
Commonwealth Munitions House; 55 Duke Street, SUNSHINE



55-57 Duke Street.jpg

Location

55 Duke Street, SUNSHINE VIC 3020

Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO019

Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2000

Precinct statement of significance:

This Commonwealth Munitions Housing Estate is of national historical significance as part of a Federal Government-initiated housing scheme for workers in the munitions industry in the Maribyrnong-Footscray area, the largest concentration of defence production establishments in the whole of Australia, when World War Two

began.

It was one of the first major Commonwealth war housing schemes to be undertaken and was one of the few large-scale housing schemes undertaken in Victoria during World War Two. This part of the estate included the main recreational and community area, serving the whole estate of 234 houses. The estate is historically significant as a demonstration of the co-ordinated State and Commonwealth wartime effort on the home front, to build up defence production capabilities during the period of national emergency.

The estate is of architectural significance as an unusual example of planned suburban development, reflecting the Garden City principles and therefore can be seen as a continuation of the historical precedent established in McKay's Sunshine estates.

The precinct also has aesthetic significance for the distinctive styles of solid brick and concrete houses, built in a variety of forms but still maintaining a visual cohesion, and set in part, on curving streets with large garden allotments. Architecturally these houses are quite plain, but they are important for their innovative use of concrete and evidence of a modern design aesthetic.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1942,
Hermes Number	106835
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

brick duplex

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/>