

USask Computer Museum

Self-Guided Walking Tour 2025



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Special (Temporary) Exhibits

For the Month of May 2025...

2025 marks 50 Years of the Personal Computer. In Celebration, the University's prized Altair 8800 (aka the 1975 machine model that ignited the PC industry) is currently on display in the [**Peter Mackinnon Building**](#):



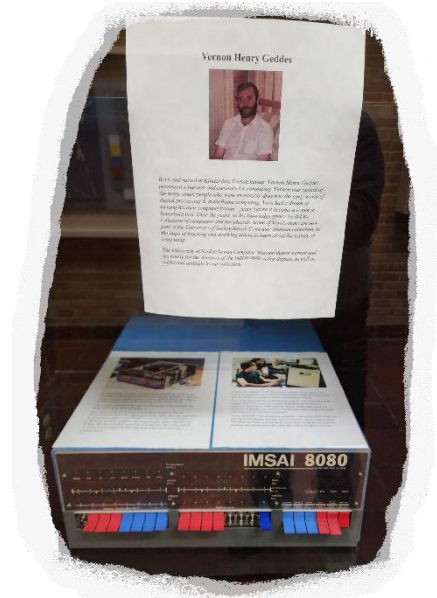
Permanent Exhibits:

1)First Make your way to the historic **Thorvaldson Building** (110 SCIENCE PLACE). Upon entering the main foyer, turn right and enter the office wing (used by Computer Science).

Visit the displays along the main floor hallway including the **IMSAI 8080** early pc.

Visit the displays along the second-floor hallway.

Visit the displays along the third-floor hallway.



2)Next, let's visit the **Spinks Addition** which is attached to the Thorvaldson building. Make your way there using the indoor Thorvaldson causeway (watch for signage).

Located next to the Spinks elevator (floor R1), you will see USTAR exhibit; these two machines operated the university's first telephone assisted electronic class registration and grade reporting system, which debuted approximately 1991 and operated for roughly a decade.



Visit 3rd Floor Spinks (lab S360) and visit several 1970s era Digital DEC mainframe computer and storage artifacts which line the large spacious student lab. There are also some interesting posters on various walls focusing on early computing technologies.



3)Make your way over to the **Physics Building** (116 SCIENCE PLACE).

Take any stairwell down to the lowermost level (basement). Just down the hallway from the Physics student lounge, you will see a large wooden cabinet full of vintage personal computers, software boxes, books, and accessories.



4)Next, we will visit **Kirk Hall** (117 SCIENCE PLACE). Once there, take any stairwell to lowest level (basement).

Locate the two gray double doors and enter; you will see an **hp Model 2114** minicomputer used by USask graduate students to collect prairie snow / hydrology data. It was also used for stats analysis. This was state-of-the-art technology in 1970.



5)Finally, visit the **Engineering Building** (57 CAMPUS DRIVE).

Make your way to the second floor: There's a display of historic USask network & communications hardware in the display case next to room **2B09**. There's a **DEC PDP-11** minicomputer from the 1970's located just outside room **2B53**. There's also a machine next to room **2C50** (Dvinci; an Engineering server from 1988 used for many things).



We hope you enjoyed the tour.

Visit our website for more information including many written articles and narratives:

Web: <https://computermuseum.usask.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/uofscomputermuseum>