

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

ANTRIM AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE OLD WORKHOUSE.

Located on Station Road, to the north of Antrim town centre, this attractive building is all that remains of the Antrim Poor Law Union Workhouse. It served as an entrance and administration block for the main accommodation block and the fever hospital. It had a porters' room and a waiting room on the ground floor with the Guardians' board room on the first floor.

The workhouse, built to one of George Wilkinson's standard workhouse designs, was declared fit for the admission of paupers on 4th September 1843 and the first were admitted on 19th September with the fever hospital opening in 1847.

During the first decade of operation over 7,000 chronically poor citizens and fever sufferers entered the workhouse or fever hospital through the doors of this building but by 1914 the number had fallen to just 111. Between 1914-1916 the War Office requisitioned the workhouse as a military barracks and store and subsequently this entrance block became, until the 1950s, the headquarters of Antrim Rural District Council.

The building is now used as offices for local social services by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.