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# RUSSELL BROS. TANNERY (FORMER)



RICHMOND ROONEY  
STREET 27-57.jpg

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## Location

27-57 ROONEY STREET,, RICHMOND VIC 3121 - Property No 329580

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO401

## Heritage Listing

Yarra City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### What is significant?

The former Russell Bros. Burnley Tannery at 27-57 Rooney Street, Richmond is significant. It is a two-storey building constructed of brick (now over-painted), which is built to the front and side boundaries. There are two longitudinal gable roofs, which are concealed by a parapet, with large rectangular pediment flanked by scrolls at the front. The parapet steps down in the side elevations. There are evenly spaced windows on both levels, which have segmental brick arched lintels and brick cills.

Non-original alterations and additions to the building and other buildings on the site are not significant.

### **How it is significant?**

The former Russell Bros. Burnley Tannery at 27-57 Rooney Street, Richmond is of local historic and scientific significance to the City of Yarra.

### **Why it is significant?**

The former Russell Bros. Burnley Tannery is historically significant as tangible evidence of the historic development of the river flats of Richmond for 'noxious' trades such as tanning and fellmongering, which were supported by Richmond Council as an important source of local employment. In the nineteenth century and early twentieth century tanneries were a major industry in Richmond and the majority of tanneries (and other related 'noxious' industries such as fellmongering) were situated in River Street, Yarraberg and Rooney Street, Burnley because of the proximity of these two areas to the Yarra River both as a supply of water and for disposal of waste and (at least prior to the late nineteenth century) the relative isolation from developed areas. The significance of the former Russell Bros. Burnley Tannery is enhanced by its rarity value as one of only two known surviving tannery buildings in Richmond. (Criteria A & B)

The former Russell Bros. Burnley Tannery is of scientific (archaeological) significance for the potential to contain archaeological deposits such as remains of tanning pits shown on the 1895 MMBW plan that would provide further information about the processes used in the tanning industry in the nineteenth century. (Criterion C)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Heritage Gaps Study: Review of remaining 17 heritage precincts from the 2009 Gaps report, Context Pty Ltd, 2013; Yarra - Heritage Gap Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Construction dates	1924,
Other Names	Fletcher Chemical Company,
Hermes Number	175970
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

The former Russell Bros. Burnley Tannery is a two-storey building constructed of brick (now over-painted), which is built to the front and side boundaries. There are two longitudinal gable roofs, which are concealed by a parapet, with large rectangular pediment flanked by scrolls at the front. The parapet steps down in the side elevations. There are evenly spaced windows on both levels, which have segmental brick arched lintels and brick cills.

The double gable roof form and the spacing of the windows on the facade suggest that the building as constructed (or reconstructed after the fires of 1921 and 1924) was constructed in two stages, with the first stage (north side) indicated by the central opening with a single window placed directly above and two pairs of windows placed symmetrically either side, and the second stage (south side) by the four regularly spaced windows in the upper level. The two sections now unified by the parapet as part of the rebuilding.

Apart from the over-painting of the bricks other visible external alterations include the replacement of all windows, the alteration and enlargement of the original compressed arch opening shown in the early photograph, and the removal of a flat-roofed porch over an entry in the south end of the facade.

The building is directly opposite the other former Russell Bros. Tannery at 28-34 Rooney Street.

*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/>*