

Former HM Prison Pentridge

B Division and Building 16

1 Champ Street

COBURG

Heritage Impact Statement



Report to Heritage Victoria

November 2016

bryce raworth • conservation urban design

19 Victoria Street St Kilda Vic 3182

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1.0 Introduction

This heritage impact statement was commissioned by Shayher Properties Pty Ltd. It comments on the significance of the B Division precinct at the southwest corner of the former Pentridge Prison site, and provides an assessment of the potential impact resulting from the current proposal to redevelop this site. Specifically, this Heritage Impact Statement reviews the proposal to:

- Construct an eighteen-level tower containing residential and hotel accommodation to the southwest of the B Division precinct (Building 16).
- Construct three levels of basement carparking within the extant walls, accessed from Pentridge Boulevard.
- Create a number of openings in the historic bluestone walls to allow for pedestrian and vehicular access.
- Redevelop the south-east exercise yard with landscaping that references the original airing yard structure and incorporates extant archaeological remnants of this structure.

The adaptive reuse of both B Division and B Annexe is also proposed as part of the current proposal for the site.

This heritage impact statement has been prepared with regard to the Burra Charter and its guidelines, as amended in 2013, and is in general accordance with the model established for 'statements of heritage impact' in Victoria.

The following analysis is to be read in conjunction with the drawings and design statement prepared by the Cox Architecture (as set out on the Drawing List – Location Plan number SK-00.0001 and dated November 2016) and other documents submitted with respect to the current permit application.

2.0 Sources of Information

After the prison was decommissioned, Allom Lovell & Associates prepared a *Conservation Management Plan* (CMP) for the Pentridge site in August 1996. This document was prepared using a best-case scenario for the conservation of the heritage buildings and structures located on the site, without any consideration of the way in which the site might be developed in the future. In recent years the 1996 CMP for the site was reviewed and updated to reflect current site conditions and satisfy Permit Condition 14 of the heritage permit for the Public Realm (Permit No. P20564, dated 30/05/2014).

The draft Master Plan that accompanied the original tender for the site was followed by a *Coburg Prisons Complex Development Strategy: Heritage and Development Issues*, (prepared by Bryce Raworth Conservation in association with Tract Consultants Pty Ltd, August 2000). The *Development Strategy* was developed in consultation with Heritage Victoria, the City of Moreland and the National Trust. It built on the intent of the earlier CMP, but allowed for the retention, conservation and interpretation of the significant heritage buildings while also considering the opportunities for future development of the site.

The current Master Plan for the site by NH Architecture (February 2014) is the latest of a number of Master Plans that have been produced for the site. Following the draft Master Plan that accompanied the original tender for the site, TRACT consultants prepared the *Pentridge Piazza Design Guidelines and Masterplan* (Vol 1 and 2). This Masterplan was endorsed by the City of Moreland in April 2003 after extensive consultation, including a process of review and comment by Heritage Victoria. The current 2014 Master Plan for the site builds on the 2009 Master Plan produced by NH Architecture for VALAD. The current Master Plan incorporates a number of development proposals that have already received permits including a similar scheme to the current development proposal. Approval to construct a sixteen-level residential tower as well as four split levels of car parking (effectively eighteen levels) in the south-west yard of the B Division cell block was previously granted in 2009 (Permit No. P13892, dated 28/04/2009).

The 2014 Master Plan by NH Architecture and the recently updated Pentridge CMP (2016) provide the basis for decision-making with respect to heritage considerations on the site.

3.0 B Division

Originally known as A Division – or, alternatively and somewhat erroneously, the Panopticon – B Division was constructed in 1858-59 and was the first building to be completed of the new Model Prison. It formed the centrepiece of the new prison and was constructed by contract labour.



Figure 1 1896 Scenes from Pentridge 507. Source: State Library of Victoria Online Picture Collection.

B Division is constructed on a cruciform plan with cell ranges to the east, south and west radiating from a semi-octagonal central hall. The wings to the south and west contain two tiers on each side of full-height galleried corridors, while the east wing has an additional basement level which accommodated the refractory cells. An octagonal lantern surmounted by a ball finial and a weather vane is located above the central hall. The Chapel – which was burnt out in 1978 – and a number of offices were located in the front north wing of the building in the head of the cross.

The principal facade of the north wing adopts draws inspiration from the simple Classical temple form with a pediment above a rusticated base formed by the ground floor. Although the roofs were originally clad in slate, they have since been re-clad in corrugated galvanised iron.

The square enclosed yards to the south of the building originally contained radial stone and timber exercise enclosures with central observation towers. Decreasing use of solitary confinement during the early twentieth century meant there was little need for the exercise yards, and the exercise yards were demolished. Today, the yards are surrounded by high bluestone ashlar walls. The wall to the east contains an area that has been filled in with red brick plus one original doorway with a stone lintel. Recent archaeological works to the yards have revealed the footings of the exercise yards which were for many years paved over with concrete.



Figure 2 Photograph showing the B Division Chapel before it was destroyed by fire in 1978. Source: Lynn and Armstrong, p.62.

The design for the Panopticon incorporated a number of technological innovations that were worthy of note. For example, a bell-pull system consisting of small brass telegraph arms operated by small handles inside the cells was installed to enable the inmates to communicate with the warder on duty. The cells were also supplied with both gas and water.¹ Some cells retain their overhead original water cisterns constructed from slate slabs fastened with iron bolts and cramps. The original ventilation system for the cells included a ducted extract system. Small vertical ducts, one to each cell, constructed within the

¹ James Semple Kerr, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, p.78.

walls between the cells and the galleried corridors: these linked to ducts under the corridor floors which, in turn, were connected to a large vertical flue on the north side of the central hall.

The former B Division building has undergone a number of alterations over the years. For instance, the original slate roofs have been replaced with corrugated galvanised steel, the round-headed windows at the end of the cell wings have been modified with timber-framed hopper windows and central roof lights have been added to each cell wing. Internally, the east and west wings were cordoned off in the late twentieth century, the ground floor offices in the north wing were altered, some of the cells in the west and south wings were consolidated, and management cells and showers were constructed in the east wing. Substantial alterations to some of the basement cells in the east wing were carried out earlier, possibly during the 1920s or 1930s. Despite these alterations, however, B Division remains largely intact to its original form.



Figure 3 *Photograph of B Division, c2014. Photographer: Hin Lim of Hin Lim Photography, <http://www.hinlimphotography.com>.*

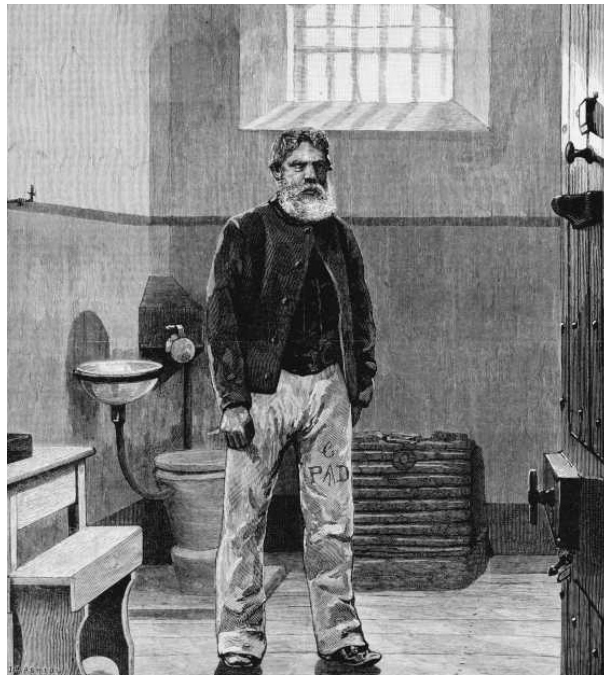


Figure 4 Image of the bushranger Harry Power in Pentridge showing the cell setup in the background, c1881.

4.0 B Annexe

B Annexe was constructed in 1875 to accommodate the kitchen and bakery for the prison. A simple single-storey building constructed on a rectangular plan, B Annexe has gabled north and south elevations. The principal elevation, facing north, is of coursed and squared bluestone rubble construction. The east elevation of the building incorporates the 1858-9 bluestone wall surrounding the western exercise yard of B Division which has been extended upwards in brick.

A plan of the prison dating from c1910 shows an ad hoc assortment of structures were originally located to the south of B Annexe (refer Figure 5). The building was extended in the 1920s, most likely in c1922-23 when a new steam boiler appears to have been installed.² In the late 1960s, the building was converted for use as the mat shop, and was later used as a prisoners' recreation area.

² Drawing showing steam boiler and chimney for kitchen (21.11.1922), PROV PGP 1.45.

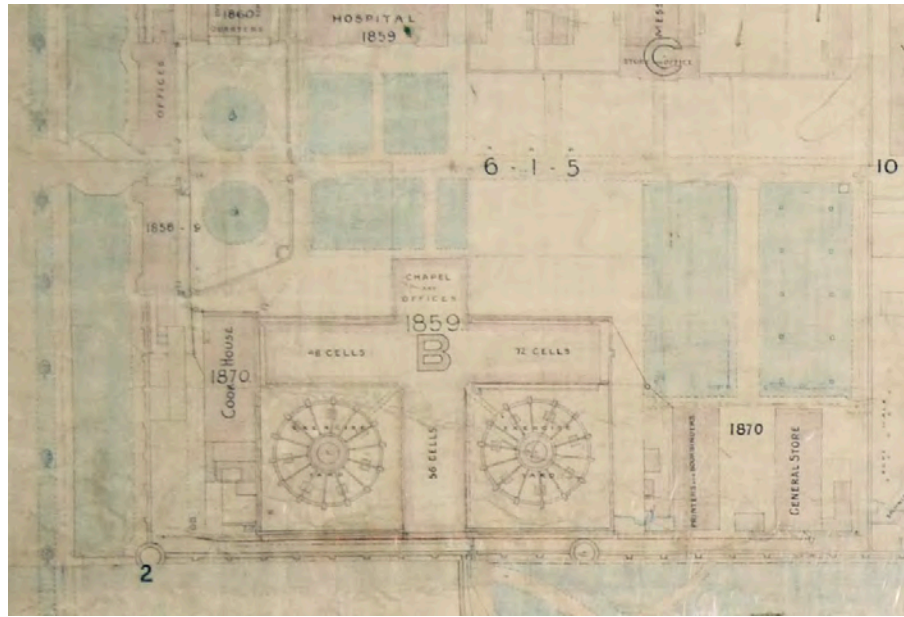


Figure 5 *Partial of Plan of Pentridge Prison, thought to date from around c1910. Plan held at the Department of Justice.*

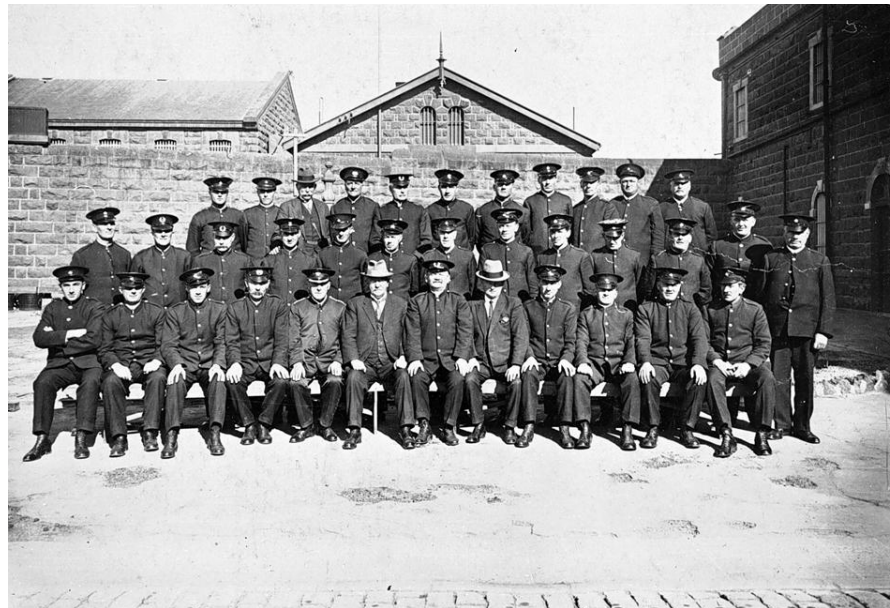


Figure 6 *Photograph showing the gable end of B Annexe in the background, taken around 1910. Source: Museums Victoria.*

In contrast to the north elevation, the west elevation of the 1875 building is constructed of brick on a bluestone plinth with bluestone quoins. The window openings are arched and most retain their original external bars, although aluminium framed windows have replaced the original window joinery. It appears that some of the bluestone window sills have been replaced.

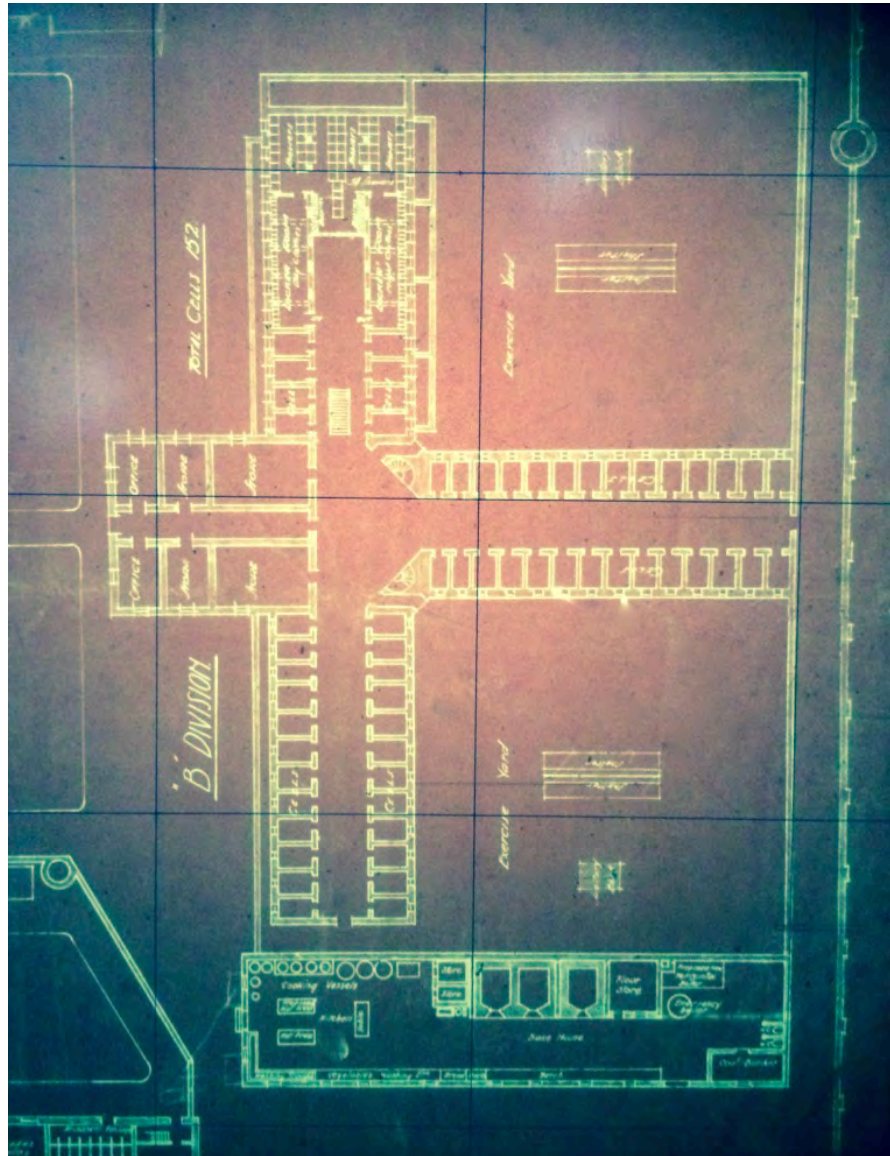


Figure 7 Undated plan showing the floorplan of B Division and B Annexe. Source: Plan PGP 1.126 held at the Public Records Office of Victoria.

The c1922-3 extension at the south is constructed of brick with a gabled roof that is set at a slightly lower pitch than that of the original building. With the

exception of this addition, B Annexe has only undergone relatively minor – and largely reversible – alterations.

The original timber fascia and barge boards have been replaced with unpainted late twentieth century members. The sliding front door is not original and the door jamb has been altered with the addition of brick nibs to either side, while a concrete ramp and steps have been added to the front door.

The original section of B Annexe is substantially intact externally, with the exception of a few alterations such as the replacement of all of the window joinery, and an additional door opening to the west elevation. The extension appears originally to have included a 50' (15m) high brick boiler chimney, which does not currently exist. Internally, most of the 1875 part of the building has been stripped and little original fabric survives although the timber trusses are a notable exception.

5.0 Current Listings and Controls

The significance of the former Coburg Prisons Complex has been recognised in many documents. The following heritage listings apply to site.

5.2 Victorian Heritage Register

The former Coburg Prisons complex is a place of State significance, and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register as registered place H1551 (File number: 602848 (1-4)).



Figure 8 Diagram showing the subject site and the various land parcels associated with the extent of registration, H1551.

The extent of registration applies to the following:

1. All of the buildings known as
 - B1 Main Gate and Administration Building
 - B2 Former Chief Warders and Overseer of Works Residences
 - B3 Former Hospital (former E Division),
 - B4 B Division
 - B5 B Division Annexe
 - B6 Industry Buildings
 - B7 A Division
 - B8 H Division
 - B9 Walls, Gates and Lookout Towers
 - B10 G Division
 - B11 D Division including remnant exercise yard walls
 - B12 F Division
 - B13 Laundry
 - B14 South Gate

as marked on Diagram H1551 held by the Executive Director.

2. All of the land marked L1 and L2 on Diagram H1551 held by the Executive Director.

5.2 National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

The subject site is also classified by the National Trust of Australia (Vic) as a place of state significance (File number: B1303). The National Trust has adopted the levels of significance identified in the 1996 Conservation Management Plan.

The National Trust is an advisory body with no statutory powers although it is expected to play an advisory role and provide input into all proposals for the site.

5.3 City of Moreland

The former HM Prison Pentridge is subject to an individual heritage overlay under the Moreland Planning Scheme, listed as HO47 in the schedule to the heritage overlay. This overlay extends over the land as shown in Figure 9. Under Clause 43.01-2, places on the Victorian Heritage Register are permit exempt under the overlay: they are subject to the requirements of the Heritage Act 1995 and not the planning provisions of the Heritage Overlay. The street trees along Champ Street are protected under a separate heritage overlay control, HO287. The key considerations within the terms of the overlay are whether any future proposals for the site will affect the character and appearance, and thus the significance, of the heritage place.

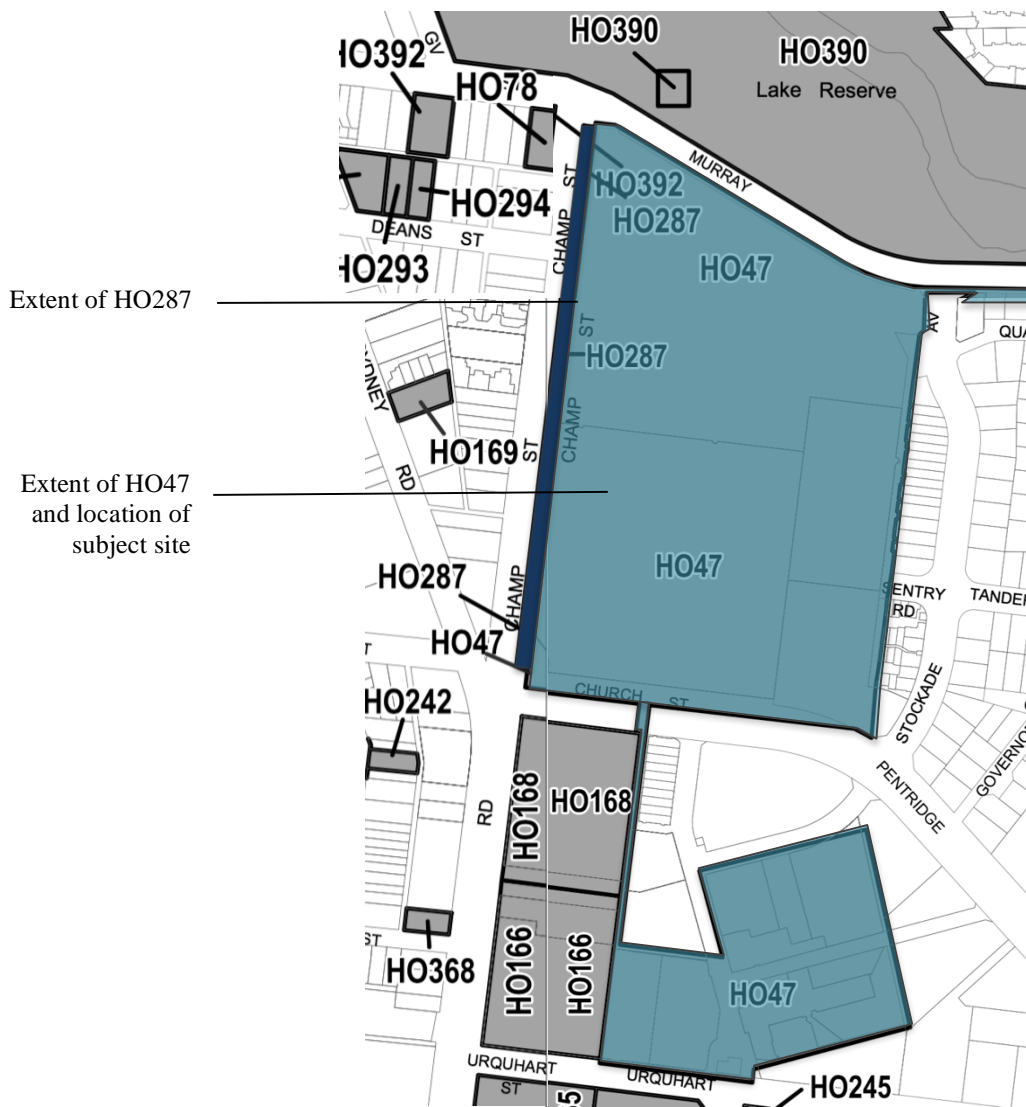


Figure 9 Map showing HO47 and HO287 and location of subject site.

5.4 National Heritage List

The site is included on the Register of the National Estate (Place ID: 18351, File No: 2/13/011/0012). However the Register of the National Estate was closed in 2007 and is no longer a statutory list.

The Register of the National Estate (RNE) was originally established under the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (repealed). Under that Act, the former Australian Heritage Commission entered more than 13,000 places in the register, including many places of local or state significance. The RNE now serves as an archive of information.

In 1997 the Council of Australian Governments agreed that heritage listing and protection should be the responsibility of the level of government best placed to deliver agreed outcomes. This led to the creation of two new heritage lists in 2003: namely the National Heritage List which includes places of outstanding heritage value to the nation, and the Commonwealth Heritage List which includes heritage places owned or controlled by the Commonwealth.

The National Heritage List is Australia's list of natural, historic and Indigenous places of outstanding significance to the nation. Places on the list are protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), which requires that approval be obtained before any action takes place that could have a significant impact on the national heritage values of a listed place.

The site is not currently included on the National Heritage List.

6.0 Statement of Significance

As noted above, the former HM Pentridge Prison is place H1551 on the Victorian Heritage Register, and is generally recognised as being of state significance. The Statement of Significance for the former Pentridge Prison site provides a detailed appreciation of the significance of the place, and this is provided in full below:

What is Significant?

The former HM Pentridge Prison was established in December 1850. The structures remaining from the prison consist of A Division, B Division, B Division Annexe (former kitchen), D Division including the exercise yards, the former hospital (Former E Division), F Division, G Division (Jika Reformatory for Girls), H Division, the main gate, Administration Building, the former Chief Warders and Overseer of Works Residences, the Industries Buildings, the laundry, the south gate to the Women's Prison, and remaining bluestone walls, gates and lookout towers.

The first stage of the prison was the 1850 to 1857 Pentridge Stockade Complex, a relatively ad-hoc group of structures built by prison labour using predominantly local materials. None of these structures survive, although the boundary of the prison was established at this stage. The second phase undertaken in the late 1850s and early 1860s was the construction of Inspector General William Champ's model prison complex, based on the British Pentonville model and incorporating a relatively sophisticated system of prisoner classification and penal

reform. These were all constructed of locally sourced bluestone. The prison was gradually expanded and developed in stages, reflecting both developments in design as well as broader Government policies relating to the operation of the prison system. Following the Stawell Royal Commission of 1870, an extensive work program for prisoners was introduced at Pentridge and a complex known as the 'Industries' was constructed. These included a timber yard, a woollen mill, carpenters and blacksmiths workshops completed in 1879, and tailors and bootmakers workshops completed in 1886.

A women's prison was constructed on the site between 1860 and 1865, now known as A Division. This was superseded when a new female prison was constructed on the site between 1887 and 1894, in order to provide completely separate accommodation for women. This section is now known as D Division. Pentridge remained the main female prison in Victoria until it was replaced by the new women's prison, HM Prison Fairlea in 1956.

From the 1870s Pentridge was also the location of reformatories for girls and boys, established following the findings of the Stawell Royal Commission of 1870. The Jika Reformatory for Boys was accommodated in an existing building (F Division), between 1875 and 1879, while a purpose built reformatory was constructed for Protestant Girls (G Division), operating between 1875 and 1893.

In 1900 labour yards for A Division were completed. During the 1950s these yards were later converted to a high security block which became known as H Division. In 1924 Pentridge replaced the Melbourne Gaol as the main remand and reception prison for the metropolitan area. The bodies of approximately thirty-six prisoners executed at the Melbourne Gaol were exhumed and relocated to Pentridge, where they were reburied. Pentridge also became the venue for ten prisoner hangings, until the last Victorian prisoner to suffer the death penalty, Ronald Ryan, was executed in D Division in 1967. In 1960 during a term spent in Pentridge, the Aboriginal artist Ronald Bull painted a mural depicting a traditional tribal scene. The mural survives and is located at the east end of F Division. In April 1995 the Office of Corrections ordered that the six main towers at Pentridge be closed, since most of the high security prisoners from the gaol had been relocated to Barwon as part of the downgrading of Pentridge to a medium security prison. The prison was finally closed in 1997 and the land and buildings subsequently sold.

This site is on the traditional land of the Kulin Nation

How is it significant?

The former HM Prison Pentridge is of historical, architectural, archaeological, scientific (technological) and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former HM Prison Pentridge is of historical significance as the largest prison complex constructed in Victoria in the nineteenth century.

The former HM Prison Pentridge is of architectural and historical significance as a nineteenth century complex of buildings that demonstrates a number of phases in the development of the penal reform system. Most of these structures still survive, largely intact. The range of cell blocks, workshops and other buildings, the relatively dispersed layout of the buildings and the large scale of the site as a whole demonstrate the unique character of Pentridge as the principal establishment for long-term prisoners. The planning of A, B and D Divisions are representative examples of the overwhelming influence and continuing development of British planning models, from the 1830s until the end of the nineteenth century. F Division is a rare surviving example of early nineteenth century prison buildings. The former prison is of architectural significance due to its monumental size and the austere Classical style of the nineteenth century prison buildings. The complex of buildings and walls are important for their expression of the requirements of containment and order.

The former HM Prison Pentridge is of historical significance in the history of child welfare in Victoria. It was the location of reformatories for both girls and boys, established following the findings of the Stawell Royal Commission of 1870. The prison complex includes the purpose-built Jika Reformatory for Protestant Girls (G Division), which operated between 1875 and 1893.

The former HM Prison Pentridge is of archaeological significance for its archaeological features, deposits and relics that relate to the construction and use of the site. The burial area and industry refuse site adjacent to the east wall of the F Division includes the burial sites of all executed prisoners relocated from the Old Melbourne Gaol between 1929 and 1937, and the burials of nine prisoners executed at Pentridge between 1928 and 1951. The area adjacent to the east wall of D Division

is significant as the former burial site of Ronald Ryan, and as the site where executed prisoner burial remains were reinterred in 2011.

The former HM Prison Pentridge is of scientific (technological) significance for its original ventilation systems in A, B and D Divisions, and the surviving original cisterns and other elements of the water supply system in B Division. The apparently intact thermo-ventilation system in B Division is of particular importance.

The former HM Prison Pentridge is of aesthetic significance due to its grim and imposing bluestone walls and towers which are important landmark features.

Last updated on - December 2, 1999

The National Trust has also prepared a statement of significance for the former H.M. Prison Pentridge site. This reads as follows:

The site and buildings known as Pentridge Prison is of social and historical significance at the State level. Most of the 19th century buildings and dividing walls, fences and gates are of State architectural significance, while other early 20th century structures are of Regional significance.

As Victoria's central prison until its closure in 1996, it was the most well-known and used gaol in the State's history. Pentridge became a word synonymous with prison. Most of Victoria's convicted and notorious criminals were gaoled there between 1900 and the 1990's and it was the site of many hangings in the same period. In 1967, Ronald Ryan, who was convicted of the murder of a prison officer during an escape from Pentridge, became the last person in Victoria to be hanged.

Established in 1851 and largely constructed in the period 1858 - 64, Pentridge is the largest prison complex constructed in Victoria in the 19th century, and operated as the central establishment in the wider prison system from the early 1860's. The complex of buildings which remains on site demonstrates a number of phases in the development of the penal system, including the 'separate system' which dominated penology in Victoria in the 19th century.

Most of the major elements of the 19th century complex survive and are largely intact, and together clearly demonstrate the planning and functioning of the prison in the 19th century and the main functional

elements of the separate system. The range of cell blocks, workshops and other buildings, the relatively dispersed layout of the buildings, and the large scale of the site as a whole contrast with other 19th century prisons in Victoria and demonstrate the unique character of Pentridge as the principal penal establishment for long-term prisoners within the 19th century Victorian prison system. The planning of A, B and D Divisions are representative examples of the overwhelming influence and continuing development of British planning models and the separate system on prison design in Australia from the 1830's until the end of the 19th century. F Division is a rare surviving example of early 19th century prison and hospital design.

Pentridge is also significant in the history of child welfare in Victoria. It was the location of reformatories for both girls and boys established following the findings of the Stawell Royal Commission of 1870. The prison complex includes a purpose-built reformatory of 1875 (G Division) constructed as the Jika Reformatory for Protestant Girls, which operated between 1875 and 1893.

The aesthetic significance of the 19th century prison buildings at Pentridge derives from their monumental scale and austere Classical style, expressive of the requirements of containment and order and typical of prison buildings constructed in Victoria in the 1850's and 1860's. It also derives from the almost ubiquitous use of ashlar bluestone, much of it quarried on site.

The original ventilation systems in A, B and D Divisions and the surviving original cisterns and other elements of the water supply system in B Division are of technological significance. The apparently intact thermo-ventilation system in B Division is of particular significance.

Among the 20th century developments at the prison, K Division, opened in 1980, is significant in both a planning and architectural sense. One of several new prison buildings constructed in Australia in the 1970's and 1980's which experimented with new approaches to planning and design. It is also of interest for extraordinarily strong architectural style deriving from science fiction imagery and 1960's architectural theory.

(Report adapted from Allom Lovell & Associates, Pentridge Conservation Management Plan of August 1996)

7.0 Heritage Requirements and Policy

Heritage Victoria is the responsible authority with regard to heritage issues and any permit application for the land, while Council serves as a referral body only.

Any proposal for either demolition and redevelopment, or partial demolition and redevelopment, would be considered within the broad ambit of considerations under the Heritage Act, which are intended to support the sustainability of places and also take into account economic impacts.

The recently reviewed and updated 2016 CMP forms the basis for decision making within the H.M. Prison Pentridge site.

Key excerpts from the CMP relating both to the identified significance of B Division and B Annexe – both of which are identified as being of primary significance – and to appropriate conservation practices and policy are appended to this report.

8.0 Heritage Impact Assessment

The present proposal is for development of the land associated with Division B to the southwest of the former prison site. The proposed redevelopment of the B Division precinct can be divided into a number of main interventions: namely the eighteen level B Division development located to the southwest corner of the precinct, the hotel lobby contained within the extant walls of the western exercise yard, the adaptive reuse of both the B Division building and B Annexe, the redevelopment of the former eastern exercise yard, and works to the basalt walls. These are all discussed in detail below. Conservation works to observation posts 1 and 2 are to be carried out under Condition 5 of Heritage Permit No. P20564 (dated 30 May 2014). From a heritage perspective, the key consideration is whether the proposed new development as a whole will adversely affect the character and appearance, and thus the significance, of the former Coburg Prisons Complex.

8.1 B Division development

The cornerstone of the proposed Division B redevelopment is an eighteen level development located close to the southern wall boundary. Assessing the proposal from a purely heritage policy-based perspective, it is recognised that constructing a tall building on this or any portion of the site is contentious. There are, however, a number of arguments for allowing development of a higher scale in

areas that are some distance from the key historic entry point at Champ Street and the principal public spaces associated with the heritage buildings. For instance, it is generally proposed that the early cell buildings at Pentridge be retained and restored for adaptive reuse in a manner that will minimise the extent of internal alteration required. However, given that there is a substantial duplication of a particular building type across the site – a type which has limited potential for adaptation without substantial intervention in the significant fabric – it is therefore necessary to construct a number of new purpose-built structures to accommodate the provision of facilities that the site as a whole requires.

Although this approach differs from that proposed in earlier Master Plans for the site, it reflects the fact that time has passed and circumstances have changed on the site. Earlier documents such as the Conservation Management Plan (1996) and the Development Strategy provided little specific guidance with respect to the subject land, other than in anticipating that B Division would be retained and restored to its exterior with various elements of the interior restored, while B Annexe would be externally restored. Shayher has a preferred sequence of development that is tied to specific precincts, buildings and works, including conservation works. The residential and hotel development behind B Division, and the adaptive reuse of both B Division and B Annexe are specifically linked with the regeneration of these two buildings, both in terms of use and conservation interventions. The 2014 Master Plan for the site anticipates an eighteen-level building on the site.

Although it is critical to minimise the impact that development of the Pentridge site will have upon the fabric of structures of primary and contributory significance, and upon the significance of the site as a whole, it is also important to recognise that a degree of development is necessary in order to make the place a vibrant living and working environment that is economically sustainable into the future. The envelope associated with the B Division residential and hotel building is designed to accommodate the higher density development that economic analyses indicate is essential to the ongoing economic viability of the site. The survival and maintenance of the significant fabric depends upon achieving economically sustainable adaptive reuse outcomes. To this extent, pursuant to s.73(1)(b) of the Heritage Act, Shayher submits that the proposed development should be endorsed because a refusal to grant the application would affect the reasonable or economic use of the registered place. Although this clause is rarely invoked in any detail in relation to permit applications, the issues

of reasonable or economic use of the land are important considerations in relation to the redevelopment of a vast and complex site such as Pentridge.³

The proposal will provide an urban marker for the former H.M. Prison Pentridge site, part of the overall urban design strategy in which such markers are located at key corners and other parts of the site. Although not specifically a conservation consideration, it is part of achieving an overall balance of urban design and conservation outcomes on the site that will result in a vibrant, balanced and sustainable development both in terms of its internal outcomes and its reading from outside the site.

A specific range of conservation works is linked to this proposal. The scope of these works is under assessment and it is anticipated that the final approval will be linked to a specific schedule of works by means of a condition of permit. Just as approval of the Public Realm application was linked in terms of Shayher's development sequence with the reconstruction of the Rock-breaking Yards, this current application sees a similar linking of new works and conservation works, reflecting Shayher's commitment to undertaking these works in a timely manner that reflects its strong commitment to the heritage buildings as both significant fabric and a key factor in the future character of the place. The approach is based on the need to balance positive economic outcomes in this precinct against the costs sustained in the conservation of significant buildings such as the former B Division building, B Annexe and the surrounding basalt walls. The present development envelopes have been resolved in a manner that provides for maximum retention of significant fabric while allowing development of a higher scale in areas that are some distance from the key historic entry point at Champ Street and the key public spaces associated with the heritage buildings.

It is nonetheless clear that this building will be readily visible from many points in and about the site, in particular from within the proposed Pentridge Piazza precinct and from outside the site in terms of views from the west and south. The justification for this proposal relies both on the economic argument, as well as the fact that the current scheme responds to the market demand for affordable apartment living within close proximity to a government recognised activity centre. Although the multi-storey element was not anticipated in some earlier background documents, it is seen as being necessary to the overall scheme insofar as it will help create the facilities required for a body corporate large enough to carry the costs of sustaining the site at viable premiums. As the site will be

³ Refer to both the cover letter as well as the report by MacroPlanDimasi titled *Pentridge Coburg Building 16 Development: Economic Implication for Total Project* (November 2016).

owned and managed by a body corporate rather than by a public authority, there must be a sufficient population base to ensure that annual body corporate fees and other costs are not excessive, as this will undermine the viability of the development as a whole.

Accepting this, the proposal seeks to create a slender, sculptural response to the massive qualities of the setting. The form of the building has been articulated into quadrants, which have then been angled and tapered to help reduce its visual mass. The palette of selected materials includes silver tinted double-glazing, anodised metal cladding, and perforated anodised metal cladding, while a faceted white tinted double glazed crown to the top of the building will help conceal rooftop services and provide protection to the residential roof garden. The modern architectural character of the proposal will clearly be visible from views both within and outside the site, but will be of a character that is distinct from the character of the adjoining significant structures. Furthermore, it is located in an area of the site that is some distance from the key historic entry point at Champ Street and the main Piazza space.

Many other approved and constructed developments of recent years in the inner metropolitan area also provide precedent for the juxtaposition of restored heritage fabric against taller, modern forms, and to some extent this can be seen to be an emerging idiom within the Melbourne landscape as a result of the pressure for increased density and as a result of rising land values. Both the economic justification of such development, and the architectural and urban design outcomes that have been achieved, have received wide acceptance within both government and community.

Although the proposed redevelopment of the site in this manner will result in a substantial and readily appreciable change to the character and appearance of the place, it will also provide an opportunity for the revitalisation of the historic building stock and for conservation works that are, in many instances, long overdue. The proposal is an example of adaptive reuse at the scale of a large complex, an adaptive reuse that grapples with substantial issues in terms of making this place a vital and sustainable environment for the future.

Alternative outcomes that have been considered and dismissed include the following:

- options for the incorporation of a greater number of residential units within heritage buildings have been set aside on the basis that the cell block buildings in particular can only sustain such a use through substantial demolition and alteration of a nature that would fundamentally undermine their integrity and significance;
- options for a lower number of residential and other units within the redevelopment have been set aside on the basis that the associated reduced

density may jeopardise the viability of the B Division precinct's adaptive reuse as contemplated in the Master Plan.⁴

In summary, achieving a sustainable adaptive reuse outcome will help ensure the continued survival and maintenance of the significant fabric at Pentridge. Equally, it is crucial that development be managed in such a way as to minimise the impact it will have upon the significance of the site. Part of the overall development strategy, then, is to confine major interventions to areas that will minimise the impact upon more significant fabric.

8.2 B Division

Constructed c1858-9 as a major part of the expansion of Pentridge, the former B Division building is laid out on a cruciform plan with full-height galleried cell wings radiating to the east, west and south from a semi-octagonal central hall. Also known as the Panopticon, the building is double storey in height with the exception of the east wing which has an additional basement level.

As part of the proposed redevelopment scheme, it is proposed that B Division be retained, restored and adaptively reused. The western wing of the building will be adapted for use as a hotel, as will the southern and eastern wings at first floor level. The basement and ground floor of the eastern wing is to be adaptively reused as a day spa, while the ground floor of the southern wing is to be set aside for heritage interpretation. This will link to the sterile zone to the south of the southern cell range, which is to be developed as an open air heritage interpretation gallery space. It is intended that the northern wing be used as a cafe and retail space, with conference facilities at first floor level. Generally, it is proposed that the facades be restored to their nineteenth century appearance, modern inappropriate structures and accretions be removed, and the interiors repainted. It is anticipated that a more detailed schedule of conservation works will be linked to the final approval by means of a condition of permit.

However, the adaptation of the building to a new use and the need to achieve integration with the surrounding site necessitates some degree of change and intervention. Although the insularity of the building was a fundamental part of its former use, with adaptive reuse comes a new need to achieve some degree of

⁴ Refer to both the cover letter as well as the report by MacroPlanDimasi titled *Pentridge Coburg Building 16 Development: Economic Implication for Total Project* (November 2016).

permeability and integration with the broader Pentridge site, as well as with the surrounding urban fabric. The design response seeks to balance the need to conserve the significant fabric of the place with the need to adaptively reuse the existing building so it remains a sustainable environment well into the future. This is a key cornerstone of the adaptive reuse, and therefore conservation, of this historic place.

Key elements of the adaptive reuse include:

- Seven new openings to B Division.
 - One to the western side of the north wing.
 - One to the southern elevation of the west wing.
 - Two to the western elevation of the south wing (one at ground floor and one at first floor).
 - One to the eastern elevation of the south wing.
 - One from the basement of the east wing with an external stair rising up through the moat.
 - One to the southern end of the southern cell range.
- New vertical circulation.
 - New internal pedestrian lift located in the east wing.
 - Five new flights of stairs (two of which are located in the east wing).
- New pool in the basement of the eastern wing.
- Internal alterations to consolidate some of the cells and administration areas into usable spaces.
- Landscaping.

The potential impacts arising from the proposed adaptive reuse of B Division are discussed in turn below.

8.2.1 Circulation

Establishing circulation paths – both horizontally and vertically – through the building to accommodate its new use presents a number of challenges. In a practical sense, the extent of adaptation and change required is largely a product of the level of access and circulation required to sustain the building's new uses.

To accommodate the changes needed to improve circulation through B Division, it is proposed that seven new openings be made in the external walls. These are proposed on the basis that increased pedestrian permeability through the building will help activate the site, as well as promote a greater degree of interaction with the heritage fabric. All but two of these openings are located well away from the principal views to B Division, as recommended in the 2016 CMP. The main

exception to this, however, is the enlarged opening that is proposed for the western side of the north wing. This opening is intended to help provide access to the outdoor dining platform to the west (the platform will provide disabled access to B Division without the need for a ramp in front of the building). The new opening and associated stairs from the basement of the east wing will be largely concealed by the sunken light-well. All the new openings will be detailed in a simple manner that will enable them to be read as contemporary interventions. A new door is also proposed for the existing opening to the eastern end of the eastern cell range.

Five new flights of stairs (two of which are located in the east wing) are proposed to replace the existing four staircases in B Division, none of which are compliant. The staircase in the western wing dates from the late twentieth century, as do the treads and stringers to the staircase in the eastern wing. Although some effort has been made to ensure that the balustrade to the staircase in the eastern wing reflects the detailing of the early B Division balustrades, the balustrade itself is not early. The stairs to the south have been removed altogether. One of the flights of stairs to the basement of the east wing appears to be early, but is so precipitous as to be unusable. An early source (c1866) describes three iron staircases in B Division radiating out from the central crossing, so it seems not even the existing configuration of stairs is original.⁵

Although the CMP recommends using the cells for any new required stairs, it is proposed that new stairs to the south and west wings be added to the void spaces on the basis that this will be less intrusive and more in keeping with the early scheme for the building. These new stairs will be designed in a simple contemporary manner that will complement the heritage fabric. In the east wing, where the pool prevents a stair landing in the middle of the basement floor, two cells to the east of the central crossing will be modified to accommodate a new stairwell that will rise all three levels of the east wing. A new curved staircase is also proposed for the central crossing. This element will draw on the form of the (non-compliant) circular stairs to the south of the crossing to create a contemporary, sculptural element in the central space.

To address disabled access requirements, a new internal pedestrian lift is proposed for the cells to the north-east of the central crossing. Although the alternative option to install a lift in one of the galleries was considered, this was deemed a more intrusive option and was ruled out on that basis.

⁵ Anonymous, *Prison Discipline in Victoria: a Visit to the Pentridge Stockade*, 6 November 1866, pp.4-5.

8.2.3 Internal changes

It is generally proposed that the early cell buildings at Pentridge be retained and restored for adaptive reuse in a manner that will minimise the extent of internal alteration required. However, given there is a substantial duplication of a particular building type across the site – a type which has limited potential for adaptation without substantial intervention in the significant fabric – it is proposed that a number of changes be made to help ensure that the building can be successfully adaptively reused. In particular, a number of the dividing walls between the cells are to be demolished in order to create usable spaces to accommodate hotel rooms, treatment rooms, and day-spa facilities for the pool. Some of the dividing walls between the ground floor cells in the western wing were removed as part of works undertaken in the 1980s, and these existing openings have been incorporated into the current scheme.

One of the main objectives of the adaptive reuse is to preserve the appearance of the double-height gallery spaces as far as possible. Although adaptation of the cells to consolidate the internal spaces will result in the loss of some internal fabric, the extent of change between the cells will be inversely proportional to the extent of changes required to provide requisite access to the cells. At present, the door openings to the cells are undersize, and require modification to achieve compliance. As each hotel room will comprise four cell spaces, only one in four cell doors will need to be modified to accommodate the new use. This will help minimise the extent of change to the double-height galley spaces.

Of all the wings of the building, the southern cell range is most intact to its original form, the main alterations being the roof-lights and vents in the ceiling and the addition of twentieth century accretions such as the recent electrical trunking. The ground floor of the southern cell range is therefore proposed for use as the heritage interpretation wing.

It is proposed that the basement level to east wing be adaptively reused as a day spa, complete with a pool running much of the length of the gallery space. To accommodate this pool, the existing floor to be is to be partially removed and the ground excavated as required. It is recognised that a pool represents a substantial change, but the basement level has already been subjected to many alterations over the years and the proposed pool will help attract visitors to a part of B Division that is extremely limited in terms of its access to ventilation and natural light.

8.3 B Annexe

B Annexe, which stands directly to the west of B Division, was constructed c1875 to accommodate a kitchen and bakery. The single storey building is rectangular in plan, with gabled north and south elevations. The east elevation incorporates the 1858-9 bluestone wall surrounding the west exercise yard of B Division: this wall has been extended upwards in brick. Under the current scheme, B Annexe is to be adaptively reused to accommodate a new restaurant, a function that draws on the building's historical use.

The nineteenth century part of B Annexe is identified as being of primary significance as one of the buildings constructed as part of the 1870s expansion of the prison. The building is substantially externally intact, although the southern addition was constructed around c1922-3. Very little early fabric remains internally, apart from the early timber roof trusses, some of which are supported on moulded stone corbels.

As part of the development of the B Division precinct, it is proposed that the extension to B Annexe be demolished as well as an additional portion of the 1874 building. As the interwar extension to B Annexe is of negligible significance, demolition of this portion of the building poses no issues from a heritage perspective. The proposed demolition of the 1874 portion of the building is more problematic, given that this part of the building is identified as being of primary significance. However, the extent of demolition is limited to a small extent at its southern end – an area of the building that has previously been subjected to modifications (refer Figure 5) and that is located at some distance from the principal views from within the site. This portion of the building is to be demolished to accommodate the porte-cochere for the hotel. The southern elevation of the building will be clad in glazing, creating a clear distinction between the old and the new.

As part of the overall scheme for the B Division precinct, a three-storey basement car park (approximately 9m deep excavation with localised increased depths for lift overruns) is to be located within close proximity of the heritage buildings. As it is not possible to excavate more deeply than proposed without hitting bedrock, the size of the basement car park has been maximised over the three levels. Consequently, part of B Annexe sits over the proposed basement car park. To facilitate construction of the basement carpark, it is proposed that the middle section of B Annexe be thoroughly recorded, temporarily dismantled, and stored safely elsewhere on site while works are undertaken. The balance of B Annexe will be propped with temporary works to ensure it remains stable during the removal, retention and construction phases. On completion of the ground floor structure (designed to accommodate the reconstructed portion of B Annexe), the middle portion of B Annexe will be reconstructed to match its original detail. Although it is acknowledged that reconstruction is not necessarily ideal from a

heritage perspective, there are risks associated with trying to retain the section of the B Annexe above the car park while excavating and building underneath.

With respect to the basement car park walls that will be located close to B Division, the proposed retention system is soldier pile and shotcrete infill wall system that will be temporarily anchored with ground anchors. These anchors will be destressed upon completion of the basement and ground level slabs which will provide the permanent lateral restraint to the wall. The proposed basement wall is offset from the existing B Division walls to enable safe placement of the piles with adequate clearance for the piling rig during construction. Nominal movement of the wall is anticipated although survey monitoring will occur during piling and the basement excavation to assess any potential movements.

Structural engineers have been involved right throughout the concept design phase to ensure that the basement can be constructed to the extent, depth and location proposed without any negative impacts to the adjacent existing heritage buildings. The construction techniques proposed are the most common methods for basement construction in Melbourne. Further details of the construction techniques and methodologies for the basement car park can be found in accompanying letter from the structural engineers.

It is also proposed that one new door opening be added to the west elevation of B Annexe to provide access to the outdoor dining area, and another opening be added to the east to provide access from the hotel lobby. The existing disabled access ramp to the north is also to be demolished as part of the proposed scheme, however this element is not original and its removal poses no issues from a heritage perspective. Various conservation works will be undertaken to B Annexe as part of the proposed scheme, including reinstatement of the early windows to the original detail, the removal of paintwork from the stone, and the replacement of the stone sills where required. It is anticipated that a more detailed schedule of conservation works will be linked to the final approval by means of a condition of permit.

8.4 Basement car park

Central to the redevelopment of the B Division precinct is the proposal to construct a three-level basement car park underneath the southwest exercise yard. The basement car park is a necessary element of the proposed B Division development, providing facilities that the development as a whole requires. As all three levels of the carpark will be beneath ground level and the ramp to the basement car park will be located within the perimeter walls, the car park itself will have little external presence within the site and is therefore limited in its

potential for external impacts beyond the requisite opening in the perimeter basalt wall on Pentridge Boulevard.

The 2014 Master Plan for the site anticipated the need to provide vehicular access to this particular portion of the site, although the particular configuration of the current proposal is somewhat different to that foreseen. In the Master Plan, a circular driveway ran from Champ Street, along the sterile zone between the perimeter wall and B Annexe, before exiting back onto Champ Street at the southern end of B Annexe. Both of these openings were intended to accommodate vehicular traffic. In the current scheme, vehicular access has been shifted to Pentridge Boulevard in response to feedback from Moreland City Council. Specifically, Council expressed concern that vehicle access from Champ Street would discourage pedestrian movement along the road reserve and potentially adversely affect the Champ Street trees which are subject to a heritage overlay, HO287.

The current configuration not only preserves the appearance and use of the Champ Street reserve to a much greater degree, but also effectively ensures that much of the curtilage to the heritage buildings is free from vehicular traffic. For instance, the vehicular path that ran between the western perimeter wall and B Annexe in the 2014 Master Plan is to be an area for outdoor dining in the current scheme. Locating the car park in this area will satisfy the need for the provision of facilities that the development requires without, firstly, encroaching on the more significant fabric of the site or, secondly, having above-grade built envelopes associated with car parking creating dead interfaces throughout the site. Although the proposed new car park structure clearly results in change within the site, it will have little impact upon the significance of the place beyond the proposed wall opening to Pentridge Boulevard.

8.5 Perimeter Basalt Walls

As part of the proposed redevelopment, some alterations to the historic bluestone walls that surround the site – namely D wall to the south and A wall to the west – are required. Two new wall openings for pedestrian access are proposed for A wall (the western perimeter wall), and three new wall openings – two for vehicular access and one for pedestrian access – for D wall. One smaller new opening is also proposed for the southern boundary wall to the south-eastern exercise yard, however this is discussed below.

Given the nature of the proposed development and the attendant need for car parking in this precinct, the introduction of openings through both A Wall and D wall is seen to be vital. The architectural treatment of the proposed openings develops and extends the types of openings proposed as part of the site-wide

openings strategy for the Public Realm, where the reveals to the sections punched out of the basalt walls will be finished in steel. Such a treatment will be legible as a contemporary intervention, and will help retain the overall sense of the original wall form and character as far as possible. The metal reveals will also help protect the basalt walls from passing vehicles. Only one of the proposed wall openings is to be full height: the wall opening directly to the south of the Administration Building. This breach is required to accommodate the range of vehicles (including emergency) that may need to access the site through this part of the site. However, wherever possible the height of the wall openings has been kept as low as possible (between 3 and 3.5 metres) to help preserve the overall sense of the original walls' form and character.

The proposed new openings to the perimeter walls have been carefully sited to balance the access requirements of the site with a solution that will have the least impact on the significance of the place and its component parts. The proposed openings will provide vehicular access to the basement car parking that will be crucial for accommodating traffic within the site in the long term.

In general, the basalt walls are to be repaired and restored as required in accordance with the recommendations of the CMP (2016). Proposed conservation works include the removal of all twentieth century additions, removal of paint and repairs to stonework and pointing as required. It is anticipated that a more detailed schedule of conservation works will be linked to the final approval by means of a condition of permit.

8.6 South-west exercise yard

Both the south-east and south-west exercise yards originally contained radial stone and timber enclosures with central observation towers. These structures have long since been removed, however remnant footings have recently been uncovered in both exercise yards. The two yards are enclosed by the walls of the Panopticon on two sides, and high ashlar bluestone walls on the other two. The eastern wall of B Annexe incorporates the western perimeter wall to the south-western exercise yard.

As part of the current scheme, the hotel podium is to be located within the south-west exercise yard. Large expanses of double-height glazing will be used to help create the sense that the lobby and foyer space is enclosed by the walls of the Panopticon, enabling patrons to survey the building that was itself premised on the notion of surveillance. The interface between the hotel lobby and the Panopticon is to be carefully managed, with the separation between the two helping to protect the original fabric and future amenity of B Division. The lobby will open up to the newly converted suites and heritage interpretation wing, as

well as the restaurant in B Annexe. As part of the overall landscaping scheme and Heritage Interpretation Strategy for the site, a range of landscape and other elements are to be used to interpret the south-eastern exercise yard. Simple massing and a limited palette of materials will help ensure that the hotel podium reads as a sympathetic, contemporary insertion.

8.7 South-east exercise yard

In contrast to the former south-west exercise yard, the south-east exercise yard is to be redeveloped in a manner that reflects the historic panoptic configuration of the space. Recent archaeological investigations have revealed that remnant footings to the airing yard remain in situ, and these footings are to be incorporated into the proposed landscape design. Various aspects of the scheme – such as the organisation of pathways radiating from a central point and wedge-shaped areas of meadow plantings – will also help evoke the historic configuration of the space. One wedge is also to contain a reflective pool, while another will contain a timber deck elevated above the remnant footings. Another timber deck will also provide access from the existing external door at the crossing of B Division. Elsewhere, granitic gravel will help ensure that there is adequate drainage along the heritage walls. As the only existing access into the exercise yard is via a small gate at the northern end of the eastern boundary, it is proposed that an additional opening be created in the southern boundary wall to accommodate pedestrian access and help activate the space. The existing door to the east wing will provide access for service equipment.

Please refer to the drawings by ASPECT Studios and the Heritage Interpretation Strategy by Sue Hodges Productions for further details of the proposed scheme for the south-east exercise yard.

8.8 Sterile zone

It is proposed that the sterile zone between the two walls to the south of B Division be developed as an open heritage interpretation gallery space. Historically, these interstitial spaces were areas of intense surveillance, and it is intended that the barren, narrow space between the two basalt walls will help evoke the sense of confinement and scrutiny that once characterised the whole complex. This area will contain interpretative material relating to the Pentridge site, and will serve as a transition space to the heritage interpretation wing and the south-eastern exercise yard. One smaller new opening is to be created in the southern boundary wall to the south-eastern exercise yard to help create an

integrated heritage interpretation precinct (incorporating the sterile zone, the southern cell range, and the south-eastern exercise yard).

8.9 Recording

A detailed photographic and archival survey of the subject site will be undertaken in the near future, and this information deposited with the State Library of Victoria. Together with the collection held at the Public Records Office of Victoria, this survey will help provide a comprehensive overview of the appearance of the site and its component parts immediately prior to the commencement of the redevelopment, and will constitute a valuable tool for the future interpretation and analysis of the site. The footings to the exercise yards have recently been scanned, and the B Division building is currently being scanned and modelled. This information will be deposited with the State Library of Victoria when complete.

9.0 Conclusions

The proposal has been developed on the basis of a detailed appreciation of the significance of the place and its component parts. The current proposal incorporates an eighteen level building that seeks to create a slender, sculptural response to the massive qualities of the setting. It responds to the brief for a building that will be a positive architectural insertion within the place, responding in a considered and powerful manner to the architectural significance of former Coburg Prisons Complex and the anticipated importance of its own role within the future life of the development.

Overall, the proposal satisfies a need for substantial, modern facilities that will accommodate the mix of uses required to achieve a sustainable adaptive reuse outcome as well as the economic viability of the entire Pentridge precinct in the long-term. Furthermore, the current scheme responds to the market demand for affordable apartment living within close proximity to a government recognised activity centre, and will make a key contribution to the ongoing conservation of the heritage buildings into the long-term future. Although the multi-storey element was not anticipated in some of the earlier background documents for the site, the density this element provides will help achieve these outcomes without unreasonably encroaching on the more significant fabric of the site. The 2014 Master Plan allowed for an eighteen-level building on the site. Appropriate regard has been paid to the significance of all early fabric affected by the proposed works, and it is proposed that substantial conservation works will be included within the proposed package of works.

the front verandah has undergone a number of unsympathetic modifications, and a number of the doors and windows have been replaced. The interior has been substantially altered, and only remnants of original fabric survive.

Although the building originally faced the main parade ground, its setting was altered when the walls enclosing the main forecourt of the building were constructed in 1886.

4.3.4 Significance

The 1996 CMP states that the former Chief Warder's and Overseer of Works' residences are:

Of primary significance. The former Chief Warder's and Overseer of Works' residences are among the initial group of buildings constructed for the new 'model prison' in 1858-59, and form an integral part of the group of buildings which originally faced the main parade ground. Its conversion in the late 1920s appears to represent the first specific provision of mess facilities for prison staff.⁷⁹

Neither of the structures to the rear yard are of significance.

4.4 B Division

Building 3

4.4.1 History

Originally known as A Division – or, alternatively and somewhat erroneously, the Panopticon – B Division as it is now known was the first building to be completed of the new Model Prison. It formed the centrepiece of the new prison and was constructed by contract labour – Thomas Glaister & Co – for a sum of £19,480/7/7, a sum which also may have included completion works to the Administration Building.⁸⁰ Drawings for the building are initialled by the Swiss draughtsman Gustav Joachimi of the Public Works Department. It is possible that the two semi-detached double storey warders' residences to the north of the main Parade Ground were included within this large contract.⁸¹

⁷⁹ Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP* (1996), p.78.

⁸⁰ Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, p.26 (citing the PWD Summary Contracts Book, Contract No.59/27). Although James Semple Kerr states that the contract for this work was let to James McKenzie in 1858 (Out of Sight, Out of Mind, p.78), there seems to be broad consensus that Thomas Glaister & Associated Masons were the contractors. For example, according to the Adelaide Observer, Thomas Glaister & Associated Masons secured the contract for £19,400. 'The Victorian Associated Masons', *Adelaide Observer*, Saturday 16 April 1859, p.2S.

According to Broome, the Panopticon was built by contract labour, Glaister & Co., which is puzzling, as this organisation seems to make its debut with the gatehouse building. Timothy Hubbard & Associates, Coburg Conservation Study, p.16.

⁸¹ Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, p.26.



Figure 15 Photograph of B Division, c2014. Photographer: Hin Lim of Hin Lim Photography, <http://www.hinlimphotography.com>.



Figure 16 B Division as shown in c1896 image entitled 'Scenes from Pentridge'. Source: State Library of Victoria Online Picture Collection Accession No. H96.160-507.

Constructed on a cruciform plan, Champ's Panopticon had cell ranges containing 176 cells extending to the east, south and west off a central hall. In plan, the building shares similarity with the Millbank Penitentiary: both have three aisles radiating from a central hub. The central hall was lit by an octagonal lantern which was surmounted by a ball finial and a weather vane. The Chapel and a number of offices are located in the front north wing of the building in the head of the cross. The Chapel – which was burnt out in 1978 – was described as follows:⁸²

*Upon the first floor of the Panopticon is a large and lofty room, 60 feet by 50, which will be converted into a chapel, upon the solitary system. Every prisoner will be placed so he can see and be seen by the minister, without being able to obtain a glimpse of the rest of the congregation.*⁸³

In section, the Panopticon was similar to those introduced at Parramatta and Sydney in 1838-39 and at Pentonville in 1840-42.⁸⁴ In all instances, an open longitudinal atrium spaces was flanked by narrow galleries which provided access to the cells. The building was predominantly two storeys high, although the east wing has an additional basement level which accommodated the refractory cells:

*In B Division there are underground cells. It was here that we were shown the refractory cells, which are padded, and barred with double doors. No light is emitted, ventilation being supplied by pipes running down to the top of the roof. This was the nearest approach to the dungeon cells of medieval times as we had come across.*⁸⁵

Internally, the cells were 9 feet by 6, and 9 feet high (3.2m by 2.8m), considerably smaller than those at Pentonville which were 13 ½ feet by 7 ½ feet x 9 feet (4.1m by 2.2m by 2.7m).⁸⁶ The walls were 'whitewashed and painted until they look like marble.'⁸⁷ The flagging was similarly 'whitewashed like snow.'⁸⁸ An early (1860) visitor described the Panopticon as being:

*... built in the shape of a gothic cross, its dimensions being 520 feet by 500. Here the latest improvements in prison discipline are put into force. The cells...are 9 feet by 6, and 9 feet high. They present an unusually cheerful appearance, if such a term may be applied to a lock-up. The windows are large, and formed of glass one inch in thickness, protected on the outside by strong iron bars, and the walls of the cells are white-washed... Water is laid on to each cell, but the pipes are connected with cisterns containing but one cubic foot of water, so that the prisoner is necessarily an economist of his supply. In the Panopticon, a system of separate confinement is adopted. It is not altogether solitary, since the inmate of each cell has daily opportunity of speaking to the visiting officers and to the warder. With this exception, he cannot exchange a word with any person, day or night...*⁸⁹

⁸² Richard Broome, *Coburg: Between Two Creeks*, p.298.

⁸³ 'The Pentridge Stockade', *The Argus*, Friday 6 January 1860, p.5. Held in Trove.

⁸⁴ James Semple Kerr, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Australia's Places of Confinement, 1788-1988*, p.44-45 and 62-63.

⁸⁵ Outsider, 'A Visit to Pentridge', *Bendigo Advertiser*, Saturday 3 December 1881, p.15. According to this account, the Divisions were known by their current names by this time.

⁸⁶ 'The Pentridge Stockade', *The Argus*, Friday 6 January 1860, p.5. Held in Trove.

⁸⁷ 'The Luxury of Prison', *The Kalgoorlie Miner*, Monday 23 April 1906, p.2.

⁸⁸ 'The Luxury of Prison', *The Kalgoorlie Miner*, Monday 23 April 1906, p.2.

⁸⁹ 'The Pentridge Stockade', *The Argus*, Friday 6 January 1860, p.5. Held in Trove.

This was the underlying reason that governed the whole form of the Panopticon. It was strictly forbidden to speak to the other prisoners. Warders wore slippers to patrol the corridors and coconut matting runners were laid in the corridor to ensure silence in the building:

*...along the passages on either side in front of the cell doors a coconut matting is laid, and also on the floors of the lower aisles as well, so as to prevent the sound of the warders' footsteps as they patrol those sombre lighted passages by day and by night, where the rays of the sun never enter, and the gas at night but dimly burns. All is silent as the grave, except at meal times, and at the locking up for the night.*⁹⁰

Prisoners were addressed by their convict number rather than their name, this number being marked upon their clothes and hat. They spent 23 hours of each day confined in the Panopticon. The remaining hour was spent in one of the two exercise yards constructed in the walled yards to the south of B Division. However even here the silent system was imposed. The exercise yards were radially designed to ensure that prisoners were unable to converse with one another even when exercising. Although both exercise yards had been demolished by the mid-twentieth century, their foundations were merely paved over and were recently revealed by archaeological investigations.

The design for the Panopticon incorporated a number of technological innovations that were worthy of note. For example, a bell-pull system consisting of small brass telegraph arms operated by small handles inside the cells was installed to enable the inmates to communicate with the warder on duty:

*In the centre of the corridor upon each floor affixed to the wall, is a gong, to which are attached two pendulums, corresponding to the two arms of the corridor. A bell-pull communicating with this gong is fitted to each cell. When the gong is sounded, the warder perceives by the motion of the pendulum the direction from which the signal proceeds, and is directed to the particular cell by the sudden projection of a small bolt from the door, which is put in motion by the same machinery.*⁹¹

The panopticon cells were also supplied with both gas and water.⁹² Gas was provided for two hours each evening nine months a year, although the gas pipes were widely considered to be problematic:⁹³

*It is said that the gas-pipe service is utilised for transmitting messages from one cell to another, and that in this manner convicts can communicate with each other at long distances. The burner of the gas jet is unscrewed and the pipe used as a speaking tube.*⁹⁴

It seems that the gas pipes were equally unpopular with the prisoners. The unreliable supply of gas meant the prisoners feared a flame might be extinguished but not relit when the supply returned.⁹⁵ They were understandably nervous about being gassed.

⁹⁰ *Prison Discipline in Victoria: a Visit to the Pentridge Stockade, 6 November 1866*, p.5.

⁹¹ 'The Pentridge Stockade', *The Argus*, Friday 6 January 1860, p.5. Held in Trove.

⁹² James Semple Kerr, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, p.78.

⁹³ 'A Peep into Pentridge', *Gippsland Times*, Friday 21 January 1887, p.3. Held in Trove.

⁹⁴ 'Pentridge Revelations', *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, Friday 16 October 1891, p.7. Held in Trove.

⁹⁵ James Semple Kerr, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, p.78.

Within his cell, each prisoner was supplied with a wooden stretcher (made to fold against the wall during the day), a small deal table and stool, a brass washing basin, a permanent commode, a tin drinking vessel, a small cupboard, and two pairs of thin blankets only – the two pairs being supposed to weigh exactly 12 lbs.⁹⁶ Plans and sections of the cell wings illustrated in the *Australian Sketcher* of 4 October 1873 show that the cells were complete water flushed WCs with airlock waste pipes.⁹⁷ It is likely that this was the first such installation in a prison in the Australian colonies.⁹⁸

Although it was originally known as A Division, the Panopticon was renamed B Division at a relatively early stage, thought to be around 1887.⁹⁹

4.4.2 Description

Exterior

The principal facade of the north wing adopts draws inspiration from the simple Classical temple form with a pediment above a rusticated base formed by the ground floor. At the upper level the front facade is divided into three recessed rectangular bays by pick-faced ashlar piers which support an entablature and a moulded eaves cornice. The tympanum contains a circular moulded panel with a carved stone plaque bearing the date of construction. The base is constructed of rock-faced bluestone ashlar walls on a smooth faced plinth. At ground floor, the central doorway and flanking round-headed windows are set into recessed panels of smooth-faced stone with a stepped reveal surrounded by rock-faced jambstones and splayed voussoirs with drafted margins that have been emphasised by recent painting. The three tall arched window openings to the upper level have projecting bracketed sills and projecting rectangular jambs and archivolts with impost blocks and rock-faced keystones. The north wing is slightly taller than the wings containing the cell ranges.

Most of the ground and all of the first floor windows retain their original cast iron multi-paned window frames with external iron bars. However, a number of the windows have been modified over the years. Airconditioning units have been added to a number of the ground floor windows, one of the ground floor windows on the west elevation has been filled-in, and one of the north elevation windows has been replaced with a modern timber-framed window. Some of the first floor windows have been modified to include opening hoppers, and the windows on the north elevation include leaded stained glass. Expanded mesh grilles have been added to a number of the windows. Pressed cement planter boxes have been fitted to the front ground windows: these appear to date from the late twentieth century although it may be that there was always some type of planter box in this location.

⁹⁶ 'A Peep into Pentridge', *Gippsland Times*, Friday 21 January 1887, p.3. Held in Trove.

⁹⁷ 'Life in Pentridge', *The Australian Sketcher*, 4 October 1873, p.121.

⁹⁸ James Semple Kerr, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, p.78.

⁹⁹ 'A Peep into Pentridge', *Gippsland Times*, Friday 21 January 1887, p.3. Held in Trove. There are, however, some indications that this occurred even earlier. For example, an article of 1883 notes that there were only two wings in A Division, while the Old C Division had been unoccupied since the women were removed to Melbourne about three years prior. Only the current day A Division originally had two wings. 'The Pentridge Stockade', *The Argus*, Tuesday 28 August 1883, p.9.

The tympanum above the front entry doors is fitted with a portcullis-like cast iron grille which matches that on the former Hospital building opposite. The double front entrance doors have three-panelled door leafs, with large bolection mouldings and iron studded frames. The doors are flush-panelled internally and reinforced with vertical iron straps. The original bluestone steps and wrought iron handrails remain in situ, although a steel disabled access ramp has been installed over them. An unfortunate attempt has been made to level out the furrowed front step with concrete.

Cell wings

Externally, the cell ranges are all constructed from rock-faced ashlar bluestone on a smooth-faced plinth. The quoins have drafted margins. Narrow rectangular stone window sills extend right across the facades, giving the impression of forming a string courses. A moulded eaves cornice contains the roof gutters.

Each cell is expressed externally by a small segmental arched window surrounded with pick-faced jamb stones and monolithic arch stones separated by a rock-faced keystone. Most of the cell windows have two part glazing, most of which is now painted, with horizontal ventilation slots. The original iron bars are set into the bluestone head and sill stones with lead. An assortment of later steel bars and mesh grilles have been added to many of the windows. The rainwater pipes are mostly recent copper, with some sections of earlier cast iron pipe and some possibly original lead rainwater hoppers. The external sanitary plumbing to the cells has all been replaced with copper pipe, although evidence of earlier drainage is apparent on the walls.

The gabled end walls on the cell wings have parapets with rectangular copings and large moulded kneeler stones. Each of the gabled elevations contains a large double-height arched window with smooth-faced jamb stones and voussoirs. These double height windows contain fixed cast iron frames which once would have contained small window panes, original external iron bars and later steel mesh grilles. The original glazing was replaced with timber-framed hopper windows in the late twentieth century. A later door opening has been made in the eastern elevation of the east cell range. The western elevation to the west wing is partially obscured by a link between B Division and B Annexe to the west.

Roofs

Although the roofs were originally clad in slate, they have since been re-clad in corrugated galvanised iron (evidence of this?). A number of large skylights are spaced along the central corridor. The CMP states that these roof lights probably date from the early twentieth century.¹⁰⁰ However, one early visitor to B Division described the roof as being ‘studded with glass skylights.’¹⁰¹ It is possible that the original skylights were replaced at some stage during the twentieth century. Brick header tank supports have been constructed above the cell wing roofs. The bluestone ashlar chimneys and a large central ventilation stack rise above the north wing roof. An octagonal lantern surmounted by a ball finial and a weather vane is located above the central hall.

¹⁰⁰ Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, p.100.

¹⁰¹ ‘A Peep into Pentridge’, *Gippsland Times*, Friday 21 January 1887, p3. Held in Trove.

Front Area

The basement windows on the east wing face onto a narrow subterranean area formed by a bluestone retaining wall. A cast iron palisade fence on a basalt plinth runs along the top of the retaining wall at ground level. A similar cast iron palisade fence extends along the northern face of the west wing, although this may well have been added for symmetry.

The original drawings for the Panopticon show four circular underground water tanks located in the yards formed by the cruciform plan form of the building. The north-west tank reportedly collapsed and was filled in during the 1980s. A brick well is located in the western yard: this seems to correspond to the location of the tanks in the original drawings of the Panopticon. It appears that rainwater was harvested from the building to these tanks. Recent archaeological investigations on the site have confirmed that the underground water tanks to the east and west of the north wing no longer exist.

The original drawings also show boundary walls enclosing the spaces to the north of the building, extending the length of the building. There is, however, no physical or other documentary evidence to suggest that such walls ever existed, and it is doubtful they were built.

Exercise Yards

The square enclosed yards to the south of the building originally contained radial stone and timber exercise enclosures with central observation towers. Decreasing use of solitary confinement during the early twentieth century meant there was little need for the exercise yards. The western exercise yard had been demolished by 1921, and neither are shown in the 1946 aerial photograph of the prison. The exercise yards are discussed in further detail in Section 4.13.2.

Today, the yards are surrounded by high bluestone ashlar walls. The wall to the east contains an area that has been filled in with red brick plus one original doorway with a stone lintel. Recent archaeological works to the yards have revealed the bluestone footings of the exercise yards which were for many years paved over with concrete. The west yard contains an open-sided brick laundry building in the north-west corner, most likely dating from the 1960s. Steel-framed porches have been constructed over the entrances to the yards from the central hall.

Interior

North-wing – ground floor

The ground floor of the north wing contains a central corridor flanked by offices and other rooms. Original drawings of the building show two small rooms to either side of the corridor at the front and a larger space, containing a fireplace, to the rear. The configuration of the ground floor rooms has been altered, in particular on the east side. For example, the front room has been subdivided and an additional door opening has been formed to accommodate a steel stair up to the chapel at the first floor, while the larger rear space on the east side has been partitioned to form a separate access corridor to the east cell wing as well as an office, store room and toilet. The rear space to the west is now accessed from the central hall, the original doorway from the central corridor having been filled

in. The 1996 CMP states that this space had been converted to a shower room.¹⁰² The original fireplaces and chimney breasts in both of these rear rooms have been removed.

The floors to this part of the building are clad variously in linoleum and carpet, although in some places the original flagstones are visible underneath. The original pick-faced ashlar walls are painted. All of the original ceilings appear to have been vaulted and lined with painted corrugated iron with concrete fill above. These iron-lined ceilings remain exposed in the corridor as well as in the central rooms to both sides of the corridor, and are thought to remain intact above the later suspended plasterboard or panel ceilings in the other rooms. A moulded timber coving runs along both sides of the corridor ceiling.

Two of the original doors remain, although both have been altered to include glazed panels. These doors are of heavy timber-framed construction, with flush-boarded panels being set vertically outside and horizontally inside. An additional curved section at the top fits the segmental-arched door head. The doors are mounted on cast iron top and bottom pivots. Some of the doors retain their original external bolts and hasps, although the original large rim locks have been removed. The other doors have been replaced with modern flush timber doors: the segmental-arched door heads were filled in when these doors are fitted. Two sets of welded steel barred grilles and gates were constructed in the corridor in the late 1970s.

North wing – First floor

The Chapel was located on the upper floor of the north wing, and the area was later used as a recreation room.¹⁰³ The interior was burnt out in 1978 and, internally, little original fabric remains. A non-original stair from the ground floor has been constructed in the north-east corner of the space.

The floor to the Chapel appears to have been covered with concrete. The bluestone ashlar walls are painted to the height that a later suspended ceiling once hung. This suspended ceiling has since been removed, as has the original ceiling. A large chimney breast with an ogee-shaped top section above a central arched door opening projects from the south wall. Ventilation flues rise on each side of the original main doorway to a small furnace, with two iron access doors located above the opening. The round-headed doors to the chapel are original and, like the original doors found elsewhere in the north wing, are constructed of boarded flush panels.

Cell wings – Circulation areas

B Division is constructed on a cruciform plan with cell ranges to the east, south and west radiating from a semi-octagonal central hall. The wings to the south and west contain two tiers on each side of full-height galleried corridors, while the east wing contains three tiers. The barrel vaulted ceilings over the galleried corridors are lined with painted corrugated iron.

¹⁰² Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, p.102.

¹⁰³ Richard Broome, *Coburg: Between Two Creeks*, p.298.

The main corridors to the ground floor are paved in painted bluestone flags, although some areas have been replaced with concrete. The pick-faced bluestone ashlar walls are likewise painted. Early descriptions of the building confirm that this was always the case.

The galleries are all of cast iron construction, with solid chequer-plate floor panels supported on quadrant brackets supported on moulded stone corbels. The wrought iron handrails are detailed with diagonally crossed bracing between square section posts. A circular boss is located at the centre of the cross-bracing. Steel mesh screens have been fitted across the open spaces between the galleries, presumably to address security concerns. These screens appear to date from the late twentieth century. Some of the cast iron floors appear to have been added at a later date.

The semi-octagonal central hall has an exposed timber-framed ceiling clad in timber-framed lining boards, raking upwards to a central octagonal lantern, with lower moulded panels and six-paned windows on each face (apart from to the north where the lantern abuts the northern ventilation stack). A plain frieze band and a moulded cornice runs around the base of the ceiling. The arched openings to the cell wing corridors have moulded archivolt with rock-faced keystones. A seemingly original iron-barred grille divided the central hall from the corridor to the north wing. On the south-west corner of the first floor gallery is a gate, of unknown purpose, matching the detail of the railings.

Semi-circular stone stairs to the upper storey are located within the triangular spaces off the south-east and south-west corners of the central hall. Wrought iron balustrades are set with lead into the stone treads. The balustrade to the eastern stairs has been boxed-in with plasterboard. The voids above the stairs provide access to the roof voids above the cell ranges, and presumably the iron water tanks above.

The cell ranges have undergone a number of modifications over the years. Most notably, both the east and west wings were partitioned off from the central hall during the late twentieth century. A plastered masonry wall, probably dating from 1982 when this part of the building was used to provide accommodation for women transferred from Fairlea prison, divides the west wing from the remainder of the building, while a plasterboarded wall and guard post to the east wing was constructed in the early 1990s. The central hall has also been altered by construction of a guard post at ground floor level. Various associated alterations to the first floor gallery were made to accommodate these changes.

The east wing has been altered by the construction in the early 1990s of an observation post over the original stone stair down to the basement at the west end, and of some new flights of steel stairs linking all three levels at the east end. An early article provides the following description of the arrangement of the stairs:

From the centre or fork of the aisles rise three handsome iron staircases (made on the premises), which lead to the corridors of the upper tier of cells.¹⁰⁴

Based on this, it is thought that the original stairs to the east wing have been relocated, while the stairs to the west wing has been replaced, and the stairs to the south removed altogether. Despite this, the original stair in the east wing remains largely intact, except where the wrought iron railings have been

¹⁰⁴ *Prison Discipline in Victoria: a Visit to the Pentridge Stockade, 6 November 1866*, pp.4-5.

cut away at ground floor level. Most of the original cells to the basement level have been substantially altered – works that are thought to have been undertaken in the 1920s or 1930s – although some at the west end of the basement remain intact. A central enclosed area to the basement was constructed in the early 1990s.

The tall, arched windows at the ends of each cell range have been modified with timber-framed inward-opening hopper windows. The ground floor door at the end of the eastern wing is not original. Central roof lights and smoke extract vents have been added to the vaulted ceiling of each wing. Various twentieth century accretions such as lighting and electrical trunking have been surface-fixed to the walls.

The western cell range has undergone a number of alterations over the years. Most notably, a steel stair has been constructed at the east end, and a link to B Annexe has been constructed at the west end. Airconditioning ducts are suspended from the galleries. A painting of an imaginary landscape is located on the upper level masonry wall that divides the west wing from the central hall. The date of the painting and the identity of the artist are unknown, although it must have been painted after the dividing wall was constructed in 1982.

Of all the wings of the building, the south cell range is most intact to its original form, the main alterations being the rooflights and vents in the ceiling and the addition of twentieth century accretions such as the recent electrical trunking.

Damage from damp both penetrating from the outside and that has leaked from the ground floor showers is evident in the basement level of the east wing.

Cells

The cells all have stone walls and segmental vaulted ceilings. Each cell was originally fitted with toilets and washbasins supplied with a daily ration of water from cisterns in the roof voids. None of these original fittings survive. Stainless steel toilet bowls were added to the cells in the late twentieth century. Most of the walls to the cells are finished in painted plaster with the exception of some of the basement cells in the east wing, which have unplastered painted bluestone ashlar walls. Some of the ground and first floor cells retain their original bluestone flagstones, although large areas have been replaced with painted concrete. Although some of the cells have original rendered skirtings, with beaded upper edges, in most of the cells the skirtings have either been removed or replaced with later plastering. The segmental-arched windows, set high on the wall, have splayed reveals. The glazing to many of the windows has been painted.

A reasonable number of the cells retain their original cell doors. These are constructed of heavy timber-framed and vertically boarded construction on a heavy iron-strapped frame with riveted sheet iron cladding to the inner face. The doors are mounted on iron quadrant pivots and are secured with horizontally sliding bolts. Mounts for pivoting levers which originally secured the tops of the doors remain fixed to the corridor walls, although the levers have long since been removed. The doors are generally fitted with original iron observation openings and relatively recent steel hatches, although some of the east wing basement retain what appear to be original iron hatches and securing bars. A number of the original cell doors in the east and south wings have been replaced with steel doors in the

late twentieth century. With the exception of the west wing cell doors, which have been stripped and varnished in recent times, all of the doors are painted.

Some remnants of the original bell-pull system, namely some of the small brass telegraph arms, survive in the basement to the east wing basement.

In 1986, openings were formed in the dividing walls between pairs of ground floor cells on the north side of the west wing, and, more recently, between one pair of cells on the first floor of the south wing, to form double cells. Some cells on the ground floor of the east wing have been altered with steel-framed perspex screens and doors: yet others have been converted to showers. Most of the basement cells in the east wing were altered, possibly in the 1920s or 1930s, by partial demolition of dividing walls or by demolition of the walls facing the central corridor. However, the cells at the west end of the basement remain substantially intact.

Roofs and Roof Voids

The roof framing is of imported softwood, with rafters and intermediate collar ties supported on braced posts bearing onto the walls between the cells and the galleried corridors. The roofs to the cell ranges are boarded under the corrugated iron cladding. The vaulted cell ceilings have been overlaid with concrete. The barrel-vaulted ceilings to the galleried cell ranges are clad in curved corrugated iron fixed to timber framing. The corrugated iron – the upper side of which is stamped ‘Morewood & Co./ London’ with an anchor trademark – has been painted.

Some of the cells retain their overhead original water cisterns constructed from slate slabs fastened with iron bolts and cramps. Each rectangular cistern is mounted on brick piers and fitted with a timber lid, and is divided into four separate chambers, each of which serves a separate cell. Several cisterns remain largely intact, while the broken remnants of other cisterns remain lying on the ceilings. Galvanised iron pipes originally linked the cisterns both to each other as well as the cells, and cut-off sections of the pipes remain. A small, lead-lined timber tank is located at the end of each cell range, connected across the galleried corridors by galvanised sheet metal pipes. The purpose of these tanks is not known.

Ventilation

The original ventilation system for the cells included permanent ventilation through the windows as well as a ducted extract system. Small vertical ducts, one to each cell, constructed within the walls between the cells and the galleried corridors: these linked to ducts under the corridor floors which, in turn, were connected to a large vertical flue on the north side of the central hall. Unlike the ventilation system in A Division, it seems that the vertical cell ducts did not extend into the roof voids. The main vertical flue includes a small furnace, heat from which appears to have been intended to assist the natural updraught in the flue. The system appears to remain largely intact.

4.4.3 Conclusions

B Division, constructed in 1858-59, is largely intact to its original form. Alterations, as detailed in the preceding sections, are largely reversible and for the most part do not detract from the building’s

legibility. Noteworthy modifications include alterations to the ground floor offices in the north wing, construction of partition walls dividing the east and west cell ranges from the central hall, related alterations to the galleries, opening up pairs of cells in the west and south wings, and construction of management cells and showers in the east wing. Substantial alterations to some of the basement cells in the east wing were carried out earlier, possibly during the 1920s or 1930s. Many of the cells remain largely intact. Alterations include the plastering of walls, replacement of some floors with concrete, replacement of some doors and the modernisation of sanitary and other fittings.

4.4.4 Significance

The 1996 CMP states that B Division is:

*Of primary significance. B Division is among the initial group of buildings constructed for the new 'model prison' in 1858-9, and was the first of the cell blocks constructed at Pentridge to embody the planning principles of the separate system. It forms an integral part of the group of buildings which face the main parade ground. The thermo-ventilation system and the water supply cisterns and other elements of the water supply system are relatively rare examples of such systems among Victorian prisons and are of technological significance.*¹⁰⁵

4.5 B Annexe

Building 4

4.5.1 History

B Annexe was constructed in 1875 to accommodate the kitchen and bakery for the prison. The location and nature of the prison's kitchen facilities prior to this is not known. In 1885, the Report of Inspector-General of Penal Establishments recommended that the Pentridge bakery be enlarged to help supply the Lunatic Asylums with bread.¹⁰⁶ Although it is not known what action was taken in relation to this recommendation, by 1887 the bakery at Pentridge supplied all the bread for Pentridge and Melbourne Gaols, as well as the Kew and Yarra bend lunatic asylums.¹⁰⁷ In the early 1890s, one visitor described the bakery as follows:

*The most striking thing about this extensive cookhouse is its scrupulous cleanliness and this catches the eye immediately. The carefully holystoned floor, the freshly-painted walls, the brightly-burnished coppers, richly blowing like old red gold, and the trim and tidy get-up of the little battalion of cooks, bakers, butchers, bread-cutters, etc. all spoke volumes in favour of the energetic and obliging overseer...*¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP* (1996), p.110.

¹⁰⁶ 'Penal Establishments and Gaols', *South Australia Register*, Tuesday 4 August 1885, p.7.

¹⁰⁷ George G. De Thouars, 'A Peep in Pentridge', *Gippsland Times*, Friday 21 January 1887, p.3.

¹⁰⁸ The Outcast, 'Behind Prison Bars', *The Coburg Leader*, Saturday 24 June 1893, p.3.

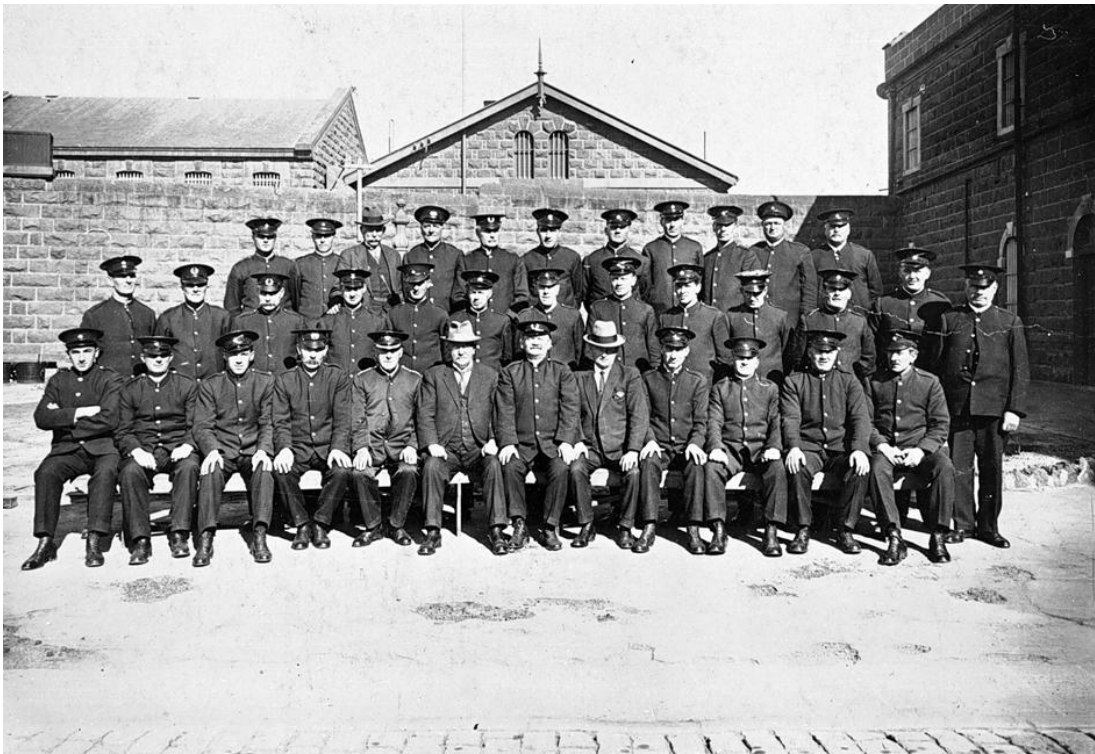


Figure 17 Photograph showing the gable end of B Annexe in the background, taken around 1910. Source: Museums Victoria.

A photograph taken in 1910 shows the northern gable end of B Annexe with its original barge boards surmounted by a spike and ball finial.

The building was extended in the 1920s, most likely in c1922-23 when a new steam boiler appears to have been installed.¹⁰⁹ In the late 1960s, the building was converted for use as the mat shop, and was later used as a prisoners' recreation area, probably in 1982.

Boilers were installed in the building in 1952. While these works were being undertaken, an employee of the kitchen tried to escape, climbing one of the ladders in the area at the time. Just after the prisoner scaled the 12 ft wall, however, he was shot, 'staggered 20 yards into the rear of St Paul's Catholic Church, and died in a flower bed.'¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ Drawing showing steam boiler and chimney for kitchen (21.11.1922), PROV PGP 1.45

¹¹⁰ 'Man Shot Dead in Gaol Break Bid at Pentridge', *The Newcastle Sun*, Monday 14 April 1952, p.1

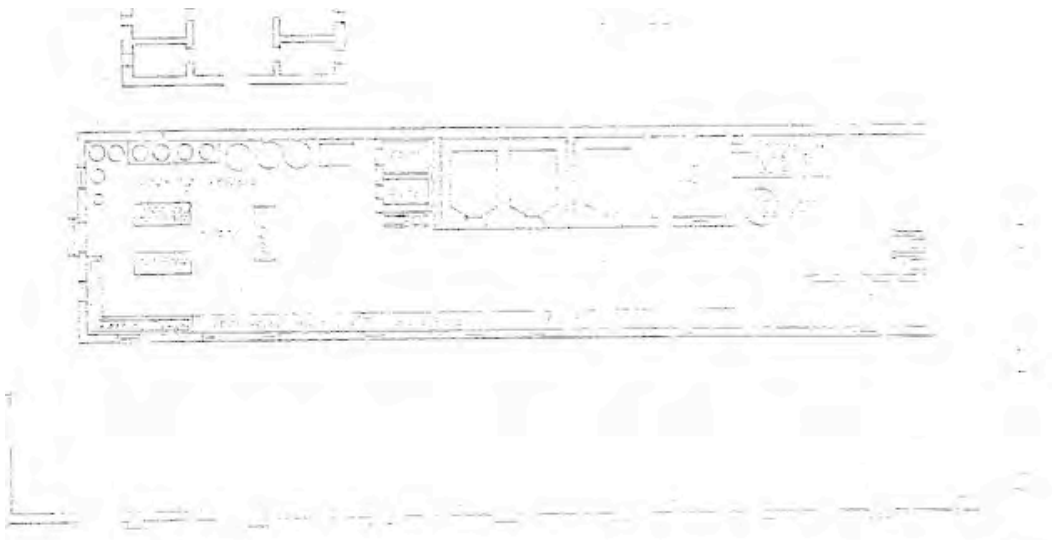


Figure 18 Undated plan showing B Annexe. Plan held at PROV, drawing number PGP 1.126.

4.5.2 Description

Exterior

B Annexe is a simple single-storey building constructed on a rectangular plan with gabled north and south elevations. The principal elevation, facing north, has a projecting smooth-faced plinth and is of coursed and squared bluestone rubble construction, with small sneck blocks set randomly between the larger coursed blocks. The arched window openings and central door opening have slightly projecting jamb stones and splayed voussoirs with drafted margins. A smooth-faced rectangular stringcourse runs along the base of the gable end, above which is a pair of narrow arched louvred vents. The east elevation of the building incorporates the 1858-9 bluestone wall surrounding the western exercise yard of B Division which has been extended upwards in brick.

In contrast to the north elevation, the west elevation of the 1875 building is constructed of brick on a rock-faced bluestone ashlar plinth with bluestone quoins. The arched window openings have rock-faced bluestone jamb stones, voussoirs and keystones with drafted margins. Most retain their original external bars, although aluminium framed windows have replaced the original. It appears that some of the bluestone window sills have been replaced. The projecting eaves have been fitted with non-original timber fascia boards and unsympathetic quad profile gutters. A door, fitted with a sliding door and a steel barred gate, has been added to the west elevation. A timber-framed shelter with a skillion roof clad in a mix of corrugated steel and polycarbonate was added to the west elevation in the late twentieth century.

The c1922-3 extension at the south is constructed of brick with a gabled roof that is set at a slightly lower pitch than that of the original building. Some of the original bluestone quoins to the south-west corner of the original building were removed when the extension was constructed. The barred window

openings have rendered sills and lintels. There was once a double door in the north facade, however this has been partly built up. The south gable is clad in ribbed galvanised steel.

With the exception of the c1922 addition to the south of the building, the building has only undergone relatively minor – and largely reversible – alterations. For example, the original timber-framed windows have been replaced with aluminium-framed windows, although the original external iron bars survive. The original timber fascia and barge boards have been replaced with unpainted late twentieth century members. The sliding front door is not original and the door jamb has been altered with the addition of brick nibs to either side, while a concrete ramp and steps has been added to the front door. The plinth and the door and window jamb stones have been painted. The north-east corner of the building appears to have been rebuilt at some point, possibly following foundation failure.

The roof is clad in corrugated galvanised iron. Rooflights are spaced at regular intervals along the roof.

Interior

The interior of the 1875 part of the building has largely been stripped and little original fabric survives. The internal faces of the original external walls are of painted brick or bluestone below the original ceiling height. The timber trusses to the ceiling are visible above the wire mesh that has been fixed between the timber roof beams. These beams sit on stone consoles (match detail in the cell ranges?). At the north-eastern end is a link to the ground floor west wing of B Division. Showers and toilets are located in to extension at the south end of the building. These rooms have painted brick walls.



Figure 19 *The interior of B Annexe as shown in c1896 image entitled 'Scenes from Pentridge'. Source: State Library of Victoria Online Picture Collection Accession No. H96.160-509.*

4.5.3 Conclusions

The original section of the former kitchen is substantially intact externally, with the exception of a few alterations such as the replacement of all of the window joinery, an additional door opening to the west elevation and the addition of a shelter on the west side. The 1920s extension to the south is largely intact externally, apart from some alterations to the west door. The extension appears originally to have included a 50' (15m) high brick boiler chimney, which does not currently exist. The interior of the building has largely been gutted, and little remains that testifies to the building's original use.

4.5.4 Significance

The 1996 Pentridge CMP identified B Annexe as being of:

*Of primary significance. The former kitchen is among the buildings constructed during the 1870s expansion of the prison and represents a significant expansion of the initial kitchen facilities at Pentridge.*¹¹¹

4.6 Hospital

Building 5

4.6.1 History

The original Hospital was constructed in 1859 as part of the expansion of Pentridge undertaken at the commencement of the administration of Inspector-General William Champ.¹¹² Located on the northern side of the main Parade Ground and facing south, the building was constructed by Thomas Glaister & Co for a contract sum of £8,555/4.¹¹³ It was reportedly 'quite completed, except as to its interior fittings' by January 1860.¹¹⁴

¹¹¹ Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, 1996, p.112.

¹¹² Plans, sections and elevations of the Hospital building. Held at PROV PGP 1.83 and PGP 1.84.

¹¹³ Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, p.26.

¹¹⁴ 'The Pentridge Stockade', *The Argus*, Friday 6 January 1860, p.5.

- No additions should be made to the front or sides of the building. Nor should the form of the roof be altered.

Specific conservation actions include:

Exterior

- Repair and replace the slate roof as required.
- Restore and reconstruct front verandah to match original detail.
 - Retain the existing, most likely original, corrugated iron verandah roof or replace to match original detail if this is not possible.
 - Do not remove the ceiling cladding to the west residence.
 - Replace timber floor boards to match original detail, as well as the chamfered timber joists if required.
 - Remove the tiles to the verandah floor to expose the original bluestone flags beneath. Repair the bluestone flags or replaced as required.
 - Replace fascia beam to the verandah to match original detail.
 - Reinststate the valence to original detail.
- Repair tuckpointing to quoins and jamb stones.
- Remove paint from the stonework to the upper south elevation.
- Repair and replace slate roof as required.
- Reinststate the altered door and window joinery to the front and rear elevations to match original detail. The existing French doors to the upper storey should be used as the model for the doors to the balcony.
- Other missing external elements such as the timber eaves brackets should be reinstated to match original detail.
- Remove all twentieth century accretions from the building.
- Rainwater goods to match original detail

Interior

- Given the lack of original fabric and the extent to which the buildings have been modified internally, there is scope to reconfigure the interiors as required.

7.4 B Division

General conservation policy

- The original form of the whole external envelope Exterior of the building should be retained and restored to its original nineteenth century appearance.
- All nineteenth century fabric should be retained including:
 - Walls
 - Roof
 - Roof lantern
 - Original bluestone chimneys

- Retaining walls to the sunken areas along the side wings.
- Original roof framing.
- All surviving elements of the water supply system including the slate cisterns, pipework and other elements within the roof space.
- All surviving elements of the ducted cell ventilation system.
- All surviving elements of the thermo-ventilation furnace within the chapel.
- Original external iron bars to the cell windows (those set with lead into the bluestone).
- Retain the original iron bars and cast iron window frames to the north wing.
- The original entrance doors to the north wing.
- The original bluestone internal walls as far as possible (however, there may be scope to reconfigure some of the cells by removing the partition walls between the cells – as has been done in the western wing of B Division).
- Original rainwater heads.
- Remove all twentieth century fabric including:
 - The later security screens from the cell windows, the roof top header tanks, and smoke extract vents.
 - External downpipes are not original (apart from some rainwater heads) and could be replaced to match the original detail if required.
 - Replace original hoppers to match original detail if replacement is required.
- Remove paint from the window surrounds and other external stonework to the front facade of the building.

Specific conservation actions include:

Exterior

- Remove later steel bars and mesh grilles from the windows.
- Reconstruct all missing iron bars to the windows. Repair window bars where required.
- Remove all twentieth century accretions from the exterior of the building including air conditioning units and other later accretions.
- Remove the twentieth century stained glass glazing to the chapel windows if required.
- Repair the damaged cast iron fence along the side wing retaining walls.

Interior

- Generally, retain as much original nineteenth century fabric as possible.
- Retain all original elements of the (south, east and west) corridors and central hall including the stone walls, the barrel vaulted iron ceilings, the lantern and ceiling over the central hall, all the cell doors, the galleries, and the iron stairs.
- Restore the original form of the galleried cell range corridors and restore the central hall by removing later additions, including the walls dividing the east and west wings, control posts, alterations to the ground and first floor galleries and timber-framed internal windows to the ends of the cell ranges.
- Repair patches of concrete flooring with flagstones to match original detail.

- Limited adaptation of the cells, by removal of dividing walls, while retaining the external wall and transverse corridor wall, may be possible, although some cells should be retained in their original plan form.
- Retain original fittings and fixtures in situ such as the remnants of the original bell-pull system (labels and gongs), namely some of the small brass telegraph arms in the east wing basement.
- Retain the original masonry walls and vaulted corrugated ceilings on the ground floor of the north wing, as well as other surviving nineteenth century elements such as panelled doors and flagstones.
- Retain the original form of the central corridor, and the configuration of original doors openings off the corridor of the north wing.
- It may be acceptable to create limited openings in the partition walls to the rooms either side of the corridor.
- Remove twentieth century fabric from the cells.
- Retain the early twentieth century lanterns in the corridor ceilings if useful.
- Damage from damp both penetrating from the outside and that has leaked from the ground floor showers is evident in the basement level of the east wing.
- Consideration might be given to restoring and reconstructing some of the cells to the detail shown in the early documentary evidence.
- Consideration might be given to restoring the first floor chapel, or at the least retaining it as a single space.

Exercise Yards

- There is an existing heritage permit for development of the Western Yard with a new multi-storey building with interpretation to be cast into the roof-top podium.
- Consideration should be given to exposing or otherwise interpreting surviving footings or other presently buried fabric.

Additions to accommodate new usage:

- If required, additional fire escape stairs and exits should preferably be located within existing cell spaces rather than externally or within the galleried spaces.
- Preferably locate new fire escape doors on the exercise yard elevations.
- There may be scope to reconfigure some of the cells by removing the partition walls between the cells (as has been done in the western wing of B Division).

7.5 B Annexe

Building 4

General conservation policy

- Retain and restore the exterior of the building to match the original 1875 design. The original external form of the building should not be altered.
- The 1920s addition to the south may be retained and adapted if useful, and demolished if not.

- Demolish the late twentieth century shelter on the west side of the building.

Scope for additions and alterations:

- Additions should preferably be limited to the southern end of the building where the 1920s addition is currently located.
- Installation of rooflights is considered acceptable if more natural light is required internally. These would preferably be located on the eastern side of the gable.

Specific conservation actions include:

Exterior

- Replace all the altered elements on the original section of the exterior, most notably the non-original windows and the entrance door, to match the original detail as far as this can be established from documentary or other evidence.
- Replace the late twentieth century fascia and barge boards with a profile to match original detail.
- Replace the existing quad gutters with galvanised ogee gutters.
- Reinstate door and window joinery to match original detail.
- Remove brick nibs from the original doorway on the west elevation.
- Replace bluestone window sills to west elevation.
- Remove paint from the plinth and the door and window surrounds.
- If the c1922-3 brick extension to the south of the original building is demolished, reconstruct the bluestone quoins at the south west corner of the original B Annexe building to match original detail.
- Remove all twentieth century accretions from the building including air conditioning units.
- Reconstruct fascia to facade to original detail.
- Reconstruct the spike and ball finial to original detail.
- Reconstruct front (north) door and door frame to original detail.
- Remove inappropriate disabled access to the north entry.
- Reinstate tuckpointing to facade.
- Replace all aluminium windows with timber windows to match original detail.
- Repaint all painted surfaces in early colour scheme (to be identified).

Interior

- Given the general lack of original fabric, the interior of the building could be gutted and freely adapted to a wide variety of uses.
- The internal faces of the external walls should remain exposed with a limewash finish.
- The original timber beams to the ceiling should be retained and reinstated to original detail where missing.
- The stone consoles to the roof beams should be retained and replaced where required.