4.5.8 The Curator’s Lodge

The lodge was designed in 1890 by the Public Works Department and was completed in 1891. Initially known as the Caretaker’s Lodge, it replaced an earlier lodge building which was demolished during the 1888 Exhibition. John Guilfoyle was appointed the Curator of Parks and Gardens in 1891 and resided there until 1909 (Figure 75).

The Curator’s Lodge is located in the north-west corner of the North Garden. It is sited in picturesque gardens and dwarfed by a large willow tree. Of particular note are the remnant wrought iron perimeter fence along the Carlton Street boundary and the low iron palisade fence and gates separating the lodge from the gardens.

The house is a single-storey, double-fronted Victorian red brick residence with asymmetrical façade and early Edwardian/Arts and Crafts stylistic features. The original building consisted of five rooms on an L-shaped plan, with a three-roomed outbuilding. The high-pitched gabled roof is clad in square slates and features toothed, terracotta ridge capping and numerous gabled roof vents. The roof is penetrated by two heavy, corbelled red brick chimneys and the brick gable ends have timber fretwork screens. A similarly detailed gable sits above a projecting porch entry and the main roof has a broken back form over an arcaded loggia with segmental arches.

The façades feature heavily moulded, rendered dressings at plinth, sill and head level which have been painted and the brickwork is tuck-pointed in black. The front projection has an oriel bay with tripartite window and three-light highlights. Highlights have rose-coloured cathedral glass. Windows are timber-framed, double-hung sashes and some are paired. Most have full height timber-framed insect screens that appear to be a later addition or have been altered. The front door is four paneled timber and is half-glazed with later obscure glass. A fanlight has clear glass and original hardware. There is a later steel security screen door. The front verandah is edged with dressed bluestone and floored with later concrete. An original beaded timber ceiling is extant and has been painted.

The original rear verandah has been enclosed with weatherboard and a later pergola structure added. An addition to the east of the lodge is clad in weatherboard and has a low pitched skillion roof clad with corrugated galvanized steel.

A single-storey, red brick outbuilding of three rooms was built at the same time as the original lodge. The main room appears to have been used as a wash house and two smaller rooms contained the privy and possibly a firewood store. It is of a rectangular plan with a gabled roof and was detailed to match the house in every way. The entry to the building is through an arch in the style of the lodge loggia. The floor is paved with red brick however the raised privy floor is concrete. The windows are timber-framed casement sashes and one of a pair of timber gates divides the space. To the south of the outbuilding is a weatherboard clad single garage with mono-pitched roof clad with corrugated galvanized steel.

Internally the lodge is in good condition and substantially intact. Carpet covers timber floors, the walls are set plaster and the square set ceilings are mostly set plaster with building paper over. Timber joinery to most rooms is Edwardian in style and one original timber fire surround and mantel exists. New fixtures and services have been installed throughout. The lodge was renovated in 1995 for office use and then repainted in 1998 when it reverted to a residence. In this time the slate roof has been repaired and relaid, using the original and replacement slates.
4.5.9  Cast Iron Palisade Fence & Bluestone Plinth

Originally, the Carlton Gardens were surrounded by a timber picket fence, though this had become dilapidated by the time of the announcement of the 1880 International Exhibition. A cast iron palisade fence was constructed to enclose the Carlton Gardens prior to the opening of the Exhibition in 1880. Only one length of the original fence remains in place (Figure 76).

Located in the north-west corner of the gardens, this length of fence may have survived because it formed the boundary to the Curator’s Lodge in that part of the garden. What remains includes a pedestrian gateway and a single post to major gates to the gardens. End posts to the fence were square, in between were angled palisades both with a three-pointed finial at their top and a pattern of circles within a double iron tie bar. Set upon a tooled basalt base plinth, the fence was broken at entry points where cast iron posts and ornamental gates were erected. They were presumably to the design of the Public Works Department Architect John James Clark, as these gate posts were later registered in Clark’s name in 1882. They were reproduced and used to provide the entrance to the Prince’s Park, Maryborough in 1885.

The fence was manufactured by Johnson and Co. of Melbourne. The presence of the enclosing fence was a great boon to the security and revenue achieved by the Exhibition, however, the fence was expensive to maintain and repair. By the 1920s, garden traditions changed, and it became fashionable to open up public gardens, a notable reversal of the earlier fashion of enclosure. The fence around the greater part of the Carlton gardens was removed in 1927, much of it to be re-erected around the perimeter of the Genazzano College, Cotham Road, Kew. Other portions of the Exhibition fence were relocated to the Alexandra Parade boundary of Melbourne High School, South Yarra, to ‘F’ Gate next to the National Herbarium at the Botanical Gardens and to other unknown destinations.

Figure 75  The Curator’s Lodge.
Figure 76  The remnant section of the 1880 iron palisade fence.

Figure 77  Internal garden bed fencing in the North Garden.
4.5.10 **Internal Garden Bed Fencing**

Internal garden bed fencing has been used within the Carlton Gardens since the 1870s, and is shown on photographs from this period. Fencing of garden beds was a common practice in Victorian parks and gardens, when carefully tended shrubberies were viewed like museum exhibits. Fences were used to prevent trampling and stealing of shrub and flower displays and were moved around the gardens as required. Obsolete and old fencing was also reused as tree guards. The fencing appears to have been extended for the 1880 Exhibition, with two types apparently in use; a curved top, overlapping style, and a simpler, modular iron picket style. Internal fencing was retained within the site after the removal of most of the perimeter fence, at least until the 1940s. Internal fencing within the North Garden remains today. Two small sections of internal garden bed fencing are extant in the North Garden. The fencing is of the modular, iron picket variety. The fencing is located around the internal perimeter of the Curator’s Cottage and was most likely erected in this area following its construction in the 1890’s. A second section of iron fencing is located around a garden bed to the south near the Rathdowne Street frontage. Both sections appear to be in good condition, with only a few missing or bent pickets. The fences are painted green.

4.5.11 **Melbourne Peace Garden**

Of recent origin, the Melbourne Peace Garden was planted by the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet on 5 May 1992, during his visit to Melbourne and assisted by Victorian school children. It is located in an open area of lawn in the south-west of the South Garden, below the western lake. The design was by Paul Bangay and the garden has subsequently been reduced in size. The Peace Garden consists of a central Bodhi tree (*Ficus religiosa*) set within a lawn surrounded by individual shrubs including lion’s ear (*Leonotus leonurus*), buddleia (*Buddleia davidii*), sleepy mallow (*Malvaviscus arboreus*) and Japanese snowball tree (*Viburnum plicatum* ‘Mariesii’) all enclosed within five linear beds of Camellias (*Camellia japonica*). These beds form an enclosing circle.

4.5.12 **Works Depot**

It is not known exactly when the service facilities for both the North and South Gardens were consolidated on the site of the old fire yard in the North Garden, although it is believed to have been during the 1960s. A works depot for the South Garden had occupied the corner of Rathdowne Street and Victoria Parade until the 1960s. The move involved the construction of a cream brick depot building (Figure 78) and associated structures together with an enclosing wire mesh fence. The MCC’s Architecture Office probably designed the building. Access to the site is at the mid-point of the western boundary fence.

An enclosing wire mesh fence separates the depot from the gardens and is augmented by a clipped hedge of privet (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*). Inside the hedge is internal garden fencing, marking the boundary of the original fire yard.

4.5.13 **Tennis Courts & Pavilion**

Four tennis courts and a timber pavilion were constructed on the east side of the North Garden in 1924. The original scheme consisted of two courts and a small changing pavilion. The pavilion was extended in 1927 with the construction of a small buffet/kiosk and verandah on the building’s south side. By 1941, another two tennis courts had been added on the south side of the area. Four courts are surfaced with synthetic material.
Figure 78  The works depot in the North Garden.

Figure 79  The tennis court pavilion, north and east elevations.
The pavilion is of weatherboard and cement sheet construction, with a low-pitched, gabled corrugated iron roof. The verandah on the northern side of the building has been enclosed by cement sheeting, with windows on the north face overlooking the courts. The building is very similar to a tennis pavilion located in the Flagstaff Gardens, and is probably a standard City of Melbourne design for the period.

4.5.14 Playgrounds

Playgrounds have been located in the North Garden since at least 1922 when a playground was erected adjacent to the former ornamental lake designed as part of Clement Hodgkinson’s alterations to the Carlton Gardens. Until recently, a playground (known as the ‘West Playground’, see Figure 80) was located in the vicinity of the lake, which as noted above was paved with asphalt in 1922, served as a wading pool until the 1960s, and was then converted into a children’s traffic school (i.e. a series of paths and small-scale structures on a layout designed to be used by children on bikes, etc).

The traffic school consisted of a perimeter asphalt path that roughly followed the shape of Hodgkinson’s early lake, and a number of internal paths. The sunken nature of the area also reflected the lower contours of the former lake and wading pool. The site was later redeveloped with the playground, which included climbing equipment, slides, etc, but has now been removed.
Figure 81  The East (Junior) playground.

Figure 82  The half basketball court.
The East Playground remains and is located in the south-west corner of the North Garden, immediately adjacent to the new museum complex. The site is defined by a timber edge and a wood chip mulched surface (Figure 81). The play equipment consists of painted steel tube swings and slides, which appears to be refurbished equipment of a 1950s or 1960s origin. A small playhouse of more recent origin is also located in the area.

An earlier playground near the site of the East Playground was removed for the construction of the Children’s Welfare Centre in the 1950s. However, the demolition of the Centre has allowed for the playground to be relocated on the site.

4.5.15 The Half Basketball Court

The half basketball court is located on the west side of the North Garden, immediately adjacent to the new Museum complex. The court is paved in bituminous concrete. A single ring and backboard are sited at the northern and southern end. The basketball court is a late twentieth century introduction to the North Garden (Figure 82). It was probably associated with the Children's Welfare Centre that was sited in this area until recent times.

4.5.16 Toilet Blocks

Toilet blocks have been located within Carlton Gardens since the 1940s. Early plans of these and subsequent structures show large, brick complexes of a fairly utilitarian design. These have been replaced in recent years by smaller decorated cast metal facilities. A toilet block has been erected on the Rathdowne Street frontage of the North and South Garden respectively (Figure 83). The structures are constructed of cast metal panels with a decorative motif and lattice upper openings, and enclosed by a galvanised iron roof. They provide male, female and disabled facilities. The design is based on cast iron urinals found within Carlton and Melbourne, which were constructed at the turn of the century and can still be discovered in some areas. The new toilets are a standard City of Melbourne design.

4.6 Other Gardens Furniture

Drinking fountains appear in a 1930s photograph of the main avenue. They appear to have a cast iron base and enamelled basin, and were probably manufactured by Danks and Co. The current fountains, with the exception of one earlier fountain on a concrete base in the South Garden are of recent origin and are to City of Melbourne standard design.

The North Garden contains two drinking fountains, one along the main path from the north-west corner, the other along the north-east. It is contemporary in design and has a steel frame with unpainted timber battens forming the base and a stainless steel bubbler and bowl. Four drinking fountains are located in the South Garden, three of which have the same design as the North Garden fountain and one of which has a stainless steel bowl and bubbler on a textured concrete base.

4.6.1 Seats

A photograph of the Dolphin Fountain (prior to 1879, see Figure 3, Appendix F) appears to indicate a seat on the path adjacent\textsuperscript{126} and other records indicate that many different types of seats were used throughout Melbourne’s gardens prior to 1870, none of which remain today. Some seats installed after 1920 were probably manufactured by Monier and appear
to have a cast concrete frame with wide painted timber seat and back slats. Seats are located frequently along all paths throughout both the north and south sections of the gardens. Frames are made up of flat bar section, curved to form arm rests and seat support and the seat is of narrow, unpainted timber slats fixed with galvanized bolts. Seats are fixed to a concrete pad. They are a type seen in many of the City of Melbourne gardens. A second type of seat is located adjacent to the Nicholson Street entry to the promenade. These seats have an ornate cast iron end and narrow timber slats to a curved seat.

4.6.2 Picnic Table & Benches

One picnic table and bench set is situated in the North Garden beneath a rare Red Apple (*Acmena Ingens*). It is of wood construction and set on a concrete base.

4.6.3 Lighting

The first gas lamps were erected along the main east-west path in the early 1860s. Ordinarily all the gardens were poorly lit, and only those people who wished to go undetected or en route elsewhere were to be found in them at night. For the visit in 1867 by Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh the gardens were specially lit and decorated. Lamps with cast iron bases and finials and three spherical lamp shades are evident in photographs of the main avenue prior to the 1880 Exhibition. None of the earlier gas lamps or pillars is in existence today. Lights are located frequently along all paths throughout both the North and South Gardens. Contemporary conical patterned glass shades with steel cap and fin-shaped trim are fixed to tapered powder-coated steel posts on a concrete pad footing.

4.6.4 Rubbish Bins

Standard City Of Melbourne rubbish and recycling bins are located near the main path junctions and around the playground area.

Figure 83 The toilet block, Rathdowne Street.
Figure 84  Contemporary drinking fountain, South Garden.

Figure 85  Typical garden seat, South Garden.
Figure 86 Light, South Garden.

Figure 87 Contemporary signage on Victoria Street, South Garden.
4.6.5  Signage

A small amount of earlier signage throughout the gardens appears to be of the inter-war period. The current signage is predominantly to standard City of Melbourne specifications for public signage throughout Melbourne's public gardens and is of very recent installation. Most signage throughout both the North and South Garden is of recent origin (1990s). It is generally of powder-coated steel panel construction of various sizes with painted lettering and graphics. Some earlier signage is still extant and has painted galvanized steel pipe posts with painted timber signs, or in the case of a Parks and Gardens Act sign in the south-west corner of the South Garden, an engraved steel sign.

More recently, to promote the World Heritage Listing, grey steel interpretative signs have been erected in the Exhibition Reserve.

4.7  Melbourne Museum Building

The Melbourne Museum building is located to the north of the Royal Exhibition Building, with the Museum Plaza sited between the two structures (Figure 2). It is a three-storey above ground structure, with back-of-house facilities and substantial underground space including a two-level car park. It accommodates approximately 16,000 square metres of public space and 10,000 square metres of staff and collections storage areas. The building is cruciform in plan, with the entrance located directly opposite the northern portal of the Royal Exhibition Building. The setback between the Museum and the north façade of the Royal Exhibition Building is approximately 40 metres, allowing for an area of open urban space. The entry foyer to the Museum leads to a large outdoor sheltered exhibition space, with a blade-like roof that rises to the north, on axis with the dome of the Royal Exhibition Building. An east-west circulation spine runs through the building, linking the various galleries and public facilities.

Melbourne Museum is designed as a cluster of parts rather than to be comprehended as a singular, monumental building. Each volume has a different surface treatment, in most cases relating to the function or attraction housed within; a grid-structure also groups the different elements into a unified whole. On the northern boundary the forms reduce in size to soften the impact of the Museum where it meets the Carlton Gardens. The Museum building is also ringed by five courtyard spaces. These enhance the sense of the building’s context and location in a parkland setting, and also enable visitors to pause in their engagement with Museum exhibits.

The materials used across the building include glass, metal and concrete. The southern façade opposite the Royal Exhibition Building is a glazed curtain wall, which reflects the Royal Exhibition Building and allows views to the historic building from a range of vantage points within the Museum. At night, specialised outdoor lighting highlights the major elements of the building and reinforces the main axes.
Figure 88  Eastern courtyard of Melbourne Museum.  
Source: Reproduced from Architecture Australia.

Figure 89  View of Melbourne Museum from the western edge of the Carlton Gardens.  
Source: Reproduced from Architecture Australia.