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# Abercrombie House



B3401 Abercrombie House

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## Location

399 Coventry Street,, SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205 - Property No B3401

## Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

## Level of significance

State

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0404

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2005

The iron house, formerly at 59 Arden Street, North Melbourne and now at the National Trust Iron House Museum at 399 Coventry Street, South Melbourne, was most probably manufactured by Moorwood and Rogers of London as a four room gable roof cottage with front verandah and intended for export to the British Colonies. Andrew Abercrombie erected this portable iron house in 1853. A brick kitchen was added prior to 1858.

Portable iron houses were manufactured in great numbers in Great Britain in the mid 19th century, largely to meet exigencies of accommodation in the colonies at that time. This is a unique survivor of a building type erected in great numbers in this area of Melbourne and a rare example of a portable iron cottage in the world.

These structures, historically important in representing a short lived period of frantic settlement during the Victorian gold rushes, are of great significance to the history of industrial technology.

The fabric is in good condition with important archaeological data preserved during the removal operations undertaken in 1979.

Adapted from AHC Citation

Classified: 26/10/1978

Other Names      Iron House, 59 Arden St, North Melbourne,

Hermes Number    66496

Property Number

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*