SOFTWARE & TECH

Where Is The Secret Annex

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795583869258048

Unveiling the Historical Location: Where Is The Secret Annex

The story of Anne Frank is one of the most profound narratives of the 20th century, a testament to the human spirit amidst unimaginable horror. At the heart of this story lies the Secret Annex, the hidden rooms where Anne, her family, and four others lived in concealment for over two years during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. For many, the question **“Where Is The Secret Annex”** is not merely about a geographic location; it is about finding the physical space that became a sanctuary, a prison, and ultimately a symbol of hope and loss. This article provides a comprehensive guide to the exact location, the historical context, and the enduring significance of the Secret Annex, offering both practical information for visitors and deeper historical insights for those seeking to understand this iconic hiding place.

The Exact Location of the Secret Annex

The Secret Annex is located in the heart of Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands. Specifically, it is hidden within the building at **Prinsengracht 263–267** (though the annex itself is behind 263). This canal-side property, situated along one of Amsterdam’s most famous rings of canals, is now the world-renowned **Anne Frank House** museum. The address is unmistakable: Prinsengracht 263, 1016 GV Amsterdam. The building stands as a typical 17th-century Dutch merchant house, its outward appearance betraying nothing of the secret rooms concealed at its rear. When you ask **“Where Is The Secret Annex”**, the answer is a precise coordinate that attracts over a million visitors each year who come to walk through the same hidden passages that once shielded the Frank family from persecution.

The annex itself is a classic example of a *“huis achter”*(a house behind another house), a common architectural feature in Amsterdam where a second, smaller structure is built within the back courtyard of the main building. This physical configuration—a front house, an inner courtyard, and a rear annex—was the key to its success as a hiding place.

The Building at Prinsengracht 263

The structure at Prinsengracht 263 was originally built in 1635. By the early 1940s, it served as the office and warehouse of **Opekta**, a company trading in pectin and spices, and later also the firm **Gies & Co**. Otto Frank, Anne’s father, was a director. The ground floor and basement were used for storage and packing, while the first floor housed the offices. The secret annex was located in the rear part of the building, accessible through a concealed doorway disguised as a bookcase in an office on the second floor. For anyone wondering **“Where Is The Secret Annex”** in terms of its position within the city, it is roughly a 15-minute walk from the **Dam Square**and the Royal Palace, nestled in the bustling Jordaan neighborhood—a district then filled with working-class families, small businesses, and narrow streets. The busy canal life helped mask the sounds of the eight people living in strict silence during the day.

The Layout of the Secret Annex

Understanding **“Where Is The Secret Annex”** also means understanding its physical space. The annex was not a large house; it was a three-story space at the back of the building, comprising approximately 450 square feet (about 42 square meters) of usable area. This cramped environment housed eight people: Otto and Edith Frank, their daughters Anne and Margot, the van Pels family (Hermann, Auguste, and their son Peter), and later Fritz Pfeffer, a dentist. The annex was divided into several small rooms:

- Franks’ Room: A small room shared by Otto, Edith, and Margot, which also served as a common living and dining area. Anne slept in a room adjacent to this with a small desk where she wrote her diary.
- Anne’s Bedroom: Perhaps the most famous room in the annex, Anne decorated its walls with pictures of movie stars, postcards, and magazine clippings. This room, though tiny, was her personal sanctuary and the birthplace of her literary legacy.
- van Pels Family Room: Slightly larger but still compact, this room housed Hermann, Auguste, and their son Peter.
- Fritz Pfeffer’s Room: The smallest room, originally a storage closet, was converted into living quarters for the dentist.
- The Lavatory and Shared Spaces: A single, small toilet and a narrow staircase leading to an attic were the only other utilitarian spaces. The lack of privacy and the constant fear of discovery shaped every aspect of life in the hiding place.

By recognizing **“Where Is The Secret Annex”** not just as an address but as a confined, claustrophobic space, visitors gain a visceral appreciation of the courage required to remain hidden there for 761 days.

How the Secret Annex Was Hidden

The genius of the Secret Annex’s concealment lies in its simplicity. The entrance to the secret rooms was hidden behind a movable bookcase, built by Otto Frank and his helpers. This bookcase, standing at the back of the office on the second floor, swung to one side to reveal a narrow staircase leading up to the annex. To the casual observer, the bookshelf appeared to be a permanent fixture filled with old files and books. The door behind it had no knob; a hidden latch released the mechanism. This clever camouflage was the direct answer to the critical question **“Where Is The Secret Annex”** in terms of accessibility—it was nowhere to be found unless you knew the precise trick to open it.

The helpers—Miep Gies, Bep Voskuijl, Johannes Kleiman, and Victor Kugler—risked their lives daily to supply the annex with food, news, and necessities. They entered through the front office, climbed the stairs, and used the bookcase to reach the hidden inhabitants. Throughout the occupation, no one in the warehouse or the outside world suspected that eight people lived behind that ordinary-looking piece of furniture.

The Role of the Interior Courtyard

One of the key features that made the hiding place viable was the small, walled inner courtyard that separated the front building from the rear annex. This courtyard meant that sounds from the annex were not directly adjacent to the street or the main office. However, it also meant that any noise—a dropped pot, a cough, a flushed toilet—could potentially be heard by warehouse workers below. The office helpers would engage in deliberate background noise—typing, moving boxes, even shaking a typewriter—to mask unintended sounds from above. Understanding **“Where Is The Secret Annex”** in this architectural context explains the extreme precautions the inhabitants had to take: no talking during the day, no bright lights at night, and no drawing of curtains until after dark.

The Historical Significance of the Secret Annex

The answer to **“Where Is The Secret Annex”** transcends mere geography because it became the stage for

one of history's most poignant human documents. Anne Frank's diary, written during her confinement, transformed the annex from a hiding place into a universal symbol of resilience and the atrocities of war. After their betrayal in August 1944, the eight residents were deported to concentration camps. Only Otto Frank survived. Upon his return, Miep Gies handed him Anne's diary, which she had saved from the annex after the arrest.

The publication of the diary, first in Dutch in 1947 as *"Het Achterhuis"* (The Secret Annex), introduced the world to an ordinary girl whose extraordinary voice continues to educate generations. The question **"Where Is The Secret Annex"**thus leads not only to a physical building but to a moral and historical touchstone. It is a place where the horror of the Holocaust is intimately connected to the courage of ordinary people. Today, the Anne Frank House stands as a living memorial, preserving the bare rooms—some left deliberately empty to evoke the absence and loss—while educating visitors about antisemitism, discrimination, and the importance of human rights.

Visiting the Secret Annex Today

For modern visitors, discovering **"Where Is The Secret Annex"** is the first step of a profound pilgrimage. The Anne Frank House museum at Prinsengracht 263 is open to the public, but it is one of Amsterdam's most popular attractions, requiring advance ticket reservations often weeks or months in advance. The museum experience is designed to take visitors through the entire hiding place as authentically as possible.

What to Expect When You Visit

The tour begins in the original warehouse and packing rooms, now converted into exhibition spaces that provide historical context on the rise of Nazism, the occupation of the Netherlands, and the life of the Frank family before they went into hiding. You then climb the narrow staircases to the offices, where you see the bookcase that concealed the entrance. Upon stepping behind the bookcase, you enter the main floor of the Secret Annex. The rooms are largely preserved as they were—bare floors, faded wallpaper, the penciled marks on the wall where Anne recorded her height. Anne's bedroom still has the postcards and pictures she pasted on the walls. The atmosphere is hushed, reflective. Many visitors are moved to tears.

The museum also includes exhibitions on contemporary social issues, emphasizing the ongoing relevance of Anne Frank's story. Important logistical details to note:

- Address: Prinsengracht 263-267, 1016 GV Amsterdam
- Public Transport: Trams 13, 14, or 17 to the Westermarkt stop; also a short walk from Centraal Station.
- Accessibility: The Secret Annex itself is not wheelchair accessible due to steep, narrow stairs. However, the museum provides virtual tours and alternative access in the main building.
- Photography: Photography is not allowed inside the Secret Annex to preserve the intimate atmosphere and protect the artifacts.
- Duration: Plan for about 1.5 to 2 hours to fully experience the museum.

If you ask **"Where Is The Secret Annex"** as part of planning a trip, be sure to purchase your tickets exclusively from the official Anne Frank House website to avoid scams and scalpers.

The Enduring Legacy of the Secret Annex

The Secret Annex is more than a museum; it is a symbol of the fragility of human freedom and the power of words. Anne Frank wrote in her diary: *"I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart."* Knowing **"Where Is The Secret Annex"**—both the address and the emotional reality—allows us to confront the contradiction of that hope in a place of immense fear. The site continues to inspire millions to stand against injustice. For teachers, students, and history enthusiasts, the location is a primary source of learning about the Holocaust in a personal, non-abstract way.

Additionally, the architecture itself has become a study in survival. The forward-thinking design of the Dutch canal houses, with their hidden rear annexes, inadvertently provided a perfect form of "Where Is The Secret Annex" in the context of other hiding places used during the Holocaust, noting that few were as elaborate or lasted as long as this one.

Conclusion

The answer to **"Where Is The Secret Annex"** is both simple and profound. It is located at Prinsengracht 263 in Amsterdam, hidden behind a swinging bookcase in a quiet canal house. But it is also located in the collective memory of humanity—a small, silent space that speaks volumes about courage, terror, and an indomitable young voice. Whether you are planning a visit, researching history, or simply seeking to understand one of the 20th century's most iconic stories

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#where • #secret • #annex

DIGITAL EDITION

where-is-the-secret-annex

DIGITAL EDITION

where-is-the-secret-annex

DIGITAL EDITION

where-is-the-secret-annex

DIGITAL EDITION

where-is-the-secret-annex