

Campus area may become 'historical' site

By CHARLENE BELL
Of the Emerald

South University Neighborhood Association members fear increased apartment conversions are threatening the "nostalgic charm" of the neighborhood's pre-depression style, particularly in the University and Potter streets area.

So SUNA is asking Eugene's Historic Review Board to designate parts of the neighborhood as an Historic Landmark Area.

The neighborhood association must present tentative boundary lines and a statement of the area's historical significance to the review board this spring to apply for landmark designation.

That acknowledgement would enable property owners to apply for funds through the

city to make restorations or repairs on their homes.

"The designation will also mean that historical material will be available for anyone who wants to learn about the area," says Ruth South, an area resident working on the project.

Residents have worked closely for almost two years with the city's Housing and Community Conservation Office in compiling a preliminary history of the area, using resident interviews, University archives and museum records.

The University and Potter streets area is predominantly composed of structures built between the 1920s and 1930s during a period of architectural revival and experimentation, says Kim Goddard, a masters



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

South University neighborhood homes are under consideration for historic landmark designation.

student in historical preservation of architecture and coordinator for the designation project.

With the exception of a few minor "face-lifts" performed in the 1950s, a large number of Tudor, Georgian and Colonial

revivals in the neighborhood have been maintained in ideal condition by owners, Goddard says. Some homes have rarely changed hands in the past 60 years.

"The entire area was planned with a sort of 'grand avenue' feeling in mind," Goddard says. "University Street is lined with maple and birch trees, the houses are set back from the sidewalks, some surrounded by stone walls still intact from the 20's, all producing a nostalgic walkway appearance."

And area residents' characteristics have seldom changed, Goddard adds. The South University neighborhood is still chiefly composed of upper middle-class professionals, including University professors, lawyers and doctors.

Area residents hope the designation will restrict exterior alterations on the more historic buildings and prevent future owners from demolishing any homes.

Goddard urges property owners in the area to attend a meeting Tuesday at the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, 1886 University St., to discuss the implications of the designation. SUNA members and city staff will be on hand to present research and answer questions.

YWCA offers programs for area students

The Young Women's Christian Association, located at 841 E. 18th St., offers a wide selection of service to the campus community.

And this diversity is its strongest feature, says director Trudy Cooper. The YWCA offers three main programs:

- The Exceptional Friendship Program trains volunteers to help disabled children through one-to-one friendship. The volunteer and child participate in recreational and social activities.

- The Education and Outreach Program has three ongoing projects this term.

A new project that replaces the Brown Bag Lunch Series is the sociology class "Violence Against Women," taught by Cooper.

The program also sponsors lectures and debates on political or social topics.

- The Scholarship Program gave six \$600 scholarships to undergraduate students this year.

The YWCA also helps support a Racial Justice Program, the Rape Crisis Network and the Ethnic Women's Alliance, Cooper says.

"This is the closest thing to a women's center on campus," Cooper says.

Nationally, the YWCA is an activist political group that does legislative work for human rights movements.

The YWCA is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Group membership fee is \$20 a year and individual membership is \$5.



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