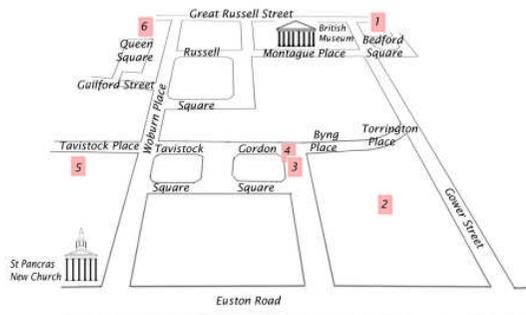


Historic Highlights in the Building of Bloomsbury



- 1 Ladies' College
- 2 UCL
- 3 University Hall
- 4 Catholic Apostolic Church
- 5 Passmore Edwards Settlement
- 6 Female School of Art

The walk begins at the original location of the Ladies' College, founded in Bedford Square in 1849 to offer higher education to women, and later to become Bedford College. A blue plaque commemorates the site. The College moved out in 1874 and merged with Royal Holloway College in Egham, Surrey, in 1985.

From here, walk north up Gower Street, noting more blue plaques commemorating Charles Darwin, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood of artists,

women's rights campaigner Dame Millicent Fawcett, and the pioneer of anaesthetics in dentistry, James Robinson. The main entrance to UCL is on your right (pictured below).



UCL was built in neo-classical style on Gower Street in 1826–28 by William Wilkins. Founded as London University to offer university education to those unable to graduate from Oxbridge because they were not confessing Anglicans, UCL taught new subjects like modern languages and geography.

Walk through UCL and exit by the Bloomsbury Theatre into Gordon Square, or alternatively return to Gower Street and go along Torrington Place and Byng Place, past the Church of Christ the King on your left, to which we will return shortly, and left into Gordon Square.

On your left you will see **University Hall**, built in 1849 by Thomas Donaldson, Professor of Architecture at University College, as a hall of residence for students. The building now houses Dr Williams's Library.

Almost next door there rose in 1854 the most ambitious new church of the period, John Raphael Brandon's imposing Gothic structure, the **Catholic Apostolic Church, formerly the Church of Christ the King (pictured below)**. In addition to services, the church hosts concerts on Friday lunchtimes, and the chapel is often open to visitors.



From the Church walk along the south side of Gordon Square and Tavistock Square, across Woburn Place, and along Tavistock Place.



Custom-built in Tavistock Place in 1897 by two young Bloomsbury-bred architects, Smith and Brewer, was the **Passmore Edwards Settlement**, now Mary Ward House (pictured above). Passmore Edwards, an uneducated self-made newspaper magnate, donated the money for this hall to organise play and learning sessions for Bloomsbury's poor children; in 1899 it opened the first school for disabled children in Britain. Architecturally significant for both aesthetic design and attention to the requirements of its intended use, it is a fine example of the best of Bloomsbury.

Retrace your steps to Woburn Place, and turn left towards Russell Square. Turn left again at Guilford Street and follow the pedestrian signs pointing you through to Queen Square on the right.

The final institution on this walk is the former Female School of Art in Queen Square (pictured below). Founded in 1812 to enable young women of the middle class to obtain an "honourable and profitable employment", it enjoyed considerable success later in the century, including royal patronage. The building in Queen Square is now the home of Mary Ward Centre, the successor of the Passmore Edwards Settlement.



Leaflet devised, written, and photographed by Rosemary Ashton and Deborah Colville, of the Leverhulme-funded UCL research project 'Bloomsbury and Reform in the Nineteenth Century'. For more information, see www.ucl.ac.uk/bloomsbury-project

This walk was created for the 2008 London Festival of Architecture.



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