
Sunshine Municipal Offices



1558 - Brimbank City Council
Post-contact Cultural
Heritage Study 2000



Sunshine.JPG



Site 108 - SUNshine
Municiple Offices.jpg

Location

Alexandra Avenue, SUNSHINE VIC 3020 - Property No 108

Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO109

Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2000

These substantial municipal buildings are of historical, social and architectural significance at the local level. Historically the building represents the economic and political maturation of the City of Sunshine as a consequence of the post war boom. It is of architectural significance for the distinctive building form, and in particular, the dramatic stained glass mural panel to the Council antechamber, which is expressed in the design as a major projecting volume over the main entrance and driveway portico.

The building is of social and historical significance as an expression and symbol of the expansion of a rapidly-growing district at a time (the 1960s) when large numbers of migrant settlers were arriving and the municipality of Sunshine was becoming one of the largest in Victoria in terms of population.

The modern sun motif on the mural wall, which is the main feature of the building, has links with the name of Sunshine and the symbol which was used on the thousands of Sunshine Harvester Works and other manufacturers' products over many decades. As such, it relates historically to the origin of the suburb as the company town for H.V. McKay's Sunshine Harvester Works.

The building is also significant as the work of Melbourne architect, G. Stuart Warmington, who also has a link with Sunshine's early history, since his family came to live on McKay's Sunshine estate in its first decade of development. The building is also of interest for the emphasis given to the use of local manufacturers and builders in its fabrication and construction.

The significant elements are confined to the original 1960s structures and associated landscaping, but do not include the later additions to the east.

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Heritage Study/Consultant	Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1967,
Architect/Designer	Warmington, G Stuart,
Hermes Number	105902
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Sunshine Municipal Offices is a prominent modernist building set on a curving street and forms a boomerang or "Y" shaped plan with a projecting bay over the main entrance, and asymmetric wings extending on either side. It is built in reinforced concrete with brown brick panels between vertical aluminium strips and aluminium windows with alternating high and low opening panes which help create a rhythm across the facades. The narrow, vertical columns may reference classical forms while the entrance is deeply set under the ornate coloured glass window as the main feature. A small upturned canopy on the rear entrance continues the angle motif that is evident in the ground plan.

There is a large extension to the east of the original wings believed to have been built in the 1970s and more recently. This is not sympathetic, and in one respect detracts from the significant building where a glazed passageway extends across the front of the original building. The later additions should not be considered to be part of the significant structure.

Physical Conditions

The exterior is original, apart from the reconstructed entrance and insertion of a disabled ramp. The interior is much altered. The later additions to the east are unsympathetic and are not considered part of the listing.

Historical Australian Themes

7 Governing

7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy

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/>