

---

## Portable Iron Houses Complex



B2240 Portable Iron Houses Complex



B2240 Portable Iron Houses Complex

---

### Location

399 Coventry Street and 6-8 Patterson Street,, SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC 3205 - Property No B2240

### Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

### Level of significance

State

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1888

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

---

### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The iron house fronting 399 Coventry Street, South Melbourne and still located on the original site, was imported and erected in 1853 for local speculator Robert patterson.

The portable iron structure of utilitarian design and unknown manufacture is constructed of a tee and angle section wrought iron frame clad with five inch pitch corrugated sheet, which is partitioned and lined internally with horizontal boards to form an attic cottage of six rooms.

Portable iron structures were a significant British manufacture of the period 1840-60 and the South Melbourne

house, originally one of a large number imported to Victoria, is of international importance as one of very few surviving prefabricated iron cottages in the world. The house is a fine intact example of a building type which proliferated in the gold rush era of the burgeoning colony of Victoria and is of paramount technological rather than stylistic importance.

The portable iron house survives essentially intact, although depressed, and is being systematically and meticulously restored by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as a museum exhibit.

Classified: 12/12/1968

Hermes Number 66487

Property Number

---

*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/>*