

The Proposed South University Historic District

WALKING TOUR

1. Edison School - 1328 East 22nd

This two story brick school was designed by Eugene architect Theodore Gerow in 1926. The school is named for Thomas Edison, who wrote a letter acknowledging the honor bestowed upon him. The original building consisted of merely eight classrooms, an office and an open play space with a covered roof between the two classroom wings.

2. Clarence V. Boyer House - 1138 East 22nd

The Boyer House was built in 1927 for \$9,000. It is a replica of the Governor's Mansion in Williamsburg, Virginia and is a great example of the Colonial Revival style. The house was built for C.V. Boyer, who was head of the UO English Department in 1925, and in 1934 was appointed president of the University.

3 & 3a. Thurston Hall & Humbert Hall - 2288 & 2244 Alder

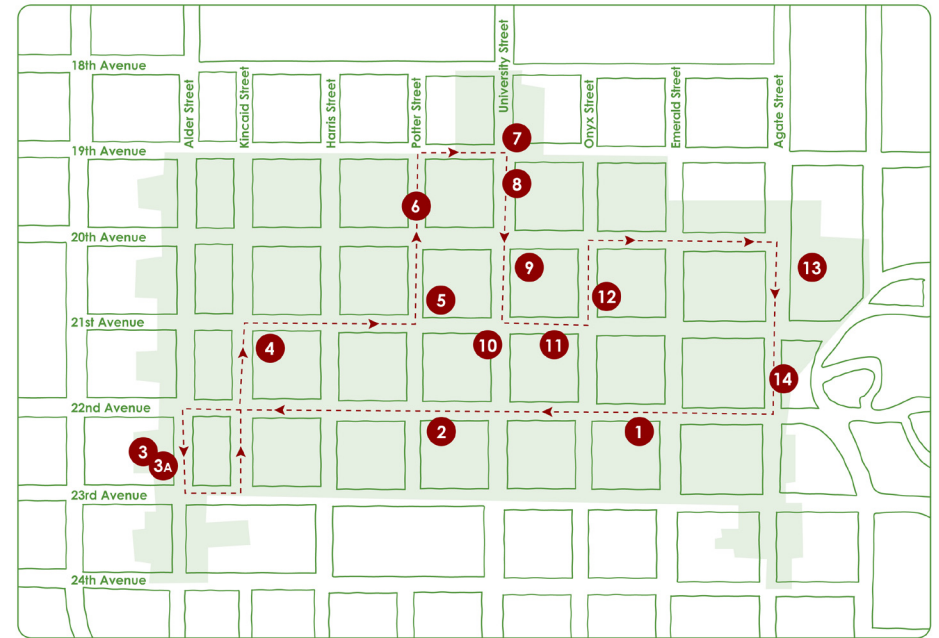
These two buildings, which are almost identical, were built between 1925 and 1927. At least one, 2244 Alder, was constructed as a dormitory for Northwest Christian College. Both buildings served as boarding houses during the 1930's, providing lodging to many Eugeneans. The building at 2288 also served for a time as the Northwest Christian Old Peoples Home.

4. James Scott McMurry House - 930 East 21st

The James Scott McMurry home is the oldest in our proposed district. It was built in about 1885 for James Scott McMurry, son of Fielding McMurry, whose large farm covered this entire area prior to 1900. Portions of the farm became our neighborhood and the University of Oregon campus. This home, built in the Gothic Vernacular style, was moved to 930 E. 21st in about 1910 from 2335 Alder.

5. E.D. Southmayd House - 2089 Potter

In 1912, E.D. Southmayd received a permit to build a residence on this site. It was the second house built on Potter Street in the area. Southmayd sold the house in 1923 to Earl L. Packard, a professor of geology at the UO. In 1932, the property was purchased by John and Alice Seavey, who lived in the house until 1965. The low slung form of the house and full width porch are typical of the highly popular Bungalow style.



6. Potter & University Streetscapes

The Lane County Investment Company placed deed restrictions on lots on Potter and University Streets, requiring a 15 foot setback on Potter and a 30 foot setback on University. The restrictions also stipulated that houses built on these lots must cost a minimum of \$2,000. The developers further influenced the look of these streets by planting birch trees in the parking strip, particularly on University Street. However, stone walls and street trees are common throughout the neighborhood.

7. Old Delta Tau Delta Fraternity - 1883 University

Several fraternities and sororities are located in the South University neighborhood, because of its close proximity to the University of Oregon. The Delta Tau Delta Fraternity was designed by noted Oregon architect Ellis F. Lawrence in 1928. Lawrence was the dean of the UO School of Architecture and Allied Arts for many years. The Delta Tau Delta Fraternity moved across the street in 1949.

8. Streetcar Tracks on University Street

These twin metal tracks buried in the asphalt on University Street are a remnant of Eugene's once flourishing electric streetcar system. The streetcar lines were built in 1907 and ran from the train depot at 5th and Willamette, to the UO, and south down University Street. They were paved over when the city abandoned streetcars in favor of buses in 1927.

9. 2015 University

This Arts & Crafts style home was designed by architect Cardinal Lyle Kelly in 1927 for retired dentist Carl Smith. Kelly was a UO professor of business administration but was an amateur architect. Kelly designed at least five houses in South University, including the Osborn Duplex located at 2261-63 University and his own home at 2243 University.

10. J.F. & Susy Gerot House - 2114 University

This house was built in 1924 for the Gerots, proprietors of a restaurant in the Smeede Hotel building. It was constructed by Will Goodlove in the Dutch Colonial style. This historic photo shows what the Gerot House and its University Street surroundings looked like in the mid 1920's. The Gerots had a colorful rock garden that, according to reports, "brightened a block that was largely empty meadow."

11. Ray & Mary Glass House - 1256 East 21st

This English Cottage style house was built in 1927 for Ray and Mary Glass. Its subterranean garage and beautiful garden are typical of the South University neighborhood.

12. 2077 Onyx

This single-story Craftsman home with a low-pitched gable roof was recently restored to highlight its decorative features. It was built in 1912; electricity was added in 1914. It sold for \$1,000 in 1916.

13. Washburne Park - East side of Agate Street

Washburne Park, originally private gardens on the estate of Carl and Narcissa Washburne, were designed by Portland landscape architect George Otten in 1925. Carl Washburne was a local businessman and co-owned an early department store. The gardens are now the core of Washburne Park, which was purchased by the City of Eugene in 1961. The park's basalt retaining walls, wading pool and mature trees date from the 1920's when the gardens were part of Carl and Narcissa's estate.

14. The Baker Bungalow

This Craftsman bungalow was built in 1914 by William B. Baker, at a cost of \$3,000. In the 1930's, the property was purchased by George Turnbull, a professor of journalism at UO. He and his wife Mary owned the house up into the mid-1970s. The house looks much as it did when it was built by Baker.