

170 Russell Street

Corner Russell Street and Grey Street, Palmerston North

NZHPT Registration Number:	1264
NZHPT Registration Type:	Historic Place - Category II
NZHPT Registration Date:	02/07/82
City/ District Council:	Palmerston North City Council
District Plan Status:	Category II



Brief History

The house was built by L T Arnott, a local building contractor, as his own home. Construction took 18 months and the house was completed in 1923. It was constructed of cavity brick, plastered over with concrete cast from moulds to resemble logs. Its style is that of a Californian bungalow with the appearance of a Canadian style log cabin. The structure took about 85,000 bricks and these are known to have been made at the Hoffman kiln in Featherston Street, Palmerston North.

Arnott also built another smaller house using the same basic floor plan on the corner of Grey and Amesbury Streets. A feature of the interior of Arnott's home is a magnificent fireplace carved in Italy. The house was still owned by members of the Arnott family in 2005. The log cabin is unique in Palmerston North and the unusual style has been termed 'dendritic' or 'dendromorphic'.

The concrete log fence at the front and the fence on the Amesbury Street house were constructed by Arnott and his bricklayer.

Though there are similar fences at 157 and 155 Russell Street, it is not known if Arnott built these. The fences were built by using tubes of wire netting filled with a coarse concrete mix. When this had dried the structure was plastered over. Chips of brick were added and plastered to give the branchlet effect.

Principal Sources:

Palmerston North City Council, *Palmerston North City Heritage Trail*, 1993, p75.
Manawatu Branch HPT Records 0100016.

