

The internal mechanism was initially designed by an English locksmith by the name of Robert Barron in 1778 (English Letters of Patent #1200, October 31st, 1778). Barron patented a double-acting tumbler (lever) system that not only used a set of wards, but also two levers, which needed to be lifted to specific levels in order to move the bolt forward and backward. (Notice the key construction which belies the internal wards and lever positions.) It was a significant development in lock design that touched off a century of lock design innovation, and competition, in both the United Kingdom and in America.

The VR locks were produced after 1837, when Queen Victoria assumed the throne. Because of the heavy construction and weight of the lock, they may have very well been used for military or government facility use.

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