

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

RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

15th Avenue Axis (z)

HISTORIC NAME(S)

15th Avenue

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

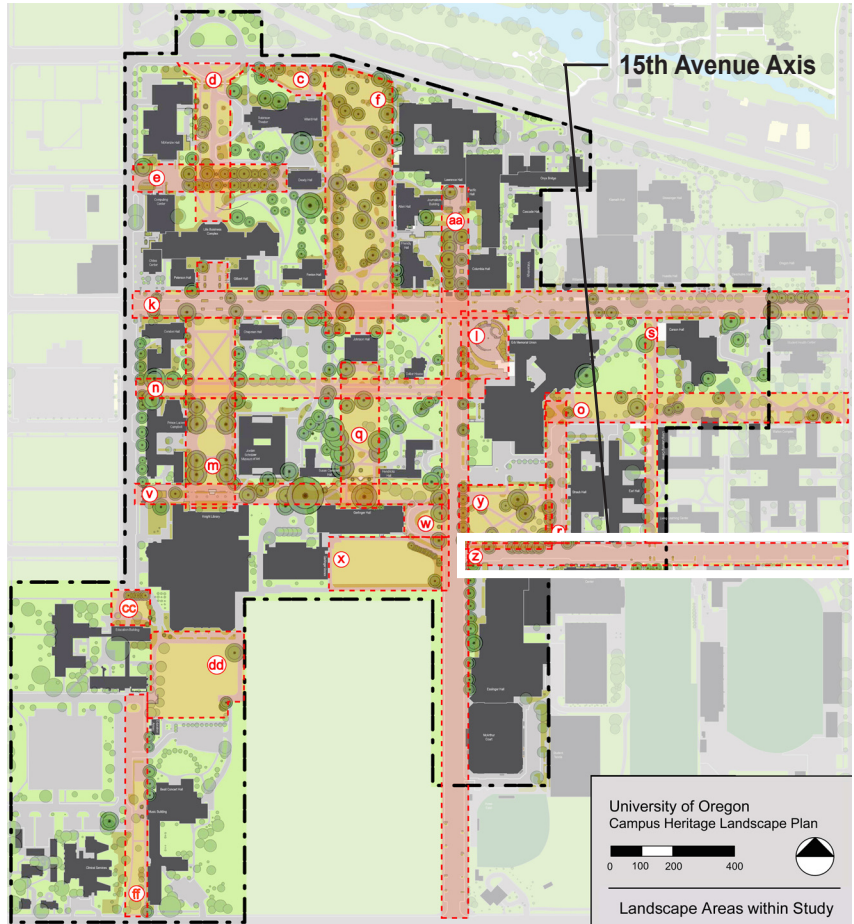
Low

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Good

RANKING

Tertiary



View looking west with Earl Hall at right and the Student Recreation Center at left.

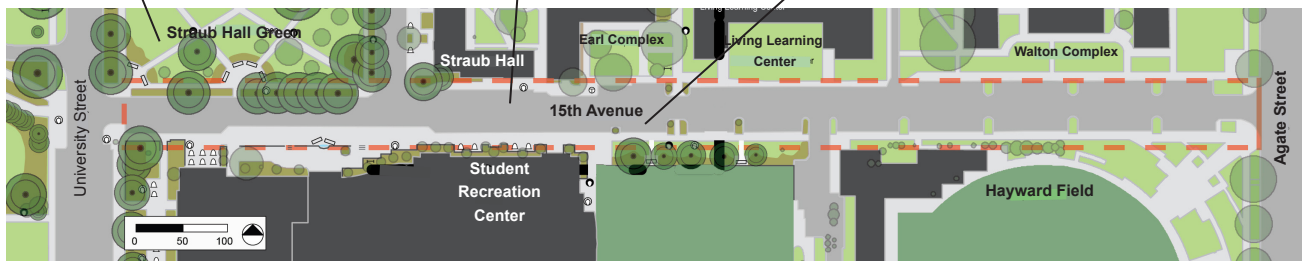
Landscape Resource Survey
15TH AVENUE AXIS

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

Some of the Douglas firs planted near the Onyx Intersection may date back to the Inception Era

Crimson King Norway maples were planted during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

Retaining wall appeared during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era



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

Most of the historic features associated with the 15th Avenue Axis are street trees. The row of Douglas firs between Straub Hall and University Street, and the row of Norway maples in front of the Student Recreation Center’s (SRC) outdoor playing field are all from the eras of significance. The Douglas firs appear to date back to the

Inception Era, and the large retaining wall of the SRC field and the Crimson King Norway maples are from the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era. The street has been associated with Hayward Field since the 1920s, though the north end of that facility was completely redesigned fairly recently.



2004 aerial of the 15th Avenue Axis



The Douglas firs that date back from the Inception Era shown at right, and the new Student Recreation Center and Esslinger Hall at left.



The concrete retaining wall and one of the three Crimson King Norway maples, both dating back to the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era.

RESOURCE HISTORY

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

Designated Eras within the Period of Historic Significance Determined for this Survey (1876-1967) 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

- 1919: Hayward Field's east grandstand is constructed.
- 1922: The north grandstand of Hayward Field is constructed.
- 1928: Straub Hall is constructed.
- 1936: Esslinger Hall is constructed.

1955: Earl Hall is constructed.

1959: Walton Hall is constructed.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE

Circa 1970: Emerald Street was converted into a pedestrian pathway.

1991: The Bowerman Family Building is constructed.

Circa 2000: the construction of the Student Recreation Center completely redesigned the southern edge of the 15th Avenue Axis across from Straub Hall Green.

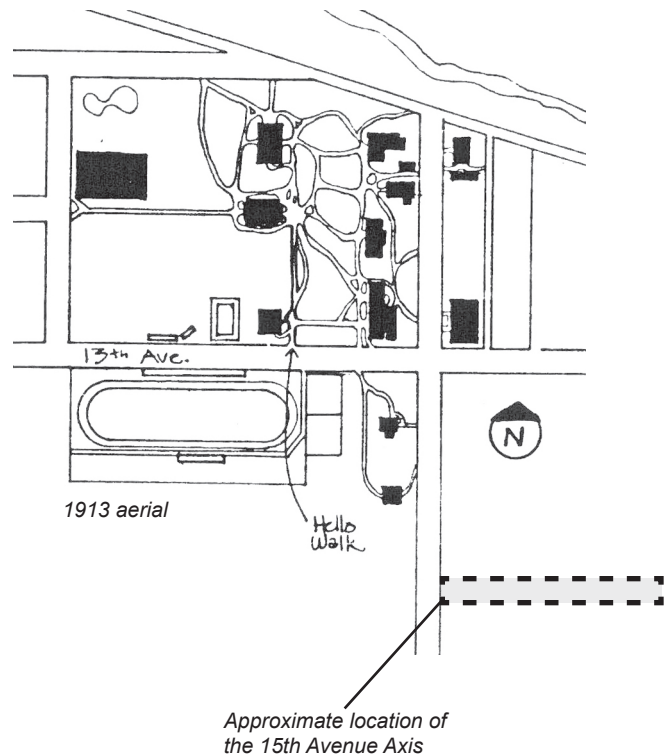
2005: Redesign of Hayward Field's entrance on the corner of 15th Avenue and Agate Street and the construction of a brick entry gate, a plaza and parking reconfiguration.

2006: The construction of the Living Learning Center has replaced the last of the tennis courts that once stretched from Emerald to Agate Streets.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Inception Era (1876-1913)

15th Avenue is unpaved during this time. The southern edge of the Axis is a vacant field that was characterized as marshy and was most likely treeless. The northern edge of the Axis is a sparsely developed residential area, and most of the dwellings are west of the Emerald Street. East of Emerald Street the 15th Avenue Axis is most likely a vacant field. The Douglas firs planted near the Onyx Street intersection probably date back to this era.



ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

During this era the sidewalk meets the road on both sides of the street. A number of university buildings were constructed, and family residences are located on the site of Straub Hall Green. The curving north grandstand of Hayward Field meets the sidewalk. A row of young Crimson King Norway maples street trees line the front of the athletic field between Hayward Field and Esslinger Hall. A retaining wall is constructed along the play field west of Hayward Field.



1922 aerial



1944 aerial

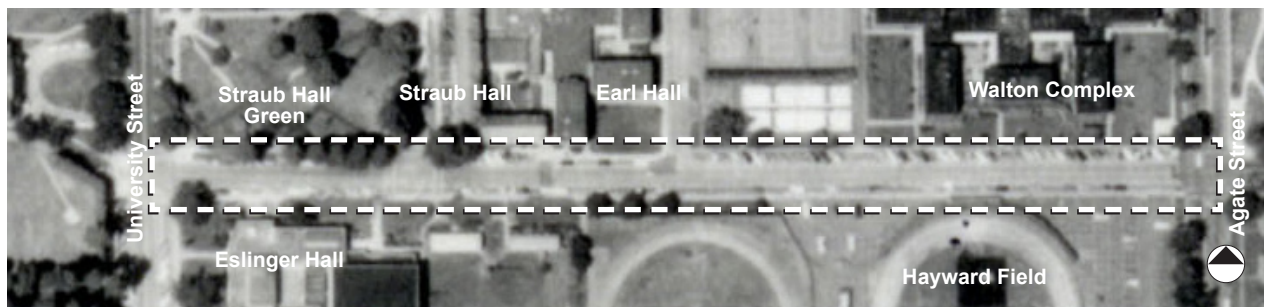
ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

A long row of temporary student housing trailers extend from east of Straub Hall to Agate Street, eventually replaced by the Walton and Earl Residence Halls. Straub Hall Green now occupies the northeast corner of 15th Avenue and University Street. The large Douglas firs along this stretch of the Axis are the oldest trees on the street. The north grandstand of Hayward Field has been razed and parking along the Avenue is at a premium. Cars park diagonally in front of the Walton Complex, and these spaces have moved the sidewalk slightly to the north. Parallel parking is provided along the remaining length of the Axis on both sides of the Avenue.



1950 aerial



1968 aerial

DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

LAND USE

Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.

This Axis functions as a traditional street with two lanes of traffic, head-in and parallel parking, and heavily used sidewalks on both sides. It is a designated bicycle route, sharing the street with autos. It is an important connection to East Campus and allows for entry to many of the residence halls.

DESIGN INTENT

Describing the overall design intent of the Area.

As depicted in Ellis Lawrence's 1932 plan, the intention of this Axis is to provide east/west pedestrian and vehicle circulation through campus. It is a typical city street in layout and use.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

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

At its western end, the Axis intersects with University Street. It is formed on one side by the entrance terrace to the Student Recreation Center. North of the recreation center are the Straub Hall Green and Straub Hall itself. East of Straub Hall the Axis lacks definitive form but takes some shape from the fencing along the recreation fields, the northern edge of the Bowerman Family Building, the Living Learning Center, and Powell Plaza. The tree canopy is nearly continuous along the Straub

Hall Green, however there are few large trees along the remainder of this Axis.

TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION

Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.

The topography of the 15th Avenue Axis slopes towards the east at a 3-5% slope (see diagram below). The greatest solar exposure can be found along the Student Recreation Center athletic fields where no structures cast shadows.

VEGETATION

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

Six large Douglas firs line the parking strip of the Straub Hall Green and two others are located in the southwest corner of Straub Hall. It is presumed that these trees date back to the Inception Era. Three Crimson King Norway maples are remnants of street trees planted during the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

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

The Axis is primarily paved with few large trees and of little habitat value. The Axis drains to the east before settling into one of the many curbside storm drain catch basins.



The area's topography.

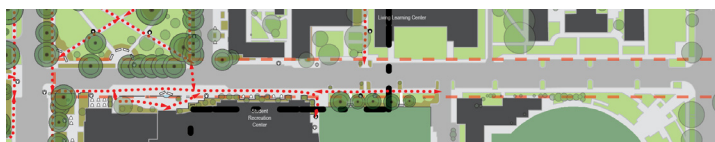


Diagram showing circulation paths.



Significant views through the area.

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES

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

Buildings from the eras of significance along this Axis include Hayward Field (1920s), Straub Hall (1928), Esslinger Hall (1936), Earl Complex (1955), and Walton Complex (1959). Newer buildings include the Student Recreation Center and the Living Learning Center.

SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS

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

There are few small-scale elements of note, one of which is a concrete retaining wall along the field west of Hayward Field, dating from the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era. Other small scale elements are associated with the newer building projects.

EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES

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

The 15th Avenue Axis is defined by the Student Recreation Center and the athletic field along its southern edge, and the residence halls and the Straub Hall Green along its northern edge. This Axis intersects with the Emerald Axis, Onyx Street Axis, University Street Axis, and Straub Hall Green.

CIRCULATION

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

The 15th Avenue Axis is an important pedestrian connection to East Campus (see diagram, pg. 6). The gateway elements at the intersection of this Axis with Agate Street offers a welcoming gesture to those entering the university. This Axis connects to an important pathway that crosses through the athletic fields and terminates at 18th Avenue.

VIEWS/VISTAS

Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.

The eastern view along the 15th Avenue corridor itself has been enhanced by the installation of entry pylons at Agate Street. At the western terminus there is a good view of the southern and eastern facades of Gerlinger Hall and long linear views north and south along University Street (see diagram, pg. 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.

The 15th Avenue Axis meets Criterion C for its association with Ellis Lawrence's 1932 campus plan. In this plan, 15th Avenue is a designated vehicle and pedestrian route providing east/west circulation through campus. Distinctive elements of the Axis include the row of Douglas firs and Crimson King Norway maples.

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?

Important historic elements include the large Douglas firs and the Crimson King Norway maples, and the circulation use of the Avenue.

DESIGN

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

The footprint and alignment of the Axis is similar to what it was at the end of the Mid-Century Era.

MATERIALS

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

The Douglas firs street trees and the Crimson King Norway maples are defining elements of the Axis that survive from the eras of significance.

WORKMANSHIP

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

The most articulated architectural detailing can be found along the western and southern facades of Straub Hall.

FEELING

Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?

The large street trees and adjacent historic structures help evoke the eras of significance, however, this feeling is diminished by the non-historic additions that line the Axis.

ASSOCIATION

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

15th Avenue Axis remains a vital automobile and pedestrian circulation route through campus. This function is consistent with the original intention of this space.

■ 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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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.

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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/>

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.

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