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## Sunshine Mechanics Institute Library, former



1670a - Brimbank City  
Council Post-contact Cultural  
Heritage Study 1998



1670b - Brimbank City  
Council Post-contact Cultural  
Heritage Study 2000



1 Corio Street.JPG

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### Location

1 Corio Street, SUNSHINE VIC 3020 - Property No 65

### Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO9

### Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 11, 1998

#### Individual place statement of significance::

The former Sunshine Mechanics Institute Library is significant to the City of Brimbank as one of the City's few remaining early twentieth century civic buildings, and for its association with the civic and social organisation of the growing industrial suburb of Sunshine (formerly Braybrook Junction). Moved from its original site, and altered, the building served for many years as the municipal library. The simple timber form reflects the functional character of much of Sunshine's early architecture. It is one of the earliest-known examples of the work of local

architect, J. Raymond Robinson.

**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	1912,
Architect/Designer	Robinson, J Raymond,
Hermes Number	106012
Property Number	

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**Physical Description 1**

Sited at the rear of the Masonic Hall, this picturesque but modest weatherboard-clad, gable- ended hall was used for the first public library in Sunshine. It has simulated half-timbering to the jettied gable, a gable finial and near-original, vertical, boarded doors and multi-light windows. It is similar to many local mechanics' halls and libraries across the State but is one of the earliest group of public buildings in this part of the municipality.

**Condition/Integrity**

In good condition although somewhat altered. Currently owned by Brimbank City Council. The former use is obscured a little externally by minor alterations to trim (eg: barge boards) and internally by the removal of some original fittings.

## **Physical Conditions**

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## **Historical Australian Themes**

8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.10 Pursuing excellence in the arts and sciences

*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/>*