

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

■ **RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

**University Street Axis (aa)**

HISTORIC NAME(S)

University Street

CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Axis

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

No historic designation

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

- Inception Era
- Lawrence/Cuthbert Era
- Mid-Century Era

LEVEL OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

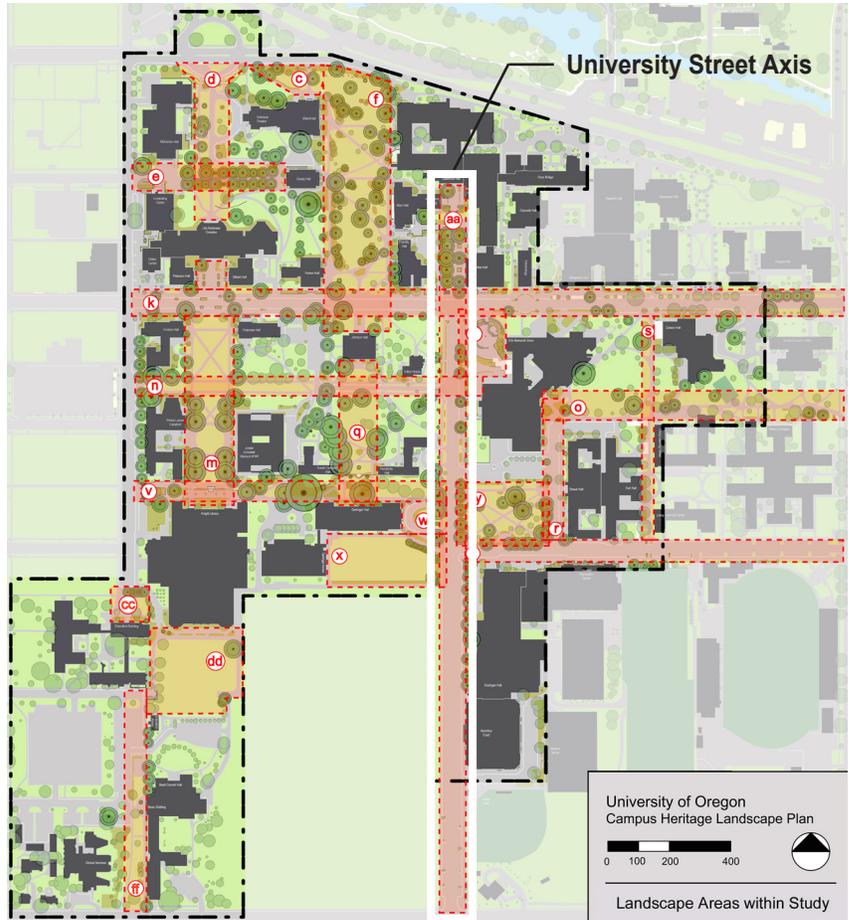
Medium

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Good

RANKING

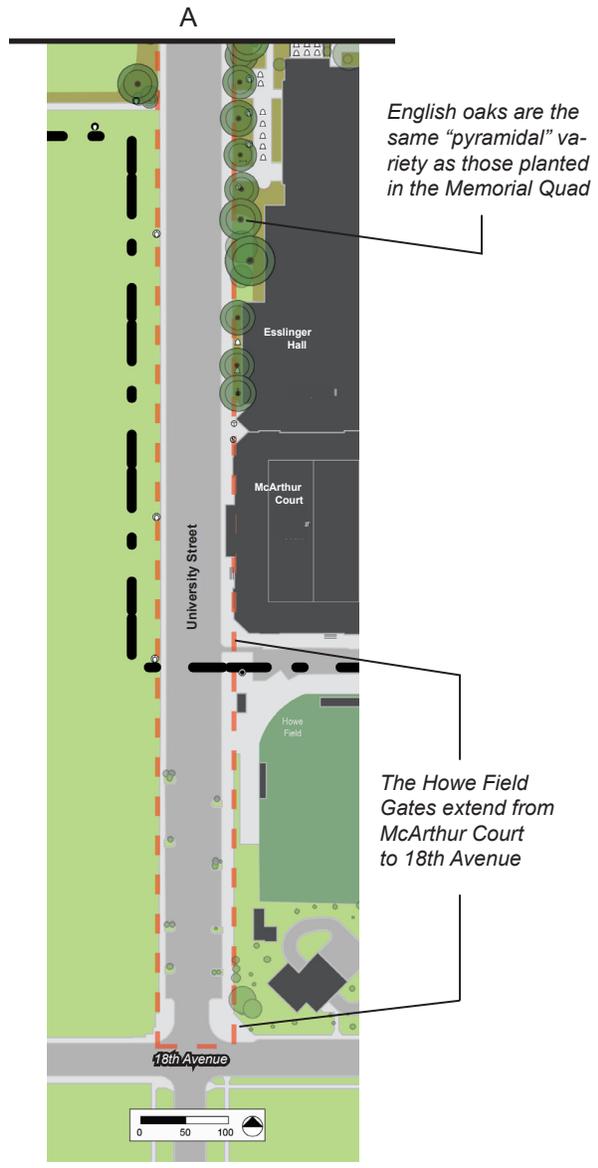
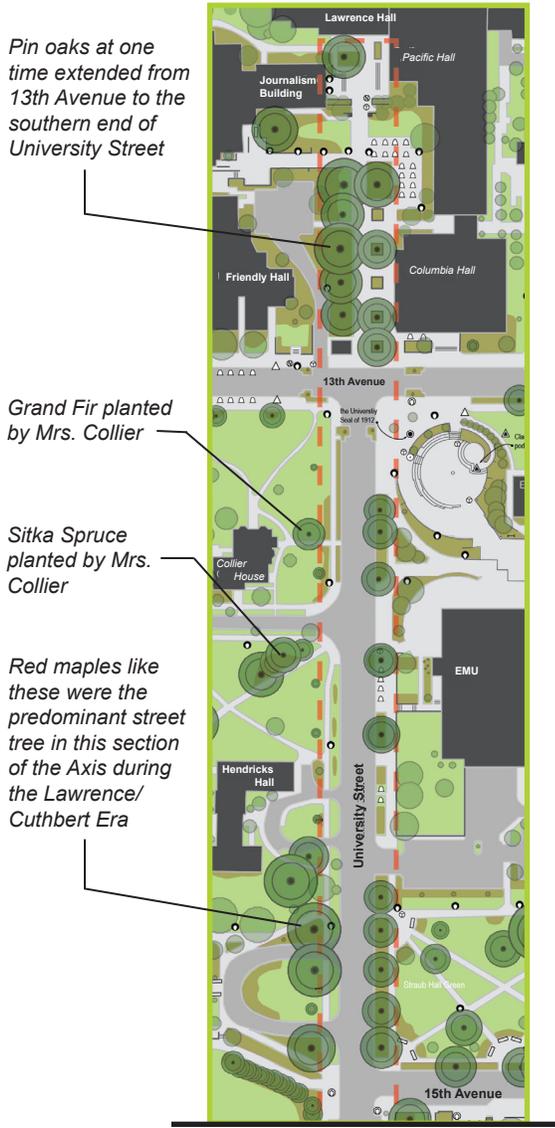
Secondary



*View looking south with  
 Allen Hall at right and  
 Pacific Hall at left.*

Landscape Resource Survey  
**UNIVERSITY STREET 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**

The University Street Axis has many street trees that date back to the period of significance. Of these trees the most distinct are the Pin oaks south of 13th Avenue, the Red maples near the Women’s Memorial Quadrangle Ensemble and the English oaks near Esslinger Hall. The Howe Field Gates were wrought by O.B. Dawson, a master blacksmith responsible for much of the iron work at Timberline Lodge and the University of Oregon. The gates are part of the Soldier’s Memorial of 1937 and extend to 18th Avenue. The Street has been the primary southern entrance to the university since the end of the Inception Era, and its association with the Pioneer Cemetery and McArthur Court are notable. The Street still retains its alignment and connection to the South University neighborhood.

2004 aerial of the University Street Axis



View looking south with Pacific Hall to the left.

The Howe Field Gates, with McArthur Court at left.



View looking north with Straub Hall Green to the 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**

- 1873: I.O.O.F. purchases land, creates the Pioneer Cemetery.
- 1886: Collier House is completed, Mrs. Collier plants the Big Leaf Maple, Sitka Spruce, and Grand Fir that stand along the University Street Axis.
- 1893: Friendly Hall constructed.
- 1901: Mechanical Hall constructed, which later becomes part of Lawrence Hall.
- 1908: Mary Spiller Hall constructed.
- 1909: the Men's Gymnasium is built on the future site of Columbia Hall.

- 1914: Architecture Hall added to Mechanical Hall.
- 1923: Major expansion of Lawrence Hall and the Journalism Building.
- 1927: Trolley system closed, opening 13th Street to automobile traffic.
- 1926: McArthur court constructed.
- 1936: Esslinger Hall constructed, associated oak trees planted
- 1937: Howe Field iron work completed.
- 1950: Erb Memorial Union constructed, associated Northern Red Oak trees planted.
- 1952: Pacific Hall constructed.
- 1957: An Addition to the AAA building replaces the Arts Wing designed by Ellis Lawrence.
- 1960: Columbia Hall constructed.
- 1972: Addition to the EMU.
- 1971: 13th Street closed to auto traffic indefinitely after students barricaded the street in protest.

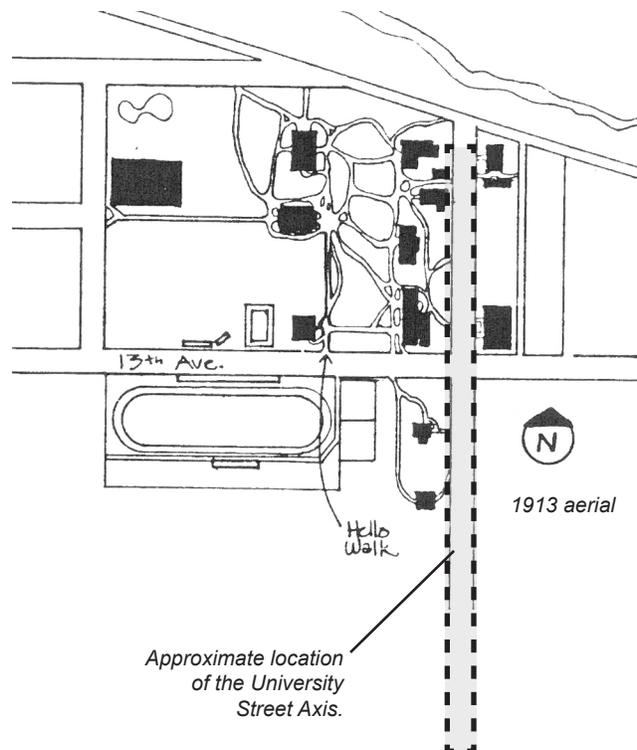
**MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE**

- 1991: Addition to Lawrence Hall redesigned the north end of the Axis.
- 1999: South entrance gates finished.
- 2005: Heart of Campus project redefines University Street at the intersections of Johnson Lane and 13th Avenue.

**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

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

At the end of this era the only buildings associated with the university south of 13th Avenue were the Collier House and Mary Spiller Hall, landscape features included a Sitka Spruce planted by Mrs. Collier. The University Street Axis was connected to Franklin Boulevard after it traversed the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. North of 13th Avenue the university had acquired the land on both sides of the street. The electric street car tracks were more than likely in place, and turned onto University Street from 13th Avenue and continued south well beyond 18th Avenue. The southern portion of the Axis would have had a rural character with the Pioneer Cemetery on its western edge and an open field on its eastern edge.



**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

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

At the end of this era the University Street Axis became much more a part of campus than in the previous era. McArthur court, Esslinger Hall and the Soldier's Memorial/Howe Field Gates defined the Axis across from the Pioneer Cemetery. In between 13th and 15th Avenues the Axis was bordered by university buildings on the west and residences on the east. North of 13th Avenue the Axis was lined with Pin oaks, and University Street still connected to Franklin Boulevard. The tracks of the electric street car were no longer in use. The selection of many of the street trees along the Axis may be attributed to Fred A. Cuthbert, University of Oregon landscape architect from 1933-1942.



1921 aerial of University Street and environs.

1944 aerial



**ERA DESCRIPTION:**

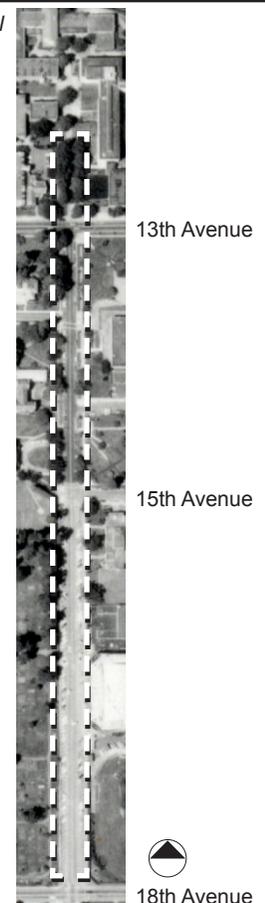
**The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)**

At this era's conclusion the Axis was blocked to vehicular traffic north of 13th Avenue. With the construction of Pacific Hall this section of University Street was raised, and Lawrence Hall spanned the Axis by connecting to the old power plant. Many of the Pin oaks near Pacific Hall were removed and low brick walls were placed around the oaks near Columbia Hall. The university expanded south of 13th Avenue with the construction of the Erb Memorial Union and Straub Hall Green in the early 1950s. Mary Spiller Hall was removed in 1951, and further south along the Axis the street was widened along the edge of the Pioneer Cemetery to provide angled parking.



1951 campus scene near the Journalism building and Lawrence Hall.

1968 aerial



■ **DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS**

**LAND USE**

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

Historically, University Street was used as an automobile and pedestrian circulation route, but substantial changes have occurred along this Axis over the years.

Today the portion of the Axis north from 13th Avenue provides pedestrian access to Lawrence, Allen, and Pacific Halls. The portion of the Axis from 13th Avenue to Johnson Lane crosses through the Heart of Campus and is primarily a pedestrian-use area, with use also by bicycles, service vehicles and for campus parking. From Johnson Lane to 18th Avenue the Axis is open to autos, bicycles, and pedestrians, and is heavily used for campus parking.

**DESIGN INTENT**

*Describing the overall design intent of the Area.*

Historically University Street acted as a typical city street both in use and configuration. The Axis still serves this use, but has controlled vehicular access, added a greater amount of parking, and acts as a major gateway into campus. This area was included as part of Lawrence’s campus plans that focused on expanding south of 13th Avenue.

**SPATIAL ORGANIZATION**

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

The unifying feature of the University Street Axis today is the near-continuous rows of street trees aligning either side. Building setbacks range from 10’-15’ for McArthur Court and Esslinger Hall, and 50’-60’ for Gerlinger Hall and Hendricks Hall.

**TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION**

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

The topography of the Axis runs south to north, ranging from a 1-4% slope (see diagram at right). The greatest solar exposure is found during the midday hours; in the morning and evening hours much of the Axis is shaded due to the large street trees and buildings.

**VEGETATION**

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

The vegetation along this Axis is comprised primarily of street trees, most of which are oaks dating back to the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era. Between Johnson Lane and 15th Avenue the street trees are primarily Red maples, also planted during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era, and several young sugar maples, recently planted. Ivy blankets the slope between the sidewalk and the Pioneer Cemetery. There are nine English oaks planted in front of Esslinger Hall. The Sitka Spruce planted by Mrs. Collier and a Grand Fir stand between Johnson Lane and 13th Avenue near the Collier House.



*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.*

Many oaks line the University Street Axis and provide a reliable food source for the campus squirrels. The Pioneer Cemetery is adjacent to the Axis and is part of a recognized wildlife corridor that extends south from the Millrace. Since the majority of this Axis is impervious concrete, rainfall is directed into traditional storm drains.

### **BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES**

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

All of the buildings that line the Axis date to the eras of significance, except for the southern Lawrence Hall addition, completed in 1991. Buildings associated with the University Street Axis include the Collier House (1886), Friendly Hall (1893), Hendricks Hall (1918), Gerlinger Hall (1921), and the Journalism Building (1922) on the west side of the Axis. The east side of the Axis includes McArthur Court (1928), Esslinger Hall (1936), the EMU (1950), Pacific Hall (1952), and Columbia Hall (1960). The Axis ends at the main entrance of Lawrence Hall. Main entrances of the buildings generally face the University Street Axis with the exception of Allen and Friendly Halls, which face the Old Campus Quad. Setbacks exist with landscaped entrances leading to the buildings. Gerlinger and Hendricks Hall each feature a U-shaped driveway to their front entrances. Buildings arranged along the axis generally sit three to four stories high.

### **SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS**

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

There are five concrete and brick raised planters at the north end of the Axis that date back to the Mid-Century Era. A row of bollards mark the entrance to McArthur Court. Just beyond McArthur Court, there is the "Soldiers Memorial" marked with a plaque. It was built in 1937 as a WPA project and dedicated to the forty-seven University of Oregon soldiers who died in World War I (see image, page 3). The Memorial, also referred to as the Howe Field Gates were wrought by O.B. Dawson, a master blacksmith responsible for much of the iron work at Timberline Lodge and the University of Oregon, including the Dads' Gates.

### **EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES**

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

The perimeter of this Axis is lined by on-street parking, street trees, sidewalks and building facades. The northern portion of the site from Lawrence Hall to 13th Avenue is defined by two rows of Pin oaks and the near continuous facades of Friendly, Allen, Lawrence, Pacific and Columbia Halls. The middle portion, from 13th Avenue to 15th Avenue, is defined by the discontinuous building facades of the EMU, the Collier House, Hendricks Hall and Gerlinger Hall. Street trees are interspersed throughout this portion at irregular intervals. The southern portion of the Axis, from 15th Avenue to 18th Avenue, is defined by Esslinger Hall and McArthur Court on the east side and Pioneer Cemetery to the west. The University Street Axis intersects with the 13th Avenue Axis, Johnson Lane Axis, Knight Library Axis, 15th Avenue Axis, and finally with 18th Avenue.

### **CIRCULATION**

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

The University Street Axis provides circulation for heavy pedestrian use and light automobile use, with on-street parking (see diagram, pg.6). The street is a designated bike path, and contains large bicycle parking areas Esslinger Hall, the EMU and Pacific Hall. The University Axis has drastically reduced its automobile traffic since the end of the period of significance.

Path and street materials are primarily concrete, asphalt, and tactile brick that mark the interface between the sidewalk and the street. In addition there are memorial bricks at the Heart of Campus intersection which were added in 2005.

### **VIEWS/VISTAS**

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

There are several significant views and vistas associated with the University Street Axis, most notably the long, linear view along University Avenue itself that terminates at Lawrence Hall (see diagram, pg.6). Several views open up from this Axis at intersections with other east/west circulation routes, especially along the Knight Library Axis, Johnson Lane Axis and down 13th Avenue. There are important views of iconic buildings and landscapes along this Axis, including those of Pioneer Cemetery, the south façade of Gerlinger Hall, Collier House and the EMU.

■ **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 University Street Axis meets Criterion C for its association with the campus plans designed by Ellis Lawrence, campus architect from 1914-1946. This landscape expresses Lawrence's intent to expand the campus south of 13th Avenue and provide an eastern border to arrange new buildings. It is also associated with other masters including Fred A. Cuthbert, University of Oregon landscape architect from 1933-1942 and O.B. Dawson, a master blacksmith responsible for the Soldiers Memorial (Howe Field Gates). Distinctive elements in the Axis include the Howe Field Gates. Of the various street trees, the most distinct are the Pin oaks south of 13th Avenue, the Red maples near the Women's Memorial Quadrangle Ensemble and the English oaks near Esslinger 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.*



*Students in the northern pedestrian section of the Axis near Pacific Hall, circa 1955.*

## ■ 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?*

All of the buildings along the Axis are historic, and date as far back as 1886 (Collier House) to as recent as 1960 (Columbia Hall). Many of the street trees also date back to the period of significance, and the general alignment and footprint of the road remains intact.

### DESIGN

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

Automobile traffic has drastically reduced since the end of the eras of significance. There is now a traffic turnaround that restricts vehicular access between Johnson Lane and 13th Avenue.

### MATERIALS

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

The majority of the trees along the Axis date back to the period of significance and many of the historic trees that are now missing have been replaced in kind.

### WORKMANSHIP

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

The structures along the Axis provide a survey of building design and workmanship from all three historic periods of significance. Highly articulated workmanship is particularly evident in the historic eastern facade of Gerlinger Hall, and the Howe Field Gates.

### FEELING

*Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?*

The fundamental difference in feeling from the period of significance to today is the drastic reduction of automobile traffic along the Axis. However, the collection of historic buildings and mature street trees endow the space with a sense of history that evokes the period of significance.

### ASSOCIATION

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

This Axis remains a crucial component of the open-space and circulation grid that runs throughout campus. Associations can be made to Ellis Lawrence, who lined the Axis with a number of important university buildings, and Fred Cuthbert, who selected a number of the street trees.

## ■ 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.

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.

Lowrie, Chris, "University acquires 13th Avenue." Eugene, Oregon Daily Emerald, 26 January, 1971.

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

McMillan, Adell, A Common Ground. (Eugene, Oregon: Erb Memorial Union, 2003) 1-637.

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

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/>

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 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)

University of Oregon Catalogue: 1955-1956. Campus Map (Eugene, Oregon: University of Oregon, 1955)

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.

Survey form completed in Spring 2006 under the supervision of Fletcher Farr Ayotte, Inc.

Edited by the University of Oregon Planning Office, Spring 2007.

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