

Table 3.24 Summary of the Assessment for Building No. 15

<i>Building No., Name & Designation</i>	<i>Date of Construction and Original Use</i>	<i>Reference Drawings</i>	
<p>15 E Hall Within Victoria Prison Declared Monument</p>	<p>1913 – 1915 Cell block</p>	<p>15-GA-201 Lower Ground Floor 15-GA-202 Ground Floor 15-GA-203 First Floor 15-GA-204 Second Floor 15-GA-205 Roof Plan</p>	<p>15-GA-220 North Elevation 15-GA-221 South Elevation 15-GA-222 East Elevation 15-GA-223 West Elevation</p>
<i>Brief Overview</i>	<i>Proposed Adaptive Uses</i>	<i>Significance (refer to Section 3.11 of the Conservation Management Plan dated June 2008)</i>	
<p>This three storey brick building was one of three cell blocks of this design on the Site, with another being demolished and B Hall preceding it. The exterior features regular fenestration on all sides, and the interior has a central corridor and flights of straight open staircases with cells either side (a total of 26 each floor). Much of the original fabric survives, including the original Chinese tile roof. The building is visible as a prison structure from Arbuthnot Road and Chancery Lane.</p> <p>This building continued in use as a cell block through to decommissioning.</p> <p>The construction of E Hall is reasonably robust with load-bearing brickwork cell walls in the upper floors and reinforced concrete floors, under a pitched tiled roof.</p>	<p>Mixed Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LG/F – Multipurpose uses and ancillary support • G/F – Art Gallery and ancillary support; Interpretation rooms; Toilets; Plant rooms. • 1/F and 2/F – Multipurpose and ancillary support; Toilets; Plant rooms <p>The LG/F open area is seen as being most useful in providing visitors entering the Site from the new Arbuthnot entrance, either as individuals walking in or as coach parties being dropped off, with an impressive covered space to assemble in and be given some preliminary information about the history of the Site before going on guided tours.</p> <p>The selected adaptive reuses for the upper floors will be considered suitable for this reasonably robust building if the new occupancy and structural loads are not excessive, and the interventions retain the characteristic open stair and balcony circulation, and the structural integrity. The main interventions will be the provision of a change of level lift at G/F level, and a new code compliant staircase for adequate means of escape.</p> <p>The G/F of cells is seen as providing a good accessible location for some interpretation of the former Prison activities in the context of the Prison Yard, alongside some smaller spaces which can be used for an arts-related programme of small scale activities or exhibitions.</p> <p>The 1/F and 2/F of cells will be used as small scale support spaces for the adjacent new Multipurpose area with access bridge links at each level.</p>	<p>MEDIUM / LOW</p> <p>This building forms part of a larger group of cell block accommodation on the Site, along with B Hall and D Hall. The construction of three buildings of the same design is indicative of their perceived effectiveness. While there are no architectural features of note, it nonetheless forms an important part of the external façade of the prison.</p>	
<i>Conservation Approach</i>	<i>Major Proposed Changes (for Mitigations see Annex A1)</i>	<i>Other Heritage Impact Rating Assessments</i>	
<p>All new adaptive uses will be accommodated within the existing building without new extensions. However the building has open non-compliant internal stairways which will not provide the required means of escape. These stairs will be retained for use as far as possible, and alternative means of escape will be provided by using the new stair in the adjacent new building on the north side, and inserting a new internal stair leading to a final flight of external stair on the south side. This arrangement enables all floors to have adaptive new uses.</p> <p>The removal of all existing walls in LG/F will regain the full extent of this impressive space with its characteristic brickwork piers, and provide an open area for cultural, interpretation and leisure activities.</p> <p>The original characteristic cell block plan layout, access and circulation on G/F, 1/F, 2/F will be respected and altered as little as possible. The existing central flights of open stairs between floors and the narrow balconies overlooking these stairs will be retained, although the open cores of the stairway and lightwells at G/F level will need to be enclosed with fire resisting glass to separate the different uses.</p>	<p>The existing open stairs are not code compliant for means of escape, but will be retained. Alternative means of escape will be achieved by providing links to the new stair serving the Multipurpose area in the adjacent new building on the north west side at each floor level, and by providing a new code compliant stair within a shaft formed from a group of cells in the building on the south side. The final flight of this stair from G/F down to Laundry Yard level will be external within a fire glass enclosure on the south side. It will be hidden from view from outside the Site by the Chancery Lane boundary wall. The alternative of taking this final flight through the G/F structure would be a very damaging intervention structurally and to the LG/F area for its intended use.</p> <p>Lift access for E Hall will be provided by the passenger lifts provided for the new adjacent building on the north side via landing bridges linking to the north west corner of E Hall, where protected lobbies will be provided using the cells.</p> <p>Doors to the bridges will be formed by adapting the existing windows.</p>	<p>The range of Impact Category Ratings for the interventions after mitigations in Block 15 are 1 (Beneficial), 2 (Acceptable), and 3 (Acceptable with Mitigation Measures). The overall Heritage Impact of the proposed interventions in Block 15 is therefore regarded as acceptable to enable the building to have a new adaptive use.</p>	

<i>Conservation Approach (continued)</i>	<i>Major Proposed Changes (for Mitigations see Annex A1) (continued)</i>	<i>Other Heritage Impact Rating Assessments (continued)</i>
<p>All elevations, including the tiled roof, will be repaired and refurbished to the original design, and the clerestory rooflights will be retained and refurbished.</p> <p>The original characteristic cell block plan layout, access and circulation on G/F, 1/F, 2/F will be respected and altered as little as possible. The existing central flights of open stairs between floors and the narrow balconies overlooking these stairs will be retained, although the open cores of the stairway and lightwells at G/F level will need to be enclosed with fire resisting glass to separate the different uses.</p> <p>All elevations, including the tiled roof, will be repaired and refurbished to the original design, and the clerestory rooflights will be retained and refurbished.</p>	<p>Accessible public WC's will be provided on the G/F, 1/F, 2/F levels within cells. This will require the narrow cell doors to be widened, but it will be possible to retain and preserve the barred prison doors held back against the walls.</p> <p>To create larger spaces for the adaptive reuses wide openings will be formed in the structural brick cell division walls rather than removing all the walls full width. Groups of two and three cells will be opened up to form larger rooms, and some of the narrow cell doors will be widened with the barred prison doors retained and preserved and held back against the walls. Where cell doors are not required the barred prison doors will be retained in a closed position with the openings blocked up on the inside with a reversible construction. The new wider doors will be sympathetically designed.</p> <p>Existing mechanical and electrical services will be removed, and new services including air-conditioning with chilled water supplied from central chiller plant, water, power and lighting are to be installed suitable for the new adaptive uses in building 15 on the G/F, 1/F and 2/F levels. No air-conditioning will be installed for the open LG/F area, but overhead colonial style fans may be provided. Plant Rooms are provided.....</p> <p>All original windows will be repaired. Later windows are to be replaced by replicas of original windows to regain the original building appearance throughout. The original steel bars are to be retained and refurbished. Some window openings facing the new open stair on the north side will need to have fire protection glass installed in their reveals.</p>	