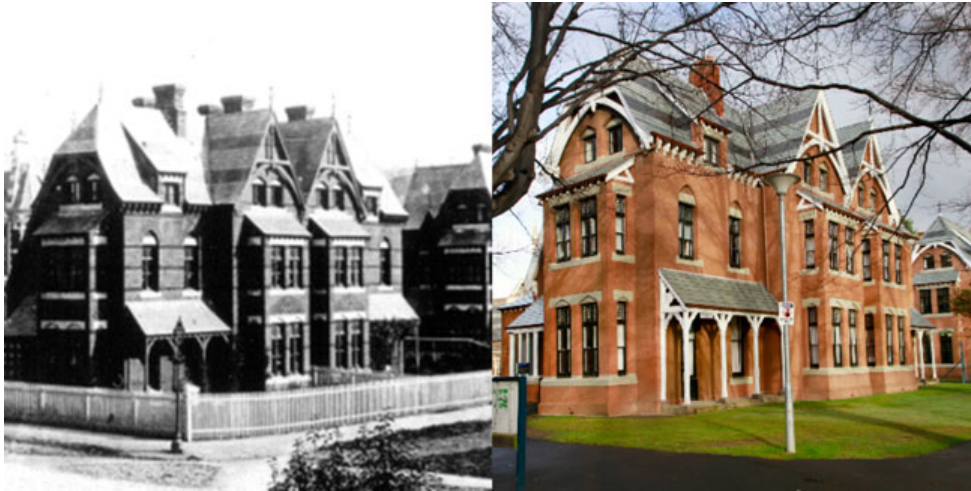


Our Professorial Houses



Black/Sale House then and now. Historic photo: Courtesy of the Hocken. Modern photo: Sharron Bennett.

The four Professorial Houses are among the University's very first buildings and were built at the same time as Otago's iconic Clocktower in the late 1870s.

Created to be housing for the University's first four Professors, who were all moving to a pioneering goldrush town, they provided some luxury in a region that at that time did not have many grass lawns or paved roads. The University believed providing high quality accommodation would help attract top staff to Otago, and the first professors did indeed stay for long tenures.

The houses are now named after the [first Professors](#). **Scott/Shand House** is now the home of the University's Marketing and Communications Division and its neighbour **Black/Sale House**, is the home of the Department of Music.

Architectural historian Michael Findlay says, "They were fashionable houses anywhere in the empire at the time and at three storeys high, unusually tall for New Zealand. Like the Clocktower, the houses were designed by English-born architect Maxwell Bury. His drawings are held in the Hocken Collections and show vivid polychromy, with the walls divided by bands of contrasting black glazed bricks. But this dramatic effect was covered over by the Moeraki pebble render applied in later years. Bury was experimenting with a modern Gothic style that later blended into what was called Queen Ann. "

In recent times, historic photographs from the Hocken have been used to ensure all maintenance and re-roofing of the University's original Professorial Houses is historically accurate. When the tile roofs were painstakingly replaced in 2012, the original colours and patterns were faithfully adhered to, by studying original photographs from the Hocken Library.

Property Services Facilities Manager Peter McGrouther says "It's about restoring the buildings to original as far as we can, and making them last for future generations. We have to get it right."



Pictured above: A peek of the Professorial Houses (far left), and campus in the 1870s, courtesy of the Hocken Library and Dr Ali Clarke's blog.

Otago is New Zealand's first university and was founded in 1869. To commemorate the 150th anniversary in 2019, it will publish a new history. Historian and alumna **Dr Ali Clarke**, is researching and writing this history. As Ali works on the book, she is publishing her **Otago150years blog**.

