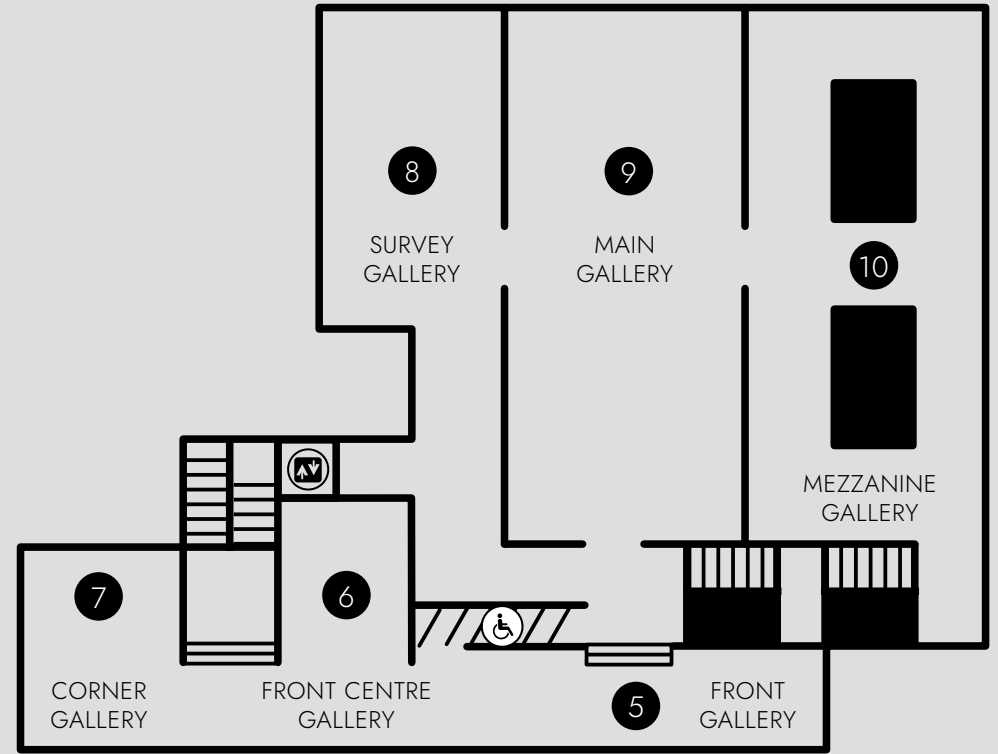


GROUND LEVEL



LEVEL 1



INFORMATION

FEMALE TOILETS

FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

CLOAKING

MALE TOILETS

LIFTS

PARENTING ROOM

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY



VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY c1900



INTERIOR OF WHAT IS NOW GALLERY 9 c1900



ENTRANCE TO QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM & ART GALLERY c1950S

The beginnings of what is now the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery come from collections of the Royal Society of Tasmania and the Launceston Mechanics Institute, founded in 1842.

The Museum itself, originally named the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, was officially opened in 1891 at Royal Park. The project was originally intended to be an exhibition, however the State Government advised that it would prefer to fund a museum.

The Museum building was designed by a young architect by the name of John Duncan, whose design was chosen as part of a competition.

Initially the Museum had a caretaker but no curator. The first curator was Herbert Hedley Scott, who began the role in 1897. Scott quickly built an excellent reputation

with his research and curatorship gaining international attention.

To avoid confusion with the Victorian State Museums, the Launceston City Council agreed to the amended title of 'Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.'

The early collections focused on mineral specimens and natural sciences on the ground floor of the Museum, with art displayed on its upper level. More space was needed, so in 1907 the first extension was built to house a zoological gallery.

In 1927 the Museum gained a significant additional collection, with the purchase of the John Watt Beattie collection, a treasure trove of early colonial history and art, including an extensive convict-related collection.

Scott's successor was his son Eric who was also a well-regarded scientist, and also further developed the historical displays. In the years following, more extensions were built and the collections and research continued to be developed.

In 1998, the Museum began the development of an additional site at the Launceston railway yards in Inveresk which opened in 2001. In 2021, the permanent galleries at Royal Park underwent a re-imagining. Focussing on local Aboriginal cultures, colonial history and modern diversity, the galleries encourage us to contemplate the ever-changing cultural landscape and our sense of belonging within it.