

A self-guided walk around the historic Emerald Hill precinct

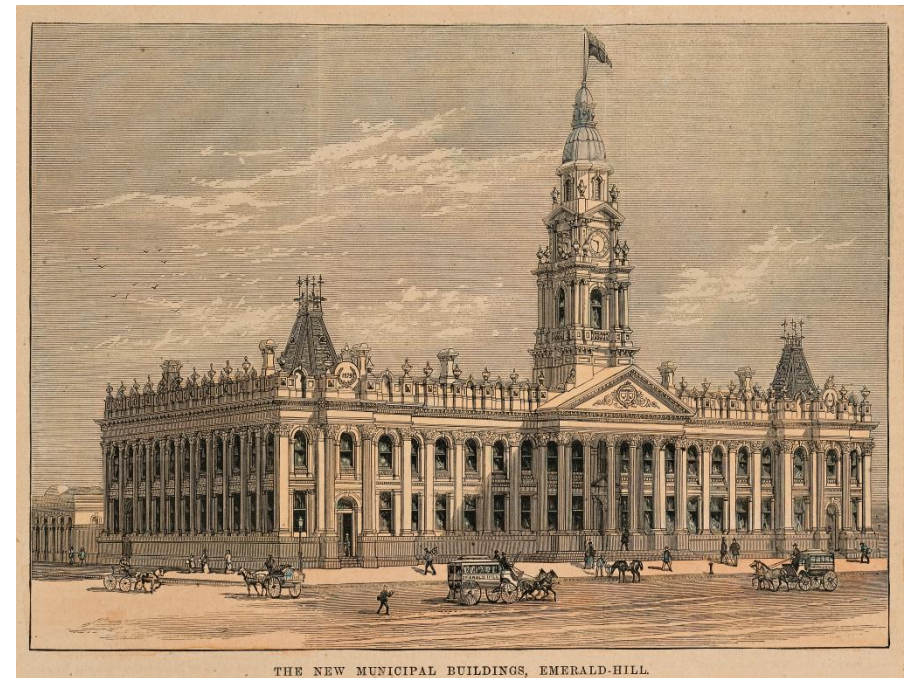
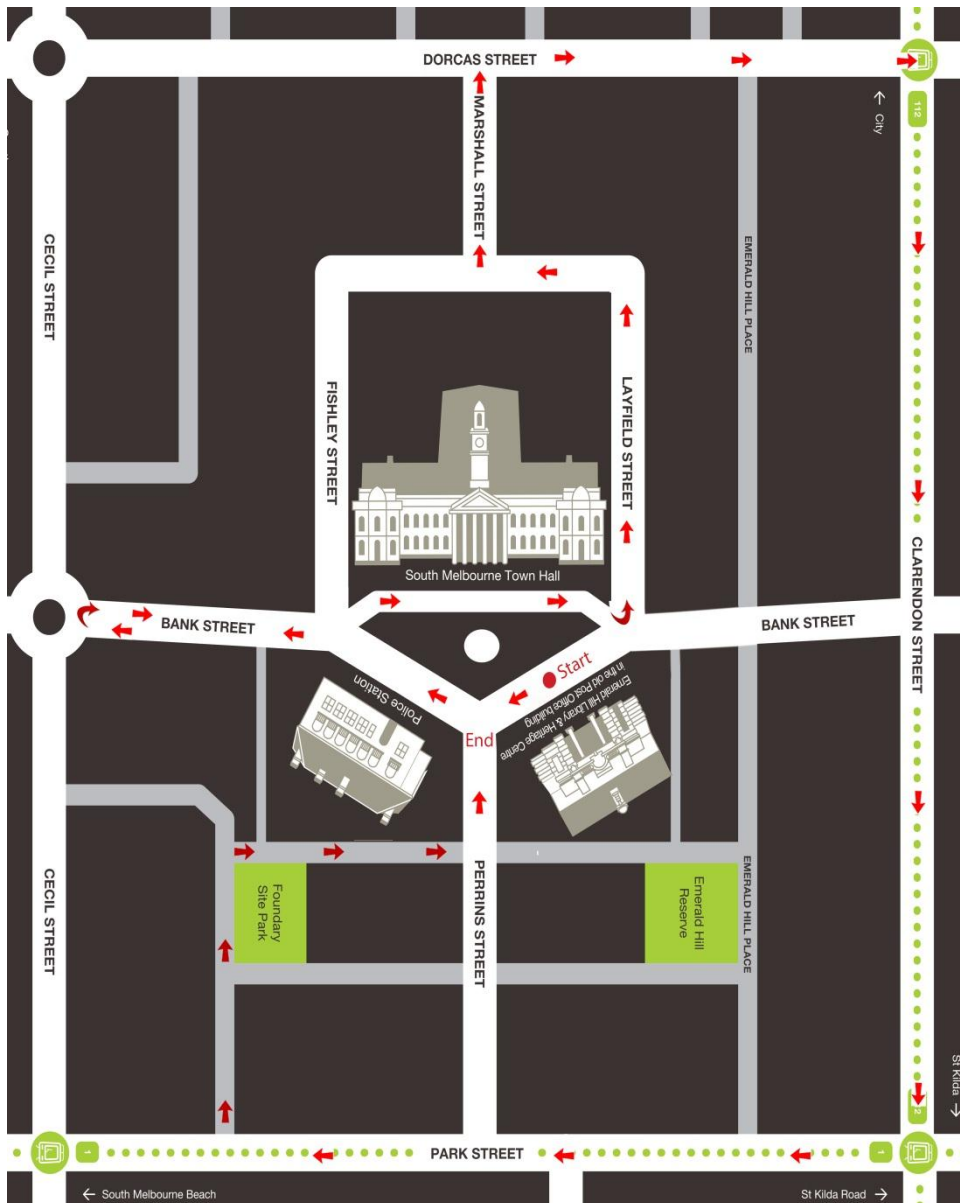


Image: *The New Municipal Buildings, Emerald Hill, 1879, sm0080, PPCC*

On June 29 1855, the first Emerald Hill Council was elected. It chose the motto 'In Ordine Primum' First in the Field, as it was the first suburban district to proceed immediately with an election. Emerald Hill became a borough in 1863, a town in 1872, and a city in 1883. On September 23 of the same year the name was changed to South Melbourne.

In 1851 gold was discovered and its lure drew thousands of people from overseas. Housing in Melbourne rapidly became a problem, so a Canvas Town sprang up on the south side of the Yarra to provide temporary housing. The first land allotments in Emerald Hill were sold in 1852, with some blocks held aside for grants to churches and schools. The prime block on the hill, eleven acres in all was handed over to the Melbourne Protestant Orphan Asylum, which moved there in 1854. This site became a contentious issue for many years, as it effectively divided the township in half and acted as a barrier to Clarendon Street, which by the 1860s had become the main thoroughfare.

When Emerald Hill became a town, civic pride dictated that a new Town Hall be built, and negotiations were entered into for the removal of the orphanage to Brighton. Legislation had to be passed to secure the site for the town, and the new Town Hall was opened in 1880. The area was subdivided and the orphanage continued to collect rents from the site for the next 100 years.



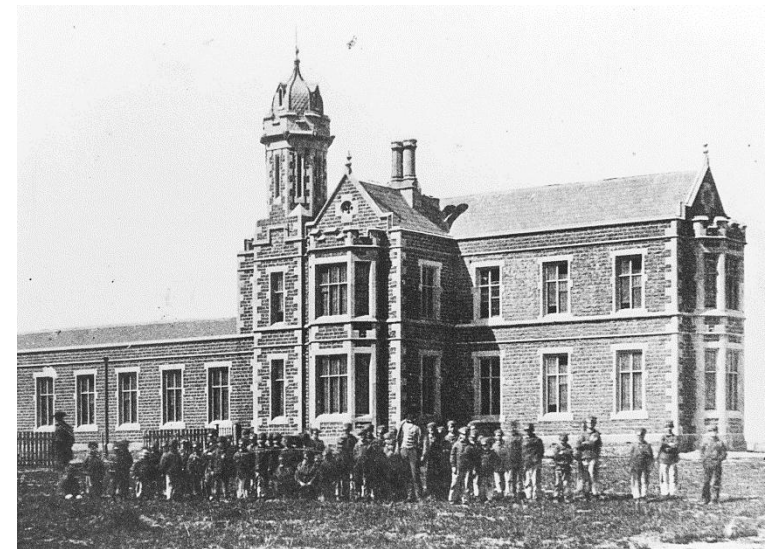
For more information about the Emerald Hill Library & Heritage Centre visit heritage.portphillip.vic.gov.au OR library.portphillip.vic.gov.au



Emerald Hill precinct self-guided walk notes

1. **Town Hall** was opened in June 1880. The architect was Charles Webb who designed the Windsor Hotel, Trades Hall & Melbourne Grammar School. It originally housed the Post & Telegraph Office (left) & Mechanics' Institute & Library (right). The Fire Brigade, Court House & Police Station were at the back of the Town Hall.
2. **195 Bank St.** Post Office moved to here in 1913. Emerald Hill Library moved here 1995. Note the Art Nouveau design.
3. **227 Bank St. Court House & Police Station.** Erected in the Spanish Mission style in 1927. Opened 1928.
4. **239 Bank St.** Built 1882. Dr Lucas' residence and surgery. 12 rooms & stable. Was a doctor's surgery until 1930s.
5. **230 Bank St.** Croft's Stores built in the 1930s. Archibald Crofts Member of Parliament & Mayor of South Melbourne in 1934, was the owner of one of the largest chains of grocery stores in Victoria.
6. **5-8 Layfield St.** (Layfield Street was once called Post Office Place). In 1888 James Perrin, brewer owned these houses. He was one of the directors of the Castlemaine Brewery.
7. **1 Layfield St. McCauley's Warehouse.** Established by Patrick McCauley in the mid-1880s – sold everything from bicycles to bedsteads. See advert on Wall of building in Marshall St. Also see 239-253 Dorcas St.
8. **2 Marshall St** Built 1882. The residence of Reverend William Potter who was the editor of the Record newspaper - building was next door. Rev. Potter was a friend of Government Botanist Baron Ferdinand von Mueller.
9. **259 Dorcas St** The building erected 1882 was the original home of South Melbourne's longest running newspaper 'The Record' 1868-1976). In 1885 the building was sold to a rival newspaper the Courier.
10. **239-253 Dorcas St** Buildings erected in 1885 were a row of shops. By 1905 these were part of Patrick McCauley's Furniture store. In the 1920s these shops were transformed into a terrace of Spanish Mission style houses.
11. **284 Corner of Dorcas & Clarendon Sts.** A chemist shop. In 1904 it became Charles Imes business & continued as a chemist until 1980s. Imes Liver Pills advert on the wall 'a shilling a box'. Motto was: 'a healthy liver is a long liver'.
12. **288 Clarendon St.** George Paulin fruiter opened his Fruit Palace shop in 1883. He advertised his wares as being direct from 'the growers in the Goulburn Valley'. The building was still a greengrocer in the 1990s.
13. **302 Clarendon St.** A.H. Hansen's Booksellers – open book on the pediment.
14. **304 Clarendon St.** In 2014 Mitchell McCabe Tailors moved to here from 306.
15. **306-308 Clarendon St.** Glasgow Bakery William Thomson, caterer for many 19th century Town Hall functions. See wheat sheaf on pediment. In 1905 Mitchell McCabe Tailors occupied the premises.

16. **326 Clarendon St.** William Buckhurst estate agent here. By 1889 the firm was known as Buckhurst & Buxton. Buxtons are still in business as developers. David Wood photographer had rooms upstairs.
17. **352 Clarendon St.** Samuel Potts barber & hairdresser from 1878 still there in 1911 –see glass on top of door
18. **354 Clarendon St.** South Melbourne Building Society run by Matthias Larkin from 1881 was here. At age 28, he was the youngest magistrate in Victoria. Elected to the South Melbourne Council in 1886. In 1891 he embezzled nearly 100,000pounds from the Building Society. Many small investors were wiped out. Larkin was given 6 years hard labour.
19. **100,000pounds** from the Building Society. Many small investors were wiped out. Larkin was given 6 years hard labour.
20. **256-264 Park St.** In 1885 Edwin Harcourt & John Parry's Drapery Emporium opened. In a series of shops they sold men's & women's clothing, fabrics, bedding, haberdashery etc. They advertised as 'Collins Street in South Melbourne'. From 1933-1937 Patross Knitting Mills were here. Today much of the building is taken up with the Australian Tapestry Workshop, whose tapestries are found in public buildings all over the world.
21. **Whole block 'Federal Buildings'.** Built in 1886. One of the shops was James Moreton's bicycle works in 1898. The shops were lit outside by 'Hayward's patent Prismatic pavement lights'. The first time they were used in South Melbourne.
22. **Turn up lane – Foundry Lane.** There was an iron foundry in this area in the early 1900s.
23. **Jubilee Memorial Fountain.** The fountain designed by George Dawe of Carlton. Unveiled on May 26 1905 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Municipality of South Melbourne (1855-1905), and as a memorial to those volunteers who left South Melbourne to fight in the South African War 1899-1902.



Melbourne Orphanage, South Melbourne, c.1870's, sm0527, PPCC