

THE PAUL MELLON CENTRE
15 & 16 BEDFORD SQUARE

Heritage Statement

March 2023

CCTV & Security Upgrades

WRIGHT & WRIGHT ARCHITECTS



1.0 HERITAGE STATEMENT

1.1 Introduction

16 and 15 Bedford Square are occupied by the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

The Centre wishes to improve the security of its building, staff and visitors by introducing a CCTV system with new security cameras installed internally and externally.

1.2 Site Description

The two buildings are D1 use class and are located on the northwest side of Bedford Square. They are Grade I listed for their group value.

The buildings are located within the Sub Area 5 of the Bloomsbury Conservation Area.

1.3 Listing

List Entry Number: 1244546

Grade: I

Date first listed: 24th October 1951

Date of most recent amendment: 11th January 1999

The English Heritage List Entry defines the importance of Nos.15 & 16 as being within the context of the north east side of Bedford Square (Nos. 12-27 and the associated railings).

1.4 Listing Extract:

The following extract from the Listing Description gives an overview of the terrace as a whole.

The relevant references that directly relate to nos. 15 & 16 have been extracted and are included here for ease of reference:

Overview

Symmetrical terrace of 16 houses forming the north side of a square. 1776-1781. Mostly built by W Scott and R Grews; probably designed by either Thomas Leverton or Robert Palmer; for the Bedford Estate.

- Yellow stock brick with evidence on most of the houses of tuck pointing. Plain stucco band at 1st floor level.
- The 2 centre houses, Nos 18 & 19, are stuccoed.
- Slate mansard roofs with dormers and tall slab chimney-stacks.

Exterior

- 3 storeys, attics and basements. 3 windows each.
- Recessed round-arched entrances with Coade stone vermiculated intermittent voussoirs and bands; mask keystones.
- Enriched impost bands and cornice-heads to doors.
- Side lights to panelled doors, some 2-leaf
- Fanlights, mostly radial patterned.
- Gauged brick flat arches to recessed sashes,

most with glazing bars.

- The following have blind boxes: Nos 16-19, No.20 to 1st floor only, Nos 21 and 25.
- The following have cast-iron balconies to 1st floor windows: Nos 12-15, 18-21,23-25.
- No.12 has a good early C19 cast-iron balcony with round-arched trellis and tented canopy
- Cornice and parapets, Nos 12 & 27 have balustraded parapets.

Interiors not inspected but noted to contain original stone stairs with cast and wrought-iron balusters of various scroll designs, decoration and features; special features as mentioned:

Subsidiary Features attached cast-iron railings to areas with urn or torch-flambe finials. No.17 with a wrought-iron lamp bracket and snuffer. Most houses with good wrought-iron foot scrapers.

Historical Notes

- The houses in Bedford Square form a most important and complete example of C18 town planning. Built as a speculation, it is not clear who designed all the houses.
- Leverton was a country house architect and may have been involved with only the grander houses; he lived at No.13.
- Palmer was the Bedford Estate surveyor and may be responsible for the vagaries of the square. - The majority of the plots leased by the estate were taken by Robert Grews, a carpenter, and William Scott, a brick maker. No.22 was the residence of Sir J Forbes Robertson, actor (plaque).
- (Byrne A: Bedford Square, An architectural study: London:-1990)."

1.4 Timeline

1775 - Construction of Bedford Square begins. All of the houses are built by individual builders, each of whom had an individual contract with Bedford Estate.

1782 - John Utterton, a plasterer, signed No. 16's original 99 year lease.

1784 - Utterton sold the lease to Joseph Shrimpton.

1785 - Shrimpton then sold the lease to Thomas Wildman, a solicitor, who then lived at No. 16 for 10 years.

1960s - No. 16's original fanlight replaced with modern alternative.

1996 - Paul Mellon Centre moved into No. 16 in June. The property was refurbished by Bedford Estates over a 6 month period without any major structural work needed.

2014 - Paul Mellon Centre acquired the leasehold of no. 15.

2015 - Refurbishment works were completed on No.15 and 16 Bedford Square. Lateral connections were introduced between the two buildings and archive storage rooms were introduced at basement level to house the Centre's collection.

1.0 HERITAGE STATEMENT (CONT'D)

1.5 Proposals

The locations and types of CCTV cameras proposed are shown on the following pages.

Externally, the camera will be black to blend in with the discoloured London stock brick. There are examples of CCTV cameras installed at entrance areas throughout Bedford Square.

Internally, the CCTV cameras will be white plastic to sit on painted plaster walls.

All cabling will be hidden where possible within ceilings.

A CCTV monitoring station will be located within the basement.

1.6 Significance & Impact

The significance impact of each new CCTV camera is assessed in the table on this page. The cameras will not be positioned in locations that harm any decorative or ornamental features, and can be removed when the technology becomes obsolete.

1.7 Justification for the Works

The proposals presented here provide necessary security to the heritage asset, its contents and improve the safety of the Centre's visitors and staff.

Location of proposed change	Description of location	Significance	Proposed Works	Possible Impact	Justification or Mitigation
Front elevation, at entrance to no.16	Brick	High	Install 1 no. black dome camera at entrance to no.16	Low visual impact.	Black mount to blend in with brickwork. Removable.
Reception area (ground floor middle room to no.16)	Painted plastered room with plaster cornice, and decorative dado and picture rails	Medium to High	Install 1 no. white dome camera to wall.	Low visual impact.	White mount to blend in with paint/plaster. Removable.
Basement Reading Room	Painted plastered room with bespoke late 20th Century bookcases	Medium	Install 1 no. white dome camera to wall. Containment to be concealed by bookcases.	Low visual impact.	White mount to blend in with paint/plaster. Removable.

2.0 PROPOSED CAMERA LOCATIONS

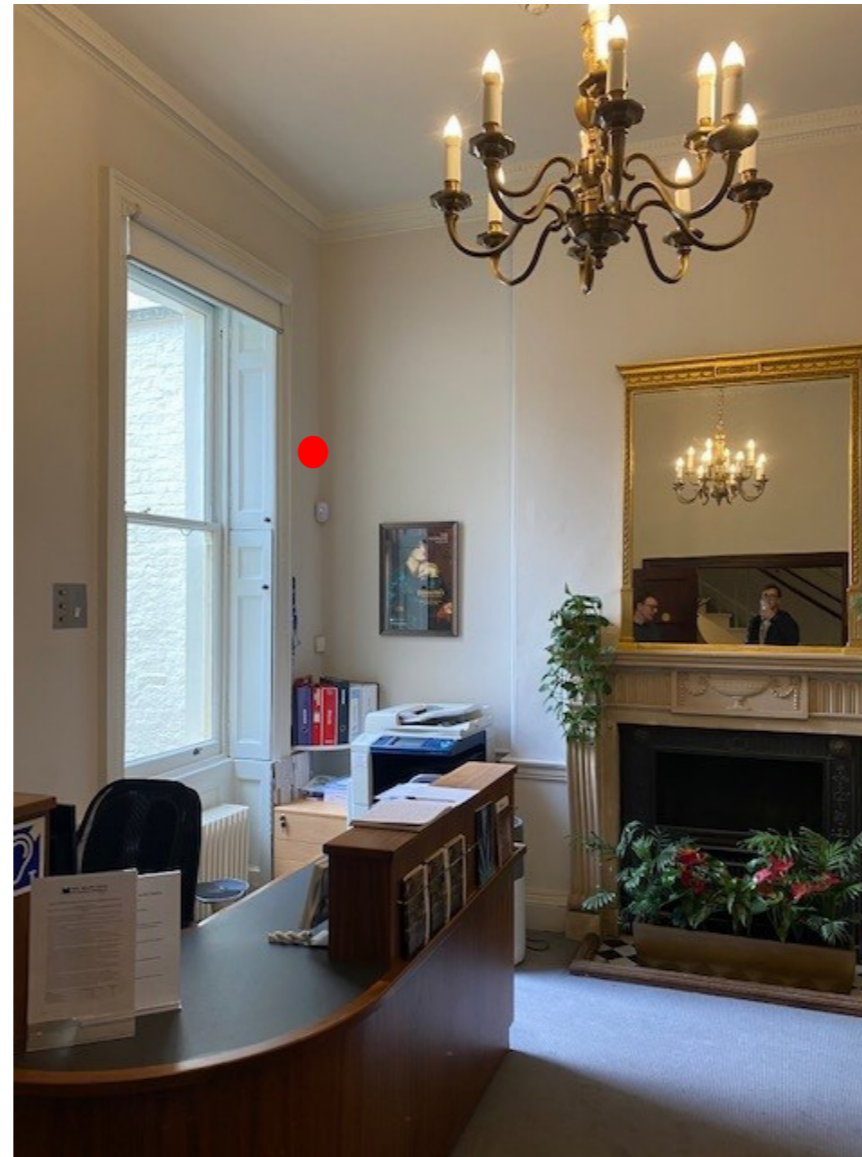
● *Notes location of proposed camera*



Location 01: External



Proposed camera type



Location 02: Reception Area



Proposed camera type

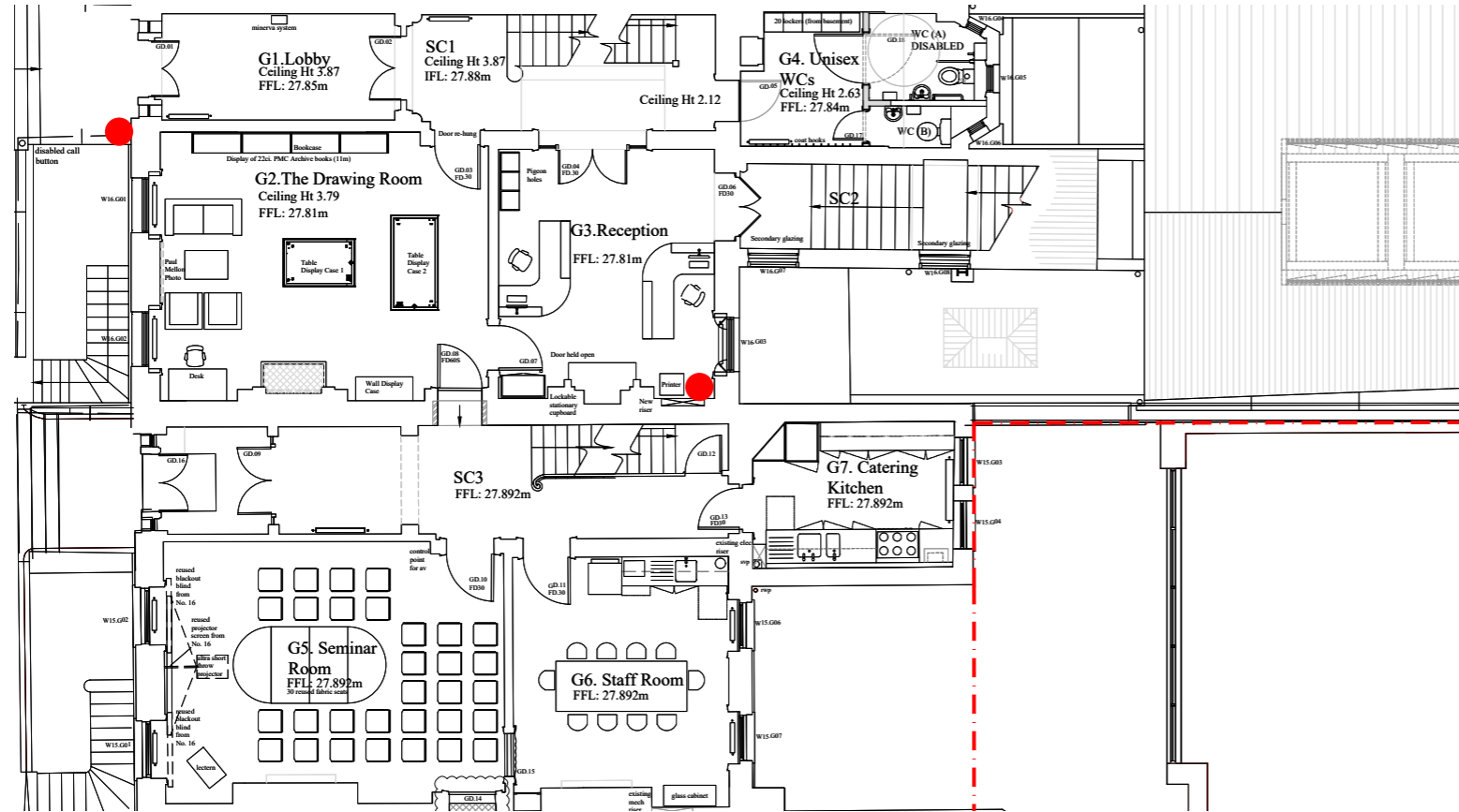


Location 03: Reading Room

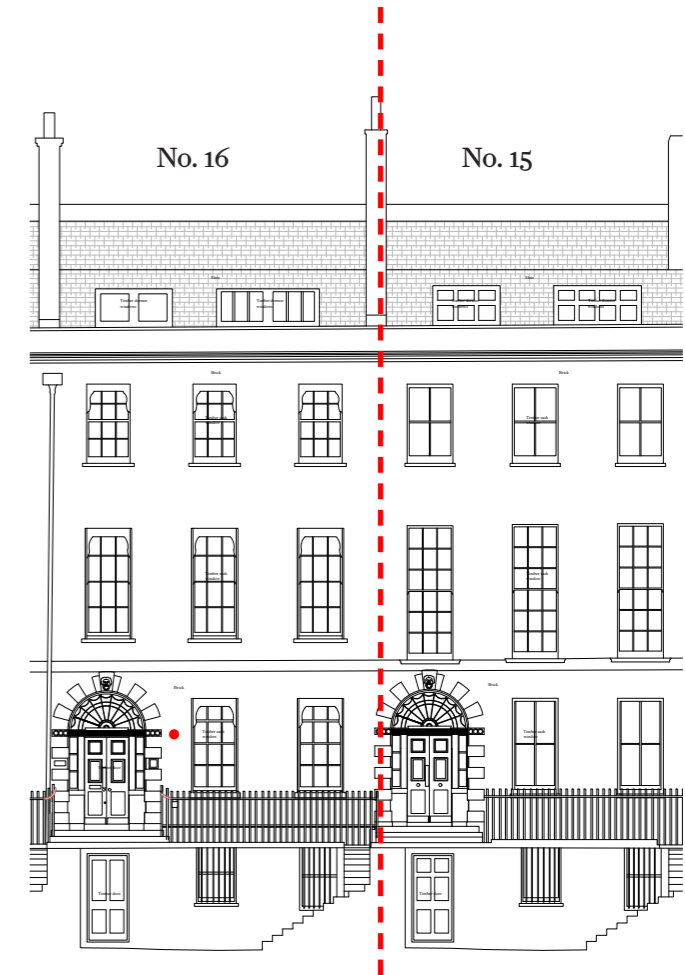


Proposed camera type

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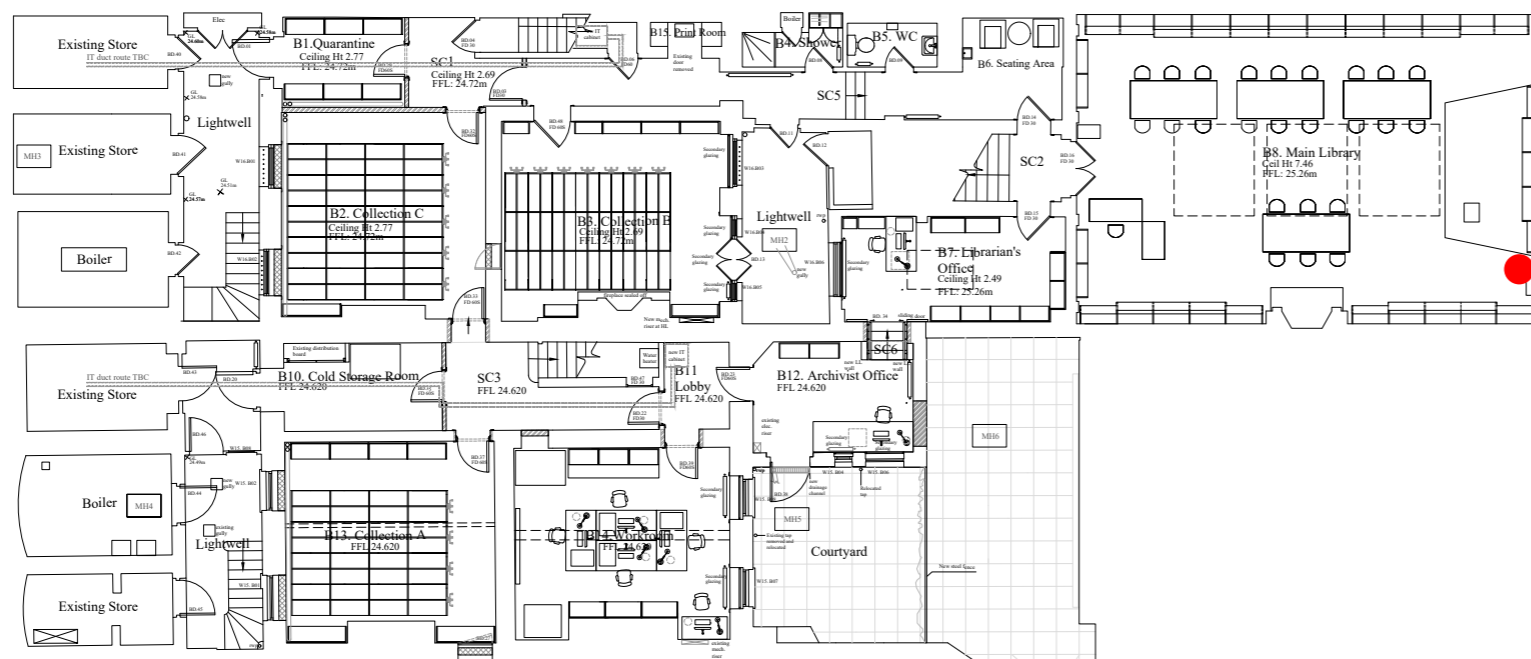


Ground Floor Plan



Front Elevation

● Notes location of proposed camera



Basement Plan

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