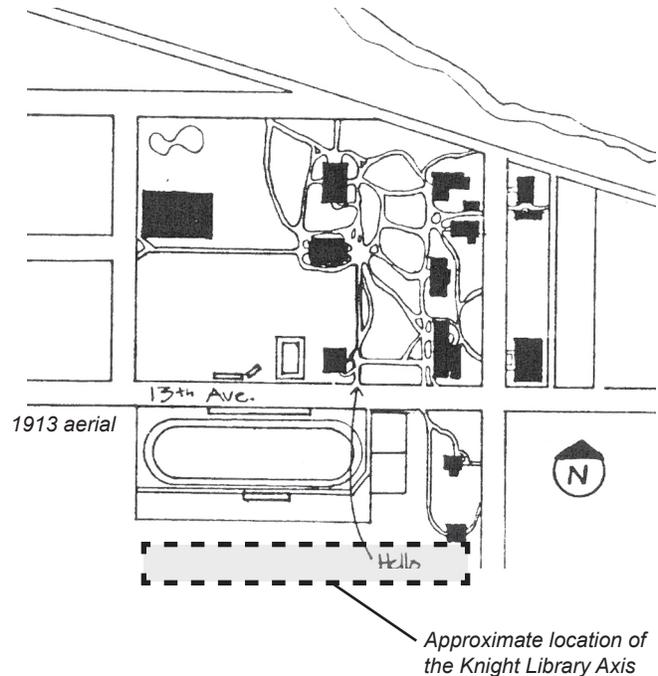
**MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE**

- 1950: first Library addition.
- 1964: Prince Lucien Campbell Hall is constructed.
- 1966: second Library addition.
- 1967-1968: eight stories added to Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.
- 1969: construction of Gerlinger Annex and forecourt, replacing the Open Air Gymnasium.
- 1994: addition to Knight Library, new entry gates at Kincaid Street, gardens and remodeling to create a sunken courtyard on the south side of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.
- 2003: addition to the Museum of Art, extending the south facade of the museum and re-landscaping this portion of the Axis.

**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

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

The Axis in the form it takes today was not conceived during this era, and the site was part of an open field. The eastern terminus of the Axis at University Street would have been near the Stafford homestead, and only a few houses were located on the west side of Kincaid Street near the western terminus.



**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

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

At the end of this era, Gerlinger Hall and the Knight Library were constructed on the southern edge of the Axis, and Hendricks Hall, Susan Campbell Hall and the Museum of Art at the northern edge. Circulation occurred on a single concrete path from University Street to the Knight Library terrace,

continuing westward to Kincaid Street. Only a handful of large trees were in place, most notably the Black walnut in front of Gerlinger Hall and the Purple-Leaf European beech near Susan Campbell Hall. A mix of smaller trees are evident in the 1944



*Library construction circa 1936.*



*1944 aerial*



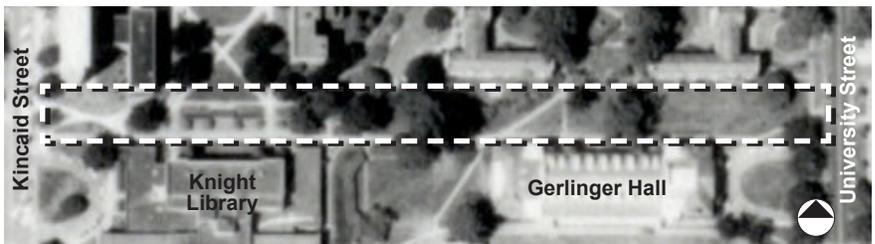
*The view east circa 1936 with Museum of Art at far left and the Open Air Gymnasium at far right.*

**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

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

At the end of the Mid-Century Era the only new building to appear along the Axis was Prince Lucien Campbell Hall. Most paths within the axis were unaltered since the previous era. A new diagonal path was placed between Gerlinger

Hall and the Library and new walks were added near PLC. The eastern portion of the Axis was still relatively treeless compared to today, and the center of the Axis was more densely planted.



*1968 aerial*



*Image looking east, circa 1940, with Susan Campbell Hall at left. The shrubs appear to be forsythia.*



*Image looking northwest toward Susan Campbell Hall, circa 1921.*

## ■ DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

### LAND USE

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

The Axis provides a pedestrian connection from Kincaid Street to University Street, with intersections at important campus open spaces.

### DESIGN INTENT

*Describing the overall design intent of the Area.*

The Axis was designed by Ellis Lawrence as one of three important east-west pedestrian corridors. The straight, single path running the length of the Axis is rather informal in character, punctuated with a loose arrangement of plantings. There is a large seating area outside of the Knight Library that is popular for outdoor studying and socializing.

### SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

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

Buildings form a fairly strong north and south edge to the Axis, with connections to a number of open spaces. The tree canopy is nearly continuous throughout this Axis, with the only openings being in front of Knight Library and Gerlinger Hall.

### TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION

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

The topography of the Knight Library Axis gently rises up from Kincaid Street, then it levels off along the northern face of Gerlinger Hall before ultimately dipping down as it reaches University Street. There is also a noticeable south-to-north cross slope running the entirety of the Axis.

There is little solar exposure along the majority of the Axis due to shade from adjacent buildings and the nearly continuous canopy cover.

### VEGETATION

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

The Axis has a traditional campus character with informal plantings of mature, large-canopy shade trees planted on either side of the walkway, the majority of which appear to date back to the era of significance, or before. The large European beech (1900) and black walnut are excellent examples of their species, and contribute significantly to the character of the Axis. The ground layer is primarily lawn with a few interspersed planting beds. These beds occur along the buildings foundations and landscape features such as the brick masonry wall in front of Gerlinger Hall.

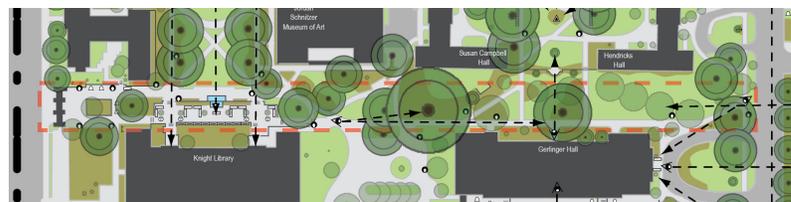
*The area's topography.*



*Diagram showing circulation paths.*



*Significant views through the area.*



### **NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES**

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

There are many large trees along the Knight Library Axis. Although these trees are predominantly non-native, they undoubtedly provide high quality habitat for campus wildlife.

Most of the Axis is comprised of permeable lawns and vegetated beds, so a high percentage of rainwater is absorbed on site. Excess water generally drains off site to the north.

### **BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES**

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

Buildings that affront the Knight Library Axis include Hendricks Hall (1918), Gerlinger Hall (1921), Susan Campbell Hall (1921), the Museum of Art (1930), Knight Library (1937), Prince Lucien Campbell Hall (1968), and Gerlinger Annex (1969). Except for the Knight Library, entrances are secondary. Setbacks are consistent along both the south and north sides and appear to be intentional. The exterior character of these buildings as they face the Axis have changed little since their construction, with the exception of the Museum of Art. A number of these buildings are highly decorative, and contribute to the character of the Axis.

### **SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS**

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

There are a multitude of small-scale features along the Knight Library Axis, both historic and non-historic. Historic elements include the brick masonry terrace wall between Campbell and Hendricks Halls and the Robert Bailey Memorial Fountain in front of Knight Library.

The more noteworthy features from after the Mid-Century Era include “The Family” (1973) sculpture by John Geise near the Museum of

Art, and the brick and iron entry gates on Kincaid Street designed in 1994 by Landscape Architecture Professor Jerry Diethelm.

### **EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES**

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

As a major east/west circulation route through campus, the Knight Library Axis connects pedestrians to many significant spaces on campus, including Straub Hall Green, the University Street Axis, Gerlinger Entrance Green, the Pioneer Axis, the Memorial Quad and Kincaid Street.

### **CIRCULATION**

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

Pedestrians use this Axis to move between Kincaid Street and University Street, with major connections to intersecting open spaces such as the Memorial Quad and the Pioneer Axis.

### **VIEWS/VISTAS**

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

Being a linear pathway, the Knight Library Axis affords long east/west views throughout its length. Several significant views open up as the Axis intersects with other landscape spaces, such as the Memorial Quad and the Women’s Quad.

■ **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION**

- City Landmark
- National Register - full listing  
name:
- National Register - partial listing  
name: Library and Memorial Quad  
Women's Memorial Quad
- 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 Knight Library Axis meets Criterion C for its association with Ellis Lawrence's campus plan. The Axis is one of the major east/west axes that connects major open spaces across campus, just as Lawrence intended. Highly notable features within the Axis include the Knight Library's terrace and the terrace wall between Susan Campbell and Hendricks Halls and the enormous European beech behind Susan Campbell Hall.

**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.*



1950 aerial, showing how the Axis connected to Kincaid Street during this period.

## ■ 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 majority of the trees and buildings within the Axis date back to the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era. Character defining historic trees include a mature European beech and a large black walnut. Buildings from the era of significance include Knight Library, Gerlinger Hall, the Museum of Art, Susan Campbell Hall and Hendricks Hall.

### DESIGN

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

The general structure of the Knight Library Axis has changed very little since the end of the era of significance. Changes to the landscape occurred with the construction of PLC and the Gerlinger Annex and their associated spaces. The most noteworthy change made since the era of significance is the addition of the iron entry gates and associated perennial garden in 1994, located at the Kincaid entrance.

### MATERIALS

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

The majority of the trees within the Axis date back to the period of significance, as do many small scale elements.

### WORKMANSHIP

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

The era-related buildings, the brick and masonry retaining walls and the Robert Bailey Memorial Fountain exhibit characteristic historic workmanship.

### FEELING

*Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?*

The landscape does evoke the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era.

### ASSOCIATION

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

This Axis was one of three major east/west axes that cross and connect the major open spaces on campus, as envisioned by Ellis Lawrence.

## ■ 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

Emerson, Kim. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the University of Oregon Library and Memorial Quadrangle, 1990.

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.

Lee, Sohyun P. National Register Of Historic Places Register Form for the Women's Memorial Quadrangle Ensemble (1991) 1-67.

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

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, 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>

Survey research by Dustin Welch and Daniel Schaible.

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