

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

■ **RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

Southwest Campus Axis (ff)

HISTORIC NAME(S)

none known

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

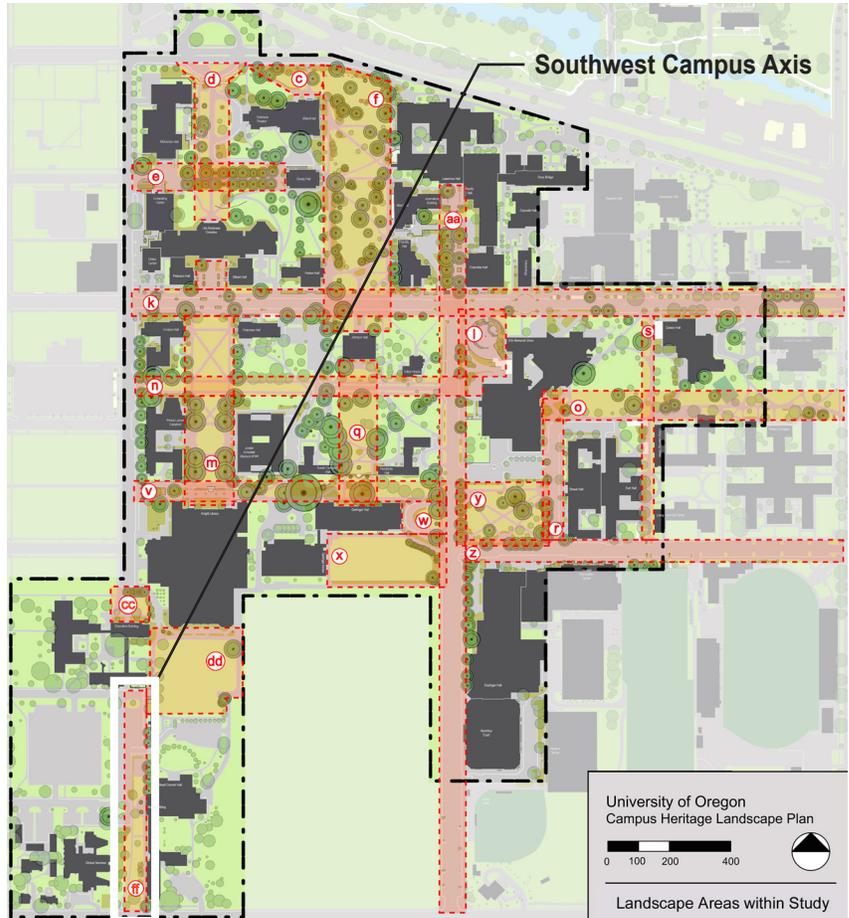
Low

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Fair

RANKING

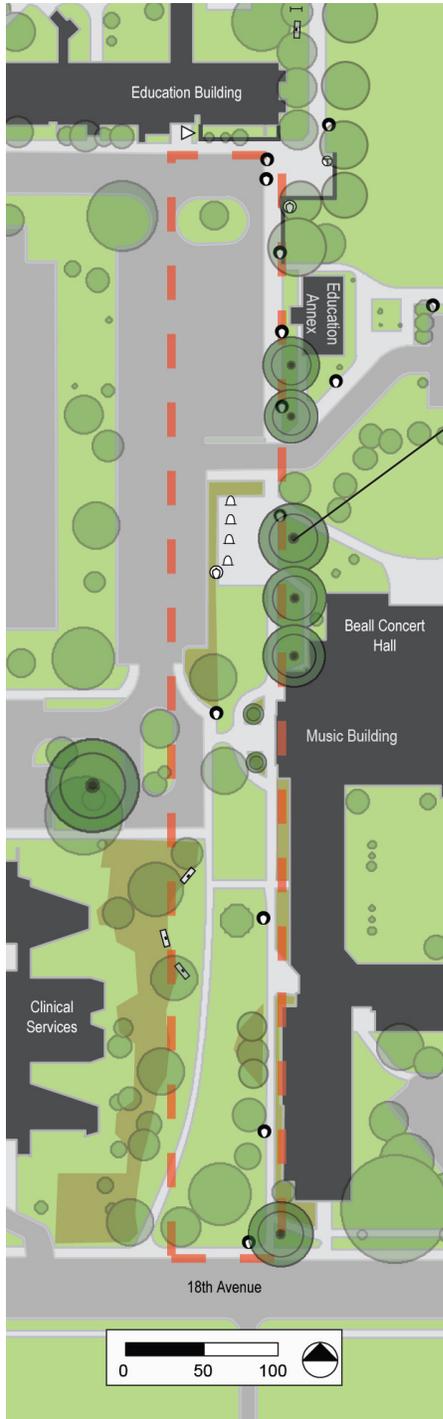
Tertiary



The Southwest Campus Axis, looking north with the Music Building at right.

Landscape Resource Survey
SOUTHWEST CAMPUS AXIS

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



This row of Crimson King Norway maples is the most historic landscape feature along the Axis and appears to have been planted shortly before the construction of the Veterans Dorms that once stood nearby.

| 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

Very few historic features are present within the Southwest Campus Axis. Part of the site was the location of the Veterans Dorms that have since been removed. Remnants of their foundations are purportedly visible, although not easily discernible. The west turn around and landscape leading to the entrances of Beall Hall and the Music Building has been reconfigured so many times that its current appearance cannot be deemed historic. The only landscape features that date back to the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era are the row of Crimson King Norway maples that line the east edge of the Axis near the Education Annex and Beall Concert Hall.



Looking south with the Education Annex at left.



Looking further south down the Axis, with the Music Building at left.



Looking north from 18th Avenue, with the Clinical Services Building at left and the Music Building at right.



2004 aerial of the Southwest Campus Axis

■ **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

- 1921: Education Building completed.
- 1921: University High School is constructed.
- 1924: Music Building is constructed.
- 1946: Veterans Dorms I and II are built.
- 1948: Music Building South Addition is built.
- 1952: Quonset hut dining hall removed

- 1955: Band Room Addition
- 1962: Veterans Dorm II is razed.
- Circa 1970: Veterans Dorm I is razed, converted to parking lot and tennis court.
- 1976: North Addition and connection addition for the Music Hall and the 1948 south addition.

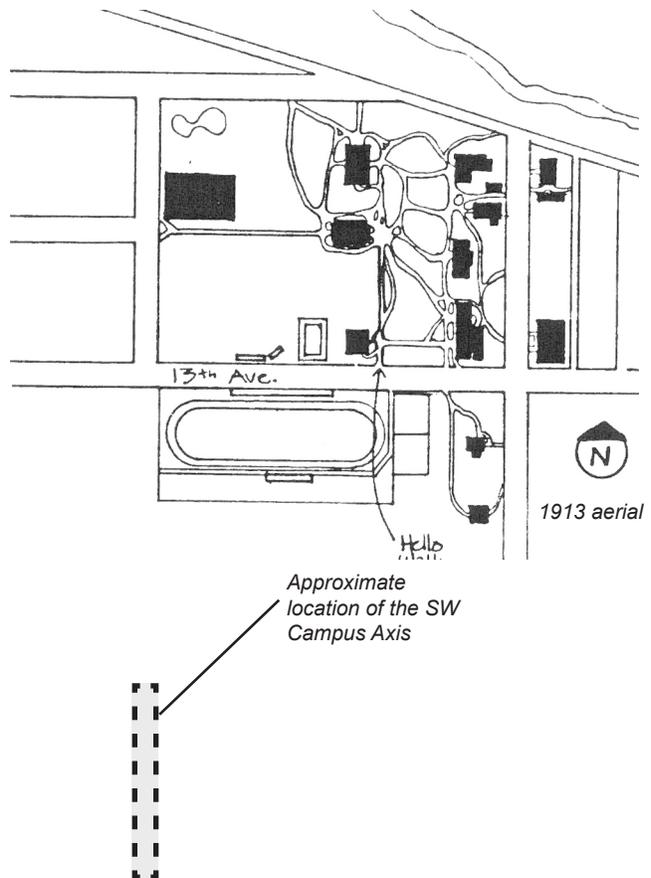
MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 1979: Education Annex was moved to its present location on the east edge of the Axis.
- 1980: The Education Building East addition constructed.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Inception Era (1876-1913)

In 1913 the Axis was an open field near the Pioneer Cemetery. Several farmhouses were located near the field, one of which was located on the future site of the Music Building's south addition.



ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

During this era the university built both the Music Building and the Education Building. These buildings were removed from the rest of campus because of a request by the faculty to be far from the train tracks. By the end of the era the Axis appears to be a dirt path that connected the Education Building to the Music Building, traversing a large open field. This connection was solidified by the line of Crimson King Norway maples on the east side of the Axis. Next to the Music Building the path was made of concrete and extended to 18th Avenue. During this time an entry road connected to 18th Avenue and met a crescent-shaped turn around at the Music Building's west entrance. From here the road continued north to 16th Avenue, eventually connecting to the Pioneer Cemetery. A few small trees reinforced the east edge of the Axis.



1928 aerial looking northwest, showing the rather casual nature of the Axis at that time.



1944 aerial

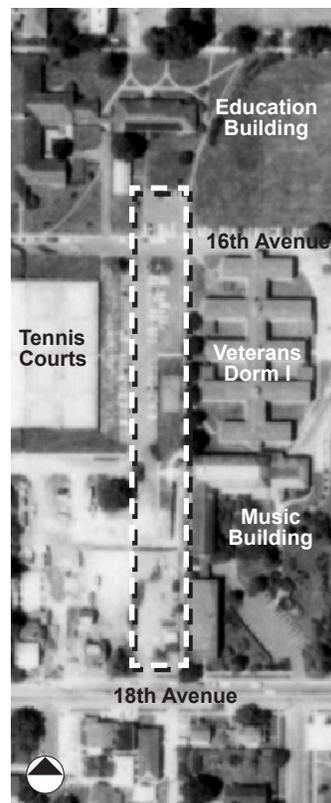
ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

In 1946, two wood frame buildings housing 752 men along with a Quonset hut dining hall were moved onto the west and east side of the Axis, immediately north of the Music Building. These buildings dramatically altered the Southwest Campus Axis and the Southwest Campus Green. The dining hall was removed in 1952 and the Veteran's Dorms I and II were demolished in 1970 and 1962, respectively. These sites were converted into parking and tennis courts. The south addition to the Music Building in 1948 replaced trees that previously lined the Axis. Also by the end of the era, the entry drive from 18th avenue had been replaced by an open lawn.



1951 aerial looking roughly north, showing the Veterans Dorms.



1968 aerial

■ **DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS**

LAND USE

Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.

The southern landscaped area of this Axis is used by pedestrians, while the northern area is a collection of parking areas and driveways serving parking, drop-off, and delivery functions. The combination of benches, lawn and shade trees make the southern portion a destination for some passive recreation.

DESIGN INTENT

Describing the overall design intent of the Area.

The design intention of the Southwest Campus Axis was to create an open space that would connect the Education Building and the Music Building to 18th Avenue and the main campus to the northeast. The original plan for the Southwest Campus Axis envisioned by Ellis Lawrence had the space growing into a quadrangle, but was not realized.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

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

The southern portion is an informal, landscaped campus space opening to 18th Avenue on its south end. The Axis is framed by the Beall Concert Hall and Music Building to the east and the Clinical Services Building to the west. At the northern portion, the Axis tends to be bordered by adjacent open spaces, before being capped by the Education Addition building.

TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION

Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.

The Axis rises gently from the Education building to the main west entrance of Beall Hall (see diagram below). At this point the grade flattens out until it connects to 18th Street. A cross slope angling down to the west is discernible along the entire length of the axis.

The large trees provide wide canopy cover, but are spaced far enough apart to allow some direct sunlight.



The area's topography.



Diagram showing circulation paths.



Significant views through the area.

VEGETATION

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

The vegetation within the Southwest Axis is primarily lawn and trees interspersed with shrub and perennial beds occurring mostly along the foundations of buildings and the edges of the Axis. A row of Crimson King Norway maples is found on the east side of the Axis, directly north of the Beall Concert Hall, and date back to the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era. A few important trees used for educational purposes by the Landscape Department grow in the southern portion of this area.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

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

There is minimal habitat value along the northern portion of the Axis as the ground surface is mostly concrete and the trees are largely non-native.

The southern portion of the site is largely vegetated and has a high degree of permeability that handles stormwater runoff.

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES

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

Buildings built during the eras of significance that face the Southwest Axis include Beall Concert Hall (1924), the Education Annex (1923), which has been relocated several times before finally being placed here in 1979, and the Clinical Services Building (1969). The 1980 addition to the Education Building anchors the north border of the Axis. Various additions to the Music Building line the southeast edge of the Axis.

SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS

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

There are few small scale elements within the Southwest Campus Axis and none of them are historic. Non-historic features include benches, lamps, pay phones, signs, bike racks, plaques,

trashcans, seat-walls and a statue.

EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES

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

This long, rectangular axis is defined to the east by the Music Building and the Education Annex with a row of maple trees connecting the two buildings. The two short southern and northern entrance ends of the Axis are defined by 18th Avenue and the Education Building, respectively. The western edge of the Axis lacks clear definition. The northern portion of the western edge is a sprawling parking lot that extends to Alder Street. The southern portion of the western edge is loosely defined by the Clinical Services Building.

CIRCULATION

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

The Southwest Campus Axis provides pedestrian and bicycle access between 18th Avenue and the main campus (see diagram, pg. 6). The paths are constructed of asphalt and concrete. The south end of the Axis at 18th Avenue is an important pedestrian gateway and entry to the campus. The area also has connections to Alder Street that serve as informal entries to the campus. Vehicular parking is accessible in the northwest portion of the Axis.

VIEWS/VISTAS

Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.

There are long yet poorly-defined views that run north/south in alignment with the Axis (see diagram, pg. 6). From the southern portion of the Axis there is a picturesque westerly view of the south façade of the 1994 addition to the Knight Library, the conifer lined western edge of the Pioneer Cemetery, and the open lawn that is the Southwest Campus Green.

■ **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 landscape meets criterion C for its association with Ellis Lawrence's campus plan. He designed the Education Building, University High School and the Music Building which line and help define this axis.

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 majority of the elements within the Southwest Campus Axis are not from within the eras of significance.

DESIGN

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

The Axis retains its axial alignment and the Crimson Norway King maples from the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era, but little else.

MATERIALS

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

Some of the trees within the Axis are historic, however the majority of the vegetation within this space was planted outside of the eras of significance. Historically, Southwest Campus Axis sat amidst fields, today the Axis is lawn and parking.

WORKMANSHIP

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

Not applicable.

FEELING

Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?

The landscape does not directly evoke the eras of significance.

ASSOCIATION

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

Associations with significant people or events are not easily discernible.

■ 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).*

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.

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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/>

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

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

University of Oregon Catalogue: 1945-1946. Campus Map (Eugene, Oregon: University of Oregon, 1945)

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University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection. Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1936.

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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/hlp-surveyofflandareas.htm>

Survey research by Dustin Welch and Daniel Schaible.

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