

**2 October 2025**

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## Heritage Interpretation | Strong Room - Updated Interpretation | The Lands SSD7484 - MOD 21

Freeman Ryan Design (FRD) has been engaged to provide Heritage Interpretation in the Lands by Capella Building.

Following submission of the documentation prepared to satisfy Condition F30, HNSW raised additional queries on the text as follows:

- Level 1 Panel 2.2 – the text should reflect that some of the strong room shelving has been retained in-situ (as required by consent condition C26).
- Generally the text should be clear that the strong room remains spatially intact and that the text is not referring to a feature that has been removed. Will the space continue to be known as the strong room?
- Highlight the umbrella mechanism as a unique feature to this building.
- Include a clearer description of the operation of the umbrella mechanism, which allowed the internal copper dome to be raised or lowered. ‘Retracted’ and ‘closed’ don’t adequately describe how it worked. Illustrations of the internal dome in open and closed positions would help to describe the feature.
- Check all descriptions of the Strong Room and its features for accuracy.

FRD has reviewed the text and have made amendments to the text and added diagrams in response to the comments, which is outlined below. This will be added to the Heritage Website as there is insufficient room on the panels.

Please contact the undersigned should further information be required.

With best wishes,

Susan Freeman



Director

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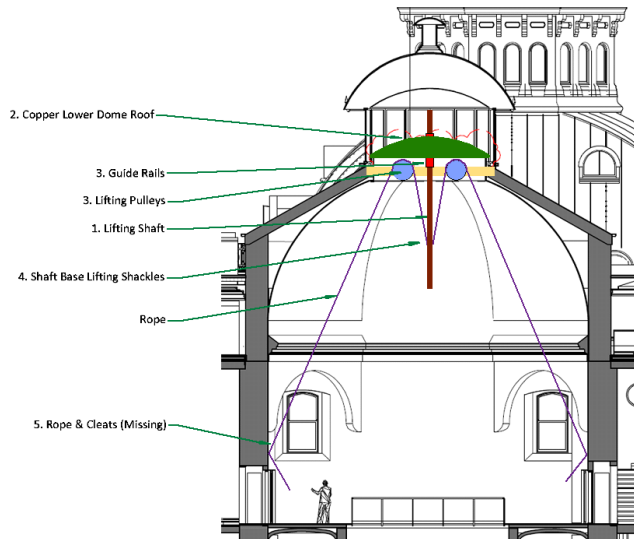
The following information provides the new text devised:

### **The Strong Room**

The building included a 'Strong Room', a fire-proof, domed room spanning three floors in its centre, which has been retained spatially intact as a multi-level, open volume. It was especially designed for the safe-keeping of the documents with steel used for the doors and shelving (some of which remains in place), and steel-plated covers for the windows, ready to cover them in the event of fire.

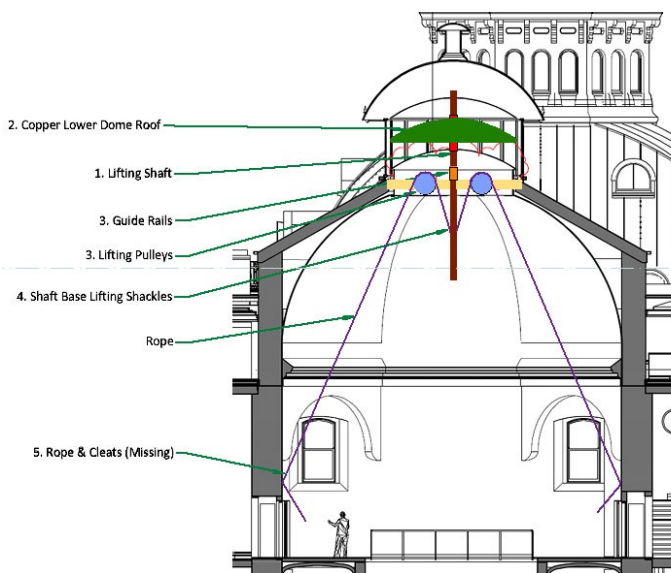
The dome's ceiling incorporated an 'umbrella' opening, which is thought to have been raised and retracted to allow daylight and ventilation, and lowered and closed with steel covers, as seen now, to seal the room from fire, enabling the protection of the land survey maps, plans and documents as part of the fire protection measures in the space. Although unconfirmed, it is possible that the 'umbrella' was also intended to be opened to allow the ventilation of smoke and the escape of embers from the building.

It is conjectured that the 'umbrella' opening was operated either manually through ropes and pulleys, or by means of an electric motor; neither of these means survive. The opening and closing of the umbrella mechanism represents a unique feature of the Strong Room and a vital part of its fire protection strategy.



Umbrella Mechanism in the Lowered Position

The 'umbrella' opening mechanism in lowered, closed position, as conjectured by Traditional Stonemasonry (Consulting) Pty Ltd, 29 August 2025. © Traditional Stonemasonry (Consulting) Pty Ltd.



Umbrella Mechanism in the Raised Position

The 'umbrella' opening mechanism in raised, open position as conjectured by Traditional Stonemasonry (Consulting) Pty Ltd, 29 August 2025. © Traditional Stonemasonry (Consulting) Pty Ltd.



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