

---

# IRON HOUSE



IRON HOUSE SOHE 2008



Iron Cottage 189 Brunswick  
Road Brunswick



1 iron house brunswick road  
brunswick front view aug1980



iron house brunswick road  
brunswick side view aug1980

---

## Location

189 BRUNSWICK ROAD BRUNSWICK, MORELAND CITY

## Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0665

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO40

## VHR Registration

November 18, 1987

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

---

### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 25, 2008

#### What is significant?

189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick is the westernmost of a row of two pairs of pre-fabricated iron cottages constructed in 1854 by the architect James Blackburn junior. They were built for the Presbyterian minister, William Jarrett, who had acquired the site in 1851. Jarrett was the clerk of the first United Presbyterian Synod in Melbourne and founded one of Brunswick's earliest schools in 1852, located adjacent to the cottages, and it is likely that the cottages were constructed to house teachers. Jarrett sold the pair at 187-9 Brunswick Road in 1864 (and the pair at 181-183 Brunswick Road in 1871), and the houses were subsequently owned and occupied by a number of people, many of whom played significant roles in the development of Brunswick.

The cottage at 189 Brunswick Road has had fewer owners than the other cottages. The pioneer brickmaker and early Brunswick mayor, John Glew, was the owner of 189 Brunswick Road from 1872 to 1890 and his son, John, was owner and occupier from 1890. The house remained in the ownership of the Glew family until 1987. Glew senior began brick making in Brunswick soon after his arrival in Victoria in 1849, established his second yard in Brunswick in 1860 and bought a third brick making company in 1866. His Brunswick brickworks were renowned for producing the first white bricks in Melbourne.

A shortage of housing, building materials and labour during the gold rush led to the importation of large numbers of prefabricated iron and timber cottages from a variety of overseas countries. Iron buildings were chiefly imported in 1853-54, with the material quickly proving unsuitable for the Australian climate. The Presbyterian Church, with which the Rev William Jarrett was associated, imported a number of corrugated iron churches in the 1850s.

The Brunswick cottages are built of iron sheeting which was prefabricated and imported from England and erected in Melbourne. They are timber framed, with external broad-gauge corrugated galvanized iron cladding and interior brick cladding. British technicians developed the galvanizing process in the 1840s and this achievement, along with the use of grooved rollers and the fabrication of rolled sections of wrought iron, enabled the construction of prefabricated iron buildings. The Brunswick cottages are clad internally with brick, probably to reduce the effect of the climate.

The cottages were recorded in the first Brunswick rate book of 1860 as comprising five rooms with detached kitchens. It has been suggested that these kitchens were imported prefabricated timber cottages, known as Singapore cottages, which were imported from that country in large numbers in the 1850s, or at least contained some Singapore timber in their construction. Remnants, mainly of common Singapore timbers, have been found on the sites of the four houses and these exhibit construction detailing and identifying stenciling common to Singapore cottages. The kitchen at 189 Brunswick Road had been replaced by 1904, however a later pergola on the site incorporates Singapore cottage timbers, and remnant windows and doors were found at the site.

#### How is it significant?

The iron house at 189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

#### Why is it significant?

The iron house at 189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick is of architectural significance as a rare and substantially intact example of a portable iron cottage. Together with the adjacent iron cottages at 187, 183 and 181 Brunswick Road, this cottage is part of a highly unusual paired configuration forming a group of four examples of the one type. They are unlike any prefabricated buildings in Victoria.

The iron house at 189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick is of architectural significance for its association with the architect James Blackburn Junior and for the unusual combination of Asian timber trusses and British corrugated iron sheeting.

The iron house at 189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick is of historical significance as an illustrative example of a prefabricated building, imported during the Victorian gold rush when demands for housing were high and materials in short supply.

The iron house at 189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick is of historical significance for its association with the notable Presbyterian minister, William Jarrett and the pioneer brickmaker, John Glew.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2008]

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding

all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1854,
Architect/Designer	Blackburn, James Jnr,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	170
Property Number	

---

## History

189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick is the westernmost of a row of two pairs of pre-fabricated iron cottages constructed in 1854 by the architect James Blackburn junior. They were built for the Presbyterian minister, William Jarrett, who had acquired the site in 1851. Jarrett was the clerk of the first United Presbyterian Synod in Melbourne and founded one of Brunswick's earliest schools in 1852, located adjacent to the cottages, and it is likely that the cottages were constructed to house teachers. Jarrett sold the pair at 187-9 Brunswick Road in 1864 (and the pair at 181-183 Brunswick Road in 1871), and the houses were subsequently owned and occupied by a number of people, many of whom played significant roles in the development of Brunswick.

The cottage at 189 Brunswick Road has had fewer owners than the other cottages. The pioneer brickmaker and early Brunswick mayor, John Glew, was the owner of 189 Brunswick Road from 1872 to 1890 and his son, John, was owner and occupier from 1890. The house remained in the ownership of the Glew family until 1987. Glew senior began brick making in Brunswick soon after his arrival in Victoria in 1849, established his second yard in Brunswick in 1860 and bought a third brick making company in 1866. His Brunswick brickworks were renowned for producing the first white bricks in Melbourne.

### **The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2008. Sources were as follows:**

*Argus*. 1 August 1854, p 7, tenders for 'Iron House Builders' to erect two pairs of iron cottages in Brunswick Road.  
A. Sutherland. *Victoria and its Metropolis*. Melbourne 1888  
Helen Lardner Conservation and Design. 'Conservation Analysis and Management Plan 181, 183 and 187 Brunswick Road, Brunswick'. 1996  
MMBW Detail Plan No 1866, 1904  
MMBW Detail Plan No 96, 1904  
C. Kellaway. 'Research Report: Iron Cottages', unpublished report on HV file, 1987

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Iron Cottage, 189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick, to the extent of the whole of the buildings and all the land described in Certificate of Title (Volume 2310 Folio 970).

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G45 18 November 1987 p. 3103]

*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/>*