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# IRON HOUSES

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## Location

181-183, 187, 189 BRUNSWICK ROAD, BRUNSWICK, MORELAND CITY

## Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1151-53

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO37

HO38

HO39

HO40

## Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The iron cottages at 181-183 and 187-189 Brunswick Road, Brunswick, are of state historical, technological and architectural Significance. They are rare surviving examples of prefabricated houses which were imported from England in the gold rush period. They derive historical Significance from their connections with the Rev William Jarrett, who established one of Brunswick's two earliest colleges in 1852, and with the Glew family, local brickmakers, who owned one of the cottages for approximately 100 years.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999;
Architect/Designer	Blackburn, James Jnr,
Other Names	Individual, 1860,
Hermes Number	59001
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

The cottages were erected as two pairs, Nos. 189 and 187, and Nos. 183 and 181. (The site at No. 185 is now an access road for housing to the rear). No. 189 has remained largely in its original form, but its brick chimneys have been removed. The front facade of its pair (No. 187) had been brick clad with clinker bricks, possibly in the 1930-40s. Its side facade retains the original iron finish. The verandah of No. 187 had also been altered. Both cottages in the other pair (Nos. 183 and 181) had been brick clad at an earlier time. The brickwork was tuckpointed. These buildings retained their original form, chimneys, windows and verandah posts, however, the verandah frieze had been replaced. A brick extension was added to Nos. 183 in 1963.

In 1997, extensive conservation work was carried out on Nos. 181-183 and 187. Brickwork which had been added to the front facades of the cottages in the 1930s was removed, revealing the original corrugated iron cladding, and various other elements-including the verandah railings and friezes and the half-round guttering-were reconstructed to match existing fragments. Importantly, although the original iron cladding was never painted, the whole was painted to create a uniform appearance where new panels had to be added. A new front picket fence was constructed. (6)

No. 189 remains in good condition and retains much original fabric, but it was not part of the 1997 conservation program.

(6) Lardner, 'Brunswick Iron Cottages', pp. 12-13.

Key Architectural Elements: prefabrication  
 corrugated iron wall cladding, gabled roofs and concave profile verandah roofs  
 verandah railings and friezes  
 decorative timber bargeboards, gable-ends and finials  
 half-round guttering  
 brick chimneys

Conservation Guidelines: restore and reconstruct No. 189 to match Nos. 181-183 and 187

Principal Historic Themes: association with individuals or families

*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/>*