

The Gantry

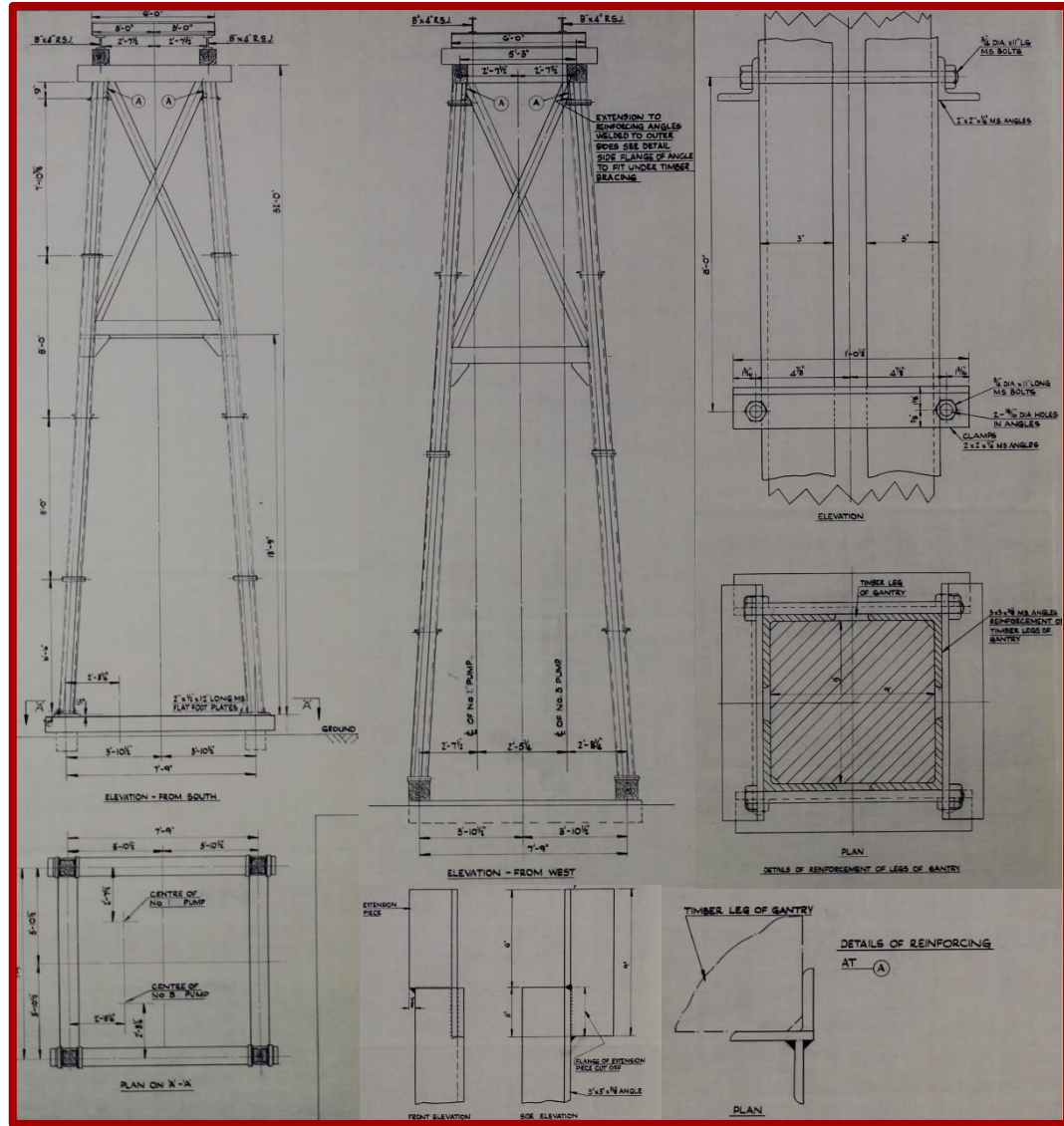
The original timber pump head gantry was constructed in 1889 using pitch pine. This was reinforced with mild steel cross-bracing in about 1952 and was in use until 1977.

It stood 55 ft (16.7 metres) in height, is 8ft (2.4 metres) square at the base and tapers to 6ft (1.8 metres) square at the top. This was used during maintenance and repair work on the pumps whenever it was necessary to withdraw the pump bucket, pump rods or rising main. The top cross beam served as the supporting beam for the lifting gear. The gantry was fixed to the well-head structure, via two large beams, which spread the weight of the tower.

Unfortunately, the timber had rotted and so it was removed in 2019 and replaced with 100-year-old pitch pine. Some elements of the original structure were re-used where possible.



Top: Drawings made in 1952 of the gantry being re-reinforced with steel bracing. We used these drawings to help recreate the gantry replacement. Bottom: The Victorian gantry being removed in one piece. Once on the ground the damage to the timbers was obvious. The new 100-year-old timber replacement is lifted into place.



View of the Murgatroyd Works from the south-east in 1905, showing the boiler house (centre) and gantry head and shaft (right). The photograph shows what appears to be a flywheel or a winch on the eastern side of the shaft.

