**RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

**LANDSCAPE AREA NAME**
Gerlinger Field Green (x)

**HISTORIC NAME(S)**
none known

**CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION**
Green

**CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION**
National Register Listing
name: Women’s Mem. Quad

**ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE**
Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

**LEVEL OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**
Medium

**LEVEL OF INTEGRITY**
Good

**RANKING**
Secondary

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View looking west across the Gerlinger Field Green with Gerlinger Hall at right.
**LANDSCAPE AREA SITE MAP** — Highlighting existing elements from the period of significance (1876-1974).

- Field dedicated to physical education and athletics since 1921
- Row of False cypress planted circa 1950
- Douglas fir dates back to the Inception Era

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**LEGEND**

- **Trash Cans**
- **News Stands**
- **Small Scale Features from Period of Significance**
- **Small Scale Features After Period of Significance**
- **Plaques and Memorials from Period of Significance**
- **Plaques and Memorials After Period of Significance**
- **Benches From Period of Significance**
- **Benches After Period of Significance**
- **Memorial Benches After Period of Significance**
- **Bike Racks**
- **Trees from Period of Significance**
- **Memorial Trees After Period of Significance**
- **Campus Trees After Period of Significance**
- **University Standard Lightposts**
- **Non-University Standard Lightposts**
- **Landscape Area Boundary**

*note: Period of Significance refers to the project period of 1876-1974*
SUMMARY OF EXISTING HISTORIC FEATURES

The most significant features of the Gerlinger Field Green are related to its land use and its connection to Gerlinger Hall. Since its construction between 1919 and 1921, it has been used as a field for athletics and physical education - initially by the women of the campus, but today by all university students. Gerlinger Hall was designed to overlook the playing field and this connection remains unobstructed. The curving row of False cypress appears to have been planted circa 1950.
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: Gerlinger Hall is completed
1921: The Women’s Open Air Gymnasium is constructed.
1921: Gerlinger Field Green is constructed.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE
Circa 1950: row of False cypress trees planted.
1969: Gerlinger Annex is constructed
2005: portion of False cypress trees removed due to disease.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Inception Era (1876-1913)
The Gerlinger Field Green was originally an empty field owned by the university, and bordered by the I.O.O.F. Cemetery to the south and an empty field to the north. Mary Spiller Hall and the Collier house were nearby. To the east across University Street was an open field under recent ownership by the university. This area still had a fairly rural character and would have been considered to be the edge of town. A Douglas fir seen today at the southeast corner of the Green dates back to this era.
ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

Gerlinger Field Green was well incorporated within the university grounds by the end of this era, with its wide open lawn. The south façade of Gerlinger Hall marked the northern edge of the green and would have been bordered by a concrete walk and a chain link fence that ran across the top of the building’s large southern retaining wall. Stairs from Gerlinger’s south bay spanned the “moat” created by the retaining wall and connected the building to the field. The east façade of the Women’s Open Air Gymnasium marked the western edge. The row of Douglas firs along the I.O.O.F. cemetery had reached a mature height and the eastern edge of the field was open, overlooking the intersection of 15th Avenue and University Street.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

During this era the trees at the southern border of the Cemetery matured. A circa 1950 planting of False cypress along the eastern edge of the field formed a screen joining the lone Inception Era Douglas fir.
DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

LAND USE
Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.

The Gerlinger Field Green is occasionally used for instruction as an outdoor classroom, and for passive recreation and intramural sports. The path along the south side of the field serves as an important pedestrian and bike connection to southwest campus.

DESIGN INTENT
Describing the overall design intent of the Area.

The Green was designed by Ellis Lawrence to serve as an athletic field for Gerlinger Hall, which housed the Women’s Gymnasium building. The Green preserves the view of the southern façade of Gerlinger Hall, which is very well regarded on campus.

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

Gerlinger Field Green is rectangular in shape and is aligned on an east/west axis. The playing field is bounded by buildings to the north and west, and the trees edging the Cemetery to the south, and University Street to the east. There is no canopy cover within the interior of the green itself.

TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION
Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.

The topography of the Green is relatively flat with a slight crown to aid in drainage (see diagram below). The Green is set approximately 4-5 feet above the University Street sidewalk, with a small retaining wall marking this transition.

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

The interior of the field has no trees and is entirely comprised of mowed lawn. Along the northeastern edge of the field there is a row of eleven mature False cypress, many recently removed due to disease. On the southeastern corner of the site there is a grouping of native conifers of varying ages, including a Douglas fir dating back to the Inception Era. Informally planted throughout this eastern edge is an understory assortment of bulbs and wildflowers.

Immediately adjacent to the Gerlinger Field Green and within the Pioneer Cemetery is a row of trees consisting of Douglas firs, California Incense cedars and madrones.

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 is little habitat value within the Green.

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

The north and west faces of the Gerlinger Field Green are defined by the facades of Gerlinger Hall (1921) and the Gerlinger Annex (1969). Gerlinger Hall, originally the Women's Gym, has a close association with the Green, which was historically used for outdoor sports and exercise.

SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS
Describing elements such as monuments, markers, seating, fences etc.

There are no noteworthy small-scale elements within the Green.

EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES
Describing the perimeter of the site and important adjacent connections to spaces beyond.

The western edge of the green was substantially altered in 1969 when the open air Women's Gymnasium was demolished and replaced by the Gerlinger Annex. A concrete path separates the lawn from the base of the Gerlinger Annex.

Along the southern edge is a steep embankment covered with ivy and lined with mature conifers that rises up to the Pioneer Cemetery. The eastern edge of the field is defined by University Street and a curving swath of bare ground that contains several large conifers. The northern edge of the field is defined by a straight concrete path that follows the field and is contained by a chain-link fence.

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

The designated bicycle and pedestrian route along the southern edge of the field (part of the 15th Avenue bike route) is an important part of the east-west connection to the southwest campus (see diagram, pg.6). There are also concrete pathways that run along the northern and western perimeters of the Green. The concrete pathways along the south and west perimeters of the green also serve as fire lanes.

VIEWS/VISTAS
Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.

The view across the field from the south bay of Gerlinger Hall to the Pioneer Cemetery is the most significant one in this open space (see diagram, pg.6). An opening in the trees along the eastern edge of the field allows for views into and out of the space from University Street.
DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

☐ City Landmark
☒ National Register - full listing
name: Women’s Memorial Quad
☐ 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.

Gerlinger Field Green meets Criterion A for its association with the movement to recognize women’s history and role in Oregon. The Green has a strong association with Gerlinger Hall, which was part of the first complex of buildings constructed specifically for women on campus.

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.

Gerlinger Field Green meets Criterion C for its association with Ellis Lawrence’s campus plan. He designed a series of buildings intended just for female students. One of these was Gerlinger Hall, of which the Green is closely associated. Lawrence designed the Green as an athletic field for women. It continues to serve the whole university today in this capacity. Additionally, Irene H. Gerlinger, first woman member of the University of Oregon Board of Regents, ran the fundraising campaign and was involved in the design of the Women’s Quadrangle Ensemble. Unique features of the Green include Gerlinger Hall’s south facade and its connection to the Green.

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
Considering contribution to the history of the campus and its growth.

☒ Medium Significance
Noteworthy contribution to 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 Gerlinger Field Green remains a large, open field that is used for informal passive and active recreation.

DESIGN

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

The western end of the Green was altered with the construction of the Gerlinger Annex. The planting of the False cypress trees at the east end of the field changed the relationship with University Street.

MATERIALS

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

The interior of the Green is made up entirely of mowed lawn. The Douglas firs and California Incense cedars that line the southern edge of the Green date back to the Inception Era. The False cypress along the eastern edge of the site were planted around 1950.

WORKMANSHIP

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

The southern façade of Gerlinger Hall is representative of workmanship from the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era.

FEELING

Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?

The Green and the southern façade of the Gerlinger Hall harken back to the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era.

ASSOCIATION

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

The Green is significant because it was the original site on campus for outdoor female athletic events, and continues its strong association with Gerlinger Hall.

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
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).


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


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

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


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 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.

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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

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