

*The McMurry pioneer home, later known as Chichester Place, was located on the land tract that later became the University campus. The house was located at what is now 13th Avenue and University Street, where the EMU now stands.*

## UNIVERSITY

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city of Eugene bought 17.5 acres of land for \$2500 from a local minister. The site extended from a point on 13th Avenue just past the University Bookstore, north to Franklin Boulevard and west to University Street.

In May 1873 the legislature approved the site, and construction promptly began on Deady Hall.

The building had four walls and a roof by the time the fall rains came, but in 1874, construction obstacles prompted the legislature to grant a two-year extension for the university's opening. W.J.J. Scott, a local rancher, assumed a \$5,000 university debt permitting construction to continue.

The building was completed

in the summer of 1876, and was accepted with a charter drafted by Matthew Deady in the last days of the 1876 legislature.

The University opened its doors as Oregon State University on Oct. 16, 1876 to a class of 96 students, with a nearly even mix of men and women.

The city and the University grew together geographically and culturally.

The University originally lay outside the city limits, and it was assumed that the University would grow toward Eugene, Richards said. In fact, the opposite happened, and the University scrambled to acquire more land before it was surrounded by the city.

The property at 14th Avenue and Alder Street, now a parking lot, was the only land toward Eugene that the University

believed the piece of land would be at the center of campus, and it was proposed as a site for a student union.

As a catalyst for cultural change, the university set Eugene apart from other cities of the same size, Richards said.

The University brought intellectuals, musicians and celebrities to campus and to the city, including some who would only come because of the University's liberal reputation. Eugeneans also were given the opportunity to see major political players who included Eugene on their campaign trail because of the University.

The coexistence between campus and city has seen rosy and stormy times, but Eugene might have had a very different cultural identity had it not gone after that white elephant.



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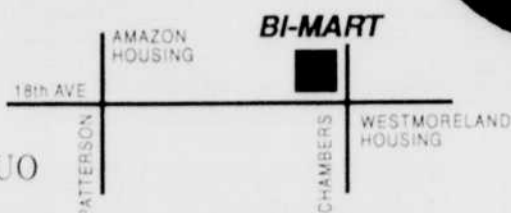
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