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# Black Powder Mill



1979a - Brimbank City  
Council Post-contact Cultural  
Heritage Study 1997



1979b - Brimbank City  
Council Post-contact Cultural  
Heritage Study 1997



Site 051 - Black Powder  
Mill.jpg

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## Location

Parklea Avenue; Kororoit Creek, CAIRNLEA VIC 3023 - Property No 51

## Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2029

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO6

## Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 14, 1997

The Black Powder Mill is of national significance as the only surviving component of a gunpowder manufacturing facility on its original site. Three similar mills at ICI were demolished in 1997. The mill reflects the significance of

munitions production during World War Two and the technological processes required for meeting Australia's defence needs.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000; Brimbank - Albion Explosives Factory Heritage Study, G. Vines & A. Ward, 1988;
Construction dates	1934,
Other Names	Albion Explosives Factory,
Hermes Number	106314
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Most of the World War Two black powder factory buildings have been demolished, although some associated structures survive as a result of their use by community groups. Two red brick buildings stand in the median strip of Station Road among the sugar gum plantation. The buildings are typical of World War Two Commonwealth standard architectural forms, featuring corrugated iron roof pavilions, fitted with steel windows and timber double entry doors. This site was once part of Albion defence land to the east; connected to the remains of the factory by concrete roads and 'clean ways'. The Black Powder Mill features a triangular form with massive concrete walls on two sides and the third side enclosed by a light timber framed wall, clad with tongue-and-groove boards on the inside only. The roof is a pitched timber framed skillion clad in bituminous paper. Beneath the main floor is a partial cellar, level with the intact electric motors and gearbox driving the main edge runner mill on the concrete floor above, via the direct vertical shaft. The edge-runner mill almost fills the main room, set slightly above ground level on the concrete floors which are covered with spark-suppressing 'malthoid'. The mill itself comprises a large cast-iron bowl, standing in a frame of cast and wrought iron. Two fabricated edge runner wheels are mounted in the frame, with the drive turning the frame and gearing to the wheels themselves.

### Condition/Integrity

Although in a dilapidated state, the black powder mill is generally intact, with its original machinery and fittings and is restorable. The loading buildings on Station Road are in poor condition and have been altered in minor form to accommodate community functions.

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### Intactness

Substantially intact.

## Historical Australian Themes

3 Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

*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/>*