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# Robinson House



2015a - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study 1999



2015b - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study 1999



Site 059 - Robinson house.jpg

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## Location

33 Sun Crescent, SUNSHINE VIC 3020 - Property No 59

## Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO067

## Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 21, 1999

### Individual place statement of significance::

Of historical and architectural significance at the Metropolitan level as the former home of the locally-influential architect, J. Raymond Robinson, who did extensive work in the Sunshine area including domestic, commercial and civic projects, many of which were associated with H.V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works. Robinson may well have been employed by the Sunshine Harvester Works company for some years. The house is the main heritage building on the site and is architecturally important as an example of the large inter-war domestic

buildings of some visual prominence, related to McKay management and staff and in a generally cohesive style.

### **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	1923,
Architect/Designer	Robinson, J Raymond,
Hermes Number	106349
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

### **Description**

This is a large brick house on the south-west corner of Watt Street, featuring steeply-pitched roof and panelled gables. It retains original landscape details including the fence, entry gates and garden remnants. A notable brick garage faces Watt Street. The garden is complementary, with its gates and pillars, although much of the contemporary planting has been removed.

## **Physical Conditions**

Condition/integrity

In fair condition, although evidently requiring some basic maintenance.

## **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/>*