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Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

R. Baker & Son Historic Demolition At The Brooklyn Army Terminal

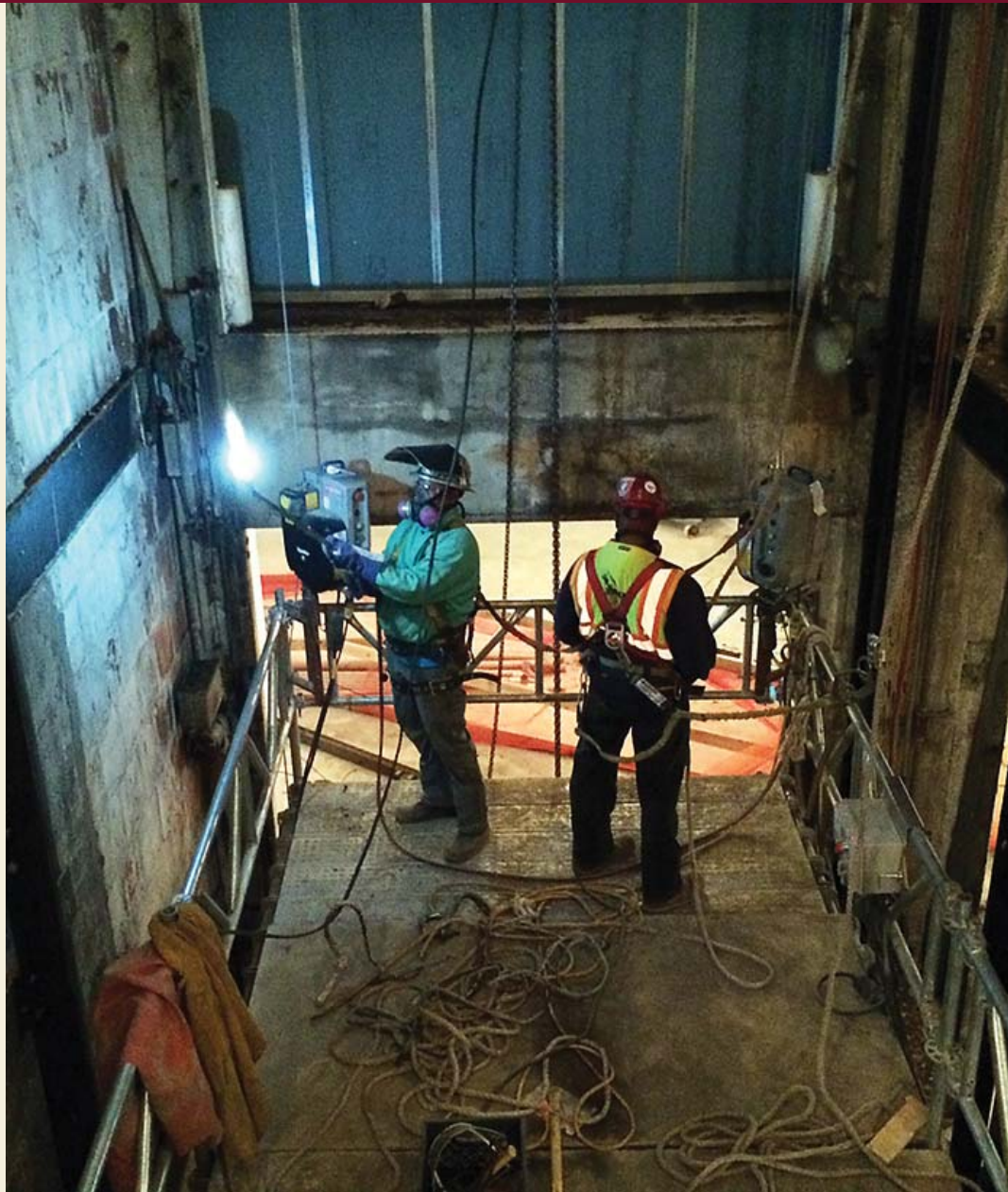
R. Baker & Son recently completed an elevator shaft demolition project at the Brooklyn Army Terminal, a large industrial/commercial complex at the former site of the eponymous military depot and supply base. The Baker team was tasked the dismantling of ten freight elevator shafts approximately 125 ft. in height, as well as the removal of seven century-old 20,000 lb. capacity elevators, while preserving the integrity of the shafts.

History of the BAT

The Brooklyn Army Terminal, located in the Sunset Park neighborhood of Brooklyn, was first commissioned in 1919, just in time to receive soldiers and ships returning from the First World War. During World War II, it was the largest supply and transportation hub in the United States, employing more than 20,000 military and civilian personnel, and served as headquarters for the New York Port of Embarkation, a network of installations that moved 3.2 million troops and 37 million tons of military supplies across the globe. The two eight-story main structures at the massive 95-acre complex, which was so large it had its own police and fire department, were designed by Cass Gilbert, best known for the iconic Woolworth Building and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Brooklyn Army Terminal remained active through the Vietnam War in the early 1970s and was purchased in 1981 by the New York City with the intention of repurposing the structures for manufacturing and industrial use.

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Thus far, over three million feet of space has been renovated, accommodating over 100 companies engaged in a variety of industries. The current \$100M rehabilitation phase involves 500,000 sq. ft. on seven floors in the middle of Building A, the last large block of unimproved space at the terminal. While much of the square footage renovated in earlier phases is occupied by warehousing, the de Blasio administration is focused on attracting business that offer more employment opportunities for surrounding communities.

Demolition Project

R. Baker & Son's role in the terminal's latest renovation project involved the demolition of a block of ten side-by-side elevator shafts. Each of the two shafts at either end of the block were being reconfigured to accommodate two passenger elevators rotated 90 degrees from the original freight cars, and another shaft was slated for reuse as a freight hoistway. Crew members used robotic hammers and specialized hanging scaffolding to remove the elevator machine room bulkhead. Oxy acetylene torches were utilized to remove cabling, counterweights, rails, and steel beams used to support the mechanics for the obsolete elevators. All ferrous metals were recovered and scrapped to offset the client's project costs.

The entire project is slated for completion in Spring 2017.



CHEMICAL BREAKING There are a variety of tools and techniques commonly used to demolish concrete including hydraulic breakers, pneumatic drills, saw cutting and dismantling, and explosives. But on projects where dust, noise and vibration must be minimized or altogether eliminated, or where there are access limitations, chemical bursting, aka chemical breaking, is a preferred method for controlled concrete demolition.



Chemical bursting is accomplished by pouring a slurry of expansive grout into boreholes drilled into the concrete in a precise pattern. The grout expands for up to a week as it dries, creating cracks within 12-24 hours and silently breaking the concrete into manageable pieces for easy removal by hand or crane. The process is safe, quiet, vibration-free, and produces little to no dust.

Chemical bursting can be used on mass reinforced concrete of any dimension and is a popular choice for confined spaces that can't be accessed by large machinery. It is also used to break rock on construction sites and in quarries.



R. Baker & Son's number one priority, bar none, is safety.

To ensure the health and welfare of our personnel and the employees and property of our clients, a significant investment of time and money is allotted for continual safety and training programs throughout each year. It is this singular emphasis on safety that sets us apart from many of our competitors.

Beyond the safety training programs that are mandatory in the rigging and demolition industry, we require our workers to receive additional advanced training and education on a continual basis. This includes advanced training on scaffold, aerial lift, forklift, crane, heavy equipment, confined space entry, respiratory protection, fall protection, emergency response, first aid, lockout/tag-out, CPR, and various others.

In comparison, some of R. Baker & Son's competitors require only some of these advanced courses for their employees, and few require periodic retraining where it is not mandatory. Why is this? Because training is expensive, requiring many hours of lost billable time, and too many contractors are reluctant to allocate the necessary time or unwilling to make the financial commitment. In an industry rife with inherent yet preventable dangers, this is risk we are not willing to take.

It is R. Baker & Son's firm stance that rigorous and continual safety training is a crucial investment that rigging and demolition

contractors would be foolish not to make. Our keen and continual focus on instilling safe work habits in our workers is an ethos that we share with other top-echelon contractors, and it is reflected in our outstanding safety record of **zero incidents for more than 15 years**. To learn more about our safety program, please visit our safety page at <http://rbaker.com/safety.php>

David Baker Greeting U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon



Left: United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon greets R. Baker & Son president David Baker during a congratulatory celebration in the General Assembly Hall to thank contractors for their efforts in the renovation of the U.N.

R. Baker & Son performed many critical services during the extensive eight year U.N. restoration project. Highlighted by, but not limited to the following; all curtain walls throughout the campus, including the Secretariat Building's iconic green glass façade, were removed to make way for new energy-efficient windows. All interior components of conference rooms and the General Assembly were match-marked and removed for restoration. The North Lawn sculptures and other international artifacts were rigged and relocated to a staging area during renovation. Upon the completion of the renovation, the sculptures and international artifacts were rigged and reinstalled into their original locations on the North Lawn. R. Baker & Son is proud to be the only contractor to have provided turn-key services from the beginning to the end of this historic project. [Click here to view more photos and project information.](#)