

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

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

Promenade (o)

HISTORIC NAME(S)

none known

CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Axis

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

No historic designation

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

Mid-Century Era

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

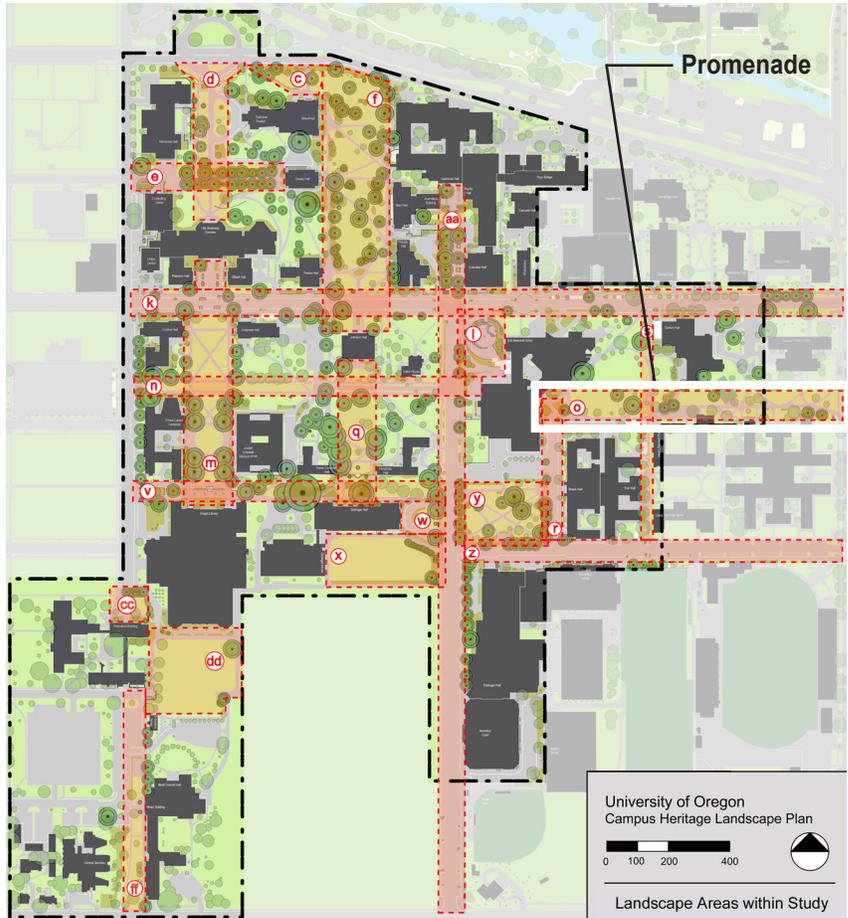
Very low

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Fair

RANKING

Non-Contributing



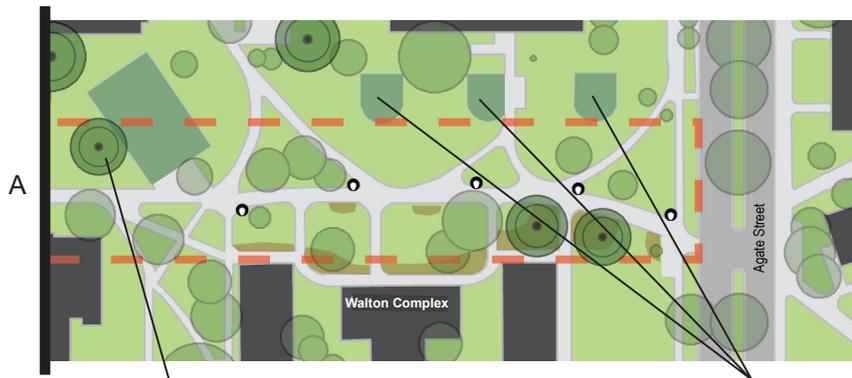
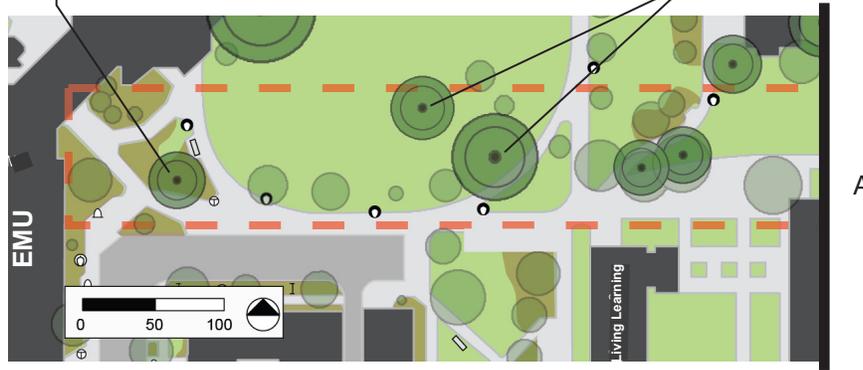
*View looking west,
 with Straub Hall at
 the right and the
 EMU at left.*

Landscape Resource Survey
PROMENADE

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

Big-leaf maple is a remnant of the residential neighborhood that existed during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

Northern Red Oak trees were planted in the EMU east lawn before it was redesigned in 1974



Ponderosa pine is a remnant of the residential neighborhood that existed during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

These three basketball courts appeared in the Mid-Century Era with the Walton Complex

LEGEND			
TRASH CANS	⊕	BIKE RACKS	⌒
NEWS STANDS	Ⓜ	TREES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (with concentric circles)
SMALL SCALE FEATURES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	⚠	MEMORIAL TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (solid)
SMALL SCALE FEATURES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	△	CAMPUS TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (solid)
PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (with concentric circles)	UNIVERSITY STANDARD LIGHTPOSTS	⦿
PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	○	NON-UNIVERSITY STANDARD LIGHTPOSTS	⦿ (with concentric circles)
BENCHES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬ (with concentric lines)	LANDSCAPE AREA BOUNDARY	— (dotted red line)
BENCHES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬ (solid)		
MEMORIAL BENCHES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬ (with concentric lines)		

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

SUMMARY OF EXISTING HISTORIC FEATURES

According to Ellis Lawrence's 1936 plan of campus, the Promenade was intended to be a quadrangle between dormitories. Today it functions as an Axis in an area dominated by student residence halls. The most historic features along the Axis date back to the Lawrence Era, and include Straub Hall, a lone Ponderosa pine near Carson Hall, and a Big-leaf maple on the corner of Onyx and 14th.

The trees are probably remnants of the residential neighborhood that stood here during the Inception and Lawrence/Cuthbert Eras. The curved concrete path and the small basketball courts in front of the Walton complex date back to the Mid-Century Era. Originally a section of 14th Avenue, the Promenade is now a pedestrian corridor that connects the EMU to Agate Street.



2004 aerial of the Promenade



A northwest view with the EMU on the left, and a Big-leaf maple from the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era at 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 1920: University builds 14th Avenue tennis courts.
- 1928: Straub Hall is constructed.
- 1949: Carson Hall is constructed.
- 1950: Erb Memorial Union is constructed.
- 1955: Earl Complex is constructed.
- 1959: Walton Hall is constructed blocking 14th Avenue from there east to Agate Street.

- 1961: Hamilton Complex is constructed.
- 1962: Onyx Street is closed due to the EMU addition.
- 1966: University Health and Counseling Center is built.

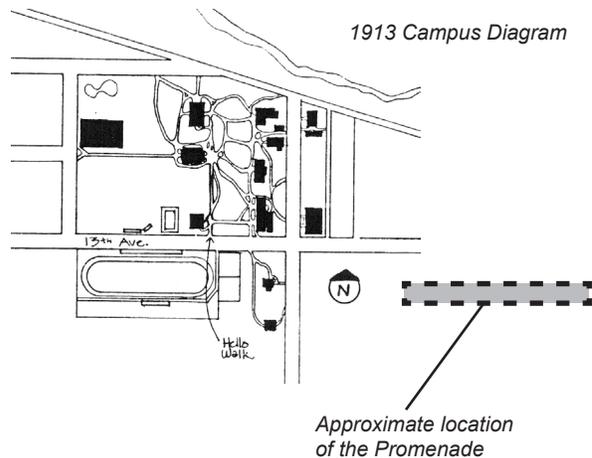
MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 1972: Addition to the EMU blocks off Onyx Street.
- 1974: Addition to the EMU. During this addition the EMU east lawn was regraded and replanted and circulation was altered.
- 1974: EMU addition caused west side of 14th Street to be blocked and Emerald Street was converted into a pedestrian corridor.
- 2006: The construction of the Living Learning Center has reconfigured the Promenade.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Inception Era (1876-1913)

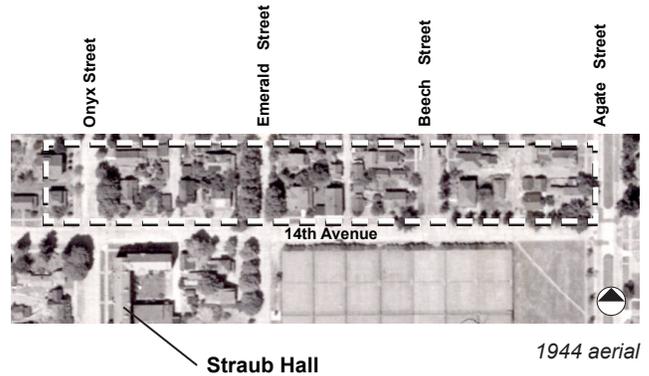
The Axis as seen today was not conceived during this era, and would have been located on what was later to become 14th Avenue. During this era several homes were located on the north side of the future Axis, with the south side an open field.



ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

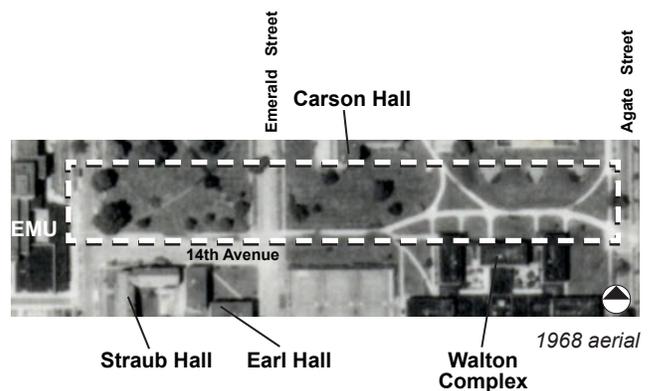
Although Lawrence intended to place a quadrangle along 14th Avenue, the Promenade did not come into existence during this era. However, 14th Avenue was in place. The street ran between University and Agate Streets, with residences lining its north side. The south side was a mixture of residences and university land, with Straub Hall the only university building on the Axis. The university nearly filled the block between Emerald and Agate Streets with tennis courts.



ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

At the end of the Mid-Century Era the Promenade displayed two different personalities. The eastern half of 14th Avenue, between Agate and Emerald Streets, had been converted into a pedestrian corridor with the Walton Complex constructed in the right of way. It was defined by the curving walk and open space between the Walton Complex and the Student Health Center to the north. West of Emerald, the Promenade was still 14th Avenue, although its direct connection to University Street was blocked by the EMU (1950).



■ **DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS**

LAND USE

Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.

The Promenade is a heavily used pedestrian corridor linking the heart of the campus to points east, through what has become a residential area. This area is used by residence hall occupants for informal outdoor activities including basketball and volleyball.

DESIGN INTENT

Describing the overall design intent of the Area.

Most likely designed by Wallace Ruff, University Landscape Architect at the time, the design appears to be informal in nature, linking various destinations with a meandering series of pathways. The Promenade developed over the years due to various building constructions and additions, which may contribute to the informal feel. The Promenade is defined by a mix of trees, lawn and buildings all interspersed at irregular intervals.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

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

The Promenade has an open, informal character, causing it to be rather distinctive when compared

to other campus axes. It passes through an intentionally sunny open area dotted with shade trees and is not particularly well formed by adjacent buildings.

TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION

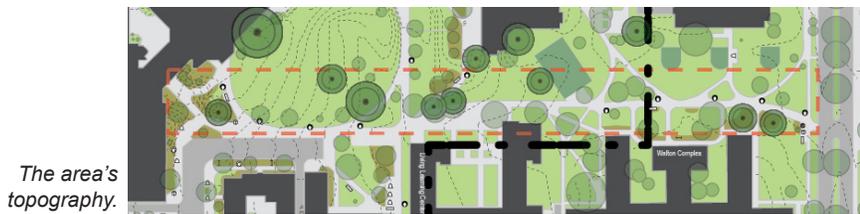
Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.

The topography of the Promenade is relatively level, with a slight northeast slope along much of the Axis (see diagram below). The solar access is relatively high in the spaces between the large shade trees.

VEGETATION

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

The Promenade is principally composed of lawn, with oaks being the predominant tree along the Axis. Two mature magnolias and shrub beds consisting mainly of rhododendrons have been located in front of the Walton Complex. A large maple and linden next to the EMU are underplanted with many different bulbs, perennials and assorted wildflowers. A Ponderosa pine remains from when the area was residential during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (see map p. 2)



NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

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

The large deciduous trees have diminished habitat value as they are spread out and their canopies seldom overlap.

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES

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

Buildings within the period of significance include Carson Hall (1949), the Earl Complex (1955), and the Walton Complex (1959), the University Health and Counseling Center (1966) and the EMU addition (1972). The Living/Learning Center is a recent addition along the Axis.

SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS

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

Three basketball courts are located next to the University Health and Counseling Center, and a sand volleyball court is next to Carson Hall. A large, weathered wooden bench sits under the large maple outside of the EMU, and probably dates to the 1974 EMU expansion.

EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES

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

The EMU asserts a strong presence on the Axis, acting as its western terminus. Various residence

halls and student life functions sit adjacent to the Axis, though their main entries tend not to connect directly to the Axis. The new Living Learning Center has displaced the tennis courts.

CIRCULATION

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

The Promenade is an important pathway that links the academic core west of the Erb Memorial Union to the mostly residential areas in the east campus area (see diagram, page 6). The Promenade links pedestrians to three significant north/south circulation routes: Agate Street, the Emerald Axis, and Onyx Street. The pathway is not intended for bike use and it is not open to vehicular traffic.

VIEWS/VISTAS

Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.

There are few significant views associated with the Promenade. The view along the east/west corridor of the Promenade is obstructed by the many shade trees that are setback from the Axis at irregular distances, and was part of the informal nature of the Axis. There is, however, a sweeping view of the façade of the EMU addition (see diagram, page 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.

Not Applicable.

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.



This 1950 aerial shows the large block of tennis courts and temporary student housing along 14th Avenue.

■ **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?

Many buildings that are adjacent to the Axis are still intact and in their original location, and the general east/west orientation of the Axis is in keeping with its original nature.

DESIGN

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

The addition of recent buildings along the Axis makes the space feel more compact.

MATERIALS

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

Some of the trees that line the Axis predate the end of the Mid-Century Era. The oldest trees along this Axis are the large Big-leaf maple near the EMU and the Ponderosa pine near Carson Hall. However, the majority of the trees along this Axis are newer.

WORKMANSHIP

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

The Promenade does not retain much of characteristic workmanship from the Mid-Century Era due to recent changes.

FEELING

Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?

The landscape mildly evokes its historic character.

ASSOCIATION

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

The Promenade remains the primary circulation route that links the residence halls to the main campus, an important association.

■ **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

PROMENADE

■ 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 "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.

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/oregon/>

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.

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

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