

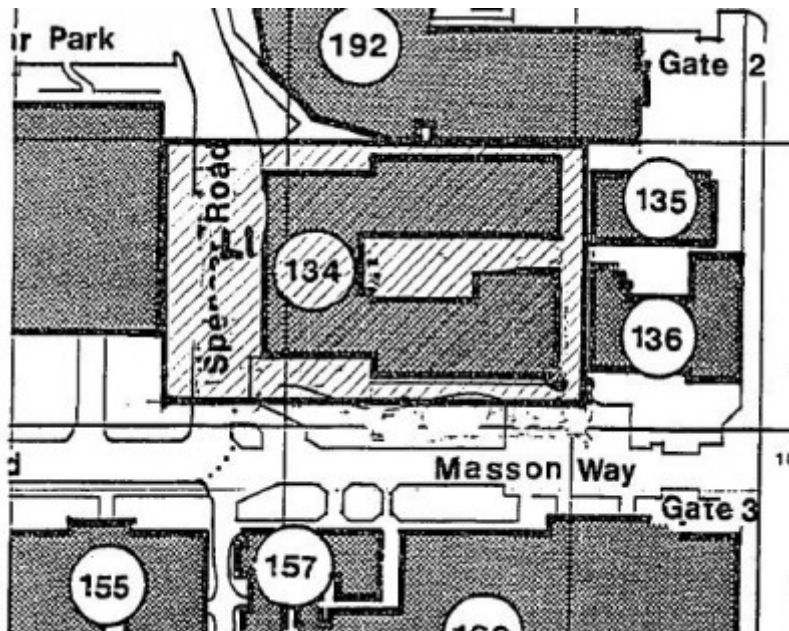
## OLD PATHOLOGY BUILDING



OLD PATHOLOGY  
BUILDING SOHE 2008



1 old pathology building  
university of melbourne  
parkville front entrance  
may 1989



h00922 plan h0922

### Location

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, 156-292 GRATTAN STREET PARKVILLE, MELBOURNE CITY

### Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0922

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO348

## **VHR Registration**

June 24, 1992

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - May 16, 2000

What is significant?

The Old Pathology Building at the University of Melbourne, the south wing of which was originally constructed in 1885, was designed as the new medical school to accommodate the Department of Anatomy and Pathology. The University had established Australia's first medical school in 1862, and the first Professor of Anatomy and Pathology was H B Allen, appointed in 1882. His collection of specimens for a museum of pathology was too large for the Melbourne Hospital and was transferred by deed of gift to the new Medical School. Allen was closely involved in the design process for the new building, designed by architects Reed, Smart and Tappin. The building was extended in 1900 to designs by Smart, Tappin and Peebles.

The two storey building is in the Early English Gothic style, with emphasis on the lancet arch motif. The principle facades have bluestone plinths and are buttressed. The rusticated stone walls are contrasted by the smooth dressed stone of the window openings. The roof is steeply pitched and clad with slates. The north and west wings are constructed of brick with segmental and square headed windows with cream dressings. The south building still illustrates the original concept for the "new medical school", including the spacious Museum of Pathology complete with clerestory windows housing Allen's collection until the 1960s. The two storey gallery space has been converted into two floors. However, the windows, ceiling area, vents and columns remain intact above the false ceiling.

In the 1930s, Peter MacCallum, a successor to Allen, established the Society of Pathology and Experimental Science. As a result five new research laboratories were added in the 1950s.

The north wing, with a first floor added in 1908, was designed to accommodate a dissecting room, associated coffin and preparation rooms, and anatomy lecture theatre. Whilst the partitioning has been substantially modified, some original fittings and spaces remain to demonstrate the former layout of the wing.

How is it significant?

The Old Pathology Building is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Old Pathology building is historically significant as an expansion of the first medical school in Australia. It was significant for the importance it placed on rigorous medical training during the late nineteenth century, when

disease was reaching epidemic proportions.

The building's close association with H B Allen is reflected in the design, to which he contributed, and in the remaining elements of his Museum of Pathology which housed a collection of specimens recording the range of contemporary illnesses and diseases facing the nineteenth century medical profession. In his position as Pathologist to the Melbourne Hospital, Allen was instrumental in establishing clinical pathology teaching at public hospitals, and fostered the establishment of the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for research in pathology and medicine.

The Old Pathology building is architecturally significant as a fine example of early English Gothic architecture, characterised by the use of lancet arches and attached buttresses. The choice of collegiate Gothic demonstrates University Council's resolution that all buildings be built in a consistent style. The later additions, including research laboratories, demonstrate the expansion of the university's important research role in the 1950s.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1885,
Architect/Designer	Reed Henderson & Smart,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ELISABETH MURDOCH THEATRE,
Hermes Number	914
Property Number	

## History

### History of Place:

With government funding, the University established Australia's first medical school in 1862. The University's Department of Anatomy and Pathology was established in 1882 as part of the Medical School, but within 4 years occupied its own building, located immediately south of its first home. Victoria's rising population was suffering an increased mortality rate from typhoid, dysentery and diarrhoea and enteritis. There was a pressing need for research into these diseases and for medical practitioners to treat them. HB Allen was the first Professor of Anatomy and Pathology in 1882. He had a large collection of specimens which he had acquired at Melbourne Hospital. This formed the core of the museum at the new medical school. The government provided a grant of 10,000 pounds to build the new department. The final cost was 11,423 pounds. The University Council insisted on a new policy of Gothic architecture, out of keeping with the Italian facade at the old Medical School.

Associated People: Smart, Tappin and Peebles (architects)

Professor H B Allen

Peter MacCallum

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 922.

### OLD PATHOLOGY BUILDING, THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

(To the extent of:

1. the building known as the Old Pathology Building, University of Melbourne, Parkville shown marked B-1 on Plan 600787G(A), endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

2. the land extending-

**north** - to the Physics Building

**south** - to a line 10 metres from the base of the building

**east** - 10 metres from the base (excluding the Physics Annexe)

**west** - to the Architecture Building -

all this being part of the land described in the Certificate of Title Volume 8876 Folio 379 and marked L-1 on Plan 600787G(B), endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.)

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G24 24 June 1992 pp.1580-1581]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*