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# Former Cable Tram Engine House



B3891 Fmr Cable Tram Engine House



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## Location

Cnr Nicholson & Gertrude Streets,, FITZROY VIC 3065 - Property No B3891

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

National

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0584

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 14, 2007

This cable tram engine house is of National, architectural, historical and technological significance as being one of the most sophisticated examples of this type of building which survives from Melbourne's former cable tram system, the most extensive cable tram system in the world operated by a single authority.

Constructed in 1886-87 to the design of notable architect Alexander Davidson as the third engine house built in this system, the building is more ornamental than others of its type, employing cement and bluestone dressings against bi-chrome brick. An eclectic and inventive use of architectural motifs drawn from the Italian Renaissance and contemporary English commercial architecture has been employed in this robust design. Included in the

design is a particularly fine corbelled polygonal signal box mounted above the parapet over the corner splay of the building. The parapet urns and miniature dome of this signal box echo those of the Exhibition Buildings opposite.

It is of historical significance as an element in the tram routes which made the corner of Nicholson and Gertrude Streets a focal point for the city and provided an impetus to the development of the commercial precincts of Fitzroy, Melbourne's first suburb, and also as the last operating engine house in Melbourne, closing on 26 October 1940.

Classified: 13/10/77

Upgraded: 17/03/1993

Hermes Number 67141

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/>*