Altair 8800b-dm

In 1975, Ed Roberts, the founder of Micro Instrumentation and Telemetry Systems (MITS), developed the Altair 8800, one of the world's first microcomputers. The Altair 8800 was initially marketed to electronics enthusiasts and hobbyists as a kit for assembly at home. Two young man named Bill Gates and his partner Paul Allen saw a magazine ad for the Altair and recognized its potential. They contacted MITS and offered to write a version of the BASIC programming language for the Altair. They were subsequently hired by MITS and founded Microsoft to sell software for the Altair and other microcomputers.

In later in 1975, a small store in Boston called Foley's Department Store ordered an Altair 8800 kit, which was assembled and put on display to sell. Sources say that only 400 of these Altair "Turnkey" 8800s were made for Foley's and this Altair 8800b-dm "Foley's Edition" is one of only four confirmed in existence today. Foley's is now part of the Macy's chain.

This Altair has an 8080 Intel CPU, 48K memory and had a retail price of $4,995 in 1977. It is serial #700-G00015, making it the 15th Altair 8800b-dm produced.

On permanent loan from the Paul Hutcheson collection.

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