Historic Campus Tour

Founded in 1853 by an act of the Victorian Parliament, the University of Melbourne today is a thriving, internationally acknowledged research university and an integral part of the cultural life of the city of Melbourne.

The images contained in this document are from the University of Melbourne Archives image collection.


1. The Ian Potter Museum of Art.

The Ian Potter Museum of Art was designed in 1998 by Nonda Katsalidis and houses the University’s extensive art collection, which ranges from classical antiquity to contemporary art. Features include the external sculpture, Christine O'Loughlin's Cultural Rubble and inside the lobby Napier Waller's Leckie Window, from the original Wilson Hall.

Title: Leckie Window, Old Wilson Hall, University of Melbourne, circa 1935.

Record ID UMA/I/1369

The original campus was set in a large area north of Grattan Street. Today the campus has expanded well beyond these boundaries.
2. Elisabeth Murdoch Building.

Previously named Old Pathology, this building housed the Medical School from the 1880s. Reed and Barnes, a major nineteenth century architectural practice, designed the building. This practice and its successor partnerships designed many of the city’s buildings, including many at the University of Melbourne.

3. Old Geology Building.

Now home to the faculty of Science, the Old Geology Building was constructed in 1927 in red brick instead of sandstone due to budgetary constraints. Outside are outstanding examples of the Gingko tree from China. The western tree is a rare female and bears fruit.

This image is of the original building used for geology before the Old Geology Building was built in Masson Rd in 1927.

4. Architecture building

The Architecture Building was originally designed in the 1960s by then Professor of Architecture Brian Lewis, with a 1990s addition designed by Daryl Jackson. Within
are several sculptures, including *Britannia* and *Goddess* by English sculptor R.S. Jackson in about the 1860s, originally from the ANZ Bank in Collins Street.

Title: Overcrowded conditions in architecture classroom, University of Melbourne, 1958.

Record ID UMA/I/1310

5. Chemistry Building (1938)

This building was designed by the Victorian Public Works Department.

Title: The original Chemistry Building, no longer extant, 1900.

Record ID UMA/I/3146

Title: Professor David Orme Masson in chemistry laboratory, University of Melbourne.

Record ID UMA/I/1251
6. **Union Lawn.**
Union Lawn, also known as the ‘Concrete Lawns’, was originally the site of an ornamental lake which eventually was filled in due to space limitations.

Title: Old Medical Building with lake and lawns in foreground, University of Melbourne.

![Image](http://example.com/image1.jpg)

Record ID UMA/I/1230

7. **Old Commerce Building.**
The Old Commerce Building is now part of Architecture, Building and Planning. An 1856 Reed-designed Bank of New South Wales façade has been incorporated into the original 1941 building.

Title: Rear view of Commerce building, University of Melbourne, circa 1955.

![Image](http://example.com/image2.jpg)

Record ID UMA/I/2031

Title: Commerce Society, University of Melbourne, circa 1933-1935.

![Image](http://example.com/image3.jpg)

Record ID UMA/I/1565

8. **Sun Ribbon Sculpture**
This sculpture was designed by the Australian sculptor Inge King and was donated by Mrs Eileen Kaye Fox in memory of her parents Ernest and Fannie Kaye in 1982.
The Baldwin Spencer Building was formerly the Biology School, and was originally designed by Reed, Henderson and Smart. It is named after the foundation professor of biology, (Sir) Walter Baldwin Spencer, a well known scientist and anthropologist, who encouraged women to study science. Georgina Sweet, one of the first women to be appointed as a lecturer, worked here under Baldwin Spencer’s mentorship.

Title: Professor Walter Baldwin Spencer, University of Melbourne, 1914-1918.

Record ID UMA/I/1120

10. Raymond Priestley Building.
This 1960s ‘slab block’ administration building houses the Vice-Chancellor and senior executive and is named after the University’s first salaried Vice-Chancellor, the geologist and Antarctic explorer Sir Raymond Priestley.
11. Union House.
The original building on this site, designed by Reed and Barnes, housed the National Museum (now Museum Victoria located in Carlton Gardens) from 1863 until 1899. Only a few fragments of the original building are still visible. The George Patton Gallery features contemporary art exhibitions.

12. Bureaurepair Centre (1954)
The Bureurepaire Centre is the result of a generous donation from former Olympic swimming champion Sir Frank Beaurepaire. It also served as a training facility for the 1956 Olympic games, in which the University had a major administrative role to play. A colourful mural by Leonard French graces the foyer. Beyond are the sports oval, running track and colleges. The University has a long and proud tradition of sports.

Title: Women's tennis team, University of Melbourne.  
Record ID UMA/I/1206

Title: Ormond College cricket team, University of Melbourne, circa 1900.  
Record ID UMA/I/1300

Title: Queen's College Rowing Crew, University of Melbourne, 1926.  
Record ID UMA/I/1626

Title: Melbourne University football team, league, 1909.  
Record ID UMA/I/1669

13. MacFarland Court.
MacFarland Court was named after Sir John MacFarland, Chancellor at the time when the first salaried position of Vice-Chancellor was established in the 1930s. Formerly Master of Ormond College, MacFarland dedicated 46 years to University Council, becoming Vice-Chancellor in 1910 and Chancellor in 1918.

Title: Visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of York (later King George VI) and Sir John McFarland, University of Melbourne, 27 April 1927.

Record ID UMA/I/1028

14. Wilson Hall.
The original Wilson Hall, a Gothic Revival style building designed by Reed and Barnes in 1879, burnt down in 1952 and was replaced with this 1956 ‘box’ building by Bates, Smart and McCutcheon. It features a mural and a stained and etched glass screen by Douglas Annand, a pipe organ by George Fincham, and external sculptures by Tom Bass, including the *Trial of Socrates* above the main entrance.

Title: Exterior of Wilson Hall from south east, University of Melbourne, circa 1956.

Record ID UMA/I/1400

15. The Old Quadrangle (1854)
The Old Quadrangle is the oldest building on campus. It was designed by Francis White, with apartments on the east and west wings for the professors. Camellia bushes have been a feature of the courtyard since the 1860s. The southern cloisters were finally realised in 1970.

Title: View of the quadrangle from the south, University of Melbourne, 1901.
16. Foundation Plate
Located inside the Old Quadrangle this plate is a replica of the Foundation Plate as the original disappeared, along with the Foundation Stone.

17. Mildura Branch Plaque
Also located inside the Old Quadrangle the plate commemorates the University’s Mildura branch which operated from 1947 to 1949.

18. Eight-Hour Day Plaque
This plaque is located inside the Old Quadrangle and commemorates a stonemasons’ stop-work in 1856 which launched the campaign for the eight-hour-day, an event of international significance in the history of workers’ conditions and industrial relations.

Title: Law School and lake, University of Melbourne, 1855-1872.

19. Cussonia Court.
Cussonia Court is named for the *Cussonia spicata* tree gracing the middle of the courtyard. This tree was propagated from a cutting from the original tree planted in the 1880s by Professor McCoy, one of the University’s first four professors. The sphere sundial can also be found here.

Title Cussonia Court, University of Melbourne.

Record ID UMA/I/1000

Record ID UMA/I/1743

Record ID UMA/I/2229
20. **Old Arts Building (1924)**
The Old Arts Building is designed along utilitarian lines despite its Gothic Revival exterior look. The lecture theatres are in the centre with offices and classrooms designed on the exterior facing walls.

Title: South elevation of Old Arts Building, University of Melbourne, 6 January 1920.

[Image: South elevation of Old Arts Building, University of Melbourne, 6 January 1920.]

Record ID UMA/I/1094

Title: Old Arts Building, University of Melbourne, circa 1932.

[Image: Old Arts Building, University of Melbourne, circa 1932.]

Record ID UMA/I/2106

21. **Deakin Court.**
The pillars in the middle of the courtyard and at the eastern end are relics saved from the original Gothic Revival style Wilson Hall. The sculptures are by Melbourne sculptor Bruce Armstrong, whose work you can also be seen at the National Gallery of Victoria and Heide Museum of Modern Art. The enormous *Eagle* on Warundjeri Way near Docklands is another example of Armstrong’s work.

Title: Old Wilson Hall fire, University of Melbourne, 25 January 1952.

[Image: Old Wilson Hall fire, University of Melbourne, 25 January 1952.]

Record ID UMA/I/1784

22. **Old Physics Building (1889)**
The Old Physics Building, designed by Reed, Henderson and Smart, now houses the University’s Centre for Indigenous Education and a conference centre.

Title: View of Old Physics Building from north-east, University of Melbourne, circa 1901.
23. **Natural Philosophy Building**
Natural Philosophy was the early term for physics and this building now houses botany facilities including the Herbarium, a collection of over 100,000 botanical specimens, used in teaching and research.

Title: Natural Philosophy School buildings, University of Melbourne, 1892.

24. **University House (1884).**
The founding professors lived in the apartments in the Old Quad. Later a row of houses was built along Professor’s Walk and the only one remaining is University House, built for Professor Nanson, Professor of Mathematics, and noted for his work on Australia’s preferential voting system. It now houses the University staff club and contains a variety of collections, including the Ernst Matthaeci Memorial Collection of Early Glass and the Karagheusian room containing the interior fittings and furniture originally from a Paris apartment, home to Nazareth Karagheusian, who was a Senior Lecturer in the French Department. The verandah was relocated from Ogg’s Pharmacy in Collins Street.

Title: University House Extensions, University of Melbourne, 8 February 1956.

25. **Botany Building (1928)**
The Botany Building is built in brick as opposed to stone for reasons of economy, and contains within another of Napier Waller’s stained glass windows, *Orchids*. Note the Australian garden opposite.
26. Carriage Gates
The Carriage Gates are reputed to be the original front gates relocated from the Grattan Street entrance in the 1950s.

27. System Garden
The System Garden was the creation of the first professor of Natural Science, Frederick McCoy. Begun in 1856, it originally comprised a series of concentric garden beds, organised according to plant classification. The only remnant from that time is the tower which formed the centre of an octagonal glasshouse.

28. Port Arthur Stone
The Port Arthur Stone was taken from the Port Arthur church was mounted with a Pilkington-Gibbs heliochronometer, both from the estate of Russell Grimwade.

Title System Garden, University of Melbourne.

Record ID UMA/I/1177
29. **Land and Environment Building.** Originally the School of Agriculture.

Title: School of Agriculture, University of Melbourne, circa 1930.

---

30. **Grainger Museum.** This building was financed in the 1930s by the Melbourne-born composer Percy Grainger to house his extensive autobiographical collection. It is currently closed for building conservation works but the collection is accessible by appointment in the Baillieu Library.

Title: Percy Grainger Museum, University of Melbourne, circa 1935.

---

31. **Conservatorium of Music** (1909), graced with Art Nouveau motifs, was designed by Bates, Peebles and Smart, to face outwards from the rest of the University, with sound-proofed rooms. Inside is the Melba Hall auditorium and a number of key portraits including one of the soprano Dame Nellie Melba and one of Francis Ormond.

Title: Conservatorium, University of Melbourne, 1921-1926.

---

32. **Babel building** (1946) is so named because it originally housed the European language teaching departments.

Title Babel building, University of Melbourne, circa 1955.
33. **Baillieu Library.** The largest library on campus, houses the main arts, humanities and social sciences collections as well as undergraduate material for physics and mathematics. It also houses the Louise Hanson-Dyer Music Library, East Asian Collection, and the Special Collections which include rare books and manuscripts. The bookshop sells publications from Melbourne University Publishing, one of the few university presses remaining in Australia, as well as general academic books and supplies.

Title: Interior of old Central Library, University of Melbourne, circa 1901.

34. **Charity Being Kind to the Poor** (1893) This sculpture originally adorned the entrance of the Equitable Life Assurance Building in Collins Street. (no pic)

35. **Western Entrance to Car Park** features *Atlantes* (1880) carved by James Gilbert and originally from the Colonial Bank in Elizabeth Street.

36. **Underground Car Park** (1970), an engineering innovation, employing mushroom-shaped columns to support the roof and accommodate drainage for the lawn and trees above. Its atmospheric interior appeared in the Australian film *Mad Max*. The Ellis Stones garden is adjacent to the car park entrance.

Title: Carpark, University of Melbourne, September 1952.
37. **Medical Precinct.** The University is located next to and forms part of a large biomedical research precinct of world-class standing. The Howard Florey Institute, Microbiology, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute and Bio21 Institute are close by. The Medical History Museum houses artefacts and documents which tell the history of the Medical School. On the corner of Grattan and Elizabeth St is a remnant of the original iron fence which surrounded the campus. It was mostly removed at the request of the Melbourne City Council in return for the provision of electric lighting.

Title: View of Old Medical School, University of Melbourne.

![View of Old Medical School, University of Melbourne](record_id:UMA/I/1258)

38. **South Lawn.** Ellis Stones and Ron Rayment, landscape architects, created this roof garden over the underground car park.

Title: View of Old Wilson Hall along main drive, University of Melbourne, October 1918.

![View of Old Wilson Hall along main drive, University of Melbourne, October 1918](record_id:UMA/I/1209)

39. **John Medley Building** (1971) was designed by Sir Roy Grounds, perhaps best known for his design of the National Gallery of Victoria on St Kilda Road.

Title John Medley Building from the cloisters, University of Melbourne, 14 May 1971.

![John Medley Building from the cloisters, University of Melbourne, 14 May 1971](record_id:UMA/I/1322)
40. **Gatekeeper’s Cottage** (1860) was designed by Joseph Reed. The cottage was a residence up until 1996. It currently houses the Provost’s Office.

Title: View across Grattan Street of main entrance, University of Melbourne, 1901.

![View across Grattan Street of main entrance, University of Melbourne, 1901.](Record ID UMA/I/999)

41. **University Square**: The Alan Gilbert Building houses Australia’s first large-scale building-integrated photovoltaic solar power generator which won an award for sustainable architecture. Law is now located in the building at the southern end of the square. The ICT Building to the west incorporates original nineteenth century terrace houses into the façade, thus preserving the original streetscape.

Title: South west view from Engineering tower, University of Melbourne, circa 1901.

![South west view from Engineering tower, University of Melbourne, circa 1901.](Record ID UMA/I/1025)

42. **Engineering Building** (1899). It was designed by Reed, Smart and Tappin, and was the first permanent home of the first engineering course in Australia. Inside a plaque commemorates the first engineering professor, William Charles Kernot.

Title William Charles Kernot and students, University of Melbourne, circa 1876.

![William Charles Kernot and students, University of Melbourne, circa 1876.](Record ID UMA/I/1232)

43. **1888 Building** (1888). This building is now home the Graduate Centre, but once housed the Melbourne Teachers’ College until 1994 when it became home to the University’s School of Graduate Studies, and now the School of Graduate Research. Features include stained glass windows and ceramic tiled portraits commemorating those staff and students who served in the First World War.
44. **Frank Tate Building** (1939) Originally part of the Melbourne Teachers’ College, this Art Deco building is now home to a learning centre for students providing individual and collaborative learning spaces.

45. **Sidney Myer Asia Centre** (1999) Home to the Asia Institute and Asialink this building was designed by Nation Fender Katsalidis. The Centre promotes public awareness and understanding of Asia. The sculpture *Spirit Wall* which graces the North Eastern corner is by Akio Makigawa.

The University has had a long association with the Myer family which has contributed significantly to the University’s endowment.

**Title** Kenneth B. Myer, 18 December 1971.
**Creator** Wodetzki, Norman, Queensberry Photography, 592 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne.
**Date** 18/12/1971

**Format** Photograph, 11 x 16 cm
**Record ID** UMA/I/2245

Old Premises of the Myer Emporium, including Barkly House at 314-320 Bourke Street, just before being pulled down for new premises.

**Title** Myer Emporium and Barkly House, Bourke Street.

**Creator** Darge, 175 Collins Street, Melbourne.
**Date** 1912