

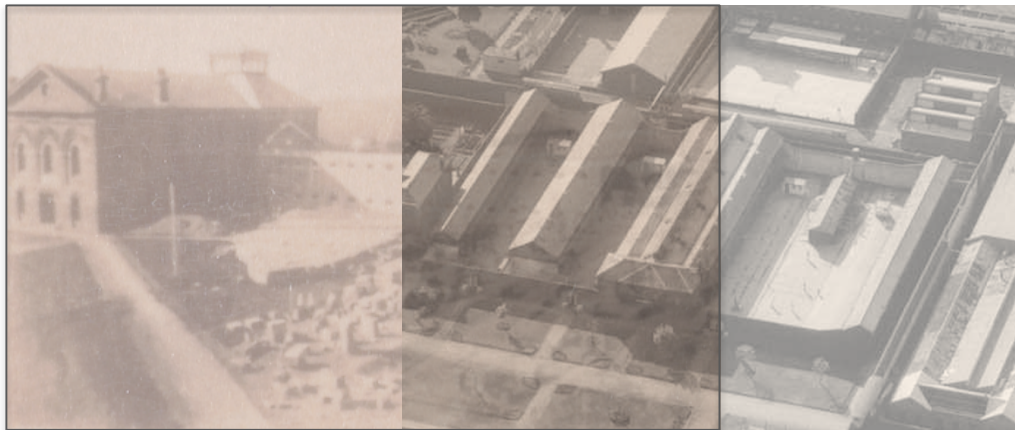
*Former HM Prison Pentridge*

*A Division and Building 9*

*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

*Former HM Prison Pentridge  
A Division and Building 9*

**Heritage Impact Statement**

November 2016

1.0 Introduction

This heritage impact statement was commissioned by Shayher Properties Pty Ltd. It comments on the significance of the area formerly occupied by C Division in the former Pentridge Prison complex, and provides an assessment of the potential impact resulting from the current proposal to redevelop this site with a building that will present two storeys to the Piazza to the south, with three levels of basement car park underneath. Notwithstanding the high significance of the overall site, the subject site is currently undeveloped with the exception of a bluestone wall that extends south from the eastern end of A Division. Works to A Division are also proposed as part of the current proposed 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 Buchan Group (ATP-9007 Rev.2 to ATP-9017 Rev.2, ATP-21000 Rev.2 to ATP-21002 Rev.2, ATP-21100 Rev.1 to ATP-21102 Rev.1, ATP-21200 Rev.1 to ATP-21202 Rev.1, ATP-41000 Rev.1, ATP-41001 Rev.1, ATP-41100 Rev.1, ATP-41101 Rev.1, ATP-51000 Rev.1, ATP-51100 Rev.1, ATP-81000 Rev.1, ATP-81001 Rev.1 to ATP-81005 Rev.1, ATP-81201 Rev.1 to ATP-81204 Rev.1, ATP-81301 Rev.1) and other documents submitted with respect to the current permit application.

## 2.0 Background

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.

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 one to construct a building in a similar part of the site.

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 History and Description

#### 3.1 Site

The subject site is located in the centre of the former H.M. Prison Pentridge site. It is broadly bound by Singleton Road to the east; the east wing of A Division and the Rock-breaking Yards to the north; the south wing of A Division, the former Hospital and Observation Post 6 to the west, and the piazza to the south. The southern portion of the building is located where C Division once stood. Approval to demolish the eastern extent of B Wall was granted under the heritage permit for the Public Realm (No. P20564, dated 30 May 2014).

The proposed building – identified on the 2014 Master Plan as Building 9 – therefore has a number of sensitive interfaces which are discussed more fully below. In addition, the Building 9 development proposal is linked to works relating to the adaptive reuse of A Division.

#### 3.2 A Division

Constructed between 1860 and 1899 as a major part of the expansion of Pentridge, the A Division building is laid out on a cruciform plan with full-height galleried cell wings radiating to the north, east, and south from the central crossing. The cell ranges to the east and south are both double storey in height, while the western wing is three storeys tall and the northern cell range has an additional partial basement level which is accessed externally. Although A Division ultimately adopted a cruciform plan similar to that of the Panopticon, it was initially built on a T-shaped plan with cell ranges to the north and east.<sup>1</sup> The eastern cell range was constructed in 1862-63, while both the chapel and offices and the northern cell range were completed in 1865. The south wing, containing 67 cells, was constructed using prison labour c1891-9 and effectively transformed the plan to a cruciform shape.<sup>2</sup> Despite having been built nearly thirty years apart, the cell blocks are largely similar in terms of form and detail containing two tiers of cells flanking full-height galleried corridors.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Reforms at Pentridge', *The Argus*, Friday 20 March 1885, p.6. Held in Trove.

<sup>2</sup> According to one plan of the prison held at the Department of Justice which provides dates for most of the buildings, this wing was completed in 1897.



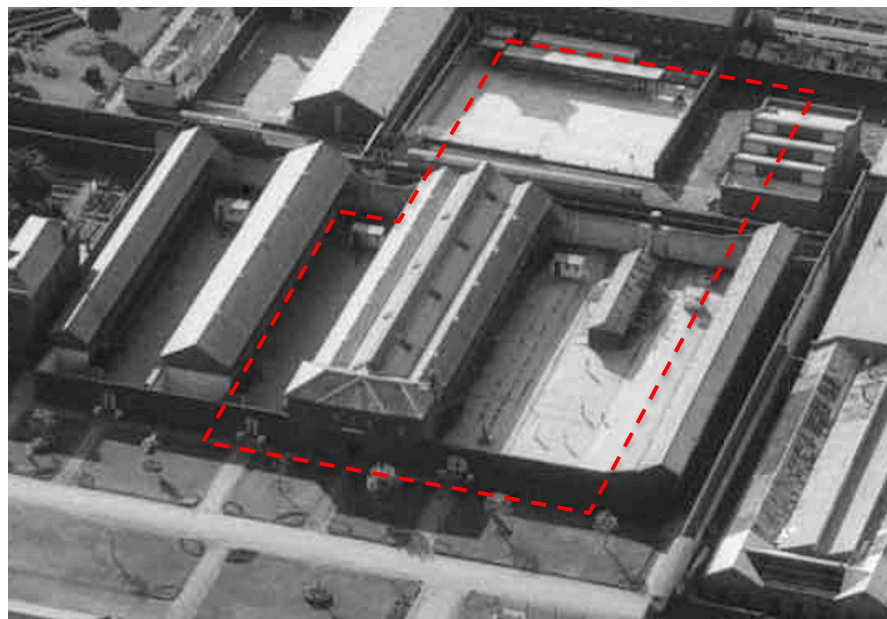
*Figure 1* Photograph showing the south wing of A Division under construction, c1896. Source: State Library of Victoria Online Picture Collection, 'Scenes from Pentridge', Accession No. H96.160/509.

A Division was originally intended to serve as a separate female prison to accommodate women who had previously been held at the Western Prison and on the hulk Sacramento. It served in this capacity for a very short period, before the women were promptly transferred back to the Melbourne Gaol the following year. Regardless, A Division bears the legacy of its original purpose by virtue of its relative isolation within the Pentridge site. Unlike the complex of buildings addressing the Parade Ground to the south, A Division was originally almost completely enclosed by bluestone walls, with only a single opening just east of Post 3 providing controlled access to the male prison. The main entrance to the Female Prison was from the north gate in Champ Street.

Like the Panopticon, the principal facade of the main (west) wing draws inspiration from the Classical temple form with a pediment above a rusticated base formed by the ground floor. Although it shares many similarities with B Division, the front facade of A Division is much more elaborately detailed than its prototype, and suggests a new influence at the Public Works Office, perhaps

William Wilkinson Wardell who joined the public works office from England in 1859 and replaced Pasley in 1861, or John James Clark.<sup>3</sup>

The site plan of 1901 shows that all four yards formed by the cells ranges of A Division were enclosed in some manner by this time. Two larger yards extended to the north-east and south-east, and a radial exercise yard stood in the north-east yard, similar to those constructed for the Panopticon (B Division). Although this exercise yard was demolished between 1951 and 1955, recent archaeological investigations have unearthed its bluestone foundations. The bluestone walls to the northern yard have likewise long since been demolished.



*Figure 2 Part of aerial photograph showing C Division and the subject site. Source: State Library of Victoria Pictures Collection, 'Airspy Collection' aerial photograph of Pentridge prison, 25 May 1955, Series A.*

New prisoner classes were introduced in the early decades of the twentieth century, and the south-eastern exercise yard to A Division was designated for a new prisoner class identified as the 'Specials' who were housed in the south wing of A Division. The exercise yard for the 'Specials' was enclosed, quite

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<sup>3</sup> J.S.Kerr, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, p.79.

characteristically, by a bluestone wall to the east but also, more unusually, by a cast iron palisade fence to the south: this reflected the greater degree of trust vested in this class of prisoner. Today, only part of the eastern wall to this space survives, the northern extent having been demolished to make way for the 1958 brick extension for H Division.

As with the prison more broadly, certain areas of the wall have been painted white to help facilitate the detection of escapees at night. Painted white circles on various window sills mark the cells from which there have been escapes.

Various changes have been made to A Division over the years, including some early changes such as the addition of the southern wing. However, the most unsympathetic changes to A Division were made when the new maximum-security division, H Division, was created in 1958. Notably, part of the eastern wing was partitioned off for inclusion in the new high security division along with the Rock-breaking Yards to the east. The eastern elevation of A Division was built in, and now serves as the western internal elevation of the westernmost two Rock-breaking Yards. Several openings were also made in the south elevation of the east wing of A Division to accommodate construction of the brick addition to the southwest corner of the labour yards that was also constructed c1958 as the receiving area for H Division. Internally, changes include demolition of the internal walls between cells, the replacement of most of the cell doors in the northern and eastern wings, the reconfiguration of some of the spaces in the entrance wing, and partitioning in the central crossing.

Despite these changes, however, A Division is substantially intact to its late nineteenth century form. Various other later changes – partitioning, services, security mesh, facilities and sundry equipment – are substantially reversible.

### **3.3 Main Parade Ground**

To the south, the proposed building will face onto a large rectangular parade ground, known – at least by the late nineteenth century – as Pentridge Square. This area is of primary heritage significance, containing a high proportion of the 1858-9 heritage buildings including former B Division, former B Division Annexe, former E Division (former Hospital), the Champ Street Gatehouse, the Piazza (the former Mustering Yard), the site on which C Division once stood (demolished c1978), the former Stores building, the former Warders' building and all the associated walls.

Development of the former Stores building, along with the QM Development, was completed in 2008. The existing central road and some of the paths and rectangular grassed areas in the Square broadly follow the original layout.<sup>4</sup> Although various changes have been made to the Parade Ground over the years – in particular to the east – it still retains its original open character.

### 3.4 Observation Post 6

Observation Post 6 is one of a number of guard posts constructed as part of the initial group of structures built when the prison was established in 1858-60. Circular in plan, the post has battered ashlar bluestone walls surmounted by a crenellated corbelled bluestone parapet – it is one of only two posts to retain its crenellated parapet. Historically, the posts were originally accessed from outside the prison walls although access to Post 6 was internalised following the prison's expansion to the north during the early 1860s.

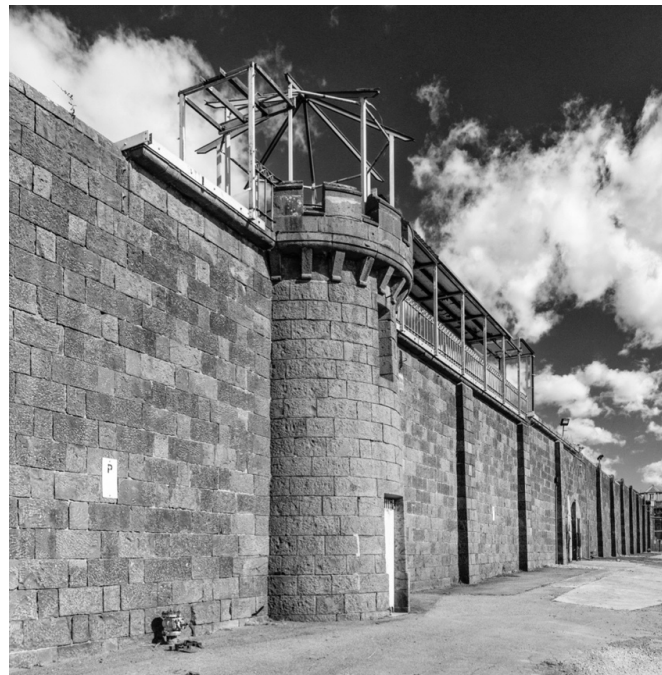


Figure 3 Photograph of Post 6, c2014. Photographer: Hin Lim of Hin Lim Photography, <http://www.hinlimphotography.com>.

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<sup>4</sup> Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, p.67.



### 3.4 C Division

C Division was demolished during the 1970s, a fact which radically altered the eastern part of the Parade Ground. Archaeological investigations recently unearthed the footings to these cell ranges in 2014.

Originally known as B Division, C Division – as it was called from around 1890 – was composed of six linear double-storey cell ranges flanking central exercise yards. Four of these cell ranges were arranged in pairs, one pair of which contained a central mess room. The whole area was enclosed by a tall bluestone walls to the north and south, and was sited to the east of the Hospital.



*Figure 4 Photograph of the unearthed footings of C Division following archaeological investigations, c2014. Photographer: Hin Lim of Hin Lim Photography, <http://www.hinlimphotography.com>.*

The upper cells were accessed via a simple double storey timber verandah. At ground level each cell door opened directly onto a central exercise yard that was paved in flagstones.

C Division presented a long bluestone wall to the main Parade Ground with the southern facade of the double storey entrance building and the gable end of the eastern cell range incorporated as part of the wall: the western cell ranges stopped short of the southern wall.

Although first slated for demolition in the 1920s, it was not until 1974 that C Division was finally fully demolished.



*Figure 5 C Division as shown in c1896 image entitled 'Scenes from Pentridge'. Source: State Library of Victoria Online Picture Collection Accession No. H96.160-507.*

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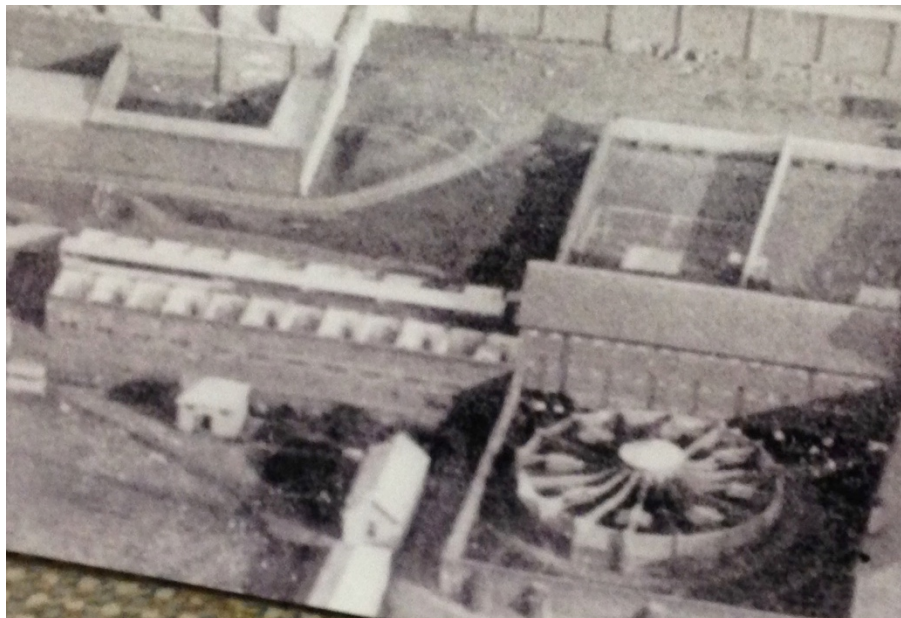
### **3.5 Rock-breaking Yards (H Division)**

Accessed from the central corridor in the east end of A Division (once known as Tier 5), H Division originally consisted of sixteen Rock-breaking Yards that ran off a central walkway. A further eight Rock-breaking Yards were added to the east in 1899. The perimeter walls are largely unrelieved of fenestration of any kind with the exception of the plate iron stone chutes through which the blocks of bluestone were once delivered to the prisoners in the yard.

The Rock-breaking Yards have been subjected to a number of alterations and alterations since first constructed, many – but not all – of which were associated with the building’s incorporation into the now notorious H Division in 1958. The most westerly yards are to be retained and reconstructed to their nineteenth century appearance under Conditions 2, 3, and 4 of Heritage Permit No. P20564 (dated 30 May 2014). Heritage interpretation to this space will be installed as part of the Division A/ Building 9 project.



*Figure 6* Photograph showing the unearthed footings to the north-eastern exercise yard of A Division, c2014. Photographer: Hin Lim of Hin Lim Photography, <http://www.hinlimphotography.com>.



*Figure 7* Detail from the c1921 aerial photograph showing part of the site currently under consideration.

#### 4.0 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.

##### 4.1 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)).

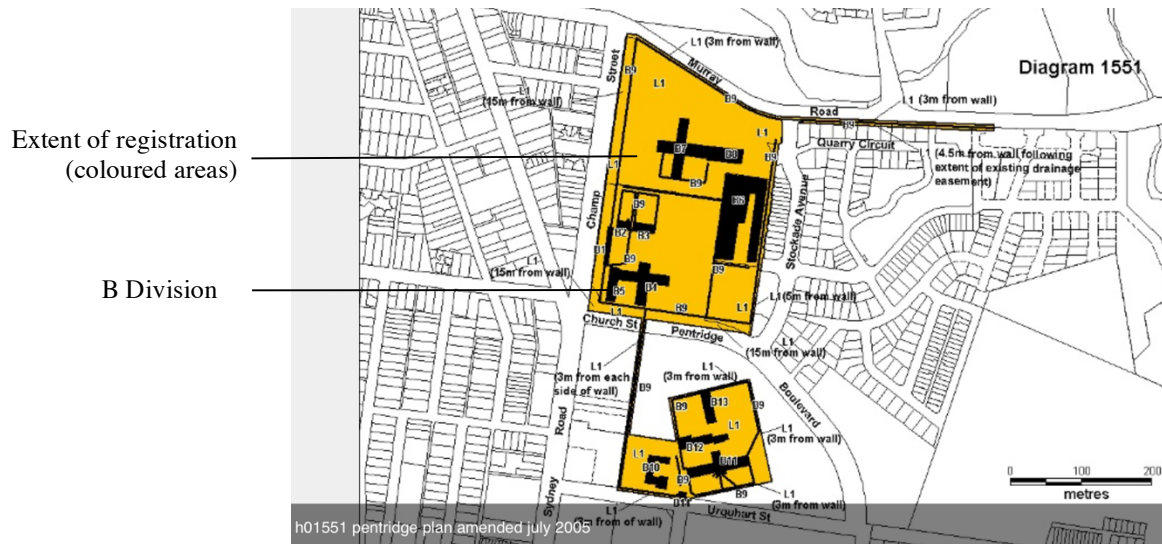


Figure 8 Diagram showing the subject site and the various land parcels associated with the extent of registration, H1551.

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.

#### **4.2 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.

#### **4.3 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.

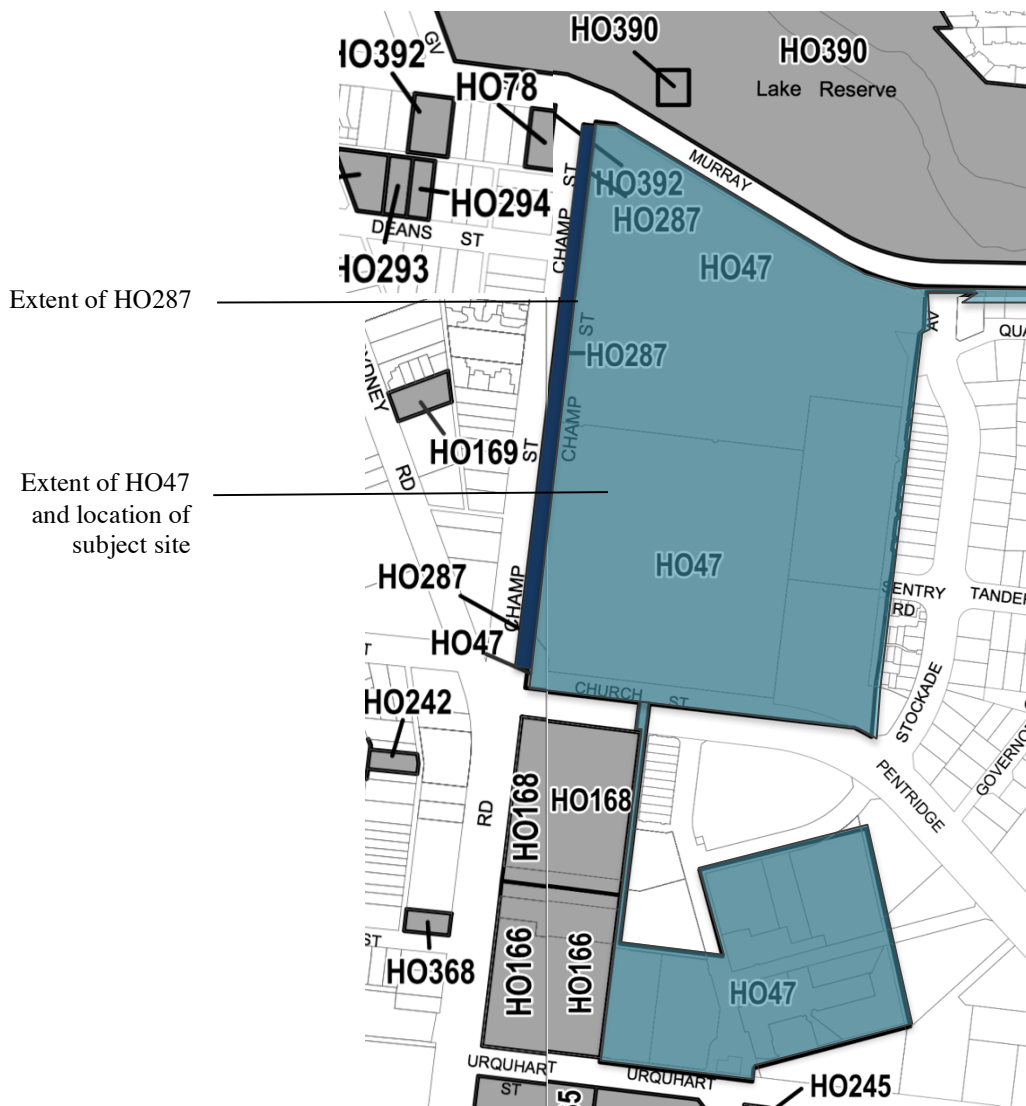


Figure 9 Map showing HO47 and HO287 and location of subject site.

#### 4.4 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 no longer constitutes 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.

## 5.0 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)*

## 6.0 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 an advisory 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 A Division, Observation Post 6, and the main Parade Ground – all of which are identified as being of primary significance – and to appropriate conservation practices and policy are appended to this report.

## 7.0 Heritage Impact Assessment

The permit application is for development of the land formerly occupied by C Division and extending northward to A Division. The proposed building will rise to a maximum height of two levels when calculated from the Piazza – onto which it fronts – plus three associated levels of basement car parking (two of which will be exposed at the north-west corner). The proposed development also includes the adaptive reuse of the A Division building. 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. This is discussed in detail below.

### 7.1 Demolition

Although the subject site is currently largely undeveloped, there are a few walls associated with the south-eastern exercise yard to A Division that are proposed for demolition as part of the redevelopment scheme. In particular, it is proposed that the bluestone wall that extends south from the eastern end of A Division be demolished to make way for the new building on the site. The curved dwarf wall that extends into the south-eastern yard from the door into the central crossing is also to be demolished as part of the proposed scheme.

Unlike the northeast exercise yard which originally contained a radial stone and timber exercise yard, the south-eastern exercise yard was simply open. Early plans show that the eastern bluestone wall to this yard had been constructed before 1870, prior to the construction of A Division's southern wing.

It is not clear exactly when the curved dwarf wall that extends into the was first constructed, although it may well have been constructed as part of the south wing of A Division (c.1890s). This wall is, however, in poor condition. The original

steel palisade has been removed, certain faces have been rendered, and some of the basalt coping stones have shifted. Its removal will have little heritage impact.

A cast iron palisade fence set on a bluestone plinth borders the western side of the former exercise yard. The fence is spiked to its southern extent, but is largely topped with a flat steel rail for the majority of its length. It seems likely that this fence dates from the 1890s when the southern wing to A Division was constructed. This fence is to be retained and restored as part of the proposed scheme.



*Figure 10 The photograph on the left shows the dwarf wall earmarked from demolition, while the photograph on the right shows the fence to be retained.*

## 7.2 Building 9

The site is in a precinct of high significance, and the building has been designed with a view to activating the future tourism precinct while minimising the impact the development will have upon the significance of the site. At the same time, however, locating the proposed new structure in an undeveloped area of the site helps ensure that the new envelope will have less impact on the significant fabric of the site.

The proposed building is to rise to an overall height of two storeys at grade from the Piazza, with three levels of car parking located underneath (two of which will be exposed at the north-west corner). In terms of scale, both the footprint and

massing of the proposed building conform to the envelope set out in the 2014 Master Plan, which proposed a four storey building on this part of the site. The building addresses the sensitive Piazza with a double-storey facade that will help create a legible relationship between the new building and its highly significant neighbours. A taller cinema room is set back deep within the site, where it will have little presence in most views to the building.

In terms of use, the building will accommodate a mid-scale supermarket, a number of smaller retail tenancies, and a Palace cinema complex above. It will contribute to the overall mix of facilities and uses that have been developed for the site. It will make a positive contribution to the utility and liveability of the place through its provision of both retail and recreational amenity. The supermarket has been sited to the north of the building, and will have little external presence within the site. It therefore raises few issues from a heritage perspective, with the exception of those associated with accommodating the requisite car parking.

The proposed scheme is contemporary in nature, distinguishable in both form and detail from its heritage listed neighbours despite drawing inspiration from them in a number of respects. The building presents to the piazza as being of a height and bulk compatible with the scale of other buildings in the precinct.

The south elevation in particular draws inspiration from the significant buildings facing the piazza. Of the same height as its neighbours, the south elevation uses a contemporary architectural language with which to evoke the proportions, articulation and rhythms of fenestration that characterise the adjoining E Division building. The elevation has been articulated into bays that reference those of E Division, and these bays have been simply articulated in a manner that recalls the austerity of the neighbouring buildings. The palette of materials employed – Corten steel, pre-cast concrete panels in a range of grey tones to reference the surrounding buildings, decorative metal blades, and expanses of glazing, for instance – are likewise distinct from the adjoining heritage fabric even as they reference the colours and textures of the neighbouring buildings. The greys that characterise the existing buildings are echoed in the proposed scheme, but in contemporary materials.

Observation Post 6 – which is the single remaining guard tower to retain its original crenellated parapet – and the section of bluestone wall to west of it will effectively form part of the gateway to the new building when approached from the west. Conservation works to this observation post are to be carried out under Condition 5 of Heritage Permit No. P20564 (dated 30 May 2014). An observation deck at Level 1 will provide a new vantagepoint from which the view the observation post.

The east elevation is the broadest of the four elevations. However, as this elevation addresses less sensitive elements of the site – namely Singleton Road, C

Wall, and the roofscape of Industry Lane beyond – its size is not seen to be contentious. The facade will incorporate a ‘pic-perf’ – an image constructed of perforated metal – that will help interpret the history of the Pentridge site.

Recent archaeological investigations have revealed that remnant footings to the former C Division until recently remained in situ. Although these footings were recently removed, they were carefully documented and it is proposed that traces of this building be incorporated into the proposed design. The Heritage Interpretation Strategy by Sue Hodges Productions submitted as part of the current application provides further details of the interpretative design for C Division.

Although the proposed building will result in a degree of change within the site, they achieve a compatible character and scale, particularly where in proximity to buildings of individual significance. The new building will engage with the existing in a dynamic but respectful manner.

### **7.3 Car parking**

Central to the overall Building 9 redevelopment is the proposal to construct a car park underneath the building. Locating the car park in this area will satisfy the need for the provision of facilities that the site as a whole requires without encroaching on the more significant fabric of the site. The car park will not be visible from key spaces within the site, and will only have a limited external presence. As excavating in most parts of the site would largely involve digging through solid rock, the Building 9 car park is intended to concentrate much of the requisite car parking in a central part of the site. The entrances to the various levels of car parking as well as the loading dock will be from Singleton Road, well away from the key historic entry point at Champ Street and the principal public spaces associated with the heritage buildings. As the land falls away towards the north of the site, access to the basement car parking is located at intervals along Singleton Road. As the proposed car park will to a large extent be below grade, it will have little external presence within the site. The potential for adverse impacts arising from the car park therefore seems minimal.

The carpark is to be setback approximately 6m from the southern wall of the former A Division building, a separation that will protect the original fabric and future amenity of A Division. This separation will also make the space more permeable and encourage foot-traffic through the site. The interface between the car park – which is to be clad in Corten – and the southern wall of A Division and the Rock-breaking Yards is to be carefully managed, with a range of landscape and other elements used to interpret the history of the site and provide a human scale to the space. Please refer to the relevant sections of the Heritage

Interpretation Strategy by Sue Hodges Productions and the landscape plans by ASPECT Studios for further details of the proposed scheme.

The provision of vehicular access from Singleton Road into the basement car parking will divert vehicular traffic away from the public piazza area, thereby encouraging pedestrian movement around the main retail and commercial areas of the site. Given that some of the most significant buildings on the site front onto this piazza – including B Division, E Division, and the Administration Building – the diversion of large volumes of traffic can only be seen as a positive outcome from a heritage perspective. The retail tenancies to Building 9 warrant an entry that is generous, given that the facility itself will not otherwise have a street presence and that the viability of the commercial facilities will depend upon public use.

#### **7.4 A Division**

As part of the proposed redevelopment scheme, the A Division building is to be retained and restored. 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.

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 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 thus conservation, of this historic place.

Key elements of the adaptive reuse include:

- Two new openings through the eastern wing of A Division.
- An enlarged opening to the southern wing of A Division.
- A new internal pedestrian lift.
- New skylights to the main gallery spaces.
- Internal alterations to consolidate some of the cells and administration areas into usable spaces.

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



### 7.4.1 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 use.

In order to accommodate the changes needed to improve the circulation through the building, it is proposed that an unimpeded path be established through the east wing of A Division at ground level to provide clear wayfinding through the building. Specifically, it is proposed that two new external openings at ground floor level be made in the eastern wing of A Division to help increase pedestrian movement through the building, thereby preventing the area from becoming a dead zone within the overall site. From a heritage perspective, the new openings will help provide a clear path from Observation Post 6, through the interpretation wing of A Division and then north to the footings of the exercise yard (the latter is outside the scope of this permit application). These new openings are located in a part of A Division that is well away from the principal views to A Division, and will be detailed in a simple manner that will enable them to be read as contemporary interventions. They will also help channel visitors into the area, thereby promoting a greater degree of interaction with the heritage fabric. These openings were anticipated in the 2014 Master Plan for the site.

The new external openings to A Division will be expressed as a pair of vertical slot windows and a central double door opening. The windows and doors will be frameless glass, with a rusted steel (Corten) trim framing the new openings in keeping with broader site-wide strategy for opening treatments. Bars will be removed from the existing cell windows and clear glass panels will be installed to help provide natural light. Nibs of the dividing walls that are to be demolished will be retained to chart the earlier use of the space, as will the top of cell walls. Where parts of the dividing walls are to be removed, their footprint will be expressed in the floor finish. The removal of the early fabric including portions of the cell and gallery walls is proposed to enable the accessible clear circulation of visitors.

For similar reasons, it is also proposed that the existing door to the southern elevation of A Division be enlarged as part of the proposed scheme. At present, the opening is too small to comfortably accommodate the anticipated pedestrian traffic through the building. An alternative option to enlarging the southern opening would have been to introduce a new opening to the eastern elevation of the south wing. However, this was considered to be a more intrusive option, and was dismissed on this basis. A new canopy and palisade fence are also proposed for the southern wing's south elevation. At present, a late twentieth century pipe rail fence is fixed to the top of the retaining wall to the basement light well south

of A Division. Although a palisade fence runs along the top of the retaining wall to the east side of the southern wing, there is no remnant evidence of an earlier palisade fence in this location. As part of the current scheme it is proposed that a new contemporary palisade fence be installed along the top of the retaining wall given the need for a compliant balustrade in this location.

In order to address disabled access requirements, it is also proposed that a new internal pedestrian lift be installed to the southeast of the central crossing as part of the scheme for A Division. 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.

#### **7.4.2 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 some of the walls between the cells be demolished in order to help ensure that an appropriate and sustainable use can be found for the building. The intention is that any future tenancy strategy should seek to accommodate tenants within an appropriately sized room. At present, it is intended that the north and south wings be designed as studio spaces (small office spaces) in keeping with the current proposal to create an arts precinct in this portion of the site. As the final configuration of the interior and the associated requirements of the future tenants are not known, it is possible that additional openings will be required to find a sustainable use for the building. Bearing this in mind, the present application seeks to keep such changes to a minimum, with more substantial change deferred until such a time as it can be demonstrated that additional openings are required.

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 change required to provide requisite access to the cells. At present, the door openings to the cells are undersize, and will therefore need to be modified to accommodate a new use and achieve compliance. As each proposed leasable space will comprise three or four cell spaces – a number which is related to the minimum number of cells (three) that can be combined to provide a viable, leasable sized studio office space – 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.

The continued survival and maintenance of the significant fabric of the site depends upon achieving sustainable adaptive reuse outcomes. 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.

### **7.4.3 Skylights**

As part of the proposed scheme, it is proposed to introduce some skylights in the barrel vaulted ceilings over the gallery spaces to help address the lack of adequate natural light and ventilation for this space. These will be installed on the eastern roof faces rather than the western ones, to help ensure they are not visible in principal views to A Division.

### **7.4.4 Conservation works**

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. In much the same way that 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.

### **7.5 Recording**

A detailed photographic and archival survey of the footings to C Division, Observation Post 6 and the Rock-breaking Yards has previously been undertaken. The Division A building is currently being scanned and modelled, and a photographic survey of the building will be undertaken in the near future. This

information will all be deposited at 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.

## 8.0 Conclusions

In summary, the proposal has been carefully developed on the basis of the 2014 Master Plan for the site, the recently updated CMP (2016), and a detailed appreciation of the significance of the place and its component parts.

Overall, the proposed scheme satisfies the need for the provision of modern facilities that the development as whole requires – namely car parking, as well as retail and recreational facilities – without encroaching on the more significant fabric of the site. The adaptation of A Division to a new use and the need to achieve clear circulation paths within the building itself as well as integration with the broader former prison site necessitates some degree of change and intervention. However, this change has been managed in sensitive manner, and represents a successful response to the heritage values of the site.

Appropriate regard has been paid to the significance of all early fabric affected by the proposed works, and conservation works are included within the proposed package of works. In this respect, it will make a key contribution to the economic sustainability of the site and its heritage buildings into the future.

Although the proposed redevelopment will result in a 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.

The proposed development will not dominate the key buildings on the site, nor will it detract from their cultural significance. No significant views or vistas from either within or outside the site are affected or compromised by the proposal. Rather, the new building has been designed to complement the historic character of the place in a manner which generally protects the visual dominance of the key historic buildings within the complex. The new building is of a scale, character, and use which is compatible with the cultural significance of the broader Pentridge site.

Overall, the proposal is an appropriate development that will result in appreciable conservation benefits to the place and little adverse impact upon the cultural significance of the place. It responds to the architectural significance of former Coburg Prisons Complex, as well as the anticipated importance of its own role within the future life of the development. Ultimately, it is intended that the once contained spaces of the former Pentridge prison are transformed into active and vital spaces that respect the role history will play within the future life of the development.

#### 4.7.1 History

Largely constructed between 1860-65, A Division was originally intended to serve as a separate female prison to accommodate women who had previously been held at the Western Prison and on the hulk Sacramento. It served in this capacity for a very short period, before the women were promptly transferred back to the Melbourne Gaol the following year. Regardless, A Division bears the legacy of its original purpose by virtue of its relative isolation within the Pentridge site: unlike the complex of buildings addressing the Parade Ground to the south, A Division was originally almost completely enclosed by bluestone walls, with only a single opening just east of Post 3 providing controlled access to the male prison. The arched gate between the two halves of the prison (west of Post 6) appears to have been added at a later date, seemingly after 1870. The main entrance to the Female Prison was from the north gate in the western boundary (now Champ Street).



Figure 24 *Photograph of A Division dating from 1966. Source: A Division National Archives of Aus Image No. A1200, L56130.*

A Division is a double-storey bluestone cell block that ultimately adopted a similar cruciform plan form to the Panopticon, but was initially built on a T-shaped plan with cell ranges to the north and east. The eastern cell range was constructed first, in 1862-63, while both the chapel and offices and the northern cell range were completed in 1865. Like the Panopticon, a chapel and offices were located in the entrance wing which, in A Division's case, is to the west of the building. This area of A Division is more complex section, however, with the front part of the building accommodating three storeys as opposed to two. Both cell ranges contained two tiers of cells – originally approximately 136 cells – opening out onto a central galleried corridor. The basement of the northern wing reportedly contained a kitchen but instead appears to have contained at least 7 cells.<sup>119</sup> The south wing, containing 67 cells, was constructed using prison labour c1891-9 and effectively transformed the plan to a cruciform shape. According to one plan of the prison which provides dates for most of the buildings, this wing was completed in 1857.<sup>120</sup>

Although it shares many similarities with B Division, the front facade of A Division is much more elaborately detailed than its prototype, and suggests a new influence at the Public Works Office, perhaps William Wilkinson Wardell who joined the public works office from England in 1859 and replaced Pasley in 1861, or John James Clark.<sup>121</sup>



Figure 25 Photograph showing the south wing of A Division under construction, c1896. Source: State Library of Victoria Online Picture Collection, 'Scenes from Pentridge', Accession No. H96.160/509.

<sup>119</sup> This area was not inspected as part of this project.

<sup>120</sup> Plan held in the Department of Justice.

<sup>121</sup> J.S.Kerr, *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, p.79.

A description of A Division dating from 1866, at that time known as B Division, reads as follows:

*Division B 1 contains over 200 prisoners; is also a panopticon, like division A almost in every particular; the prisoners there have the same dark-coloured clothes, the same kind of cells, and furnished in the same manner; but the white canvas cap-mask is dispensed with (the slippers are retained), and work is supplied them in their cells of a light kind, such as plaiting straw, making cabbage- tree hats, table mats of bent, door mats of cocoa fibre, and such like, which are sold, and the proceeds paid into the treasury.<sup>122</sup>*

The site plan of 1901 show that all four yards formed by the cells ranges of A Division was enclosed in some manner by this time. Two larger yards extended to the north-east and south-east and in the north-east yard a series of small airing courts radiated from an elevated central sentry position similarly to the Panopticon (B Division). This radial exercise yard was demolished between 1951 and 1955: archaeological investigations recently unearthed the bluestone foundations to this structure.

A carriageway ran from the Champ Street entrance gate, around an elliptical garden bed and to the main entrance of the chapel wing. Towards the end of 1862, a row of four bluestone warders' residences were constructed to the west of the Female Prison, most likely using prison labour. These were demolished just over one hundred years later. No evidence of these elements remains.

Although it seems that the Panopticon was supplied with gas for lighting from its very earliest days, A Division was not supplied with electricity for many years after first constructed. As an article of 1908 reported, the 'old-fashioned candle does duty in the A Division.'<sup>123</sup> The article also notes that the first and most severe portion of imprisonment was undertaken in A Division by that time, a reversal on the earlier progression through the various Divisions.

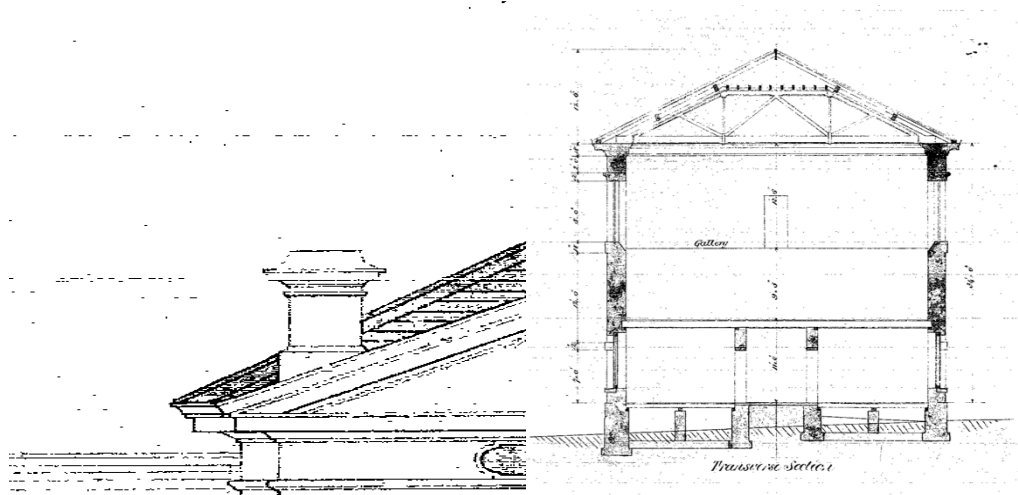


Figure 26 Original architectural drawing of front elevation and transverse section of A Division. Source: PROV PGPI.52.

<sup>122</sup> *Prison Discipline in Victoria: a Visit to the Pentridge Stockade*, 6 November 1866, p7.

<sup>123</sup> 'Pentridge Lighting Bill', *Geelong Advertiser*, Thursday January 1908, p4. Held in Trove.



Various changes have been made to A Division over the years, including some early changes such as the addition of the southern wing. An article dating from 1885 states that A Division was:

*...constructed on the site of an old quarry, the floors had subsided, and there was vermin in the lockers with which the cells were provided. The floors have been raised, levelled and relaid.*<sup>124</sup>

However, the most unsympathetic changes to A Division were made when the new maximum-security division, H Division, was created in 1958. Part of the eastern wing was partitioned off for inclusion in the new high security division along with the Rock-breaking Yards to the east. The eastern elevation of A Division was built in, and now serves as the western internal elevation of the westernmost two Rock-breaking Yards. This elevation has been overpainted, and was presumably whitewashed at an early stage. The quoins to A Division are distinguished by the drafted margins to the rock-faced bluestone blocks. There is a strong chance that the original arched window from the eastern end of A Division was reconfigured as a doorway to provide access to a new observation room: it appears that the upper portion of the arch was bricked up at this time. Part of the east end upper level of A Division was partitioned off for use as a control post for the former Rock-breaking Yards to the east. Several openings were also made in the south elevation of the east wing of A Division to accommodate construction of the brick addition to the southeast corner.

A number of changes were made to A Division in the later decades of the twentieth century, not all of which were necessarily intentional. For example, in 1980, a remote control device ripped apart an A Division cell.<sup>125</sup> A suite of works was undertaken in the early 1990s by the Ministry of Housing and Construction. As part of these works, the two rooms in the west wing closest to the crossing were converted to shower rooms and blocked off from the main entrance corridor, and the chapel was partitioned for use as a two mess rooms: it had previously been a single recreation room. It appears that the early staircase was removed from the chapel at this time and replaced with the existing steel staircase.

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<sup>124</sup> 'Reforms at Pentridge', *The Argus*, Friday 20 March 1885, p.6. Held in Trove.

<sup>125</sup> 'Explosion inside Pentridge Cell', *The Canberra Times*, Friday 11 April 1980, p3.

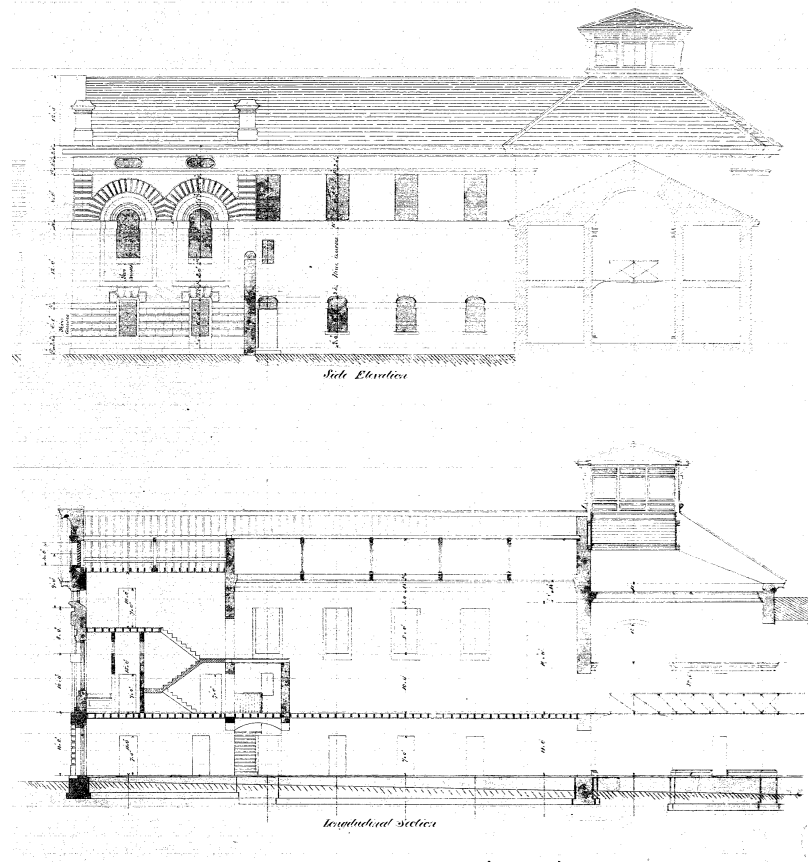


Figure 27 Original architectural drawing of side elevation and longitudinal section of A Division. Source: PROV PGPI.52.

#### 4.7.2 Description

##### Exterior

Like the Panopticon, the principal facade of the main (west) wing draws inspiration from the Classical temple form with a pediment above a rusticated base formed by the ground floor. At the upper level the front facade is divided by three tall arched window openings which are set into recessed panels of smooth-faced stone with stepped archivolt surrounded by splayed voussoirs. The base is constructed of rock-faced bluestone ashlar walls on a smooth faced plinth. At ground floor, the central doorway and flanking basket-arched windows (with a flat centre) are surrounded by rusticated segmented voussoirs. The bluestone ashlar walls are detailed in a variety of different ways which creates the effect of a highly modelled surface: the plinth and stringcourses are of smooth-faced bluestone, while the lower portion of the building is of rusticated rock-faced bluestone, as are the quoins and the voussoirs to the windows at both ground and first floor level. The remainder of the wall is of pick-faced ashlar. The entablature contains three extruded oval shaped windows: this is the only external expression of the third storey to the westernmost part of the building. All windows retain their original iron bars. The tympanum contains a central oculus containing a roof vent with a moulded bluestone surround.

The double-leafed timber entrance doors each have two-panels with bolection moulds. They appear to be original but are in need of some repair, as is the timber door surround. The small timber-framed cantilevered canopy with corrugated galvanised steel cladding that shelters the front doors is not original. The west wing is slightly taller than the wings containing the cell ranges.

The cell wings are constructed of rock-faced bluestone with smooth-faced dressings. Each cell is expressed externally by a small segmental arched window surrounded with smooth-faced jamb stones and monolithic arch stones separated by a rock-faced keystone. Most of the cell windows retain their original iron bars. Narrow rectangular smooth-faced stone window sills extend right across the facades, giving the impression of forming a string courses.

The hipped roof is partly slated, possibly with original slate, while other sections have been clad in corrugated galvanised steel and the eastern roof face of the southern wing has been clad in traydeck.<sup>126</sup> Although some remedial works have been carried out in recent times, the slate roof is in poor condition and areas of water entry and some decay of roof timbers were evident. Above the central crossing is a timber-framed lantern with glazed sides and a pyramidal roof surmounted by a spike and ball finial. The original bluestone chimneys remain intact, one of which has nineteenth century sheet iron flue terminals that appear to match found on the Warders' Quarters to the south of the site. Twentieth century ventilators and fans protrude through the roof of the cell ranges. Some of the original cast iron eaves gutters have been replaced with steel sheet gutters, and it is likely that the condition of the remaining cast iron down pipes and gutters is poor.

As with the prison more broadly, certain areas of the wall have been painted white to help facilitate the detection of escapees at night. Painted white circles on various window sills mark the cells from which there have been escapes.

Twentieth century accretions such as waste pipes, electrical conduits, lights and security cameras are variously affixed to the walls and are largely not original. Most of the downpipes are not original. The sections of original downpipe that remain appear to be in extremely poor condition.

## **Interior**

The ground floor of the entrance wing to the west originally contained offices and other small rooms such as stores, a visitors' room, and a room for warders and prisoners which may originally have served as a receiving room. The central corridor through the entrance wing leads to the main crossing of the building. In the early 1990s, the two rooms closest to the crossing were converted to communal shower rooms and access from the central corridor was blocked off. Four of the offices contain corner fireplaces and two have central fireplaces: all fireplaces have been bricked up. The ceilings to all but one of the ground floor rooms have been replaced: the ceilings were originally clad in corrugated galvanised iron. A stair leads up to the first floor which contains the former chapel – later used as a mess area – as well as several rooms including two front rooms that originally served as wards. Each

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<sup>126</sup> A note in the papers of the time states that the contract for the roof slating of the female prison was let to James Duncan for £165. 'Contracts Accepted', *The Star*, Tuesday 16 December 1862, p4. Held in Trove.

ward contained a fireplace as well as an en suite. Both are in poor condition, with the walls showing clear evidence of water damage. The original timber staircase to the rooms on the third storey remains intact, although it is in need of repair. The lath and plaster ceiling in this part of the building is in a state of collapse, and it is possible that the plaster ceiling to the chapel (shown on the original drawings of the building) was removed because the ceiling to this part of the building was in a similar state of disrepair. Inside the main entrance doors is an iron grille clad in lexon glazing (Georgian-wired glass). The floor to the front of the building is clad in flagstones laid in a diamond pattern. A number of the original doors remain, although some are broken and off their hinges.

Despite having been built nearly thirty years apart, the cell blocks are largely similar in terms of form and detail. Each cell range contains two tiers flanking full-height galleried corridors. The ground floor cells are accessed directly from the main corridor while those on the upper level are accessed from the galleries. Barrel vaulted ceilings clad in curved painted corrugated iron run the full length of the galleried corridors. The walls to the corridors are of tuck-pointed, pick-faced ashlar bluestone. Each cell range contains two flights of cast iron stairs at either end. Only the stairs to the eastern wing (1862-3) wing are wholly original, and even then the stairs to the east have been moved from their original location. One of the flights of stairs to the northern wing has been partially replaced. The galleries rest on quadrant brackets supported by stone corbels. They have cast iron chequer plate floor panels, some of which have been replaced. Balustrades to the galleries are composed of wrought iron handrails supported on square section posts with diagonal bars decorated with a circular boss at the central crossing point. Welded steel-framed wire mesh panels have been laid across the central void between galleries, presumably for security reasons.

Various twentieth century accretions such as fluorescent luminaires, electrical trunking and other services have been surface-fixed to the walls.

Each of the cells is approximately 6' 4" (1.93m) wide and 10' (3.5m) long. The walls are of pick-faced bluestone ashlar while the barrel vaulted ceilings are constructed of brick (probably firebrick) with a small iron vent connecting to the thermo-ventilation system. Many of the original first floor cell floors have been replaced with a mixture of timber or steel plate, while the ground floor is clad in bluestone flagstones. Each cell has a high window that were originally glazed with two thick (approximately one inch – or 25mm thick) obscure glass panels that were offset for ventilation. Iron bars were then set with molten lead into the bluestone sill. Perforated steel panels have been installed across the windows in a number of the cells, while expanded metal mesh panels have been installed to the outside of some of the windows. The cells to the southern wing retain their original doors, but most of the cell doors in the other wings have been replaced with outwards opening steel opening steel clad doors. Beside each cell door is an elliptical label which originally bore the number of the cell. Two timber shields matching the detail found in the walls of the Rock-breaking Yards were hung in the central crossing.

Although each cell was originally plumbed to provide for water supply and a toilet, no original fittings remain with the exception of one original bluestone surrounded latrine on the ground floor. Some early water pipes remain in the corners of some cells while others have been replaced. Stainless steel toilet bowls were added to the cells in the late twentieth century. A few cells have been modified with an additional internal grille for use as observation cells.

Externally, the main changes to A Division were made when H Division was established. These changes included: building hard up against the east elevation, altering the window to the east wing, and opening up A Division to link with the brick receiving area to the south. The observation post for the Rock-breaking Yards also altered the upper level of the east wing. Various other internal alterations have been undertaken over the years including: the consolidation of some single cells to larger double cells, the provision of mess facilities and offices for warders, the provision of a secure visiting area for professional (legal) visits, the installation of fire protection and rescue equipment and fluorescent luminaires, the conversion of two rooms to communal shower rooms at the crossing point, the installation of wire mesh and other security devices, and the internal partitioning of the cell block into separate wings to provide more secure accommodation for different classes of prisoners. Electricity has been reticulated to each cell. No original furniture remains, although there remain several examples of early twentieth century wrought iron sprung beds.

### **Roof voids**

With respect to roof framing, principal rafters are supported on large purlins with braced struts and the roof void is lined with timber boards. The barrel vaults on the cell ceilings on the first floor have been back-filled with concrete – probably after Anderson’s attempted escape – although care was taken to ensure the iron vents in the cell ceilings were left clear. Although no water tanks were seen, it seems likely that the original water supply system operated along similar lines to the tank system in B Division. The tanks were probably removed when the ceilings were back-filled with concrete. The existing mains supply comprises galvanised iron and copper pipes of various vintages. Little remains of the original thermo-ventilation terminate system in the roof space except for the tops of the ventilation shafts. Barred manholes set high in the walls of the small first floor rooms to either side of the central crossing provide access to the roof voids.

### **Yards, Walls and Fences**

A radial exercise yard was constructed to the north in the yard formed by the northern and eastern cell ranges of A Division. This has been demolished but recent archaeological investigations have unearthed the bluestone footings of this structure.

The south-eastern exercise yard is paved in concrete. The eastern wall to this space is constructed of bluestone, but a cast iron palisade fence set on a bluestone plinth borders the southern boundary of the exercise yard. This fence is original. The 1958 brick extension for H Division extends into this space: an Aboriginal flag is painted on the southern facade of this extension.

#### **4.7.3 Conclusions**

A Division is substantially intact to its late nineteenth century, although various changes were made to the eastern cell range when it was incorporated into the maximum security division, H Division. The radial exercise yard located in the north-east corner of the site has been demolished (with the exception of its footings), as have the bluestone walls to the northern yards which once enclosed the building.

Internally, changes include demolition of the internal walls between cells, the replacement of most of the cell doors in the northern and eastern wings, the reconfiguration of some of the spaces in the entrance wing, and partitioning in the central crossing. Various other later changes – services, security mesh, facilities and sundry equipment – are substantially reversible.

#### 4.7.4 Significance

The 1996 CMP states that the A Division is:

*Of primary significance. A Division is one of the largest and earliest cell blocks constructed at Pentridge and which has survived remarkably intact. As such it is demonstrative of the enlightened philosophy with regard to crime and punishment and of the approach to imprisonment and prisoner reform which is embodied in the building plan and fabric. As such, it demonstrates British and colonial attitudes to penal establishments which were first demonstrated in Victoria at the Melbourne Gaol. Like it, A Division is an important example of the breadth and high standard of output from the Public Works Department which, at the time, was engaged in the design and construction of a variety of specialised building types to service the developing colony.<sup>127</sup>*

### 4.8 Rock-breaking Yards (H Division)

Building 7

#### 4.8.1 History

Accessed from the central corridor in the east end of A Division, H Division originally consisted of sixteen Rock-breaking Yards that ran off a central walkway. A further eight Rock-breaking Yards were added to the east in 1899: all twenty-four Rock-breaking Yards are shown in an aerial photograph of the prison dating from c1921.<sup>128</sup> The later Rock-breaking Yards were constructed in association with construction of the south wing of A Division.<sup>129</sup> The CMP states that they were built using recycled materials from buildings pulled down to make way for the Female Penitentiary.<sup>130</sup> However, what these buildings may have been is a mystery, and no source is provided for this information.

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<sup>127</sup> Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP* (1996), pp136-7.

<sup>128</sup> The date is provided on a plan of the prison held at the Department of Justice. Refer Figure 7.

<sup>129</sup> Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, p137

<sup>130</sup> Allom Lovell & Associates, *Pentridge CMP*, p137.

- Demolish the single storey brick building to the west of the former Hospital in order to restore the west elevation as well as the arched gateway.

## 7.7 A Division

### General conservation policy

- Retain all original nineteenth century fabric.
- Remove all twentieth century fabric including:
  - the later security screens from the windows.
  - the small timber cantilevered canopy over the front entrance, the roof top ventilators, the fans, the smoke extract vents and the like.

### Specific conservation actions include:

#### Exterior

- Retain the original form of the whole external envelope, including: walls, roof, roof lantern, original roof framing, original bluestone chimneys, and the retaining walls to the sunken areas along the south wing.
- Retain and repair the original entrance doors to the west wing if possible. Reconstruct to original detail if not possible.
- Retain original external iron bars to the windows. Reconstruct all missing iron bars to the windows. Repair window bars where required.
- Retain the painted circles on the window sills to show where prisoners have escaped.
- Remove all twentieth century accretions from the exterior of the building including later steel bars and mesh grilles from the windows, air conditioning units, vents, aerials, and other later accretions.
- Reconstruct the original window to the east elevation of the eastern cell range to original detail (as per the northern window of A Division).
- Restore the windows to the ends of each cell range to original detail.
- Remove the paint from the eastern elevation of the eastern wing.
- Remove the paint from the window reveal and sills to the front facade.
- Make good stone as required.
- Retain evidence of the remnant wall to the north of the west wing.
- Remove paint from external stonework if desired.
- External downpipes and rainwater heads should be replaced to match the original detail.
- Re-slate the roof and repair the roof timbers as a priority.
- The unstable sections south of A Division (identified in the David Beauchamp report) should be rectified as a priority.

#### Interior

- Generally, retain as much original nineteenth century fabric as possible.

- Retain 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.
- 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 all original elements of the (north, south and east) corridors and central hall including the stone walls, the barrel vaulted iron ceilings, the lantern 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 partition walls, the control post to the central crossing, the observation post to the upper storey of the east wing (to be undertaken as part of the works to the Rock-breaking Yards) and the wire mesh to the central voids.
- Remove twentieth century sheet cladding to the ceiling over the central hall. Reinstall timber-lining boards if original lining boards are not intact underneath.
- Repair the damaged plasterwork to the front entrance wing of the building using traditional plastering techniques.
- Retain original fittings and fixtures in situ such as the early water pipes and the bluestone latrine on the ground floor.
- Retain the original masonry walls and one corrugated iron ceilings on the ground floor of the west wing, as well as other surviving nineteenth century elements such as panelled doors, flagstones, mantelpiece, and early iron grille.
- Reinstall bricked up chimneys.
- Retain the original form of the central corridor, and the configuration of original doors openings off the corridor.
- Restore the first floor chapel to a single space.
- Remove twentieth century fabric from the cells.
- Repair and replace flagstones to floor as required.
- Remove paint from the flagstones using a non-invasive method.

#### Exercise Yard

- Consideration given to retaining or otherwise interpreting the surviving footings in the northern exercise yard.
- Consideration should be given to re-using the iron palisade fence along the southern boundary of the south-eastern exercise yard or otherwise reinterpreting this element within the new development.
- Under the current Masterplan for the site, Building 9 will extend over the south-eastern exercise yard.

#### Scope for adaption and additions:

- There exists some scope to connect A Division to Building 9 (as numbered in the current Masterplan) where the wall was removed to accommodate the receiving area for H Division.
- Locate substantial new built form to the rear of A Division.
- New buildings should respond to the footings of the radial exercise yard in the north-east corner.



Consideration might be given to:

- Restoring and reconstructing some of the cells to the detail shown in the early documentary evidence.
- Restoring the south-eastern wall of A Division when the receiving area to H Division is demolished (although this area may also provide an opportunity to create a link between Building 9 and A Division).
- Restoring the first floor chapel by removing later accretions including the partition walls, the wire mesh, and the partition for the kitchen.

Additions to accommodate new usage:

- If required, additional fire escape stairs and exits should preferably be located within existing cell spaces rather than within the galleried spaces or externally.
- Preferably locate new fire escape doors on the exercise yard (east) elevations or along the east wing.

Setting

- Retain principal views of the front facade of A Division from the Champ Street gate.

## 7.8 Rock-breaking Yards (H Division)

*Policy* Although it is not possible to retain the whole extent of the Rock-breaking Yards, the westernmost yards should be reconstructed to their original form.

*Policy* The proposed works to H Division will include partial demolition, partial restoration, partial relocation, partial reconstruction and partial interpretation. Owing to the mix of different approaches, each approach should be legible as such, even if only subtly.

General conservation policy

- Reconstruct the eight westernmost Rock-breaking Yards to the general form shown on early documentary evidence.
- Retain as much original nineteenth century fabric from the existing western Rock-breaking Yards as possible, including the external basalt walls and the remnants of the internal brick walls.
- Except for the concrete slab to the observation walkway (which is to be retained as a means of preserving the original timber structure underneath), remove all post-war fabric including: roof, the stairs, the security cages, fixtures and fittings, conduits and the like.
- Reinstate brick partition walls between the yards using bricks sourced from the demolished eastern portion of the Rock-breaking Yards.
- Reinstate brickwork to the original yard doorways and clerestory windows where they have been infilled.
- Re-use existing elements wherever possible including stone chutes, curved coping stones, cell doors and associated levers, the bluestone anvil in the north-western Rock-breaking Yard, and two of the stone doorway surrounds from the eastern yards to the enlarged door