

L/25/100459 – Victoria House, Police Training Centre, RVCP, Netley Abbey, SO31 4TS.

Context.

This heritage asset was designed and built by the Royal Engineers in 1866 as part of the Royal Victoria Military Hospital complex as an army mental asylum and repurposed in 1985 as part of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary's training headquarters by the Hampshire County Architects Department under its County Architect the late Sir Colin Stansfield-Smith.

The building is listed Grade II and stands away from the former main building to its north-east in a secluded position with a walled garden to the south elevation, as befits its original function. Solidly built in red brick with wide rusticated buff brick quoins, pilasters and round-headed window architraves, all under a slate roof.

The Proposal.

Since its conversion in the 1980's the building has been subject to hard wear and is now both showing its age internally and falling behind current energy and safety standards, hence the need for repair and replacement of finishes and some services including fire alarms, lighting and toilets.

The corridor around the perimeter of the restaurant space (designated space G-084) has an existing metal plank ceiling like the continuation corridor that skirts two sides of the lecture theatre (designated space G-030), which is an important feature of the 1980's refit. It would appear that it is all to be retained but the ceiling schedule has no mention of space G-084 and there is a typo in this heading under 'Strip Out'. To avoid any misunderstanding at tender stage I suggest this is clarified.

After 40 years of use a refresh is to be welcomed so that the ceilings are each of the same tile with energy efficient lighting and up to date fire alarms with the rewiring accommodated in the ceiling voids. The toilet alterations are only a change to the 1980's refit and some of the doors are evidently past redemption.

Conclusion.

Updating these aspects of the building including correcting any poor fire separation aspects will help to both keep the building as safe as possible and enhance the user experience which will all assist in prolonging the usefulness and therefore health of this heritage asset. No objection.

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