

Antrim House today

Antrim House is registered as a Category I historic place on the Register of historic places, historic areas, wahi tapu and wahi tapu areas.

Antrim House still retains the grandeur and elegance that testify to Robert Hannah's commercial success. Extensive repairs have restored the interior and exterior of the house to its full beauty and most of the outbuildings remain.

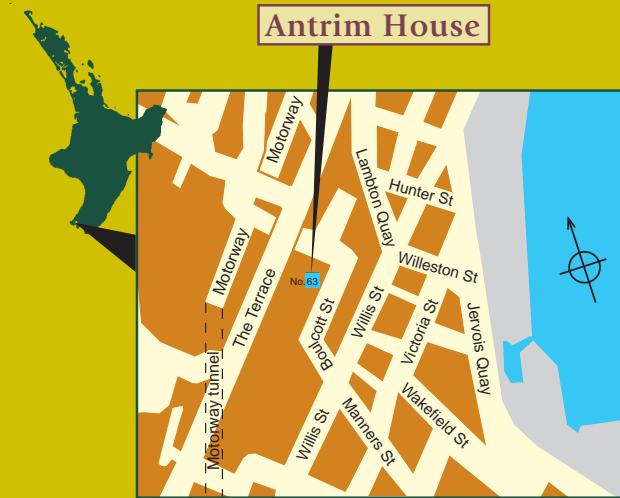
Tranquillity permeates the grounds, which offer refuge from central-city bustle.

The former drawing room and the grounds are available for hire for business meetings, cocktail functions and weddings.



Opening hours

Some of the downstairs rooms and the hallway are open for viewing during the office hours of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust 9.00 am – 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday.



Contact Us

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To find out more about Antrim House and the New Zealand Historic Places Trust visit our websites:

www.historic.org.nz

www.antrimhouse.co.nz

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As a member, you'll enjoy free entry to all our properties throughout New Zealand as well as a number of additional benefits, including

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- ▶ discounts on heritage merchandise,
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New Zealand
Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga

ANTRIM HOUSE



*built on Robert Hannah's
footwear empire*



Wellington, New Zealand

A century ago, Boulcott Street in downtown Wellington was the address of many of the capital's wealthy businessmen. The grandest of their houses, and one of very few remaining today amongst the city's high-rise buildings, is Antrim House.

Built in 1905 for successful businessman Robert Hannah, the house has been home to many people as a family residence, private hotel, and hostel. It now serves as the national headquarters of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

The house

Antrim House was built at the height of Robert Hannah's commercial success as head of the R J Hannah shoe empire. Leading architects of the time, Thomas Turnbull and Son, were commissioned to design Antrim House. The mansion is a fine example of the Edwardian Italianate style, enhanced by a striking verandah with elaborate balustrades which extends along three sides of the building. The overall effect, even today, is one of baronial grandeur exuding an air of solid prosperity.

Inside, the 18-roomed mansion features impressive kauri and totara panelling, stained glass windows, beautiful embossed metal ceilings and finely carved fireplaces.



History

Robert Hannah lived in Antrim House with his wife Hannah, their seven children and domestic staff until Robert's death in 1930. It was then leased as an exclusive residential hotel and continued as a private hotel after being sold by the family in 1938.



In 1940 a fire badly damaged the upper storey, the stairway and some of the stained glass windows. Because of wartime shortages, repairs were carried out in the style of the 1940s.

The Crown purchased Antrim House in 1949 and managed it until 1977 as a hostel for young male cadets in the Public Service. Antrim House was presented to the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in 1978 and reopened as the Trust's national office in 1981.



Photos:
Cover: Exterior, Belinda Brown; entrance, Grant Sheehan.
Inside: Exteriors, Belinda Brown; hallway (1947), F.G. Barker.
Back: Office, Belinda Brown; Board Room, Grant Sheehan.