

University of Oregon Historic Buildings and Landscapes

University Planning Office, October 2007

This self-guided tour will lead you through the historical development of the University of Oregon's buildings and landscapes as they were designed in the Inception Era, the Lawrence/Cuthbert Era, and the Mid-Century Era.

It will take approximately one hour to complete this one-mile tour, which is marked on the map above. Please begin at the star marked on the map at the intersection of 13th Avenue and University Street.

Inception Era (1876-1913)

This first era marks the establishment and early development of the university with the construction of the first building in 1876 (Deady Hall).

Inception Era

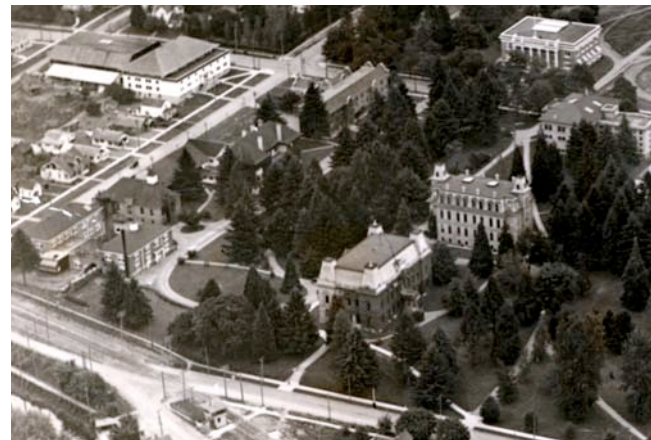
1 - The Collier House was built in 1886 and served as the home to Dr. George Haskell Collier, a physics professor at the university from 1879-1895. Dr. Collier had purchased 9.5 acres on the edge of campus for his family's residence. Soon after the house was completed, it played a central role for community gatherings, meetings, and parties. In 1900 the Board of Regents voted to have it permanently house the university president. In 1976 it was designated a Eugene City Historic Landmark and survives as a remnant of the late-Victorian era of Eugene's development.

Inception Era

2 - The Old Campus Quadrangle was the center of the original 18-acre campus and is home to a collection of the oldest buildings on campus, such as the first dormitory, Friendly Hall (1893), to the east, the first library, Fenton Hall (1906), to the west, and the *Pioneer statue* by Alexander Phimster Proctor (1918).

The Old Campus Quadrangle is illustrative of the Picturesque Era of campus planning. Once a barren knoll, it was planted with trees, the majority of which were coniferous, and lawns, providing the informal forest-like appearance seen today.

Walk along the eastern sidewalk to stop #3. This is known as "Hello Walk" because everyone was obligated to say "Hello" on this once central and active walkway. As you approach the third stop, notice the Big Leaf Maple tree in front of the Deady Hall east entrance. It is the only remaining "Dollar Tree" planted in 1884 by the university's janitor under an agreement in which he was paid \$1 for every tree planted and another \$1 if it survived.



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

Inception Era

3 - The first building on the university campus, Deady Hall, was built in 1876. Deady Hall is a National Historic Landmark, the highest ranking for any historic building. It is one of only fifteen in Oregon. The original wood floors were two feet thick and filled with earth to deaden sound and provide a source of radiant heat after the wood stoves cooled down. Originally the brickwork was unpainted until 1891, when a layer of gray, sanded paint was applied to match the second university building to the north, Villard Hall.

Inception Era

4 - Another National Historic Landmark, Villard Hall was the second building constructed on the campus in 1886. Villard was designed in the Second Empire style with a dual-pitched mansard roof and ornate decorative elements on the building's facade. *Notice the similarity in styles between Villard Hall and Deady Hall.* In addition, *notice the Oregon Oak, known as the Condon Oak, the last of the three original Oregon Oaks at the north end of the Old Campus Quadrangle.* When the university was established, these three were the only trees on this once barren knoll.

Inception Era

5 - The Deady Hall Walk Axis begins at what was the first formal entrance onto campus at Kincaid Street, connecting the Eugene community to the first university building, Deady Hall. Around 1896 the allée of Douglas fir trees was planted on either side of the concrete walk. *Underfoot you will notice historic concrete sections with inscriptions from past annual University Days—a continuing tradition for students, faculty, and staff to join together and spruce up the campus.*



An early image of the Axis showing the newly-planted Douglas fir trees.



McKenzie interior showing roughcast concrete.

Mid-Century Era

6 - McKenzie Hall was completed in 1970 to house the Law School, which had outgrown its previous home, Fenton Hall. With its exposed concrete construction, it was intended to be a modernist interpretation of Fenton. McKenzie Hall is a fine example of the Brutalist style with its over-scale geometric massing and use of roughcast concrete for a textural effect.

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era (1914-1946)

The second era of development began when Ellis F. Lawrence was hired in 1914 to be the University of Oregon's architect and dean of the new school of art and architecture (now Architecture and Allied Arts). Lawrence developed the university's first master plan in 1914 expanding the 100-acre campus south of 13th Avenue and integrating the Gothic quadrangular plan with the axial arrangement espoused by the Beaux-Arts style. This era sparked the creation of formal arrangements on campus with formal connections to the city of Eugene, and substantial development under the direction of Lawrence until his death in 1946. Frederick A. Cuthbert, hired in 1933 to start the department of landscape architecture and to serve as the university's landscape architect, collaborated with Lawrence on many projects.

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

7 - The Dads' Gates Axis was to be one of Ellis F. Lawrence's formal entries to the campus, connecting 11th Avenue to 13th Avenue and the Memorial Quadrangle. It was planned to be an important entry point since the train was to stop where the current Emerald Express transit station is located. Dads' Gates to the north is a rare example of quality ironwork in Eugene and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Little has been done to reinforce this axis; however, the *Lillis Business Complex* acknowledges the axis through its glazed atrium providing a connection to and view of the Memorial Quad beyond. *Walk through the atrium to stop #8.*



A 1921 image showing Peterson and Gilbert Halls, with the area later to become the Axis extending northward between them.

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

8 - As early as 1914 the **Memorial Quadrangle** was part of Ellis Lawrence's campus plan to be a more formally designed campus open space. It continues to function as an active and well-liked space within the academic core. The distinctive 'X' and 'O' paths of the quad, along with the Knight Library's terrace and fountain, were designed by Frederick Cuthbert in 1932.



View of the Memorial Quad with the Schnitzer Museum of Art on the right.

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

9 - Knight Library, at the southern terminus of the Memorial Quad, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. The library has been referred to as Oregon's best example of integrated art and architecture. It is the most fully executed of Lawrence's buildings, incorporating sculpture, painting, and metalwork, much done by students, graduates, and professors. *Take a walk through the library's front section to experience the interior metalwork and artwork.*



View from within the PLC courtyard in the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

10 - The University of Oregon's **Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art** was constructed in 1930 and is listed in the National Register. Designed by Ellis Lawrence, the art museum is classified as "Exotic" with its Romanesque, Gothic, Islamic, Eclectic, and Modernistic influences. The front façade is an outstanding example of the use of decorative brick and cast stone to achieve rich textural effects, a device Lawrence employed to compensate for the windowless design of the original building. *If possible, tour the interior PLC courtyard.*

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

11 - The **Pioneer Axis** was historically called the Women's Quad. Around the 1920s, the university experienced a tremendous increase in female student enrollment. Lawrence designed new women's dormitories, Hendricks and Susan Campbell Halls, and a physical education building, Gerlinger Hall, all listed in the National Register, to form the Women's Quad. In 1930 the *Pioneer Mother statue* was sited here by Alexander Phimster Proctor, the same sculptor who created the *Pioneer statue* located in the Old Campus Quad. A designed view has been maintained within the Pioneer Axis, so that from the *Pioneer Mother* you can see the *Pioneer* through the glazed doors of *Johnson Hall*.

Lawrence/Cuthbert Era

12 - Hayward Field is named in honor of Bill Hayward who coached the men's track team from 1904 to 1947. Originally a cow pasture, the athletic field was moved to this new location in 1919 and used as a football field until 1921 when a six-lane track was added. In 1925, Ellis Lawrence designed the existing **Hayward Field East Grandstand**, whose significance stems from the context of events that have occurred at this site, including the numerous track legends who competed here. *Take some time to read through the Powell Plaza displays at the corner of 15th Avenue and Agate Street, which commemorate these legends at one of the nation's most important track fields.*

Mid-Century Era (1947-1974)

Near the end of the Second World War the University of Oregon's enrollment almost tripled to 6,467 students between 1944-1946. The campus grew to 202 acres. Following Lawrence's death in 1946, an assortment of architects designed buildings in a range of expressions without a master plan to follow. Throughout the 1950s new construction included dormitories and a number of academic buildings, many of which were influenced by the International Modernist movement. This prevalent style of the time took advantage of a variety of exterior materials readily available, including steel, glass, and concrete as seen at McKenzie Hall, the 6th stop on this tour.

Mid-Century Era

13 - The **Erb Memorial Union**, built in 1950 and expanded in the 1970s, represents a range of building styles from this era. The EMU was designed as a catalyst for students to approach the administration about important student issues, as well as a place where students could study or relax. The *amphitheater* was remodeled in 1998 and further supports the EMU's purpose. The original portion of the EMU, facing University Street, is a brick building in the Modernist style. A major addition in the 1970s was built on the northeast side of the EMU in the Brutalist style of concrete.

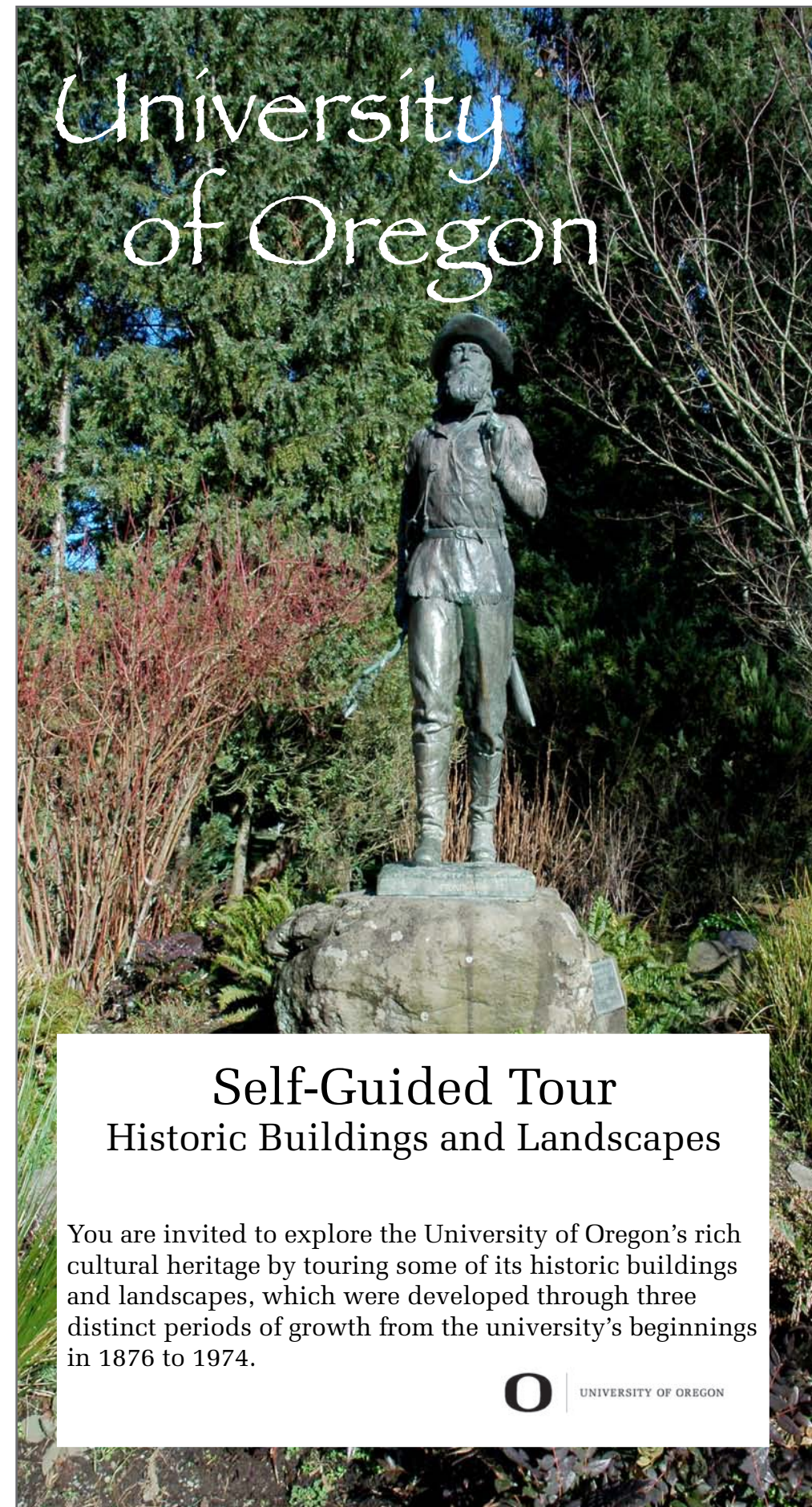


EMU site plan.

All eras

14 - Street trees are the primary historic feature associated with the **13th Avenue Axis** from its days as a busy city arterial. Originally boardwalks lined the Avenue and an electric streetcar ran on tracks down the middle. Today it serves as the main east-west pedestrian and bike axis on campus

Visit the University Planning Office website for more information on the university's historic buildings and landscapes:
<http://uplan.uoregon.edu/>



University of Oregon

Self-Guided Tour Historic Buildings and Landscapes

You are invited to explore the University of Oregon's rich cultural heritage by touring some of its historic buildings and landscapes, which were developed through three distinct periods of growth from the university's beginnings in 1876 to 1974.

