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STRIPPING TRIAL RESULTS AND PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

27th March 2017

Following discussion with the client, Michila Wilkes of the Bailey Partnership, a paint stripping trial to an area of Entrance Hall panelling was undertaken over March 2017.

The historic paint stratigraphy has been examined and is documented in a separate paint Analysis Report.

An area of panelling at the far end of the Entrance Hall corridor, near the back door, was selected for the trial; this is an area not readily accessed by other residents of the building and also allowed for ventilation during the paint stripping works. As the paint layers are known to be lead containing any blast stripping was not considered appropriate as it would release large amounts of lead dust into the atmosphere.

Three different chemical paint strippers were trialled;

Strip Away (Water based poultice, sodium oxide is the active ingredient, highly alkaline and requires neutralisation)

Strip Away LV (Water based poultice, di-basic ester and benzyl alcohol are the active ingredients, ph neutral)

Mylands Perfecta (DCM based paint stripper, requires ventilation)

Use of all paint stripper products requires careful management.

RESULTS

- Modern paint layers were easily removed in one application of either Strip Away or Strip Away LV left for 24 hrs.
- Underlying layers of lead based oil paints required 2x applications of Strip Away left for 24 hrs each application to remove the majority of the paint layers.
- All surfaces neutralised with acetic acid. The softwood timber was not affected by the alkalinity of the Strip Away paint remover.
- Any remaining residues and paint left within joints were removed with Mylands perfecta left for approx 15 mins and removed with hand tools and wire wall.
- Surface neutralised with white spirit and thoroughly washed.

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Paint removal was successful and was best achieved with 3x applications of Strip Away paint remover, left for 24 hrs at each application. Selective use of Mylands Perfecta removed any remaining paint residues.

One area of panel was left after the initial modern layers were removed, leaving the underlying lead oil paint layers exposed, this will need to be sealed, however there was client interest in retaining this as an exposed finish.

Sealing and waxing of the exposed timber will be required for long term protection and the final finish will be discussed and agreed with the client.

Architectural Paint analysis has been conducted and the paint history of the Entrance Hall has been documented. As the paint removal is only proposed to be taken up to the Staircase or 1st floor lobby, the paint archaeology will be retained at higher level.



Panelling after paint removal trials – far left historic lead paints have been left exposed, centre and right panels have had paint removed to the pine wood substrate.

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Left panel with removal of modern layers only, lead oil paints remain exposed



Panelling after paint removal, all paint removed, requires sealing and waxing/polishing to improve timber finish.

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Detail of the timber surface after paint removal

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