

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

■ **RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

Johnson Lane Axis (n)

HISTORIC NAME(S)

none known

CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Green

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

National Register - partial listing
name: Library and Memorial Quad
Women's Memorial Quad

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era
Mid-Century Era

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

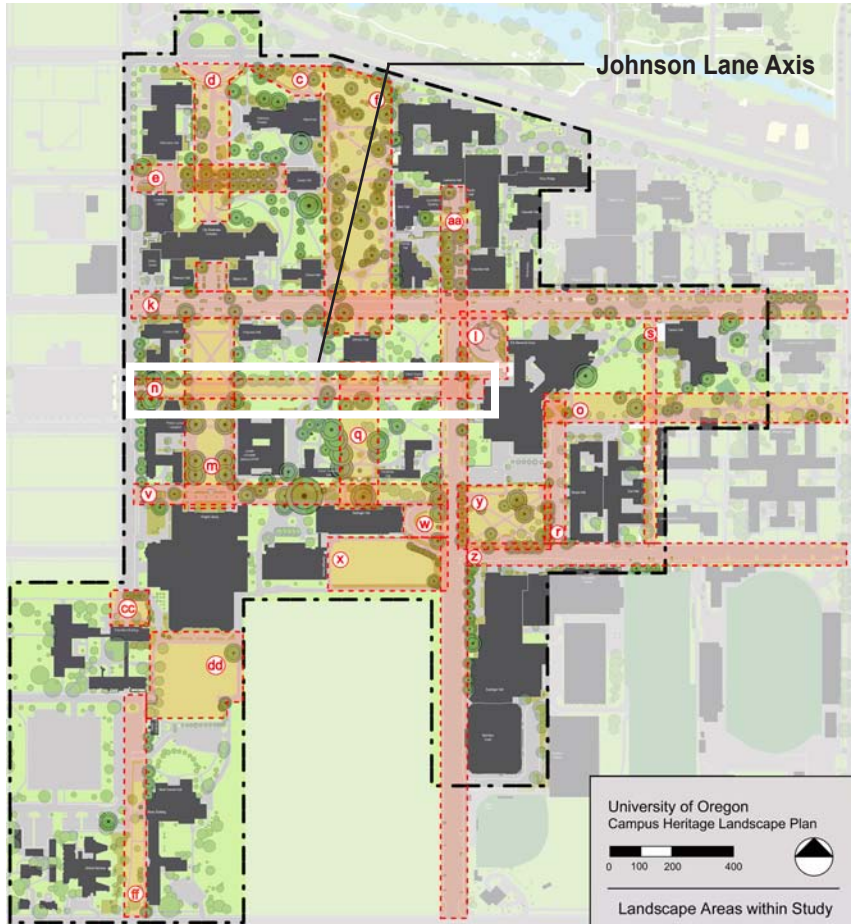
Medium

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Good

RANKING

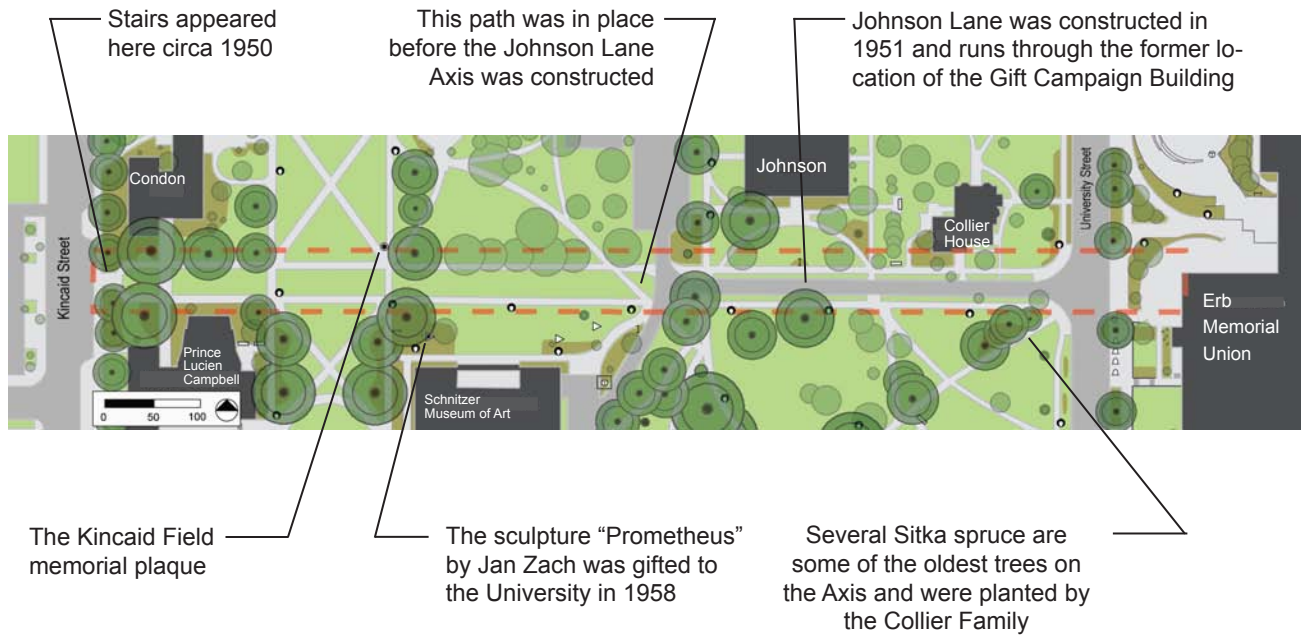
Secondary



View looking east towards the Erb Memorial Union.

Landscape Resource Survey
JOHNSON LANE AXIS

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



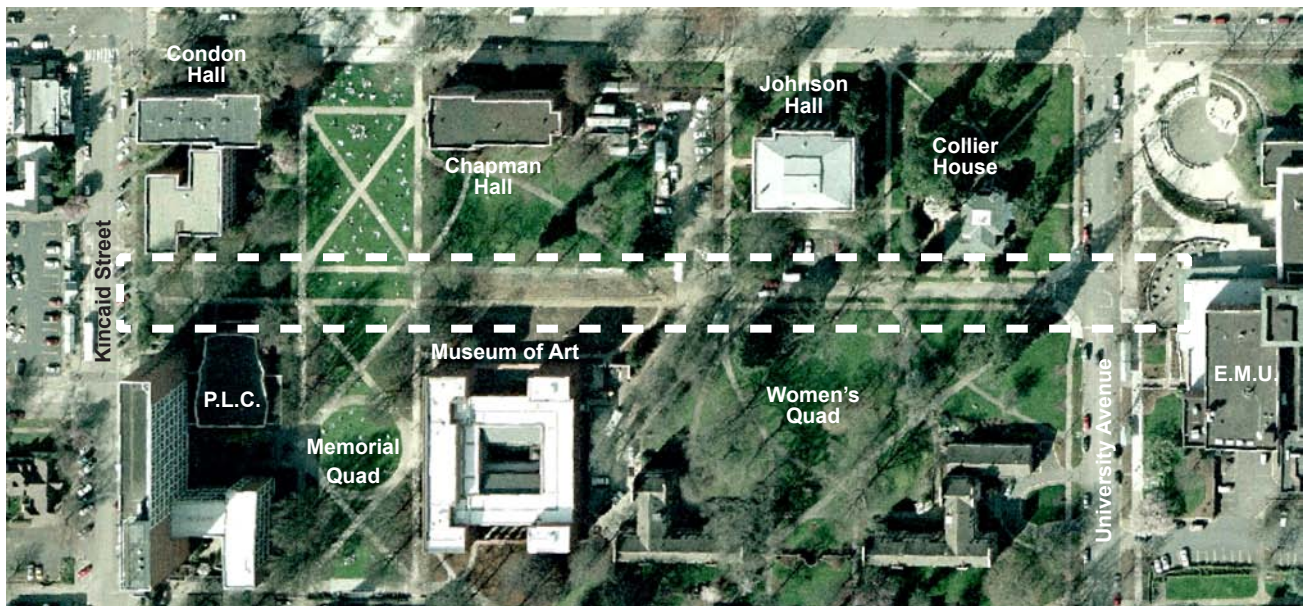
LEGEND			
TRASH CANS	⊕	BIKE RACKS	⌒
NEWS STANDS	⊗	TREES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
SMALL SCALE FEATURES FROM PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	⚠	MEMORIAL TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
SMALL SCALE FEATURES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	⚠	CAMPUS TREES AFTER PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE	●
PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS 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 Johnson Lane Axis was part of Ellis F. Lawrence’s plan for the campus as early as 1914. Intended to be a major east-west circulation route for students, the Axis was completed in the early fifties in conjunction with the Erb Memorial Union. The parallel pathway configuration across the Memorial Quad appeared in the early forties as part of a development plan by Fred Cuthbert. At the end of the Mid-Century Era the Axis traversed

an open landscape dominated by sweeping lawns. Since then, many more trees have been located along the Axis, particularly its eastern portion. The configuration of the Axis has remained virtually unchanged since the end of the Mid-Century Era. Today, with 13th Avenue acting as the predominant east-west pedestrian circulation route on campus, Johnson Lane Axis is a relatively quiet walking area, especially in the section between the Memorial Quad and the EMU.



2004 aerial of the Johnson Lane Axis



Looking westward towards Kincaid Street in the far background, with the Collier House at right.



View east towards the Erb Memorial Union, a principal destination from the 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

- 1922: Kincaid Field grandstands are demolished.
- Circa 1940: The concrete walks of the Memorial Quad are completed.
- Circa 1950: The parallel walks of the Axis are completed to the east edge of the Memorial Quad. Concrete stairs appear at the west end.
- 1950: EMU completed making Johnson Lane a formal circulation route.

1951: The parallel walks of the Axis extend between Kincaid and University Streets. Gift Campaign building is removed creating a clear path for the Axis, Johnson Lane, a vehicular roadway, is added to the Axis, connecting to University Street.

1967-1968: Additions to Condon and Prince Lucien Campbell Halls connect to the Axis.

Circa 1968: The row of tulip trees near the Museum were planted.

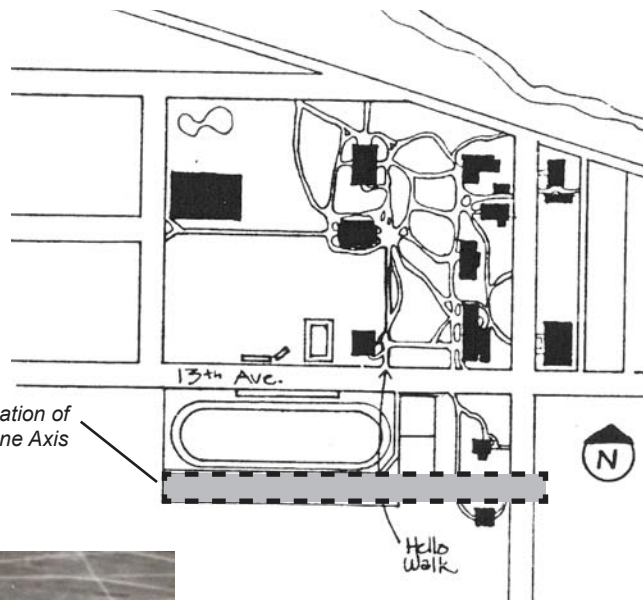
MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE

2003: addition to the Museum of Art. Regrading along the museum's north facade steepened the slope adjacent to the Axis, and new sculptures have been placed along this area. During construction a mature Japanese Red pine was removed from the Axis.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Inception Era (1876-1913)

The Axis in the form seen today was not conceived during this era, with parts of it occupied by Kincaid Field and tennis courts. Mary Spiller Hall and the Collier House were located on either side of the eastern entry to the future Axis. Other than the plantings around Mary Spiller Hall, the entire southern edge of the Axis was an open field.

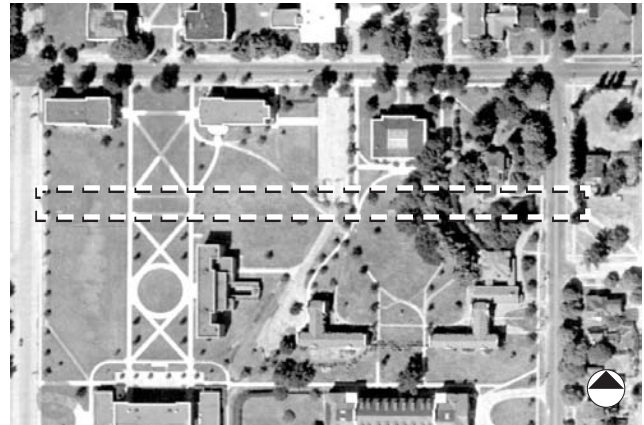


A 1921 image showing Kincaid Field, and at it's head, Johnson Hall.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

During this era Kincaid Field had been replaced by the Memorial Quad, and the tennis courts were replaced by Johnson Hall and the Women's Quad. The only obstructions between Kincaid and University Streets was the Gift Campaign Building, sited immediately south of Johnson Hall, and a parking lot that connected to 13th Avenue. The earliest indication of the form of the future Axis was the two parallel walks that separated the "X" paths in the Memorial Quad. Four oak trees, two Norway maples and one Japanese red pine were the only trees planted on this lawn to reinforce the Axis. In the summer of 1945 plans for the creation of a new east-west axis between the EMU site (originally planned for a new science building) and Kincaid Street were developed.



1944 aerial view of the Axis.



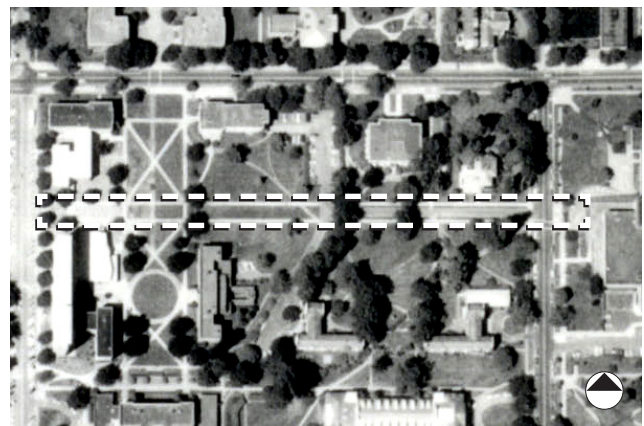
A 1930 image of the Johnson Lane Axis, in an undefined state.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

Johnson Lane became a formal circulation route when the Erb Memorial Union was completed in 1950, providing an important connection from the EMU westward to Kincaid Street. Stairs were built from Kincaid Street up to two parallel walks, which extended all the way to University Street. No new trees were added in this era, allowing it to retain the open lawn character from the previous era.

On the eastern half of the Axis the Gift Campaign Building was removed and Johnson Lane, a vehicular road, was set in between parallel walkways. The trees along this portion of the Axis were planted as part of the Women's Memorial Quad, and were not intended to reinforce the orientation of the Johnson Lane Axis.



1968 aerial view of the Axis.



This 1965 aerial shows how the Axis became more defined during the Mid-Century Era.

■ DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

LAND USE

Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.

The Axis connects Kincaid Street to University Street and the EMU beyond. Pedestrians moving between these areas are the primary users, though it is also a designated bicycle route and used by vehicles to reach two nearby parking lots. Service vehicles use it to access the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and Chapman, Johnson, and Susan Campbell Halls.

DESIGN INTENT

Describing the overall design intent of the Area.

The Axis was designed as a major east-west pedestrian corridor through an area of the campus laid out by Ellis Lawrence. The space between the two sidewalks contains no plantings beyond lawn, as intended through Fred Cuthbert's plans of 1939 and 1940.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

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

Parallel sidewalks run east-west along this Axis connecting Kincaid Street to University Street. In the center of the Axis rectangular blocks of lawn separate the sidewalks and are bisected occasionally with perpendicular concrete paths.

A row of lamp posts define the south edge of the space and a row of mature trees define the north edge. The lawn in the middle of the Axis ends when it meets Johnson Lane, at which point Johnson Lane continues to University Street.

TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION

Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.

There are eight stairs that rise up from Kincaid Street to Johnson Lane. From this point, Johnson Lane rises at a slight 1-3% slope until it reaches Johnson Hall, where it descends at a 1-3% slope down to University Street (see diagram, below). There is also a noticeable south-to-north cross slope that runs through the entirety of the lane.

Much of the Johnson Lane is shaded by large deciduous trees, but there is high solar exposure along the Memorial Quad and along the Museum of Art where the canopy thins out.

VEGETATION

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

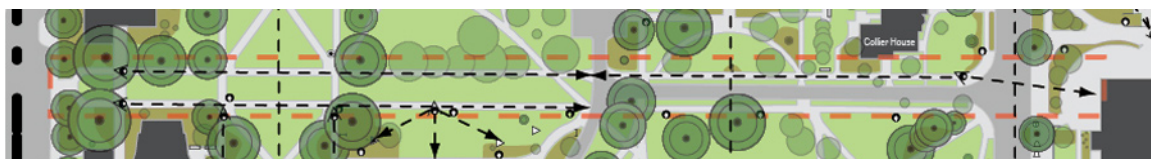
The vegetation is primarily lawn interspersed with large shade trees. Five tulip trees were planted in a row along the northern edge of the axis as it passes Chapman Hall, and postdate the Mid-Century Era. Trees are generally planted in a loose



The area's topography.



Circulation paths through the area.



Significant views through the area.

line along the north and south edges of the space, and include oaks, beech, birches and tulip trees.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

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

This east-west orientation of the Axis intersects the designated south–north habitat corridor that extends from the Millrace to the Pioneer Cemetery. There are several designated habitat trees within the Women’s Quad.

The east portion of Johnson Lane is a paved street with conventional storm drains. The west portion of the lane is largely permeable, with the majority of the stormwater handled on site.

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES

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

The Kincaid Field grandstands and athletic fields that occupied this space during the inception era have no remaining traces. The recent addition to the Museum of Art (2004) has altered the space by presenting a larger structure closer to the Axis. Chapman and Johnson have changed little since the period of significance. The original portion of the EMU marks the eastern terminus of the Axis. Building entrances to the Axis are generally secondary. Buildings lining the Axis are mostly 2 to 4 stories in height.

SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS

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

Today, the only small scale feature from the era of significance in the vicinity is the statue “Prometheus” by Jan Zach, gifted to the university in 1958 by Gamma Phi Beta in commemoration of its 50th anniversary. The statue was moved to its current location when the east addition of the museum was constructed. Non-historic small scale features along Johnson Lane include two statues, a

1991 University Day bench, a memorial tree, signs and a trash can.

EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES

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

The west end of the Axis initiates with a flight of stairs ascending from Kincaid Street, and eventually terminates at University Street. Adjacent spaces perpendicular to the Axis are Memorial Quad and the Women’s Memorial Quad. Buildings are setback as little as 10-feet along PLC to as much as 150-feet along Chapman Hall.

CIRCULATION

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

This Axis serves as a major east-west pedestrian corridor between Kincaid Street and University Street (see diagram, page 6). The western terminus of the Axis serves as a gateway to the campus. Johnson Lane intersects the Pioneer Axis and the Memorial Quad, both important north-south circulation routes. The eastern end of the lane allows for automobile entry into two parking lots. Only Johnson Hall, PLC and Condon Hall have entries that are directly accessed from Johnson Lane. The pathways are concrete.

VIEWS/VISTAS

Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.

There are many significant views along this scenic Axis (see diagram, page 6). The long, tree-lined view that runs through the Axis is the defining view from this space. There are several significant perpendicular views to Johnson Lane that are associated with north-south pedestrian intersections, including the crossings with the Memorial Quad and the Pioneer Axis. As the lane passes by the Museum of Art, there are views of the north museum courtyard and the sculpture garden. The western end of the Axis looks directly onto the EMU and the Fishbowl.

■ **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

- City Landmark
- National Register - full listing
name:
- National Register - partial listing
name: Library and Memorial Quad
Women's Memorial Quad
- 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.

Conceived by Ellis Lawrence, the Johnson Lane Axis is part of Lawrence's campus master plans that gave shape to the university and therefore eligible under Criterion C. The Axis acts as a connector though the part of campus in which Ellis Lawrence had his greatest influence. Fred Cuthbert, the University's landscape architect from the early 1930s to the early 1940s, also incorporated the Johnson Lane Axis into his campus landscape designs. A number of National Registered properties and a city landmark are viewed from this pathway.

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 configuration and alignment of the pedestrian circulation pathways remains largely unchanged since the end of the Mid-Century Era. The majority of the buildings along the Axis were constructed within the eras of significance.

DESIGN

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

The design intent of the Axis is still evident today, with its parallel pathways and lawn in between.

MATERIALS

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

There has been an addition of trees along the Axis, but most materials date from the era of significance.

WORKMANSHIP

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

The minimalist nature of the Axis does not show much workmanship, but it still retains the spirit of the era.

FEELING

Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?

The feeling of the landscape does evoke its era of significance.

ASSOCIATION

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

The Johnson Lane Axis is associated with the Lawrence Campus plan and is part of the eastward growth of the campus towards the EMU.

■ 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).

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

Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1944. The University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection.

Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1947. The University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection.

Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1952. The University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection.

Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1960. The University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection.

Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1968. The University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection.

Cuthbert, Fred A. drawing for the "Future Campus Entrance," 1940. Photograph of original kept in the University of Oregon Special Collections, University of Oregon Photo Collection, Box 3, Campus Plans folder.

Lawrence, Ellis F. drawing for the "Plot Plan, University of Oregon," 1914. Photograph of original kept in the University of Oregon Special Collections, University of Oregon Photo Collection, Box 3, Campus Plans folder.

Lawrence, Ellis F. drawing for the "Proposed Development Of The University Of Oregon Campus, Scheme No. 6," 1932. Photograph of original kept in the University of Oregon Special Collections, University of Oregon Photo Collection, Box 3, Campus Plans folder.

Long, Stephen W. "Historic Continuity A Diagnosis Report" (Eugene: University of Oregon Office of Planning and Campus Development, 1980) 1-67.

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.

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/uoregon/>

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

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

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

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.
