

---

## Parsons House; 114 Morris Street, SUNSHINE



1922 - Brimbank City Council  
Post-contact Cultural  
Heritage Study 2000



Parsons house.JPG



HO114 114 Morris St 3.JPG



HO114 114 Morris St 5.JPG



Site 113 - Parsons house.jpg

---

### Location

114 Morris Street, SUNSHINE VIC 3020 - Property No 113

### Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO114

### Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2000

### Individual place statement of significance: :

Of local historical and architectural significance as a relatively well-preserved and rare example of nineteenth century housing which is particularly unusual in Sunshine. It is one of the very few houses in the City of Brimbank to survive from the days of Melbourne's late nineteenth century suburban housing boom and subsequent Depression. It is also the only remaining building in Sunshine associated with the early days of the notable Parsons family, especially Edmund Parsons, co-founder of the firm Parsons & Lewis - Horsehair Drawers and Curlers, a unique and important industry which became significant in a national context.

### Precinct statement of significance: :

The Railway Station Estate - Wright & Edwards Heritage Area is of regional historical and architectural significance as a sub-division first developed in the speculative boom of the 1880s. This related to the industrialisation of the area and the creation of a new suburb - the township of Braybrook Junction. The few remaining houses of the early 1890s are amongst the oldest in the district and are a remarkable survival from the era of the 1890s Depression, when many newly-built houses were moved.

The subdivision is significant for its unusual (for the City of Brimbank) late nineteenth century plan with a simple grid of streets, divided into narrow allotments and with rear service laneways. The pattern was unrelieved by any provision for recreation, community facilities or other services. The earliest sold allotments were either intended to be for narrow terrace-type houses, or were subdivided. Allotments first sold in the 1920s were larger, perhaps in response to the impact McKay's subdivisions was having on aspirations of new residents. The houses tend to be simple double fronted plan, asymmetric with a projecting gable, weatherboard clad with corrugated iron roofs.

This subdivision is also significant for its diversity and the range of housing from different periods, especially the years immediately following the establishment of H.V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works at Braybrook Junction. The area provides an interesting comparison with H.V. McKay's housing estate, since many of his Ballarat workers moved or built homes here in the early years of the 20th century. The neighbourhood's population more than doubled in ten years, with further expansion in the 1920s -30s and during and after World War Two.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1890,
Other Names	Parsons house, weatherboard, 1890s, Individually listed, Local significance in 2000 study #113,
Hermes Number	106258
Property Number	

---

## Physical Description 1

Timber, detached, double-fronted cottage with ashlar boards and a verandah to the front. The house follows the typical floor plan of late nineteenth century double-fronted cottage, with central front door and hallway. The front door retains a highlight and is flanked by single double-hung sash windows in architraves. The roof is an M-hip,

typical of the Victorian period, and is clad in modern corrugated steel. The house retains one rendered chimney, with decorative mouldings, on the east slope of the roof. A symmetrical cottage such as this would have originally had two chimneys. Apart from the chimney moulding, ornament is limited to a simple cornice (paired brackets, cricket-bat moulds), and verandah ornament.

The house has undergone a number of changes, some of them recent (since the 2007 heritage study was prepared). The front door was replaced with a high-waisted model (c1920s), and the western chimney was demolished. The verandah posts (or columns) were replaced with plain timber posts in the 20th century, and these posts were recently replaced with turned timber posts (NB: such posts are not appropriate for a 19th-century house, and are also undersized). At this same time, the original gently convex roof of the verandah was replaced with a standard reproduction bullnose profile. The current cast-iron lace appears to be a reproduction, but an original cast-iron boss remains where it adjoins the wall.

The front picket fence is sympathetic, but not accurate in its details.

## **Physical Conditions**

### Condition/integrity

The house is in good condition, and survives relatively intact, apart from the adaptation to modern needs with the addition of kitchen and bathroom at the rear.

## **Intactness**

Substantially intact.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

4 Building settlement, towns and cities

4.1 Planning urban settlements

*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/>*