

<b>Building:</b>	Former Repco Office Building	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	26 Doonside Street, Richmond	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	2H F4
<b>Building Type:</b>	Offices, Laboratories	<b>Construction Date:</b>	c.1939
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
G[ ] F[x] P[ ]		G[ ] F[x] P[ ]	
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>		<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>	
Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]	Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[ ]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[ ]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

## History

The building was built for the Russell Manufacturing Co., which later became Repco, c.1939.

The Russell Manufacturing Co., established by Geoff Russell, was incorporated on 21 February 1930. Russell moved his previous business to 85-89 Burnley Street, Richmond, in 1930, from two other sites in North Melbourne. The company purchased a former plaster making factory at 85-89 Burnley Street, on the corner of Doonside Street, and gradually expanded its works along Doonside Street.<sup>1</sup> As new car sales slumped during the 1930s Depression, Repco flourished selling car spare parts.<sup>2</sup>

The first floor of the present building was occupied by laboratories, whilst the ground floor was office space.

The Brabham Formula One engine was developed in the adjoining Repco factory.

## Description

The former Repco office building, at 26 Doonside Street, Richmond, is a two storey Moderne style bichromatic brick building. It is approximately square in plan, with a curved corner at the north-west. The building is oriented north-west, and the composition of the main panels of brickwork is approximately symmetrical about a diagonal axis which runs through the corner entrance, which has a cantilevered concrete canopy.

The north and west elevations are of face manganese brick, whilst large panels of cream brick give the appearance of wrapping around this, leaving a vertical strip of dark brown brick above the entrance. This corner element is decorated with a narrower vertical strip of horizontally-striped tapestry brickwork, and surmounted by three white painted vertical concrete fins.

The north elevation features two bands of windows, each comprising three panels of multi-paned steel-framed windows with manganese brick spandrels and sills. These windows turn the corner to the east elevation; to their right are two vertically-placed circular windows, probably to a staircase.

The west wall of the building was once attached to a single-storey building which has since been demolished, with the exception of part of the front wall and cream brick parapet which adjoins No. 26.

## Comparative Examples

Former United Kingdom Hotel, 199 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill

Former Tru-Mould Tyres Garage, 205 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill

## Significance

The former Repco office building at 26 Doonside Street, Richmond, is of local architectural significance. It is a particularly sophisticated example of a small building in the Moderne style, which exhibits an interesting composition of a limited palette of materials. It is thus distinctive for a building of its size and type. The demolition of other adjacent buildings has increased the aesthetic contribution of this building to an otherwise architecturally undistinguished industrial streetscape.

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1 Brian Doolan, Repco. Personal Comments.

2 J McCalman. *Struggletown*, op cit, p. 186.