

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

■ **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

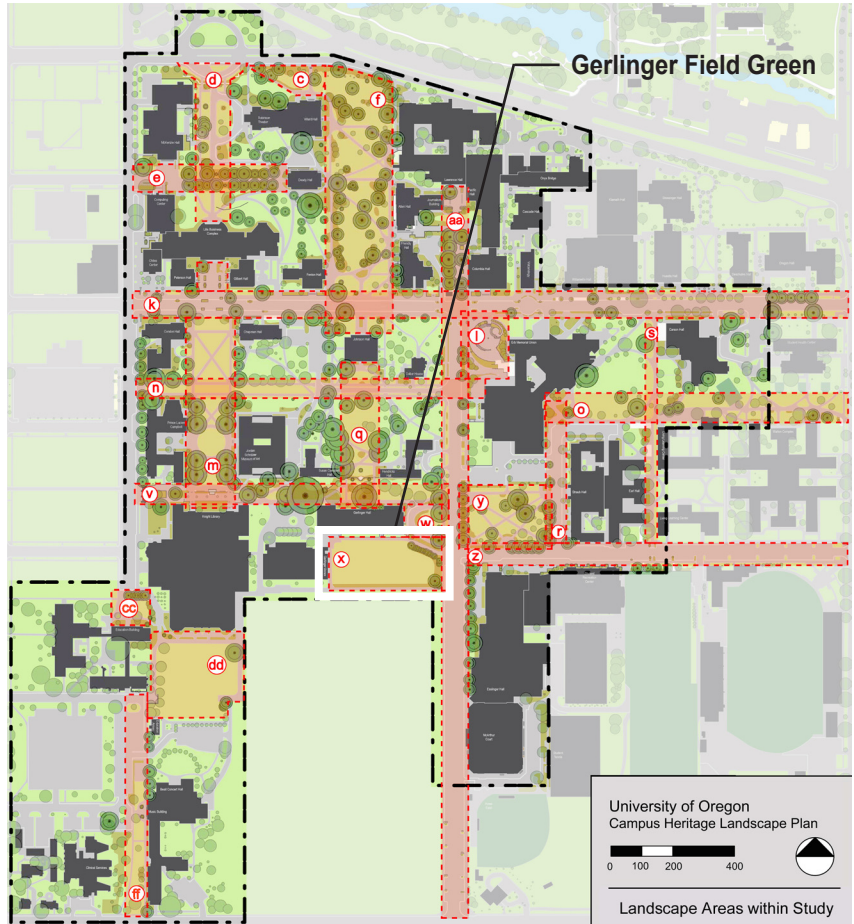
Medium

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Good

RANKING

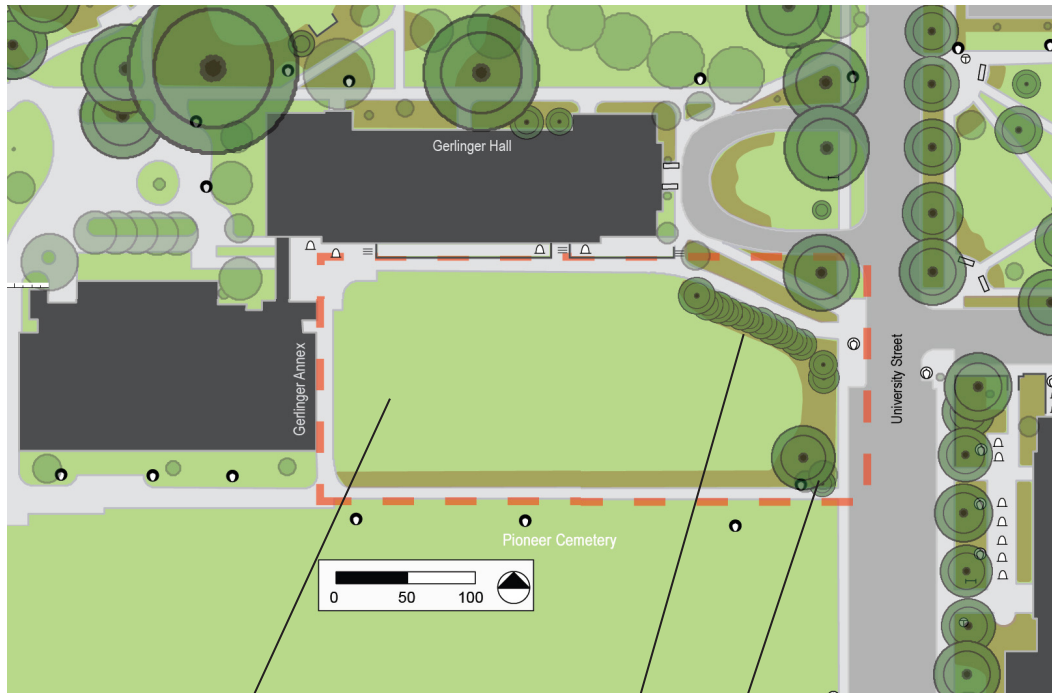
Secondary



View looking west across the Gerlinger Field Green with Gerlinger Hall at right.

Landscape Resource Survey
GERLINGER FIELD GREEN

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

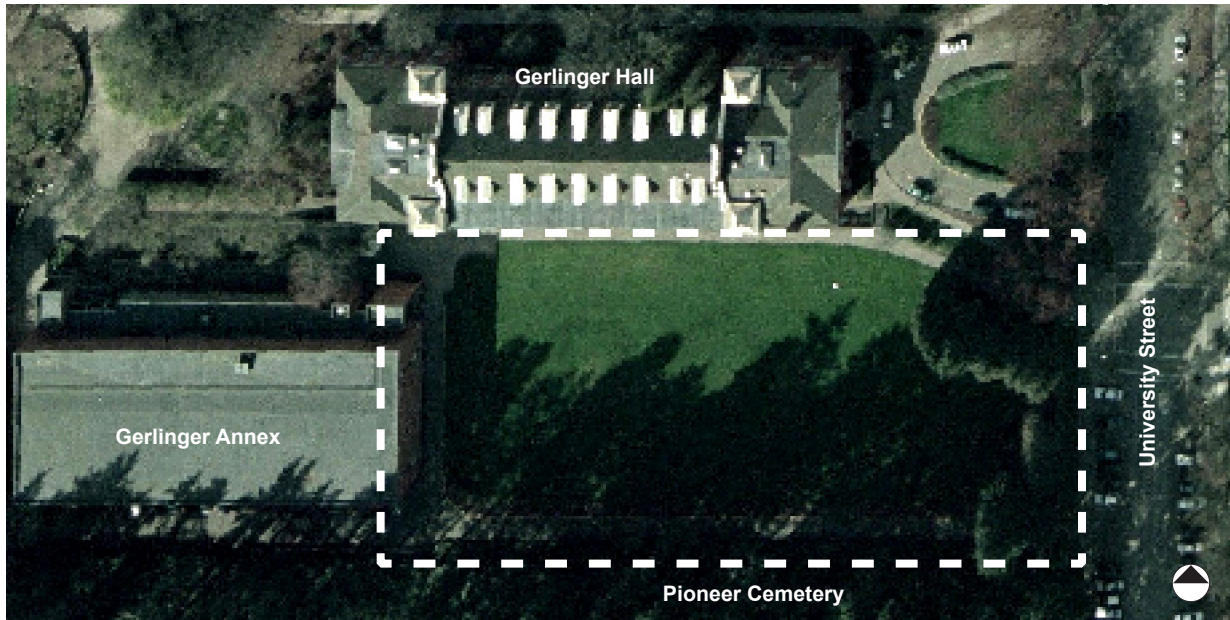
LEGEND			
TRASH CANS	⊕	BIKE RACKS	⌒
NEWS STANDS	Ⓝ	TREES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (small green)
SMALL SCALE FEATURES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	⚠	MEMORIAL TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (medium green)
SMALL SCALE FEATURES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	⚠	CAMPUS TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	● (large green)
PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	⦿	UNIVERSITY STANDARD LIGHTPOSTS	⦿ (black)
PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	⦿	NON-UNIVERSITY STANDARD LIGHTPOSTS	⦿ (white)
BENCHES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬ (thick)	LANDSCAPE AREA BOUNDARY	⋯ (red dashed)
BENCHES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬ (thin)		
MEMORIAL BENCHES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	▬ (dashed)		

* 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.



2004 aerial of the Gerlinger Field Green



The south facade of Gerlinger Hall enfronting the Green.



A view looking east with Pioneer Cemetery 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

- 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.

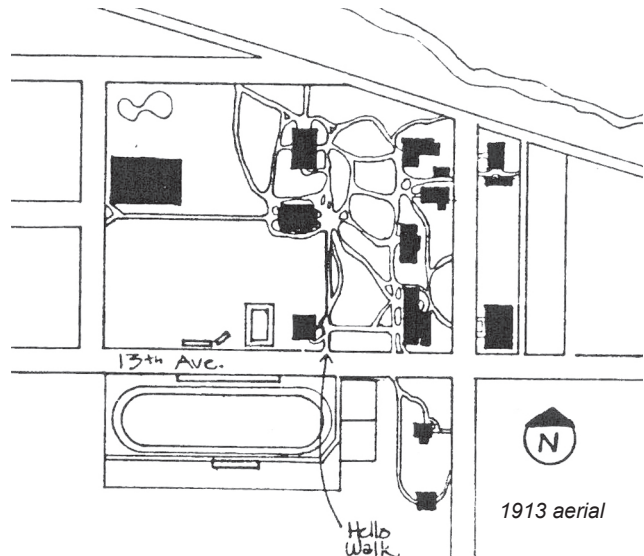


Drawing from the 1923 campus master plan, showing the fully-realized Gerlinger Field Green.

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.

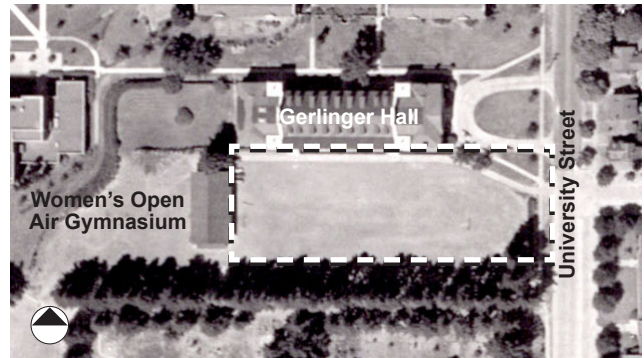


Approximate location of the Gerlinger Field Green.

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.



1944 aerial



1921 aerial looking north, with Gerlinger Hall in foreground and the Women's Open Air Gym at left.

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.



1968 aerial



1950 aerial with Gerlinger Hall to the left.



1965 aerial

■ 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.

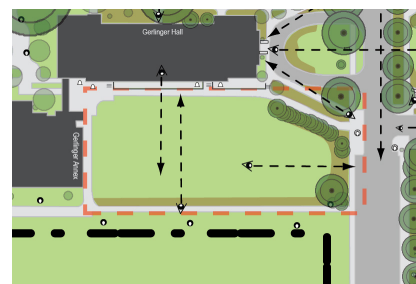
Immediately adjacent to the Gerlinger Field Green and within the Pioneer Cemetery is a row of trees consisting of Douglas firs, California Incense cedars and madrones.



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
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 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

■ 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.

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).

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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.

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

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