

UVM Historical Sites Scavenger Hunt

This year, UVM turns 331 years old! Needless to say, there have been a few historically significant people that have passed through our campus. Follow the directions below to learn about some of our most exciting stories. Check each site off as you go!

Need help? Flip to the last page for a map showing each site's location.

1. Andrew Harris Commons and State Historic Marker

Find me: Walk out of the ground floor of the Davis Center toward the Library. You should see a tall green sign in front of you to the right.

Andrew Harris was the first African American Graduate of UVM (1838) and one of the first African-Americans to attend college in the U.S. The green you are standing on is dedicated to him. Can you imagine Burlington in 1838? It was a small waterfront town surrounded by farms and woods.



2. Vermont Catamount

Find me: Follow the sidewalk past the Library's front steps. The catamount will be ahead of you climbing off its boulder.

Did you know the Catamount is UVM's mascot? The catamount is a mountain cat also known as a panther or mountain lion. UVM students in 1928 voted on what the school mascot would be. The choices were a tomcat, a camel, a cow or a catamount. The catamount won by a vote of 138-126. Can you imagine... the UVM Camels?!



3. Historic Pump House

Find me: Turn around to face Main Street and follow the sidewalk to the stop light. No need to cross the road, the pump house is visible from this side!

This pump house is a result of a 1866 report stating that Burlington's water system could no longer sustain the population! Originally called The Gate House, this decorative mini-building was built in 1868 to add beauty to the new Burlington water reservoir. The raised bit of land to the left of the pump house is still home to part of Burlington's water system.



Bonus: On your way to the next landmark, can you find some bunches of grapes decorating a doorway? Hint: go around the front of the red-roofed building.

4. Old Mill Bell

Find me: Do you see the bell tower? Walk toward the building it sits on. You should see a big bell sitting at the foot of the building facing Royall Tyler Theater.

The Old Mill Bell was cast in 1830 and was originally housed in a bell tower on top of the building. It was rung to signal the end of each class period. But when the building was renovated in the 1880s, the bell tower was redesigned and there was no more room for the bell itself.

Bonus: Can you find... a sundial? This sundial shows the time *and* daylight savings time.



5. Statue of Ira Allen

Find me: Cross the street and keep going downhill until you see our next site peeking over the bushes.

The green you are standing on is part of the original piece of land donated by Ira Allen to start the university! Ira was the founder of UVM and fought in the Revolutionary War with the Green Mountain Boys. Have you heard of Ethan Allen? Ira was his younger brother! This statue was dedicated in 1921 and every year, the school dresses him up in a cap and gown for graduation.

Bonus: On your way to the next site, keep an eye out for a perfectly round boulder...



6. Bronze bust of John Purple Howard

Find me: Take the sidewalk to the left of Ira Allen and go uphill toward Old Mill. You will see him guarding the center section.

John Purple Howard was a Burlington philanthropist who paid for the 1882 renovation of Old Mill. This statue was placed here in 1883, but was later removed and accidentally put in an attic and forgotten there! It was returned to the building in 1968.

Bonus: Can you find the stone marking John P Howard's rebuild of Old Mill in 1882?



7. Scientists on Williams

Find me: Walk along "University Row" (the line of big brick buildings you see to your left) until you reach Williams Hall. Can you find the carvings of three famous scientists?



Originally built as a science building in 1896, Williams was outfitted with the very latest scientific instruments. Today, Williams Hall houses the departments of Art and Anthropology. Look up at the three faces carved into the building's façade. These are three scientists who were at the top of their fields when the building was built: Joseph Henry (physics), Samuel Morse (telegraphy – the science of communication systems (telephones!)) and Louis Agassiz (botany).



Bonus: On the way to our next site, can you find this dragon? What is the earliest date you can find on the base stones of Billings Library?

8. Grave of John Dewey

Find me: Keep following the sidewalk north until you get to Ira Allen Chapel. Go around to the left side of the steeple. Tucked in a corner, you will find our next site!

This is the only grave on the UVM campus. It belongs to John Dewey and his wife Roberta. John Dewey was a psychologist, philosopher, educator and political activist that had a huge impact on how students are taught today. Food for thought: John Dewey was born before the Civil War, and died during the age of nuclear weapons! What amazing technological advancements he witnessed.

Bonus: Can you find a diamond set into the bricks underfoot?



9. Statue of Marquis de Lafayette

Find me: Cross over to the main lawn of University Green and you should see our final historic landmark dedicated in 1883.

You may have heard him from the musical *Hamilton*...

"He's constantly confusin', confoundin' the British henchmen / Ev'ryone give it up for America's favorite fighting Frenchman! / Lafayette!"

That's right! General Lafayette himself laid the cornerstone of Old Mill in 1825 when he returned to the U.S. to accept a gift of thanks from Congress for his role in the American Revolution. This statue was created as a reminder of the connection between General Lafayette and Old Mill.

Bonus: On your way back to the Davis Center, see if you can figure out which stone on Old Mill Lafayette laid (hint: it's on the southwest corner of the center section).



Retrace your steps to the Davis Center. One more thing to think about as you walk across campus: UVM admitted its first two female students in 1871. Where are the monuments to women in UVM history?

UVM Historic Site Scavenger Hunt Map

