

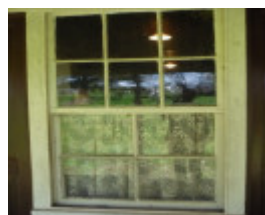
# SEYMOUR COTTAGE



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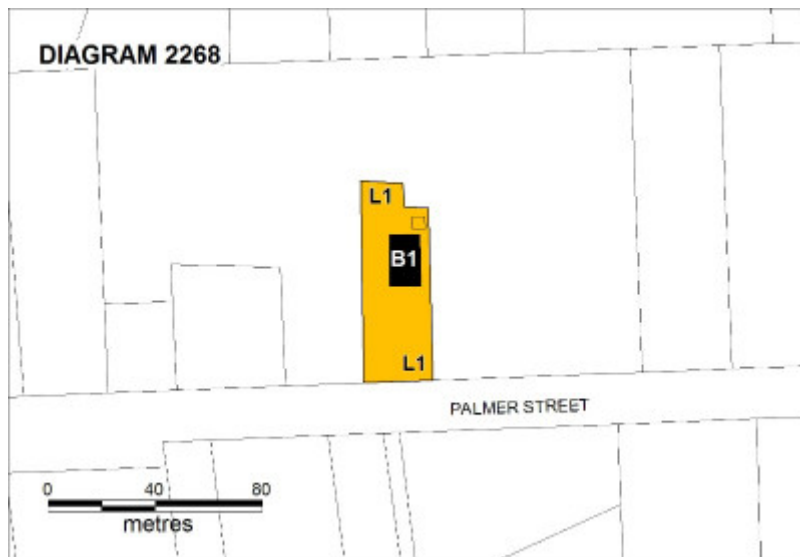
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seymour cottage plan.jpg

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### **Location**

20 PALMER STREET ROMSEY, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

### **Municipality**

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

### **Level of significance**

Registered

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H2268

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO194

### **VHR Registration**

February 10, 2011

### **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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### **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on -

### *What is significant?*

Seymour Cottage, formerly Barton, is a four-roomed residence constructed in c. 1856, with walls made of prefabricated meranti door panels from Singapore.

The cottage was built by Sidney Seymour, who arrived in Romsey with his wife, Elizabeth, and their six children in the mid-1850s. Sidney and Elizabeth Seymour had arrived in Victoria in 1835 as assisted immigrants. Romsey, located on the Five Mile Creek near Lancefield, was on the route to the central highlands goldfields. Sidney Seymour was a farmer and resided at Romsey until his death, at age 100, in 1913.

The importation of prefabricated buildings to Victoria reached its peak in the early 1850s, due to the huge demand for accommodation and local labour shortage during the gold rush period. In the early 1850s, hundreds of prefabricated timber houses arrived in Victoria from Britain, Singapore, India and Hong Kong. It is unknown how Seymour obtained this large quantity of door panels, but it is likely they arrived with a large consignment of prefabricated houses.

The single-storey cottage consisted of three small bedrooms and a sitting room entered from narrow central passageway, and had another bedroom and a large kitchen. The partitions between the rooms have since been removed, but beams and ceiling trusses convey this original layout. The house features a coved ceiling, original twelve-paned double-hung sash windows, and has roof shingles under one part of the verandah. The hipped roof is clad with corrugated iron, and there is a verandah on three sides of the building, with a small skillion addition on the fourth side. The kitchen retains a large brick fireplace and bread oven. The most unusual aspect of Seymour Cottage is that it is constructed using Singapore-manufactured meranti doors, and there are variations in the height of the panels and horizontal rails within each door.

This site is part of the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people.

### *How is it significant?*

Seymour Cottage is of architectural and historical significance to the state of Victoria.

### *Why is it significant?*

Seymour Cottage is architecturally significant as it exhibits an unusual use of materials in the prefabricated meranti doors from Singapore, which were used for external walls of the cottage. It is also architecturally significant as a relatively intact example of a simple gold rush era cottage.

Seymour Cottage is historically significant as a demonstration of the proliferation of prefabricated buildings and materials imported to meet the demand for accommodation in the rapidly expanding colony of gold rush era Victoria.

## **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 endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria 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 may 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	1868,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	4334
Property Number	

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### Assessment Against Criteria

#### *a. Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history*

Seymour Cottage is historically significant in its demonstration of the proliferation of prefabricated buildings and materials needed to meet the demand for accommodation in the rapidly expanding colony of gold rush era Victoria. A huge influx of people and a shortage of local labour, made the importation of prefabricated buildings much more viable during this period.

b. Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

- c. Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.
- d. Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or environments.
- e. *Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.*  
Seymour Cottage is architecturally significant as it exhibits an unusual use of materials in the prefabricated Singapore doors used for the walls of the cottage. Timber prefabricated constructed buildings were imported from Singapore, and the panels of the Seymour House
- f. Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.
- g. Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.
- h. Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

## **Plaque Citation**

This simple four-roomed cottage was constructed of prefabricated Singapore meranti door panels in c.1856. During the gold rush prefabricated buildings were imported into Victoria to cater for the demand for housing.

## **Extent of Registration**

1. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 2268 held by the Executive Director, being all of the land described as Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 141111.
2. All the building marked B1 on Diagram 2268 held by the Executive Director.

B1 Cottage

*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/>*