

Valparaiso University

Historic Tour

Sponsored by the Student Alumni Association
Published 2012



Valparaiso
University

The campus of Valparaiso University is rich in a history that goes back more than 150 years. The campus itself is a visual representation of Valpo's past, a past whose story is told as much through the structures that no longer remain as by the buildings that stand today. This tour will guide you through some of the most historically significant spaces on campus.

Most of this tour can be driven, but walking is encouraged in order to fully appreciate the campus history. Some areas of "old campus" are accessible only by foot. Begin at the University's Route 30 entrance, and travel back in time through Valparaiso University history.

- 1859** Valparaiso Male and Female College was founded as one of the first coeducational colleges in the United States.
- 1871** Valparaiso Male and Female College was forced to suspend instruction because of reverses brought about by the Civil War and tax supported public education.
- 1873** Revived by an enterprising educator, Henry Baker Brown, as the Northern Indiana Normal School and Business Institute, the school became a flourishing proprietary institution.
- 1900** Renamed Valparaiso College.
- 1906** Rechartered as Valparaiso University.
- 1925** The Lutheran University Association, an independent organization founded by the lay members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod to promote higher education in the Lutheran-Christian tradition, purchased the University and operates it today.

<p>1. Kretzmann Hall: Built in 1963, this building was originally named Wesemann Hall and was home to the School of Law until its move to the current Wesemann Hall in 1988. At that time, the building was remodeled and renamed for Otto Paul (O.P.) Kretzmann, the iconic president who served Valparaiso University from 1940–1968. According to many, Kretzmann made Valpo what it is today. During his presidency, campus began its historic shift eastward from “old campus” to “new campus”, and the student body grew from 300 (mostly female) students during World War II to 2,000 after the war, and eventually to 4,000. O.P. was an inspiring orator, and was the recipient of ten honorary doctorates. Kretzmann was so beloved that when he died in 1975, students drew periods on campus stop signs so that they read, “ST. O.P.” Today Kretzmann Hall is home to the University’s administrative offices.</p>	<p>10. Victory Bell: The original victory bell was donated by a local fire house and was transported to campus through downtown Valparaiso on a cart. Prior to the 1952 Homecoming game, this bell was stolen and later found in a wooded area near Forest Park Golf Course. Today the bell still sits on its cart at Brown Field, ready to be rung after victories. A second bell, more traditionally known as the Victory Bell, was a gift to campus in 1955 from the Messiah Lutheran Church in Chicago. Originally erected in front of the Valparaiso Union, tradition dictates that students ring this bell whenever a Valpo team wins a game. In 2009, the bell was given a fresh paint job and, in preparation for the razing of the Valparaiso Union, was moved to a new home outside of the Athletics-Recreation Center.</p>
<p>2. Student Bridge (“Kissing Bridge”): In the mid-1880s, a bridge was constructed on “old campus” to span a set of Pennsylvania Railroad tracks and connect campus to the popular recreation spot of Sagers Lake. The bridge was said to bring good luck to couples who could kiss for the entire time that a train was passing under the bridge. All could tell that a couple had done this because their entire faces would be covered in soot except for their lips. In the 1960s, as the campus was shifting east, the bridge fell into disrepair and was torn down. A piece of the bridge was saved by a local business owner and relocated to his property. In 2005, the Student Alumni Association brought this piece of the bridge back to campus and the student chapter of the American Society for Civil Engineers constructed its new home in a grove of trees near the University’s Route 30 entrance.At its original site behind Wesemann Hall, a small post from the bridge still exists.</p>	<p>11. Trailer Court: Located at the current site of the Valparaiso University Police Department, Trailer Court was set up in 1945 as housing for married veterans returning from World War II. There were fifteen trailers set up on the two sides of the road leading up to what is now VUPD.</p>
<p>3. Valparaiso Union: Students of the 1950s did not have a union, so they voted to add a small amount (\$15) to each student’s tuition in order to fund the 1955 construction of the Valparaiso Union. The original building contained dining facilities as well as four bowling alleys. When it was first built, the Union gained acclaim for its design, and it served its purpose well for 55 years. With the opening of the Harre Union in 2009, the Valparaiso Union was torn down to make way for a new academic building.</p>	<p>12. Art-Psychology Building (Old Engineering Building): This structure was built by students in 1949 in an effort to restore Valpo’s four-year engineering program, which had been reduced to pre-engineering in 1939. Due to inadequate facilities, students who began their engineering degrees at Valpo had to finish their studies at Purdue University. Students appealed to President Kretzmann with an offer to plan and construct a new engineering building if the University would provide financing. The 1951 feature film <i>Venture of Faith</i> tells the story of these determined students and the construction of the building. Today the College of Engineering resides in Gellersen Center and this building houses the art and psychology departments.</p>
<p>4. Linwood House: Built in 1961, this home was constructed to serve as the living quarters for the University’s president. Designed in the shape of the cross, Linwood House was home to the Kretzmanss, the Hueglis and the Schnabels. Today the Linwood House serves as offices for the University’s Lilly Fellows program.</p>	<p>13. Mound Street: During the time of the eastward shift of campus, this thoroughfare was students’ primary route from residence halls to classes. Between class periods, the entire length of the street was one giant sidewalk. It was not considered very friendly to try to drive down Mound Street during the day. Today, Mound Street is home to some of the campus’ fraternity houses.</p>
<p>5. Mueller Hall: Home to the University’s honors college, Christ College, this building was constructed in the late 1960s. The original plan for the building was elaborate, including dorms and dining facilities. However, after consultation about costs and discussion concerning too much separation of Christ College students, it was built as it is today.</p>	<p>14. Dog Graves: In the 1940s, theology professor Henry Kumnick owned a dog named George. Wherever Professor Kumnick went, George followed, including the classroom. Due to his widespread popularity, when George passed away in 1947, he was buried near the old railroad tracks. It is said that students who kiss George’s grave before finals will have good luck on their exams. Near George’s grave stands a stone marking the final resting place of another beloved canine Crusader, Barry, who graced campus from 1975–1987.</p>
<p>6. Guild and Memorial Halls: Completed in 1947, these are the oldest residence halls on campus. Originally two separate buildings, both housed upperclass women. Guild Hall was so named because of the generous donation made by the University Guild for its construction. The other was temporarily named Memorial Hall, with the hope that a generous donor would come forward to fund its construction. This never happened. Guild Hall continues to house upperclass women, while Memorial Hall is co-ed by floor. The buildings were joined in 1999.</p>	<p>15. Bull Pen: Built in 1936, this gift from the senior class was used by students as an outdoor meeting place and classroom. While speaking from the center of the bullpen, your voice will echo. Try it out!</p>
<p>7. Dau-Kreinheder Hall: Named for two former presidents of Valparaiso University, these halls were erected in 1955 to serve as short-term, low-cost student housing following World War II, but were used until their razing in 1994. These residences were prime real estate because they were located between most of the other residence halls, on “new campus”, and the buildings where classes were still held, on “old campus.” At the center of the two attached buildings was a circular cafeteria, which remained standing when the buildings were torn down and became the campus book center. Today this structure is the Fitness Center.</p>	<p>16. Old College Building: In 1860, this rectangular red brick building was constructed by the Valparaiso Male and Female College and eventually became known as the Old College Building. It was the sole campus building in the early years of the University. It was this building that Henry Baker Brown acquired in 1873 for his Northern Indiana Normal School and Business Institute (see #34). In its early years, the building contained classrooms, a chapel, offices, a laboratory, a library, and served as a dormitory. After fire destroyed the building on February 15, 1923, the University’s outdoor commencement ceremonies were held on the site until 1985. Today the Bull Pen (see #15) stands on the approximate site of the Old College Building’s lobby.</p>
<p>8. Hilltop Gym: This was the first structure built after Valpo was purchased by the Lutheran University Association in 1925. Constructed in 1939 and called “The Gym,” this arena housed Valpo’s 1944 basketball team. Comprised of men who were too tall to serve in World War II, the team earned the nickname of “World’s Tallest Team,” and went on to make a game appearance at New York City’s Madison Square Garden. It was in the Hilltop Gym that presidential candidate Robert Kennedy addressed a crowd of 5,000 in May 1968, four weeks before his assassination in Los Angeles. Hilltop Gym remains today as part of the expanded structure of the Athletics-Recreation Center.</p>	<p>17. Baldwin Hall: Constructed in 1900 as a science facility, Baldwin Hall was notorious for its poorly controlled heating system. Students would come to class after hiking the tundra (see #32) and their glasses would fog, snow and ice would melt off their boots onto the wooden floor, and they would sweat through classes. The hall was named for Samantha Elizabeth “Mantie” Baldwin, a professor who came to the campus with Henry Baker Brown and taught at the school from 1873 until 1914 (see #34). Baldwin Hall was demolished in 1996.</p>
<p>9. Kroencke Hall: Constructed in 1950 during the filming of the movie <i>Venture of Faith</i> (see #12), this commercially built structure served as the film’s stand-in for Valpo’s new engineering building. The movie documents the real construction of Kroencke Hall. Originally home to classrooms and the University’s theatre, today Kroencke houses dance classes, as well as offices and workout space for the football team.</p>	<p>18. Heimlich Hall: Built in 1906, Heimlich Hall was the home of Valparaiso University’s medical school. Students could complete their first two years of medical school at Valpo and then transfer to a medical and dental school owned by Valparaiso University in Chicago. Located alongside the campus railroad tracks, classes in Heimlich were disrupted whenever a train would pass. The floors were slightly slanted, so when trains rolled by, not only would the building shake, but the whole contents of the classroom would slide across the room. Several professors prided themselves on being able to lecture over the sound of a train going by. Heimlich Hall was burned by a local serial arsonist in 1993.</p>

19. Chapel-Auditorium: Completed in 1892, the Chapel-Auditorium served as the site of weekday chapel services and major University functions until it was destroyed by fire in 1956. Indiana Governor Ira T. Chase delivered the dedication address on May 10, 1892. Through the years, other dignitaries who delivered speeches within the auditorium include James Whitcomb Riley, President William Howard Taft, William Jennings Bryan, Lew Wallace and in 1932, famous Valpo alumnus Lowell Thomas.

20. Kinsey Hall: Built in 1906, this building was a music hall which, after 1923, also housed the president’s office. On the night of May 7, 1970, hundreds of Valpo students gathered to protest the killing of students at Kent State University and the Vietnam War. Sometime after the protesters dispersed, three students set fire to Kinsey Hall, seriously damaging the structure. The students, whose names have never been released, were expelled, but not charged with any crime. The building stood as a shell and was used for storage until 1980. In 1985, the building was razed to make way for the new law school building. The bench outside of Heritage Hall (see #22) displaying the words “Music Hall” was part of Kinsey Hall’s original structure.

21. Founders Rock: After the death of Henry Baker Brown (see #34), administrative changes and America’s entry into World War I led to troubled economic times for Valparaiso University. The University’s medical school in Chicago was sold to Loyola University in 1917, and when the Old College Building (see #16) burned in 1923, the University lacked the money to clear the rubble. By 1925, the University was at the point of bankruptcy when the Lutheran University Association (LUA) stepped in to establish a Christian school dedicated to academic excellence, faith and service. The purchase marked a lucky circumstance for the University – prior to being bought by the Lutherans, the school was very nearly purchased by the Ku Klux Klan. In 1935, a 10-ton granite rock was acquired from a local farm and placed near the site of the Bull Pen (see #15) in commemoration of the men of the LUA. Standing 7 ½ feet tall, the rock’s inscription reads: “To the Glory of God and in recognition of the faith and vision of the men and women who organized the Lutheran University Association in 1925 to foster Christian higher education at Valparaiso University”. When the new Heritage Hall (see #22) was constructed in 2010, Founders Rock was moved to a position of prominence in front of the new building.

22. Heritage Hall: Originally named Flint Hall, this building was constructed in 1875 to serve as a boarding house and, in 1976, earned a spot on the National Register of Historic places. Most recently home to the School of Law’s clinic programs, Heritage Hall was once the campus library. Late one night in November 1956, as the nearby Chapel-Auditorium (see #19) burned to the ground, students feared that the library also would catch fire. An impromptu assembly line of students was formed to remove and save the library’s book collection. Heritage Hall was the campus’ oldest remaining building and the only one still standing from “old campus” until it was razed in 2009 and painstakingly re-constructed on the same site. Its facade is a perfect replica of the original structure, minus the 3rd floor, which burned in 1879 and was never replaced.

23. Old Campus Entrance Pillars: Erected in the 1940s, these pillars marked the College Street entrance to Valparaiso University’s once bustling “old campus.” Many academic buildings and residential halls lined the sidewalks that these pillars framed. Although no longer marking a true University entrance, their location was once central to the campus, and the two pillars remain standing today.

24. Engineering Annex: This structure was built in 1946 as a modern new facility to complement the much older engineering building, Benton Hall, located directly north at the southwest corner of Union and College. In 1959, the Annex was renamed Moody Lab in honor of Howard W. Moody, dean of engineering for 16 years, and housed machine shop facilities. During the summer of 1969, the building was remodeled to house the Department of Psychology and the “Rat Lab.” In 1996, the University sold the building and it became the current Hilltop Neighborhood House.

25. The Shanty: Standing at 364 College Avenue and originally built as a home for a local family, “The Shanty” became a café and popular student hang-out starting in the 1940s. In later years, it became a used bookstore as well as apartment space for members of the music department, but the name “The Shanty” always stuck. This building was never owned by the University and today still serves as an apartment dwelling.

26. Altruria Hall: Constructed in 1910 and purchased in 1926 by the University, this beloved women’s residence was designed with a large central parlor area. Women could step out of their rooms and look over the balcony to see their dates waiting for them below. In the basement was The University Restaurant, which fondly became known as “The Hole.” In 1973, President Huegli announced the closing of Altruria and first used the title “old campus.” With the construction of Lankenau, Scheele and Alumni Halls on “new campus”, the facility was no longer needed. Altruria Hall is thought to have been haunted until it was razed in 1985.

27. Stoner House: Located across from Altruria Hall (see #26) at 351 College Avenue, this building was originally the home of Dr. Gerald H. Stoner, an 1897 Valpo alumnus who became the University physician and had his medical office in the basement. Starting in 1962, the building became known as Alumni House, and the Valparaiso University Alumni Association occupied the building until 1967. No longer owned by the University, it is currently known as Greenwich House, a social service agency of Christian Community Action.

28. Old President’s House: Located at 158 Greenwich Street, this house served as home to Presidents Dau, Kreinheder and, for a time, Kretzmann. Today the home is privately owned.

29. Miller Hall: Constructed in 1950 on land purchased from the LUA, this building was the elementary school for Immanuel Lutheran Church. The church, located at that time in downtown Valparaiso, acted as a chapel for Valparaiso University until the 1959 dedication of the Chapel of the Resurrection. Miller Hall was acquired by the University in 1967 and has since been used to house the University’s department of education.

30. The Butterfly: Popularly referred to as “The Butterfly,” the 20-ton, 26-foot-tall “Caritas” (Latin for “charitable love”), was designed by former art professor Frederick Frey. It was erected in a reflecting pool outside of the Porter County Courthouse at a cost of \$40,000 during the nation’s 1976 bicentennial celebration. Unfortunately, the innocent butterfly was often the target of graffiti, so in 1995, as part of the historical restoration of the 19th century courthouse, the sculpture was moved to a safer home on campus.

31. Chapel of the Resurrection: The most recognized structure on campus, this magnificent landmark was dedicated in 1959 as Memorial Chapel and has served as the campus center for community and worship ever since. The second largest collegiate chapel in the world, and the largest in the United States, this dream of O.P. Kretzmann was envisioned to sit at the heart of campus, and was erected on the campus’ highest point. Renamed the Chapel of the Resurrection in 1969, the structure is perhaps best known for its towering stained glass windows, which depict various Christian themes and which can be read in a clockwise pattern beginning in the upper right of each window. The Brandt Campanile bell tower, which stands outside of the Chapel, was a gift from the University Guild in 1980.

32. Tundra: When some of the current residence halls on the northwest edge of campus were new, but classes were still held on “old campus,” the property in between was a large open field that students had to hike across to get to class, or even to a sidewalk. This space became known as “the tundra” to students who trudged twenty or more minutes to class through pouring rain, freezing snow storms and blustering winds, giving meaning to the name “Valpourainsnow, Windiana.” In 1967, a massive blizzard left some students caught in snow drifts across the tundra. In the warmer days of autumn, the site was home to the annual bonfire, built by the freshman class each year during Homecoming week. A popular tradition in the 1940s and 1950s, the structure was supposed to get bigger each year, often leading upperclassmen to go out of their way to knock it down if it threatened to surpass the size of their own previously recorded bonfires.

33. Alumni Hall: When the school year of 1966-67 began, this newly constructed residence hall was far from finished. The lobby was enclosed with plywood, planks led over the muddy ground where sidewalks would later be poured, and the elevator didn’t work. Only the 4th and 5th floors were fit for occupancy and even then, there was no running water for two days. Today this hall is believed to be haunted by two little girls. Mainly on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors, students have claimed to hear a ball dropping and furniture moving.

34. Henry Baker Brown Home: In 1871, Valparaiso Male and Female College was closed due to the financial strains of the Civil War. In 1873, a group of four educators traveled from Ohio to re-open the college. Henry Baker Brown convinced the trustees of the Valparaiso Male and Female College to let him run the school, which was renamed the Northern Indiana Normal School and Business Institute, on the assumption that if it was successful, he would buy it. One of those who traveled from Ohio, Mantie Baldwin (see #17), was in love with Brown. Unfortunately for Mantie, Brown fell for his secretary. They married and lived in this house at 303 Jefferson Street for many years. Such was Brown’s impact on the school that one of Valpo’s school colors was chosen in honor of his name. The other, gold, was the hair color of Brown’s Vice President and good friend, Oliver Perry Kinsey. (From University Drive, take Lincolnway .8 mile west to Morgan Blvd., then take Morgan one block north to Jefferson St.)



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Kretzmann Hall | 17. Baldwin Hall |
| 2. Student Bridge
("Kissing Bridge") | 18. Heimlich Hall |
| 3. Valparaíso Union | 19. Chapel-Auditorium |
| 4. Linwood House | 20. Kinsey Hall |
| 5. Mueller Hall | 21. Founders Rock |
| 6. Guild and Memorial Halls | 22. Heritage Hall |
| 7. Dau-Kreinherder Hall | 23. Old Campus Entrance Pillars |
| 8. Hilltop Gym | 24. Engineering Annex |
| 9. Kroencke Hall | 25. The Shanty |
| 10. Victory Bell | 26. Altruria Hall |
| 11. Trailer Court | 27. Stoner House |
| 12. Art-Psychology Building
(Old Engineering Building) | 28. Old President's House |
| 13. Mound Street | 29. Miller Hall |
| 14. Dog Graves | 30. The Butterfly |
| 15. Bull Pen | 31. Chapel of the Resurrection |
| 16. Old College Building | 32. Tundra |
| | 33. Alumni Hall |
| | 34. Henry Baker Brown Home |

Sites marked in **RED** can still be seen today.



