
Lions House of Sunshine



1671 - Brimbank City Council
Post-contact Cultural
Heritage Study 1998



lions house.JPG



HO80 8 Watt St 1.JPG



Site 074 - Lions house of
Sunshine.jpg



Site 074 - Lions house of
Sunshine.jpg

Location

8 Watt Street, SUNSHINE VIC 3020 - Property No 74

Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO80

Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 5, 1998

Individual place statement of significance::

The building is historically significant as an early Senior Citizens' club, established through local initiative and effort, with some government support. The Sunshine Lions Club, who were responsible for the project, were amongst the first Lions Clubs in Australia. The building is an interesting example of partnership between a local community service group and local government.

Precinct statement of significance::

This McKay housing subdivision is of national historical and social significance as a part of a suburb created by Australia's leading industrialist and as a milestone in the development of the industrial suburb under the influence of the Garden City movement. Sunshine became a yardstick for planning and housing reformers, with H.V. McKay being regarded as an expert on planned industrial housing. The McKay estate is of regional architectural significance as it marks a crucial phase in the development of Sunshine, housing the resident work force which promoted further industrial development.

The group of houses in the precinct represent the type of houses built either by or for company employees and managers during the period of H V McKay's dominance of Sunshine's economy and development. Most of the remaining commercial premises, which formed the nucleus of the suburb west of the railway line, have been included in a separate precinct centred on the corner of Sun Crescent and City Place. While a number of original houses have been demolished, the remaining stock provides a representative sample of homes that are generally typical of the period, with several distinctive architectural designs, some of which can be ascribed to J Raymond Robinson, who might be considered the defacto company architect for the McKay Sunshine Harvester Works.

Characterised generally by steep gabled corrugated iron clad roofs (with hipped roofs on some of the earliest examples), weatherboard cladding and timber trimmed verandahs, the houses are also set on generous allotments, often with deep setbacks. These elements contribute to the garden suburb character that was intended in the original town planning designs, and perpetuated in the perceptions of Sunshine's character. It should be remembered that in the early 20th century, Sunshine's generous suburban estates were atypical of working class housing of the period.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1958,
Hermes Number	106013
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Description

Mannered Modernist design, on the north-east corner of Watt Street.

Physical Conditions

Condition/integrity

Good

Historical Australian Themes

8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.1 Organising recreation

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/>