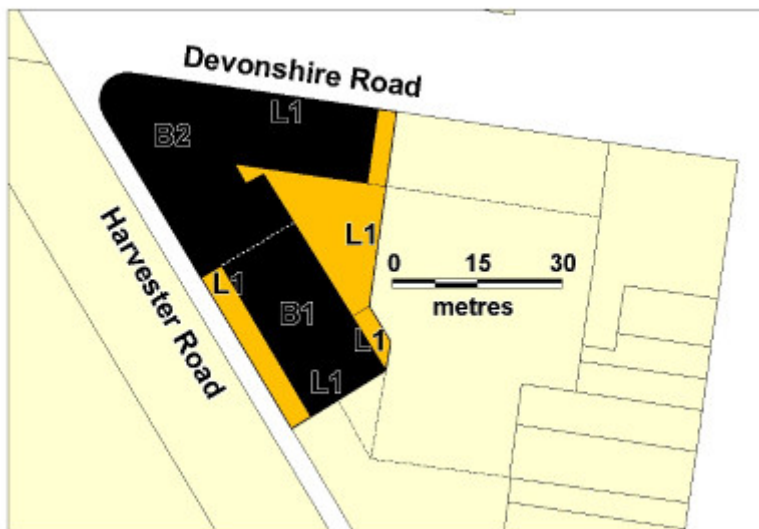


# HV MCKAY OFFICES



HV MCKAY OFFICES SOHE 2008 H01966 1 hv mckay offices



H01966 hv mckay offices plan

## Location

2 DEVONSHIRE ROAD SUNSHINE, BRIMBANK CITY

## Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1966

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO11

## VHR Registration

March 21, 2002

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 28, 2002

What is significant?

HV McKay purchased the Braybrook Implement Company works, on an advantageous site at the junction of the northern and western rail routes, in 1904. He began to transfer his operations there from Ballarat in 1905 and completed the move in 1907, by which time the works had trebled in size. Braybrook Junction was renamed Sunshine in 1907. At first the office of the company was in the buildings on the north side of Devonshire Road. The new office building on the triangular block to the south of Devonshire Road was constructed facing the railway line in 1909, and the area around this corner became the site of all of the later head office activity for the company. The general pattern of factory building expansion was to the north. Timber framed buildings of similar scale and style to the 1909 office were constructed on either side in 1910-11. The area just to the east was occupied by factory roofed spaces for the spare parts and engineering departments. New factory offices, show rooms and a clocktower were opened on the north side of Devonshire Road in 1921. By 1926, the year HV McKay died, the factory occupied an area of 80 acres. The new Head Office building on the corner was then being designed, and was completed in the same year. The 1909 office now became the printing area, where company publications were produced. The new offices became the focus for the numerous important visitors to the factory, who were commonly photographed outside the main doors. Tour groups were photographed with the corner of the building as a backdrop, and the offices were also a regular backdrop for photos of the various new models of machinery. In 1928 McKay's original timber slab farm smithy was relocated on the strip of garden facing the railway line.

In 1930, HV McKay, Australia's biggest manufacturer of farm machinery merged with Massey Harris, the largest farm implement makers in Canada and major international exporters. The directorship remained in McKay family hands. In 1940 the engineering section and the garage buildings behind were revamped to a design by architect Frederick Morsby. The engineering department drawing section was accommodated in a two storey continuation of the east wing of the 1926 building, though with some additional Moderne styling on the section over the vehicular entrance to the courtyard behind the offices. The tall new garage facade to the railway frontage was given similarly derivative detailing.

Massey-Harris amalgamated with Harry Ferguson in 1953, and the McKay family interest was bought out by this company in 1955. The Sunshine factory became a part of the international company Massey-Harris Ferguson. This takeover had a major impact on the McKay family and their staff. The timberwork and furniture of the office building, which was now no longer the head office of the company, was painted over in Massey Ferguson grey. The main centre of tractor and self propelled harvester production was now in England, and Sunshine become the second largest plant in the company's network. A new administration building with clock tower was constructed across Devonshire Road in 1956. The operation of the works was greatly scaled down in 1971, and much of the factory site was sold in 1986.

The 1909 office building was of single storey masonry construction decorated in an Edwardian Baroque/Arts and Crafts style. The architect is unknown. The 1926 office building was designed in a rusticated classical style by

architect J. Raymond Robinson, who also undertook housing designs in Sunshine. The two storey stuccoed masonry building has a gabled Marseille tiled roof with narrow eaves. The straight sections of facade to Devonshire Road and Harvester Road are flanked by stuccoed bays with pilasters and pediment continued above eaves height to form panels that once carried the McKay company name. The corner is turned by three window bays separated by wide rusticated pilasters. Massive rusticated voussoirs jut out over the first floor corner windows. The awning over the main entrance on Devonshire Street was finished with decorative elements in keeping with the facade. The entrance hall is gained by a narrow and deeply inset timber panelled revolving door, which leads to a two-storey space with surrounding timber-panelled staircase. At first floor level the corner section of the building contains executive offices and the timber panelled boardroom with its commanding view over the factory and railway lines and sidings.

How is it significant?

The McKay Offices at Sunshine are of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The McKay Offices at Sunshine are of historical significance for their association with the activities of Hugh Victor McKay (1865-1926) and of the McKay family enterprise. McKay was famous for producing, manufacturing and exporting on a large scale one of Australia's best known pieces of agricultural machinery, the "Sunshine" harvester. McKay became one of Australia's foremost industrial entrepreneurs, a leader in the fight for tariff protection, and the head of the Chamber of Manufacturers. The buildings became the most public face of the McKay firm and the later companies.

The McKay Offices at Sunshine are of historical significance as one of the very few surviving elements of the McKay ? Massey Ferguson factory complex, which was one of Australia's largest and most active industrial plants and employers of labour, and which made a major contribution to community life in Melbourne's western suburbs. The office building entrance faces the gates which once opened onto Russell Street, and now forms part of a precinct of structures relating to the various aspects and phases of the McKay enterprise, including the Russel Street gates, the 1956 clock tower, the railway footbridge and the H V McKay Memorial Gardens.

The McKay Offices at Sunshine are of architectural significance as early twentieth century examples of the building type of administration/office buildings associated with large industrial works.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

## Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

### 1909 Office Building

- \* Removal of asbestos based materials.
- \* Removal of paint and render from originally exposed external masonry.
- \* All non-structural internal alterations which do not impact on the external appearance of the building.

### 1926 Office Building

- \* For any internal spaces other than the ground floor revolving doors, foyer, stairs and lift and the first floor from the east wall of the stairs to the south wall of the boardroom, all non-structural internal alterations which do not impact on the external appearance of the building.
- \* Maintenance and repairs which replace like with like
- \* Repainting in existing or original colours
- \* Removal of paint from previously unpainted or varnished surfaces.
- \* Maintenance and repairs which replace like with like
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.
- \* Refurbishment of bathrooms and toilets, excepting those associated with the boardroom, including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of kitchen benches and fixtures including sinks, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers etc and associated plumbing and wiring.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of hydronic or radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed.
- \* Installation of smoke detectors and emergency exit signs
- \* Installation, removal or replace of bulk insulation in the roof space
- \* Removal of extraneous items such as, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
- \* Reinstatement of boardroom windows to full height in original frame pattern
- \* Reinstatement of decoration to edges of street awning.
- \* Reinstatement of decorative elements to tops of pilasters above parapets.

Construction dates            1910, 1909, 1921, 1926,

Heritage Act Categories    Registered place, Registered object integral to a registered place,

Hermes Number                12256

Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

1. All the land shown L1 on Diagram 1966 held by the Executive Director

2. All of the buildings the 1909 office and the 1926-7 office, shown as B1 and B2 on diagram 1966 held by the Executive Director

3. All of the objects being the Boardroom table and chairs. (Eight chairs)

*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/>*