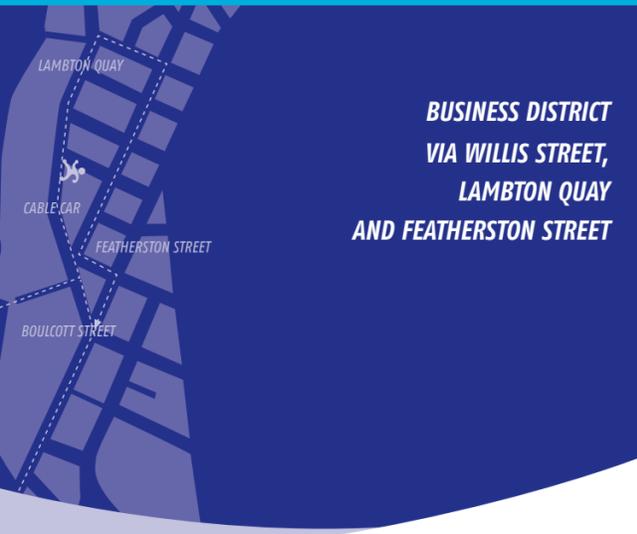


# EXPLORE WELLINGTON

Discover the Heritage and Public Art in the City



**BUSINESS DISTRICT  
VIA WILLIS STREET,  
LAMBTON QUAY  
AND FEATHERSTON STREET**

**Absolutely  
POSITIVELY  
WELLINGTON**

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### 1 ST PETER'S CHURCH

Cnr of Willis and Ghuznee Sts

There has been a church on this site since 1848, the longest continuous occupation of a site by a church in Wellington. The present church was designed by Thomas Turnbull and consecrated in 1879. It has elegant stained glass windows and a beautiful interior. The entry porch, chancel screen, reredos, gates and railings were designed by Frederick de Jersey Clere. Diagonally opposite at 200 Willis Street is The Manor built in 1908.



### 2 ST JOHN'S CHURCH

166-176 Willis St

Although of separate denominations St. John's and St Peter's are seen as sister churches, being of similar design by the same architect and of close proximity. This is the third church built on the site. The first dated from 1854 and the second, also designed by Thomas Turnbull from 1875. That church burned down in 1884. The present building has a striking spire and splendid interior.



### 3 SPINKS COTTAGE

Dixon Street

This cottage, just to the right of the church entrance, was built by William Spinks, an early settler, sometime between 1854 and 1863 and is one of the oldest buildings in Wellington. The house was a family home but Spink's sisters also ran a girls school there. The cottage was sold to the church in 1879 as accommodation for the church caretaker and moved to make way for the new church. It was moved again in 1983 to avoid demolition.



### 4 HOTEL ST GEORGE

124 Willis Street

An impressive Art Deco structure built in 1930 of steel framed reinforced concrete and designed by William John Prouse. In the 1850's a bank stood on the site. That building was bought in 1877 by the famous early settler John Plimmer who converted it into an hotel. Now a student hostel, its most famous guests were the Beatles in 1966 who were besieged by large crowds of fans.



### 5 CNR OF BOULCOTT AND WILLIS STS

A very rare French Renaissance timber house designed by Thomas Turnbull & Sons and originally sited a little further up Boulcott Street. Built in 1902 for Dr Henry Pollen. Moved and restored in 1991. Now a restaurant and wine bar. In the 1840's Boulcott Street was a gully through which a stream ran to the sea.



### 6 HIBERNIAN BLDG

89 Willis St

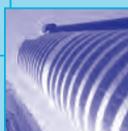
Erected in 1929-30 and designed by Francis Drummond Stewart who was for some time Fletcher Construction's resident architect, the building originally had a corner tower which was destroyed in the 1942 earthquake. Note the patterned exterior brickwork. The Jaycee Building next door has an unusual 'broken' cornice below the penthouse.



### 7 PRESTON'S BLDG FAÇADE

92-96 Willis St

The original building was erected in 1902 and named for A.E. Preston's Butchers, who traded here from 1912 until 1988 when the development of the Majestic Centre began.



### 8 THE MAJESTIC CENTRE

100 Willis St

The Majestic Centre is the tallest building in Wellington. It incorporates the facade of the Preston's Building. The Centre is named for the Majestic cinema and ballroom, the venue for dances during World War II which were popular with both locals and American servicemen. From Willis Street walk through the Majestic and up the escalator to Boulcott Street.



### A MAJESTIC EARTH

(See Over; Sculptures Along the Way)



### 9 ST MARY OF THE ANGELS CHURCH

Boulcott St

The first Catholic church was built here in 1843 the year in which Father Jeremiah O'Reilly the settlement's first Catholic priest arrived in Wellington. In 1873 a larger church was erected on the site. This was destroyed by fire in 1918 and the existing Gothic reinforced concrete and steel church, designed by Frederick de Jersey Clere and Llewellyn Williams was completed in 1922. Clere was born in Lancashire and emigrated with his family in 1877. He was an advocate of

building in concrete. The original builders went bankrupt during the construction and the building was finished by the priest and a group of largely unskilled labourers.



### 10 ANTRIM HOUSE

63 Boulcott St

This Italianate house was built in 1905 for Robert Hannah, a shoe manufacturer and retailer who originated in County Antrim in Northern Ireland. His name lives on in a chain of shoe stores. This is the sole survivor of a row of grand houses that once lined this street. Since 1978 it has been the head office of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.



### 11 PLIMMER HOUSE

99 Boulcott St

A former private house built in 1870 in the Colonial Gothic style for Henry Eustace de Bathe Brandon and now a restaurant. The house was later owned by the Plimmer family. It was moved from its original site to make way for office buildings. Note the steep pitched roof and elegant fretwork.

### 12 PLIMMER STEPS (See Over)



### 13 EQUITABLE BLDG & INVESTMENT CO. BLDG

360 Lambton Quay

One of the oldest masonry buildings in Wellington and the oldest on Lambton Quay. Originally a two storey building erected around 1877 with the top storey added in 1904 or 1905. This is the oldest masonry structure left in Lambton Quay.



### 14 STEWART DAWSON'S BLDG

366 Lambton Quay

This building, designed by William Chaffield, was erected in 1901 for Stewart Dawson's jewellers. It replaced a wooden building from 1854. Nearby, in Willis Street, Baron Charles von Alzdorf built his so-called earthquake proof building. Alzdorf arrived in New Zealand in 1840 and became a successful businessman, owning wharves and hotels. The damage caused to his first hotel in the 1848 earthquake inspired him to build a two-storey brick building which he claimed would never be destroyed by an earthquake. He was killed when the building collapsed on

him in the earthquake of 1855. The Grand Hotel, a striking seven storey building, stood on the site from 1907 to 1980. It is now the location of the Grand Arcade.



### 15 FLETCHER'S BLDG

2-6 Willis St

Built in 1903 for Charles Augustus Fletcher, a chemist who traded here until 1907 when he sold the building. The architect is not known.



### 16 MC CARTHY'S BLDGS

50-52 Willis St

This building was built in 1913 to a design by Joseph Dawson for the McCarthy family. The interior and mosaic floor in the entrance foyer are particularly fine. This building and the others on this corner together with the Old Bank Arcade form the most significant group of Edwardian commercial buildings left in the city.

### 17 OLD BANK ARCADE (See Over)



### 18 MLC BLDG

231 Lambton Quay

The first building on this site was the timber St Andrew's Presbyterian church, the first church in Wellington, dedicated in 1844 and moved from across the road in 1866 onto newly reclaimed land. This building evolved into the Central Hotel which was demolished to make way for the present building designed by Mitchell and Mitchell and completed in 1940. The relief on the clock tower symbolises 'Union is Strength', the motto of the Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company. The cladding of glazed tiles was made in Sydney. The clock, since removed, came from the Chief Post Office. The building has been converted into apartments including one in the clock tower. There is an almost identical MLC Building in Auckland.

### B PROTOPLASM

(See Over; Sculptures Along the Way)

### 19 COMMEMORATIVE LAMP (See Over)



### 20 PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE BLDG

332-340 Lambton Quay

This outstanding Art Deco building is one of three adjacent

1930s buildings. It was designed by Hennessey and Hennessey from Australia and was completed in 1934. One of the first buildings in Wellington to have a steel framed structure it was built using Government relief workers during the Depression. Note the stylised lettering, the sun and sunflower motifs, chevron patterns, the eagles in relief, and also the artificial stone veneer on the first and second floors. The first business to occupy the site was Wellington Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute, the location of Wellington's first library and the venue of the city's first adult education classes.



### 21 328-330 LAMBTON QUAY

Designed by Clere and Clere in the Stripped Classical style reminiscent of Chicago's

architecture of the period, and completed in 1936. The building was constructed as the head office of the Commercial Bank of Australia. The ground floor was a banking chamber.



### 22 SOUTH BRITISH INSURANCE CO. LTD. BLDG

326 Lambton Quay

architect Malcolm Draffin. The sand-stone cladding is an attractive feature. South British Insurance Co. Ltd. was founded in 1872 and occupied this site for 100 years. The design is neo-Georgian on a Chicago style building.



### 23 WHITCOULLS BLDG

312-316 Lambton Quay

A rare survivor of the extensive demolition of the city's older buildings that took place from the 1960s until the Stock Market crash of 1987. Designed by William Turnbull and completed in 1908 for Whitcomb and Tombs, the predecessors of Whitcoulls. It was refurbished in 1985-86 when some of the building's external decoration was reinstated in lightweight materials.



### 25 KELBURN CHAMBERS

284 Lambton Quay

Built in 1900 for the Kelburn and Karori Tramway Company and

designed by Clere and Swan. The narrow frontage is typical of city buildings of the period. John Sydney Swan was born in Wellington and articulated to Frederick de Jersey Clere. They worked in partnership from 1901-05. In 1907 Swan established his own practice and was later joined by his son Francis. His most famous design is the 1910 landmark St Gerard's College across the harbour above Oriental Bay.



### 26 HARCOURT'S BLDG

203-213 Lambton Quay

This building was built in 1928 as the New Zealand head office of the Temperance and General Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd, established in Melbourne in 1876. The Society provided a distinction in cover between teetotallers and non-abstainers. The design of the building followed the company style developed by A & K Henderson.



### 27 HAMILTON CHAMBERS

199-201 Lambton Quay

An elegant building designed by Francis Drummond Stewart, the architect for Fletcher Construction, now one of New Zealand's largest companies. It was completed in 1929 and the façade is now incorporated into an office tower.



### 28 HARBOUR CITY CENTRE/DIC BLDG

179-193 Lambton Quay

The Drapery and General Importing Company founded in 1884 by Bendix Hallenstein was an important retailing company in New Zealand for over 100 years. It opened a store on the site in 1891 and completed the present building in 1928, its biggest building venture. Since the demise of DIC the building has become a multi-store retail centre.



### 29 KIRKCALDIE & STAINS

165 Lambton Quay

The first Kirkcaldie and Stains store was opened in Wellington in 1863 on Lambton Quay on the Old Bank Arcade site, moving in 1868 to the corner of Lambton Quay and Brandon Street. The present building began in 1897, based on designs by Thomas Turnbull and Son and was built in three stages. In 1928 fire damaged the centre building and Llewellyn E. Williams designed a façade which united the three Turnbull façades. This is all that remains of the original buildings as two office towers were built here in 1989.



### 30 POLICE HEADQUARTERS

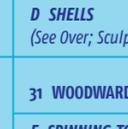
Midland Park

The Midland Hotel, a magnificent Spanish Mission building, occupied this site between 1917 and 1980. The façades of the former police headquarters building between Waring Taylor and Panama Streets, built in 1890, have been incorporated into the Mobil on the Park building adjacent to Midland Park.



### C NGA KORERO - ONGOING TALK

(See Over; Sculptures Along the Way)



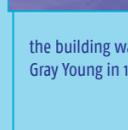
### D SHELLS

(See Over; Sculptures Along the Way)



### 31 WOODWARD STREET (See Over)

(See Over; Sculptures Along the Way)



### 32 THE WELLESLEY

2-8 Maginnity St

Regarded as Wellington's finest example of neo-Georgian architecture, the building was designed by William Gray Young in 1927.



### 33 DOMINION FARMERS INSTITUTE BLDG

110 Featherston St

Built in 1917 this is an extravagant building which dominates this corner site.



### F ROCK

(See Over; Sculptures Along the Way)



### 34 AGRICULTURE HOUSE

131-133 Featherston St

Named for the building's association with Federated Farmers, it was originally constructed for New Zealand Insurance and completed in 1937. It was designed by Auckland Architects Gummer and Ford and its undecorated façade is seen as a milestone to modern architecture.



### 35 NATIONAL CHAMBERS

135-137 Featherston St

Built in the 1900s for Otago based Murray, Roberts & Co. Established in 1868, the company played a role in opening up Otago and Hawkes Bay for farming and settlement. It later diversified into merchandising, wool broking, livestock, shipping and insurance.



### 36 RIDDIFORD HOUSE

150-152 Featherston St

Significant for its connection with the Brandon family and the law firm founded by Alfred de Bathe Brandon, an early settler and solicitor. The building was designed by Francis Stewart and completed in 1931. It is a transitional design incorporating elements of the Chicago School, New York skyscraper and Art Deco. The building has the only examples in Wellington, from this period, of mouldings at the top of the façades. Inside are original panelled lifts and other features. Around the corner at 20 Brandon Street an Edwardian building survives.



### 37 AMP CHAMBERS

Corner of Hunter and Featherston Sts

Note the trompe-l'oeil effects enhancing this formerly plain building.



### 38 AMP BLDG

86-90 Customhouse Quay

An outstanding example of an early 20th century commercial building with an exceptional entrance and foyer, built in 1928, and designed by Edmund Clere son of Frederick de Jersey Clere. The AMP has had a series

of buildings on this site, the first being built of wood in 1877. The statue on the top of the building represents Australia receiving the gifts of peace and plenty and is similar to ones placed on AMP buildings throughout Australasia and copied by various sculptors from the original made by Australian Charles Summers about 1870. The central figure holds a cornucopia and a palm.



### 39 NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE BLDG

101-109 Customhouse Quay

A neo-Georgian building completed in 1930 and designed by Atkins and Mitchell for the Wellington Commercial Travellers' and Warehousemen's Association.



### G SKY BLUES

(See Over; Sculptures Along the Way)

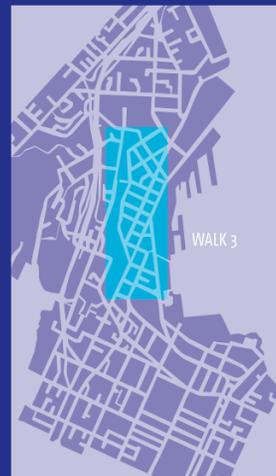


Walk through the heart of the harbour-side city and discover the early history, the public art and the heritage buildings. Walk 3 takes you through the business district from Willis Street to the historic Cable Car and along the retail thoroughfare Lambton Quay.

# WALK 3 EXPLORE WELLINGTON

BUSINESS DISTRICT FROM WILLIS STREET THROUGH LAMBTON QUAY AND FEATHERSTON STREET

The significant research, authorship and information provided by the Heritage Trails publications and by Maribeth Coleman, who has photographed and catalogued Wellington's public art over many years is gratefully acknowledged. Heritage Trails booklets covering specific aspects of Wellington's heritage are available from the City Service Centre.



## LAMBTON QUAY

Originally known as The Beach or The Strand, Lambton Quay was the shoreline when the New Zealand Company settlers arrived in 1840. It was named for Lord Durham, chairman of the company whose family name was Lambton. The first houses, shops and warehouses were built on one side of a muddy track. On the other side was the harbour. Reclamation began here in 1852.



Originally the buildings were made of wood but a series of fires caused the newer buildings to be made in brick or stone. Many of the remaining wooden buildings were destroyed in an extensive fire in 1906, some buildings disappearing in minutes. In the 1920s there was an unbroken streetscape of fine Victorian and Edwardian buildings but rising land values resulted in most of them being replaced.



## THE CABLE CAR



The Upland Estate Company, formed in 1898, proposed the construction of a tramline to link the city centre to its planned suburb of Kelburn. Designed by noted engineer James Fulton, construction began in 1901 and was carried out night and day with much of the work being done by prisoners from the Terrace Gaol. Originally known as the High Levels Tramway, it opened in 1902 and 4000 people rode in the cars on the opening weekend. The original cars ran until 1978 when they were replaced by the present Swiss designed system. Initially powered by a steam engine with a windmill pumping water from a stream in Salamanca Road, conversion was made to electrical power in 1933. This is the last operating cable car system in New Zealand. Visit the Cable Car Museum at the summit. It is located in the building which housed the original winding gear. Here you can see one of the historic cable cars and a trailer along with displays and the winding equipment.

## COMMEMORATIVE LAMP



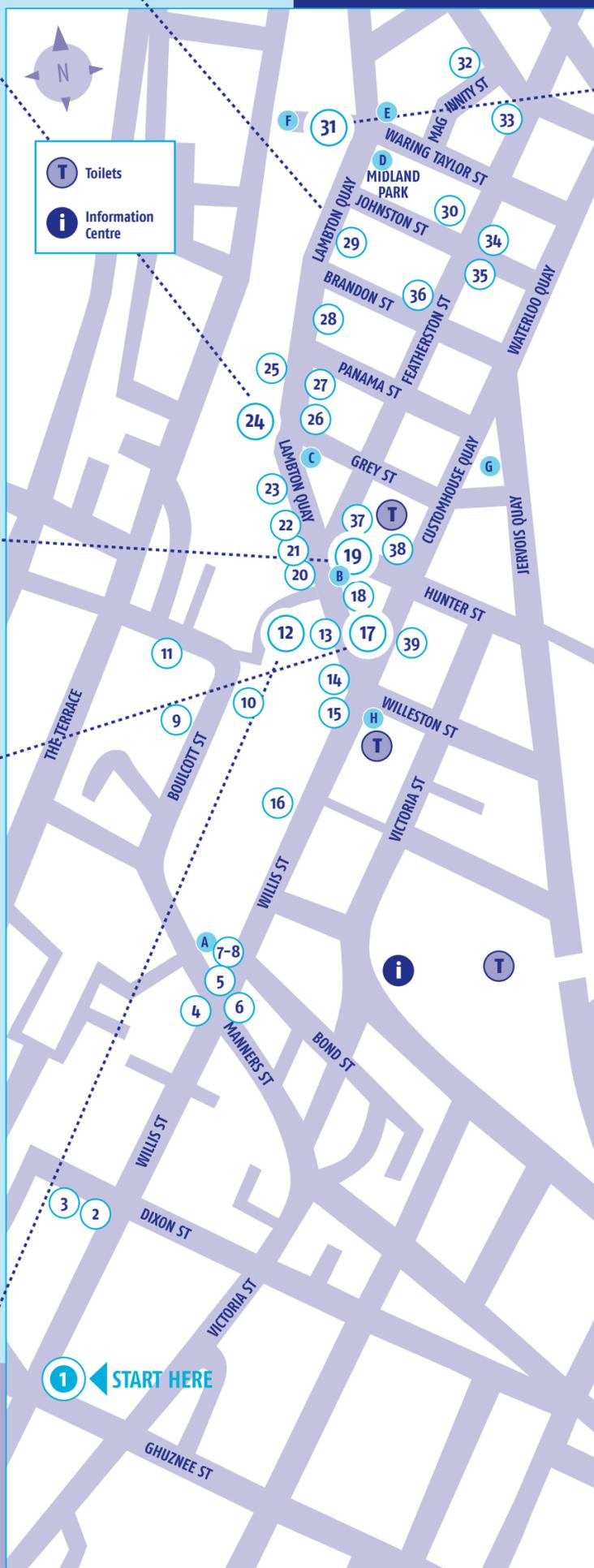
In 1888 Wellington became the first city in New Zealand to introduce electric street lighting with 500 lights around the central city and this lamp commemorates the event. The first electric light standard was in Lambton Quay and was a gift from the Mayor Samuel Brown. The first public display of electric lighting in New Zealand was at the Basin Reserve in 1879 in the form of a floodlit soccer match.

## THE OLD BANK ARCADE



A joint venture between Wellington City Council and developers Ipoh Ltd transformed the four near derelict buildings on this site into one of the most elegant shopping arcades in New Zealand, opened in 1999. The Old Bank Arcade comprises four former Bank of New Zealand buildings all designed by Thomas Turnbull and built between 1884 and 1904. The corner building in Lambton Quay was the former head office of the Bank of New Zealand from 1901 until 1984 and is the last survivor of a string of similar Edwardian bank head offices in central Wellington. The other buildings on the site were not built as bank buildings but were originally occupied by insurance companies and other commercial concerns. The building facing Customhouse Quay was the tallest masonry building in Wellington and the first building with a lift. Harold Beauchamp, father of Katherine Mansfield, was Chairman of the bank's Board of Directors from 1907-22. The Old Bank clock features four three dimensional animated scenes relating to the history of the site. These are revealed every hour on the hour accompanied by narration and music.

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## WOODWARD STREET



This was where the Kumutoto Stream flowed into the harbour. The stream now runs underground. The Kumutoto Kainga (village) was nearby and the local people were involved in gathering flax which grew abundantly and was prized by the settlers for thatching and ropes.

## SCULPTURES ALONG THE WAY



**A MAJESTIC EARTH**  
Majestic Centre, 100 Willis Street  
Artwork by Neil Dawson (1997)



**B PROTOPLASM**  
Phil Price's kinetic sculpture comprising four rotating 'pebbles' was made and installed in 2002.



**C INVISIBLE CITY**  
By Anton Parsons (2003), corner Lambton Quay and Grey Street.  
Invisible City was commissioned by the Wellington Sculpture Trust. It is constructed from reflective stainless steel and blends into the surrounding modern glass and steel buildings. It reads as magnified Braille text that suggests a message, a poem. The artist however denies us access, raising issues of communication and translation in city spaces.



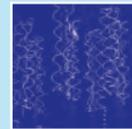
**D NGA KORORERO – ONGOING TALK**  
Midland Park Sivia Saldago's 1996 water sculpture. The rock formations are the tectonic plates that shape the history of geological time. The passageway of stepping stones mark the footsteps of those who have gone before us. The bronze talking heads carry the Mauri – the life force, like us they are the living element.



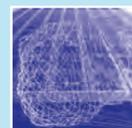
**E SHELLS**  
Corner of Waring Taylor St and Lambton Quay  
A sculpture by Jeff Thomson, installed in 2002. It recalls elements of the old foreshore that ran along here.



**F SPINNING TOP**  
Woodward St  
Robert Jahnke's sculpture was installed in 2002 at the top of the street where a vehicle turntable was once located.



**G SKY BLUES**  
Bill Culbert (2006), Post Office Square, Jervois Quay  
Presented to the city by the Wellington Sculpture Trust in March 2006. This work comprises 7 stainless steel poles wrapped in fine neon tubing, which lights up blue at night. Bill Culbert is internationally famous for his work in neon and other light forms.



**H THE ROCK**  
State Insurance Building  
A sculpture by Neil Dawson.

## 12



## PLIMMER STEPS

Plimmer was an important Wellington figure. He and his family arrived in Wellington in 1841 and he became an important businessman known as the 'Father of Wellington'. He died in 1905. Plimmer leased land nearby at Clay Point, now known as Stewart Dawson's Corner. His first business here was a lime kiln. He later bought the land, built a house and a hotel and in 1849 beached a barque, the Inconstant, which had grounded at the Harbour entrance. This was used as a warehouse known as Noah's Ark or Plimmer's Ark. The remains of the barque were uncovered during the renovation of the Old Bank Arcade and the remains of the bow are on display in the building, whilst a gallery devoted to the Ark is located on the waterfront. The location was important as all traffic from the government end of town at Thorndon to the business end at Te Aro had to pass this point. The Bank's original furniture was made from timber from the Ark and when the present buildings were erected the stench from the stagnant water trapped beneath the foundations by the Ark produced a flurry of threatened lawsuits. Plimmer was a strong promoter of the rail link between Wellington and the Manawatu, and the seaside settlement of Plimmerton on that line was named after him.



## THE BIG GERTRUDE

At the top of Plimmer Steps is The Big Gertrude, a tile and brick memorial by Nicola Mannerling which depicts the Gertrude, the ship on which John Plimmer arrived in Wellington. (See Plimmer's Ark Gallery, Walk 1).



## OAK TREE AND PLIMMER'S EMPORIUM

3 Plimmer Steps

The oak tree was planted by John Plimmer around 1850 and nearby is a building which probably takes its name from the thoroughfare. Designed by Swan and Swan and built in 1916.

The Lambton Quay entrance to Plimmer Steps is adorned by a statue of John Plimmer and his dog Fritz by Ross Wilson and Judy Alexander.

