

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

■ **RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & SUMMARY**

LANDSCAPE AREA NAME

Old Campus Quadrangle (f)

HISTORIC NAME(S)

none known

CAMPUS PLAN DESIGNATION

Quadrangle

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

National Register - partial listing
name: Deady and Villard Halls

ERA(S) OF GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE

Inception Era

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

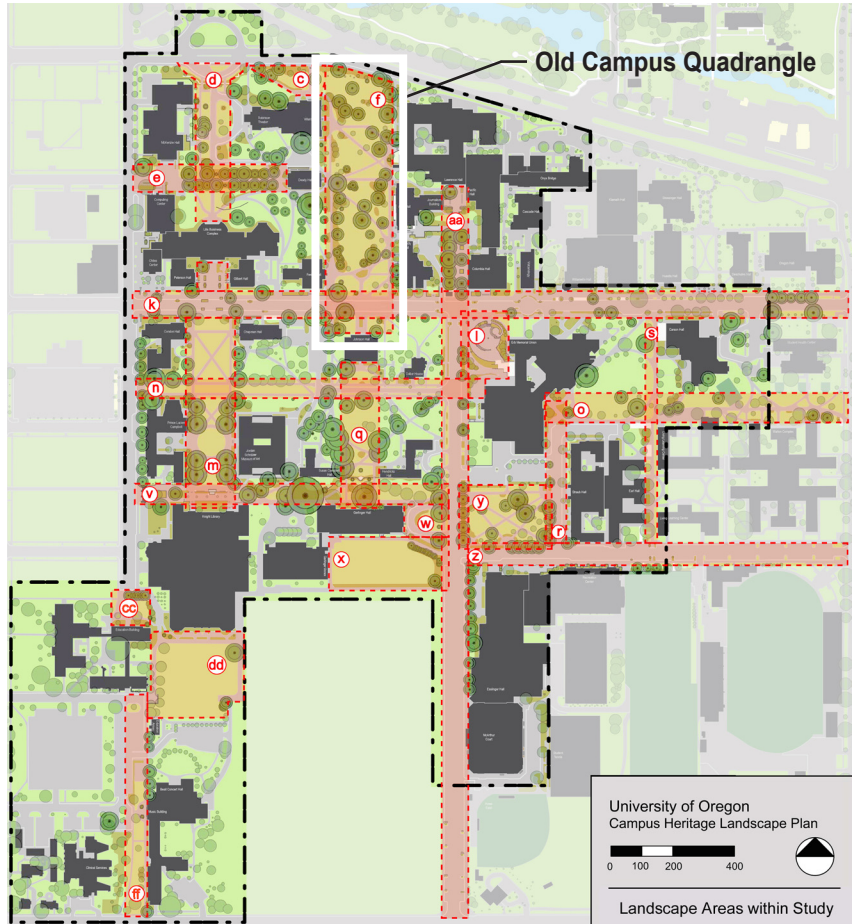
High

LEVEL OF INTEGRITY

Excellent

RANKING

Primary



View looking west across the Old Campus Quadrangle, with Villard Hall at right.



Landscape Resource Survey
OLD CAMPUS QUADRANGLE

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



The last of the Condon Oaks, adopted as class of 1897 class tree.

Class stone of 1893

Class of 1892, Sequoia Tree

Class of 1895, European Linden Tree

The only remaining "Dollar Tree," this maple was planted during the Inception Era by the university's janitor under a program where he was paid \$1 to plant a tree and another \$1 if it survived

The "Bison" sculpture by Keith E. Stephens, 1958

Basalt pillar, formerly the support for the bust of W.R.B. Wilcox by Oliver Barret

A designated Wildlife Tree

Hello Walk

Class fountain of 1913

Class fountain of 1920

The "Pioneer" sculpture by Alexander Phimster Proctor, 1918

Japanese Maple (circa 1920-1930)

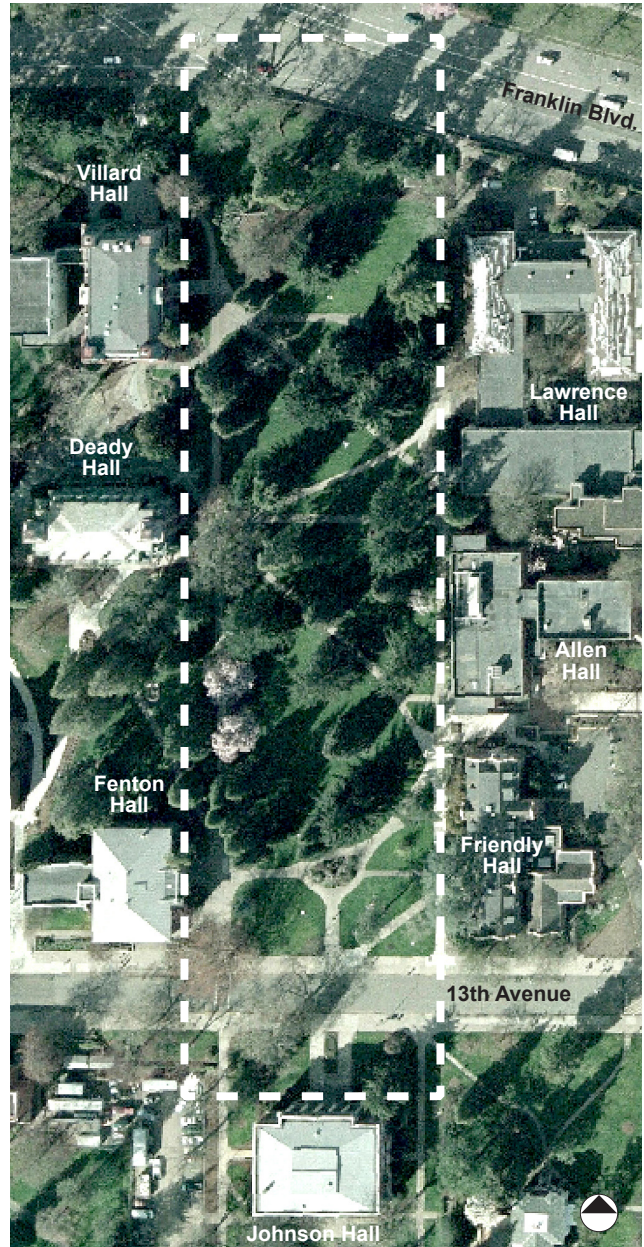
LEGEND

BIKE RACKS	
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	
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 Old Campus Quadrangle is a good example of the Picturesque Era of campus planning, and is home to a collection of the oldest buildings on campus. The Quad began to take its shape during the Inception Era when buildings like Deady, Villard, Fenton, Friendly, McClure (no longer extant) and Mechanical Halls (now part of Lawrence) began to form an edge around a large, central open space. The circulation routes and plantings of the Quadrangle have always had an informal and asymmetrical character. Trees, the majority of which were coniferous, and lawns replaced the open field that predated the Quad, with extensive tree planting initiated in 1884 and continued in 1900. Many class trees and memorials from the university's early history are associated with the Quad, providing this landscape area with the forest-like appearance seen today and a high level of historic integrity.



2004 aerial of the Old Campus Quadrangle



*Last of the
 Condon Oaks*



*"The Pioneer" by
 Alexander Phimster
 Proctor*



The class of 1913 fountain between Deady and Fenton Halls

■ **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

- 1876: Deady Hall constructed
- 1886: Villard Hall constructed
- 1890: the Gymnasium constructed - later becomes the Women's Gym
- 1893: Friendly Hall constructed
- 1900: more than 100 trees are planted on campus, many within the Old Campus Quad
- 1901: Mechanical Hall constructed
- 1906: Fenton Hall constructed

MAJOR ALTERATIONS OCCURRING AFTER ERA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE

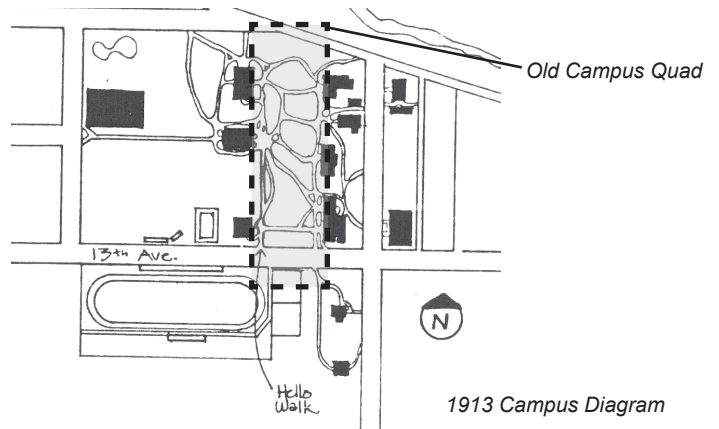
- 1913: Class fountain placed north of Fenton Hall
- 1914: Mechanical Hall incorporated into Architecture Hall
- 1918: the "Pioneer" sculpture by Alexander Phimster Proctor
- 1919: the "Pioneer" added to the Quad
- 1920: Class fountain placed outside east entrance to Fenton Hall
- 1922: the Women's Gym, or the Old Gymnasium destroyed by fire
- 1923: large expansion of Architecture Hall
- 1943: The Southern Pacific Railroad moves its tracks across the Mill race, retaining wall built
- 1954: McClure Hall demolished and replaced by Allen Hall
- 1957: An addition to Architecture Hall replaces the Arts Wing designed by Ellis F. Lawrence
- 1958: the "Bison" sculpture by Keith E. Stephens is placed outside Lawrence Hall.
- 1962: Columbus Day Storm topples many trees in the Quad – replanting follows shortly thereafter
- Circa 2000: One of the two Condon Oaks removed due to poor condition. These Oaks were the only two trees in the Old Campus Quad at the time of the university's inception.

ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Inception Era (1876-1913)

The Old Campus Quad began as an open field with a cluster of 2 trees known as the Condon Oaks, and was eventually transformed into a naturalistic reforested site. At the end of this era the landscape was dominated by conifers with patches of ornamental shrub beds, interspersed throughout with lawn. Class trees contributed to the forest-like appearance and fulfilled the suggestions of Dr. John Straub, past professor, dean and university president. Paths were informal and composed of gravel or wood. Small scale elements such as the class of 1913 fountain, the "Senior Bench", and the class stone of 1893 were in place. A loop road ran in front of the buildings along the Quad and connected to 13th Avenue, which featured streetcar tracks running down its center. Villard, Deady and Fenton fronted Hello Walk and formed the western edge of the Quad. The eastern edge was formed by Friendly, McClure, the Girl's Gym and the Electrical Building, of which only Friendly survives today.

An image from the Inception Era shows the class of 1910 or "Senior Bench" in front of Fenton Hall.



ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

At the end of this era the Old Campus Quad was one of three quadrangles on campus, and unique in that it retained its informal forest-like quality. Photographs depict a landscape of large mature conifers and flowering shrubs. All paths appear to be concrete and informal in character, and vehicles were no longer allowed into the area. The Pioneer statue was sited in 1919 and several large firs rose out of the lawn behind it. Lawrence chose this location to emphasize the composition of existing buildings and to link to his campus plan. No new buildings were added to the Quad's western edge, but more dramatic changes took place on the eastern side. There, Lawrence's Art and Architecture building continued to grow and eventually replaced the Girl's Gym. In 1915 Johnson Hall, the new administration building, became the southern terminus of the Quad. The landscaping associated with Johnson Hall was more formal and symmetrical than the rest of the quad. The Japanese Maple outside Johnson was planted c. 1920-1930. 13th Avenue became a busy street, even after the streetcar was removed. The Southern Pacific Railroad also moved its tracks to the other side of the Mill Race and built the retaining wall. Cuthbert envisioned a tunnel under Franklin Boulevard connecting the Quad to the beautifully landscaped millrace area. This plan never came to fruition.

Landscape Resource Survey
OLD CAMPUS QUADRANGLE



1944 aerial

A 1921 aerial view shows the informal forest-like quality of the Old Campus Quad.



ERA DESCRIPTION:

The Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

At the conclusion of this era, the Quad would have looked much younger than it did in the previous era. This was largely due to the effects of the 1962 Columbus Day Storm, which toppled many of the large conifers in the Quad. Shortly before the end of the era a new planting plan was devised by landscape architecture faculty member Wallace M. "Mack" Ruff, retaining the forest-like character of the Quad. The Quad remained a forest and lawn landscape with many small, newly planted trees intermixed among the mature survivors of the Columbus Day Storm. The new species included dogwoods, flowering cherries, and magnolias. Building changes occurred again on the Quad's eastern edge with Allen Hall replacing McClure Hall and the continued expansion of Lawrence Hall. The configuration of paths on the site were somewhat simplified, but retained their original character. The title of "Hello Walk," which had belonged to the path between Fenton and Deady Halls since the Inception Era, was transferred to the path leading to the EMU. On the southern end of the Quad 13th Avenue grew into a busy street, and on the northern end Franklin Boulevard expanded into the space vacated by railroad tracks.



1968 aerial

An image from the Mid-Century Era depicts an open backdrop behind the Pioneer statue.



■ **DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS**

LAND USE

Describing both the historic and current use of the Area.

The Quadrangle was the formal university outdoor space during the Inception Era. Many campus traditions were associated with the Quad, such as commencement exercises, the Junior Weekend All-Campus Picnic, the annual campus play, Maypole dances, senior drills, and the Faculty Musical Concert. The southern terminus served as the formal entry to Johnson Hall (1915). Today the Quadrangle is used primarily by pedestrians and serves as a quiet refuge from the surrounding bustle of campus activities.

DESIGN INTENT

Describing the overall design intent of the Area.

The design intention of the Old Campus Quad was to create a unique campus landscape area in keeping with Picturesque Era ideals, and was planted informally in the nature of a forest. Ellis Lawrence incorporated this space without much change into his various campus plans with the intention of eventually connection to the millrace according to Cuthbert's plans. Today it accommodates pedestrian circulation and provides a contemplative space to stop and relax between classes.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

Describing the arrangement of physical elements that create a

three-dimensional sense of space.

The quad consists primarily of large, informally planted trees limbed off the ground, affording wide-angle views through the landscape. Clearings are found in amongst the mature trees.

TOPOGRAPHY & SITE ORIENTATION

Describe/document gradient, slope orientation and solar access.

The orientation of the rectangular quad is north-south. A retaining wall on the north end provides the stability for the primarily flat site. It has a slight slope of no more than 2% that falls to the east (see diagram below). The large, mature conifers of the site provide little solar access into the interior of the Quad, with the southern entry to the site providing the greatest solar access.

VEGETATION

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

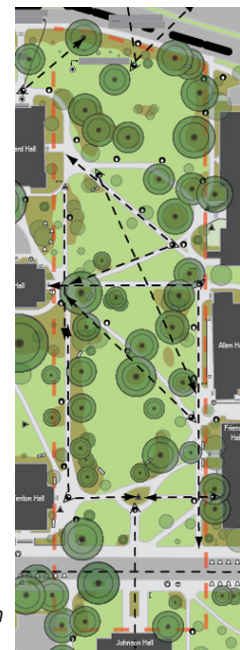
The quadrangle has an informal landscape arrangement, consisting primarily of conifers with sporadic understory plantings. The large conifers are interspersed throughout a patchwork of lawn. The grass has been removed from the drip line of the conifers to create islands of forest-like duff. Notable trees include the last of the Condon Oaks, where Hillyard Shaw, an agent for the Hudson's Bay Company and one of the first settlers in Lane County built his home. Other trees include



The topography of the area.



Diagram noting circulation paths.



Significant views through the area.

various “Dollar Trees” and class trees (map p. 2). A Japanese Maple and London Planetree line the walk leading to the Johnson Hall entry, whose landscaping is more formal and symmetrical than the rest of the Quad.

NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES

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

The forest-like qualities of the Old Campus Quad provide some of the best wildlife habitat on campus for bird and mammal species. In fact, this Quad is part of a designated wildlife corridor that runs south from the millrace to the Pioneer Cemetery. There is one designated wildlife tree within this Quad (map p. 2).

A slight slope pushes water towards the eastern edge of the site. Excluding large storm events, most of the stormwater has time to percolate into the soil. The largely permeable ground layer supports many large and healthy trees, despite the winter’s high water table.

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES

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

Many prominent entries of adjacent buildings face the Old Campus Quad, including Deady Hall, Villard Hall, Fenton Hall, Allen Hall and Lawrence Hall. At three and four stories, these buildings provide a sense of enclosure to the space. Mature trees and plantings near building foundations help integrate the structures into the landscape.

SMALL-SCALE ELEMENTS

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

Memorial plaques, most notable of which are from the classes of 1897 and 1900, along with many benches and trees are interspersed within the quad. The most historically significant small-scale elements include: the Pioneer statue, sculpted by Alexander Phimster Proctor and set in 1918 on a base of McKenzie River basalt; class stone of 1893, from Spencer Butte; and the class fountains of 1913 and 1920.

EDGE CONDITIONS AND ADJACENCIES

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

The northern boundary of the site is perched 10-15 feet above Franklin Boulevard and opens

to views beyond. The western edge is defined by three of the oldest buildings on campus, with generous spaces between the buildings. A mixture of buildings from multiple eras defines the eastern edge, with comparably less space between them. The southern edge of the Old Campus Quad is defined by 13th Avenue and Johnson Hall.

CIRCULATION

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

Two linear pathways running north-south define the Quad’s eastern and western edges, with numerous pedestrian paths crossing the center (see diagram on page 6). The southern portion of the Quad is bisected by 13th Avenue, which is one of the most heavily trafficked bicycle and pedestrian routes on campus. All of the pathways are made of concrete, however there is one unofficial, unpaved path that links the northern portion of Villard Hall to the northern portion of Lawrence Hall.

Historically, the concrete pathway that runs along the western edge of the Old Campus Quad was referred to as “Hello Lane”. This pathway, which was heavily used, was given this name because underclassmen were required to greet senior students along this axis or risk getting thrown into the “frosh pond” (the former Carson’s Lake).

VIEWS/VISTAS

Describing focal points and views to and from the Area.

The northern edge overlooks Franklin Boulevard providing open views to the Millrace area. Linear vistas are aligned with the walkways along the eastern and western edges of the Quad (see diagram on page 6). Opportunistic, picturesque views are abundant throughout the Quad. Views from the west to the east are often obstructed but open up along the pathways. The entries of Friendly and Fenton Halls are axially aligned to view the Pioneer statue. The Pioneer statue is also axially aligned with Johnson Hall and the Pioneer Mother statue sited directly behind Johnson Hall. The Pioneer statue is a focal point for pedestrians passing by the Old Campus Quad along 13th Avenue, and this view is enhanced at night by dramatic backlighting.

■ **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

CURRENT HISTORIC DESIGNATION

- City Landmark
- National Register - full listing
name:
- National Register - partial listing
name: Deady and Villard Halls
- 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.

The Old Campus Quad is the oldest and largest intact designed open space on campus. It meets criterion A for its association with the beginnings of the University of Oregon and its continued use as a campus open space. It is directly associated with two National Historic Landmarks – Deady and Villard Halls, which represent the establishment of the University. The Quad has been the site of innumerable campus activities from commencements to large university-wide picnics.

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 Old Campus Quad meets criterion C for its association with the original campus landscape plan and later its role in Ellis Lawrence’s campus plan. The Quadrangle is distinctive in its Picturesque Era design, and unique on the university campus. It incorporates the scheme of Dr. John Straub, professor (1878-1934), past University of Oregon President and Dean, who advocated that the campus planting in the Quad should approximate a forest-like appearance. After the 1962 Columbus Day Storm, landscape architect, Wallace M. “Mack” Ruff, designed the planting plan to revitalize the Quad. Other small scale elements of historic importance exist, such as the “Pioneer” statue, designed and completed in 1918 by Alexander Phimster Proctor.

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?

Many important buildings and small scale elements are still in their original location. The Class of 1910 bench, which was originally located in the southern portion of the Old Campus Quad, has since been relocated to the Straub Hall Green. The majority of today’s circulation routes date back to the Inception Era, including the extant alignment of “Hello Lane”.

DESIGN

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

The Old Campus Quad retains a high degree of design integrity, with the most notable changes involving the demolition of McClure Hall, the subsequent expansion of Allen Hall, and the many additions to Lawrence Hall. There is less lawn area now than during the Inception Era, which at that time extended up to the trunks of the many large trees.

MATERIALS

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

The Quad contains many historic trees, the most notable of which are the Condon Oak and the Big-leaf maple near the eastern façade of Deady Hall.

There is significantly less lawn within the Quad than there was during the Inception Era, and many of the trees in this space are now underplanted with native shrubs and perennials.

WORKMANSHIP

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

The workmanship within the Quad is characteristic of the Inception Era, and includes many small scale elements and arrangements of vegetation.

FEELING

Does the landscape evoke the period of significance?

The Old Campus Quad quite effectively evokes a feeling of the Inception Era. The large trees, the surrounding buildings and the historic small scale elements within the Quad all lend the space a sense of antiquity.

ASSOCIATION

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

The Old Campus Quad is the original large open space on the university campus. This space, as conceived by Professor John Straub, was to be planted informally and evoke the sense of a forest. Today, the Old Campus Quad still consists of an assortment of largely native and deciduous conifers

■ **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.
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- 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.
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- Aerial photograph of the University of Oregon, 1968. The University of Oregon Map Library, Aerial Photo Collection.
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- 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/hlp-surveyofflandareas.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.