

1 b) External Lifts, Stairs & Gantries

Heritage Council Comment 1 b)

It is understood that the proposed new stairs, lifts and gantries are critical operationally and for accessibility and egress. However limited information has been provided regarding the proposed external additions including stairs and lift shafts at Piers 2/3 and 4/5. A sympathetic and modest design approach must be adopted for all external additions to minimise impacts to the visual prominence and industrial character of the Wharves. The size of lift shafts must be reduced as much as possible to reduce ‘clutter’ on the wharf apron. Further design details for all external additions must be provided to the Heritage Council for assessment prior to approval of this project.

DPE Comment

Consideration should be given to reviewing the size and extent of external balconies and lift shafts, and the width (and location) of external stair landings, to ensure the potential impacts of these structures on the heritage character of the wharves and public access around the wharf aprons is minimised as much as reasonably practicable.

Explore opportunities to remove the support stands from the external balconies to reduce potential for visual clutter on the wharf apron and reduce their visual prominence.

Response

A sympathetic and modest design approach has been adopted for all external additions to ensure that they respect the industrial character of the wharves and to minimise their visual prominence. A similar architectural language is proposed for the new lifts, stairs and gantries for both Wharf 4/5 and Pier 2/3 to clearly distinguish new elements from original fabric, to unify the composition and ensure visual consistency across the precinct.

The new stairs and gantries are proposed to be steel framed and detailed in a robust industrial manner, sympathetic to their historic wharf setting. The stairs are sized to meet minimum egress requirements.

The design of the gantry balconies interprets the historic gantries which once travelled along the buildings in terms of size, form and detailing. The original gantries were sized to relate to the structural bays of the wharf buildings and extended to the edge of the wharf apron to provide access between the Upper Shed level and ships in port. The new gantry balconies are sized to reference the original and hence are proposed to be supported on columns located adjacent the wharf edge.

Locating four of the lifts external to the building minimises the impact on interior significant fabric. Their impact on the exterior has been minimised by designing them as contemporary steel framed glazed elements that are as transparent as possible. The lifts are substantially reversible.

The external lifts are set back from the wharf edge by a minimum of two structural piling bays in accordance with Policy 9.6.5 of the Pier 2/3 CMP and positioned to relate to the internal uses they serve.

The lift shafts have been designed to be as small as possible to provide equitable access and efficient goods movement within the Precinct. The height of the overall lift shaft structures has been carefully considered in terms of overrun, relationships to the original buildings and consistency within the Precinct .

The size of the lift cars is as shown in the table to the right, with both the cars and shafts minimised to accommodate required passenger and goods movement and accessibility requirements:

LIFT #	LOCATION	PURPOSE/AREAS SERVED	CAPACITY	CAR SIZE WXDxH	OVERRUN
LIFT 3	Pier 2/3 West	People and goods lift Level 1 ACO Event Space and back of house (instruments) Level 2 ACO Offices Provides alternate public lift for Pier 2/3 if other internal lifts break down.	21 people	1600x2000x2400	4200
LIFT 6	Wharf 4/5 East	Mezzanine Level SDC Offices Level 1 STC public areas Level 2 STC Offices Replaces current external lift near SDC café Opens up vistas to the Precinct from entry	15 people	1400x1800x2400	4200
LIFT 7	Wharf 4/5 East	Level 1 STC public areas and theatre Level 2 STC public areas, theatre and function room	15 people	1400x1800x2400	4200
LIFT 8	Wharf 4/5 West	Goods lift Level 1 STC kitchen/back of house Level 2 STC back of house	15 people	1400x1800x2400	4200

The Statement of Heritage Impact includes an assessment of the proposed new steel platforms lifts and stairs which reads as follows:

The Detailed design is in keeping with the strong industrial character.

.... The industrial character is reinforced by the robust steel detailing. (p.141.)

Significant views and vistas to the site are conserved as demonstrated by the Visual Impact Assessment that accompanies the proposal. The existing industrial maritime character is conserved.

New elements have been designed to respect this highly significant context.

The works retain and respect the landmark position of the Wharf as a strong visual element within Walsh Bay on the foreshores of Sydney Harbour. Works across the Walsh Bay Arts and Cultural Precinct will ensure that this position is retained and enhanced.

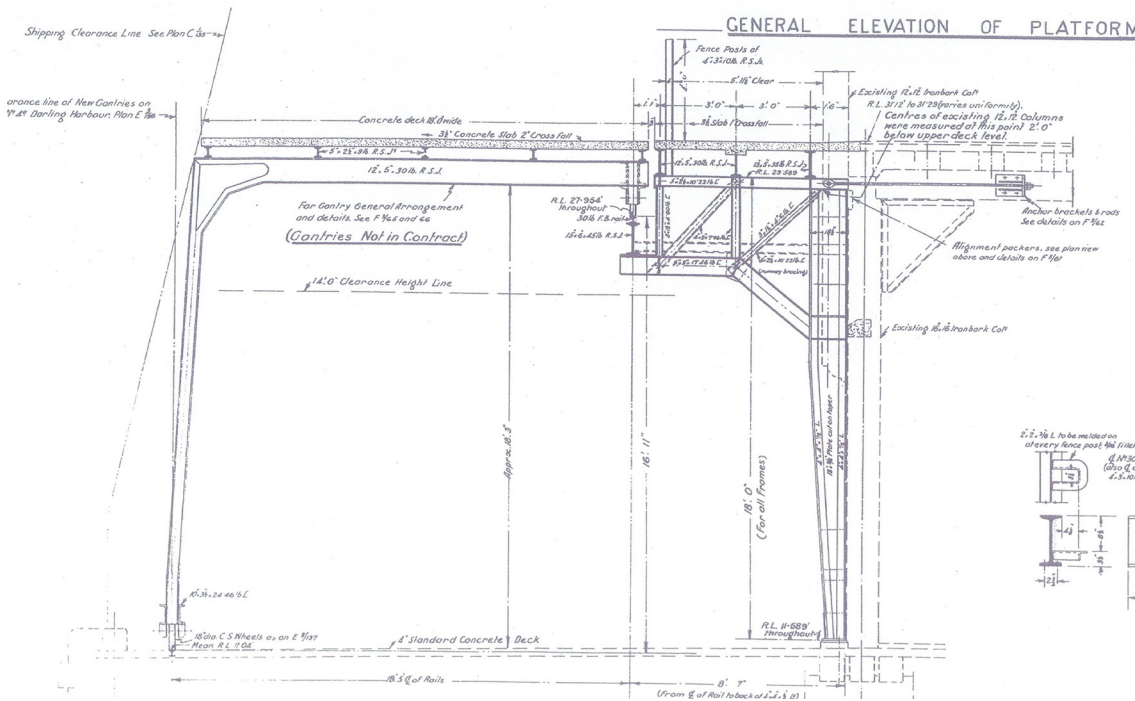


Figure 12: Historic Drawings showing Wharf 4/5 gantry



Figure 13: Walsh Bay 1910
Source: Hurley, Frank 1910, Walsh Bay <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-229933307>

The wharves at Walsh Bay had a range of gantries, both travelling and fixed, that connected the Upper Sheds to the upper levels of the ships that berthed along side them, as evidenced by historic drawings and photographs.

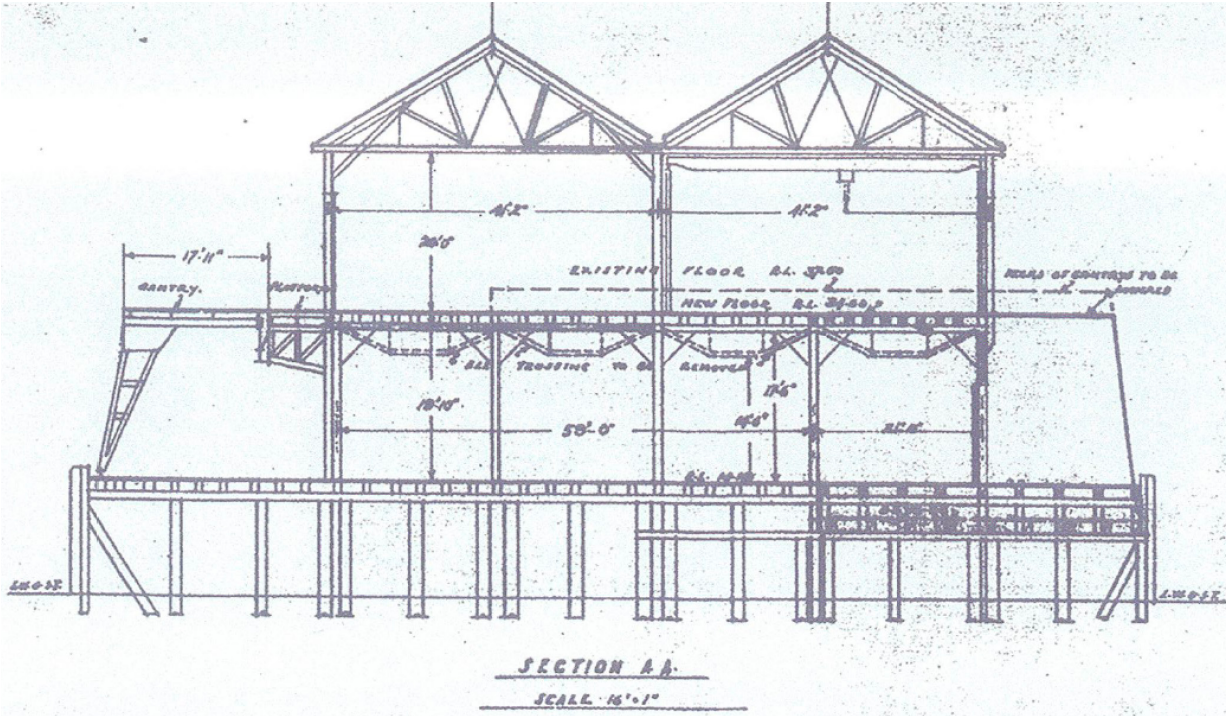


Figure 16: Historic Drawings showing Pier 2/3 gantry

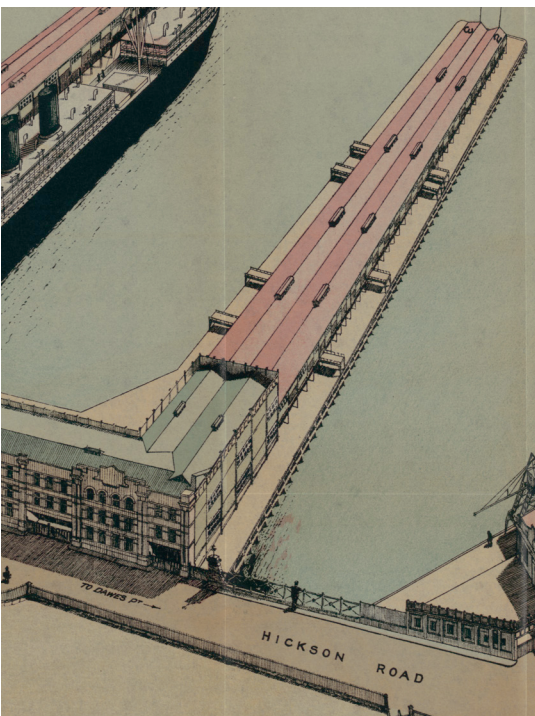


Figure 17: Excerpt of Birds Eye View Drawing 1918
Source: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-229933307>

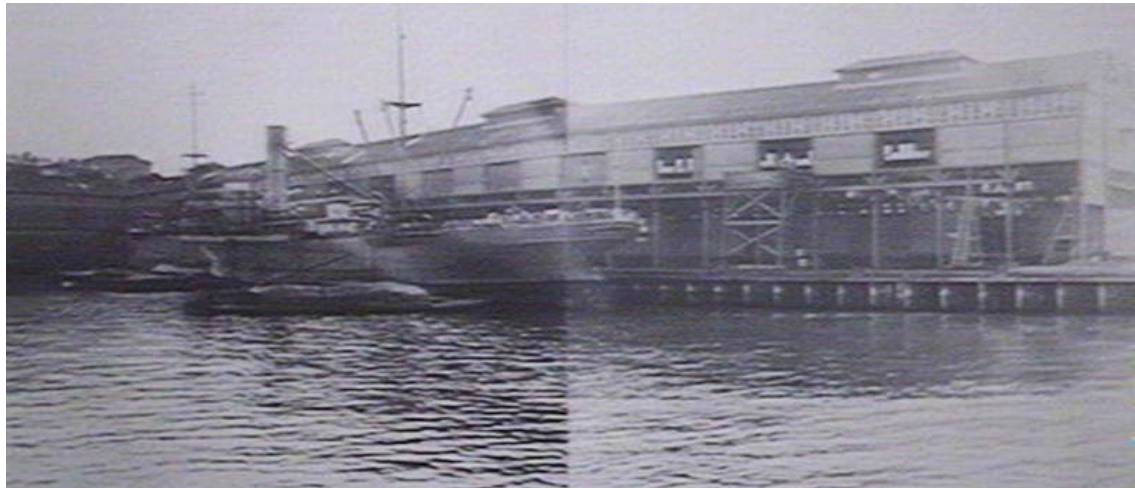


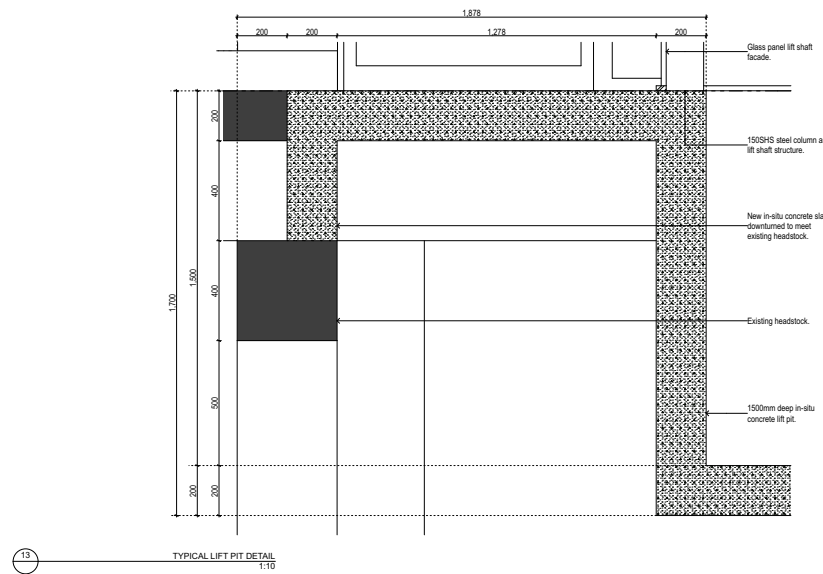
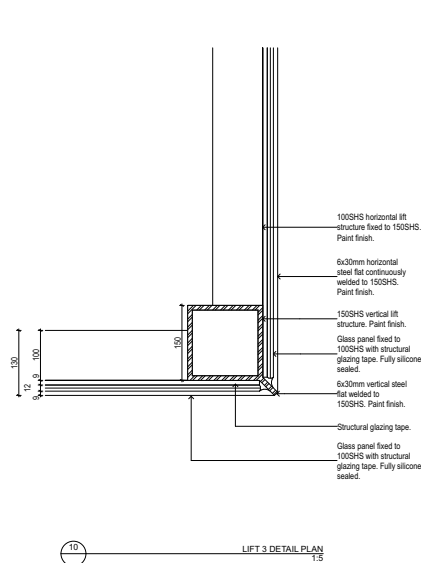
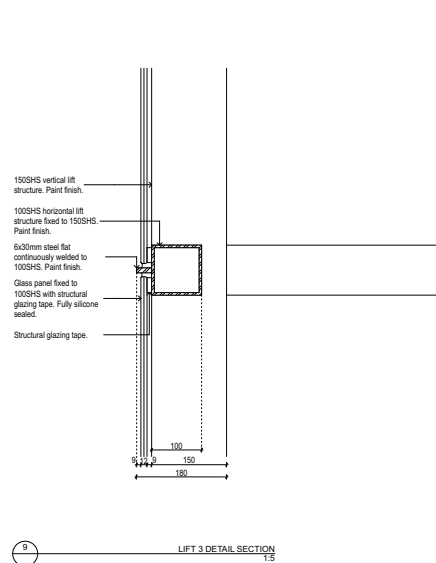
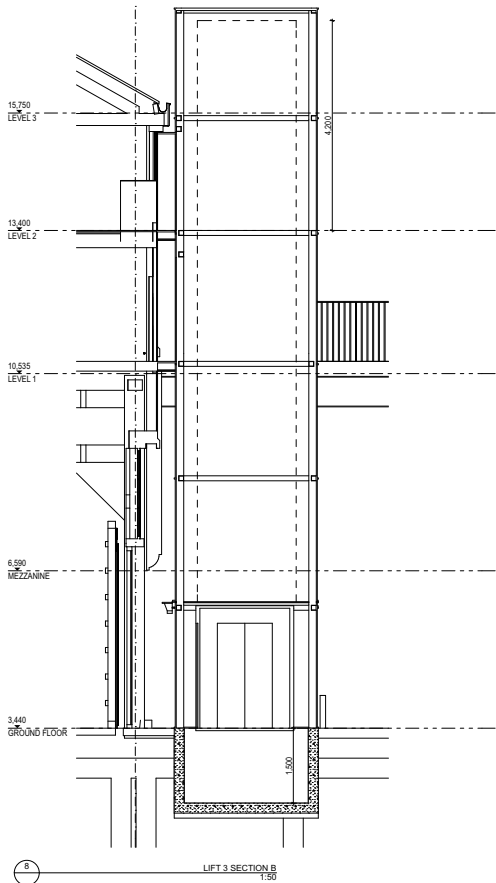
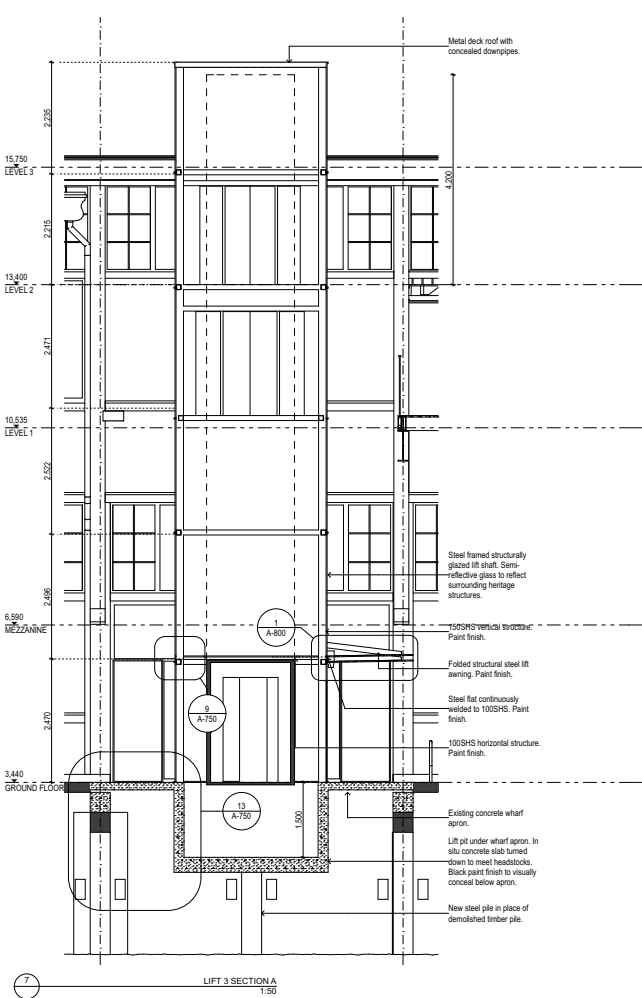
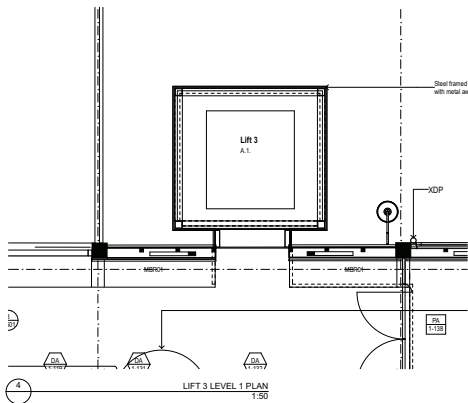
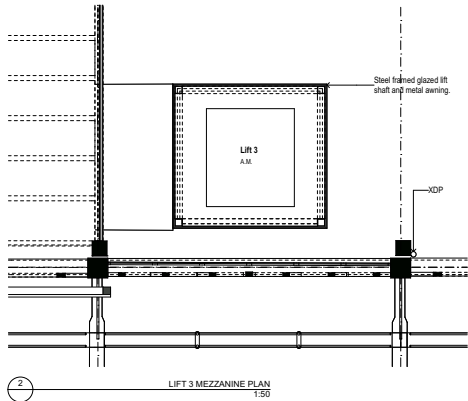
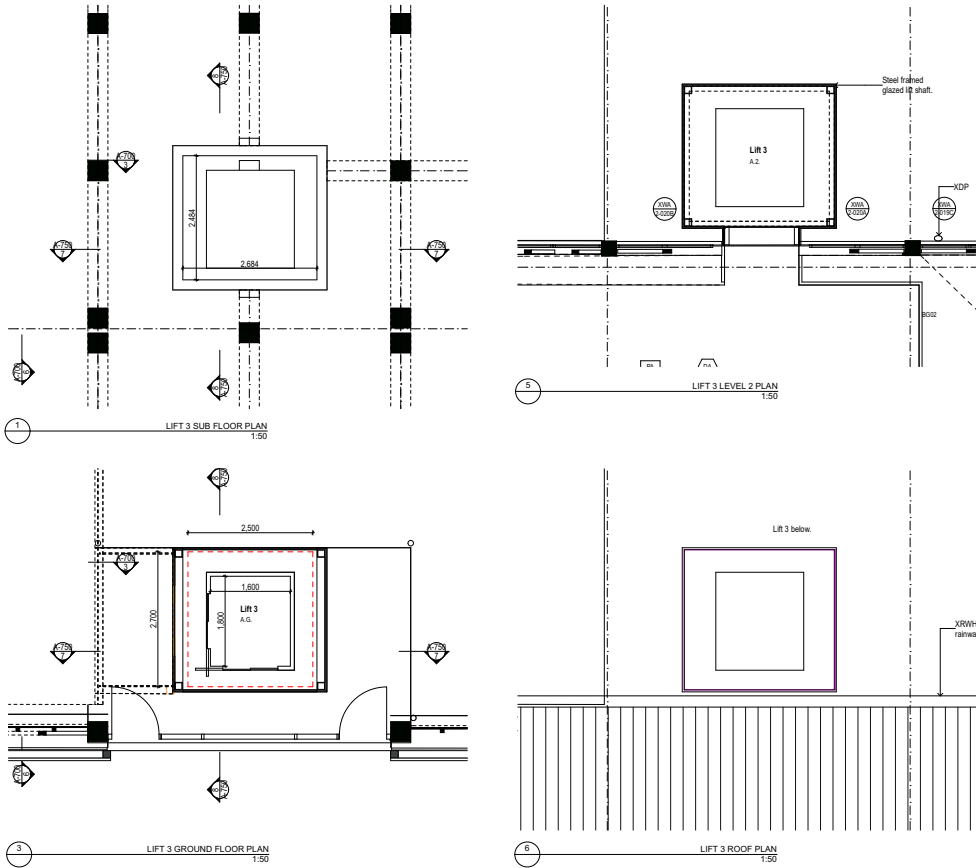
Figure 14: Walsh Bay 1938
Source: 1938-05-10. No 4 Walsh Bay <https://trove.nla.gov.au/version/18764638>



Figure 15: Walsh Bay 1957
1957. Walsh Bay and Goat Island, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/version/12850582>



Figure 18: Aerial view Walsh Bay



DATE	REV	NOTES	ACCESS CONSULTANT	ACOUSTIC ENGINEER	BCA CONSULTANT	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT	ELECTRICAL ENGINEER	ESD CONSULTANT	WASTE CONSULTANT	WATER/ECOLOGIST	LEGEND	CLIENT	PROJECT	ARCHITECT	DRAWING TITLE	DRAWN BY
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