

R. Baker & Son Completes Fulton Fish Market Dismantling Project



R. Baker & Son recently completed dismantling of the historic Fulton Fish Market on the East River waterfront in Lower Manhattan.

Fulton Fish Market first opened in 1822, and for the next 183 years it flourished as one of the most important wholesale fish markets in the U.S. The structure was built in 1939 as part of an effort to modernize the bustling market and provide safer, more sanitary methods of handling fish. In 2005, the building was vacated and left to deteriorate when the fish market was relocated to a new facility at Hunts Point in the Bronx. After plans for a 42-story residential tower on the site fell through and a campaign to preserve the old Fulton Fish Market building as a historic landmark failed, the city was finally spurred in 2018 to move forward with plans for demolition, with work being delayed until 2021 due to COVID-19.

The Project

The project called for removal of the three-story, 50,000 sq. ft. structure which stood on the base of Pier 17 on South Street. Due to the significantly deteriorated pier, all work was required to be performed utilizing primarily manual means and methods, with zero loading on the majority of the pier slab. Several creative project innovations were required to complete this task. For the transite panel abatement, a combination of swing stage scaffolding and manlifts stationed on floating barges were utilized to unbolt and lower panels into the building envelope.



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Dismantlement of the Iconic Fulton Fish Market

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Following abatement, R. Baker & Son mobilized a 100-ton conventional crane with barge, accompanied by a hopper barge, to perform the dismantling and removal of the superstructure and building debris. All interior upper levels were dismantled using a combination of small-track skid steer loaders and robotic breaking equipment. Debris was removed across upper building slabs to skip pans that were attached to the conventional barge-mounted crane and lowered into awaiting hopper barges. All crane activities had to be timed to occur when no ferries



or water taxis were passing as their wakes could rock the barges and cause crane loads to swing. Upon completion of the dismantling, all structural steel required manual hand torch cutting and sizing for removal to awaiting barges in a similar manner to the construction debris. Work progressed on a bay-by-bay, floorby-floor basis, with zero disturbance to the concrete pier slab.

The project, led by Nick Eglentowicz along with R. Baker & Son's in-house dismantling crew, was completed safely and on-schedule, leaving behind only the original Fulton Fish Market pier slab.







Quality Award Winner

Congratulations to Nick Eglentowicz, this quarter's recipient of the R. Baker & Son Quality Award. The Quality Award program was established to recognize individuals for their outstanding achievements in safety, project execution, and customer satisfaction, and for their continuing dedication to R. Baker & Son's growth and success. Thank you, Nick for a job well done!



R. BAKER

Safety is Paramount on Every R. Baker Rigging Project

Our number one priority at R. Baker & Son is safety, which is why we strictly observe all rigging safety regulations, guidelines, and procedures during every lift on every project we do.

1. Inspect the condition of rigging equipment on a daily basis. Check cables for kinks or worn or broken wires, and slings and straps for fraying or cuts. Hooks, shackles, and pins should not be bent, and metal should not show corrosion, cracks, or excessive wear. Anything that shows damage, no matter how slight, must be immediately removed from service.

2. Know the equipment, and use it properly. All equipment and accessories should be selected based on precise load size and weight analyses and calculations. There is no room for error in rigging; if a load doesn't meet all safety requirements, don't make the lift.

3. Develop an approved pick plan where required and whenever possible. Determine whether taglines are necessary, especially where clearances are limited.

4. Check all slings and make sure connection points are tight and secure before lifting. Remove slack from the slings and inspect the load for sharp or jagged edges that may cause damage.

5. Position cranes on stable ground in an area that can safely accommodate the crane and its load.

6. Take precautions in windy conditions and be prepared for sudden gusts. If winds exceed or are forecast to potentially exceed safe limits, do not make the lift.



7. Designate team leaders and signal persons, and assign roles to all crew members participating in the lift.

8. Test loads by first lifting it a few inches to make sure it's properly balanced and secured and equipment is functioning properly.

9. Loads should be moved smoothly over the planned route, with no sudden movements. Taglines should be used if necessary to control the load and prevent it from spinning.



Maintaining a Clean Environment in Healthcare Demolition



Some of the most challenging interior and selective demolition jobs are projects that take place in hospitals and healthcare facilities where maintaining a clean environment is of utmost importance. Meticulous planning and strict adherence to clean demolition requirements are critical in these types of projects.

Demolition in a healthcare facility requires negative-pressure containment of the work space using temporary hard walls or plastic sheeting and sealed with duct tape to prevent contamination of the air in surrounding areas. Supply air dampers within this zone must be isolated and temporary airlocks must be constructed at the access and egress points to ensure that dust and contaminants cannot enter or escape. Filtered exhaust fans, air scrubbers, and negative air machines may be used to create negative pressure and capture contaminants. Negative pressure must be monitored at airlocks and documented.

Tacky peel-away floor mats should be installed at entrances and exits to remove contaminants from wheels and shoes and regularly discarded. Workers must wear required garments such as shoe covers and coveralls. Steps should be taken to control dust during demolition such as

vacuuming, misting, and wetting of surfaces, and demolition debris must be contained in sealed trash carts that are wiped down when exiting and reentering. The work area must be wiped down and kept clean using HEPA vacuums and wet mopping. At the end of the project, barriers may only be removed after thorough cleaning and disinfection has been completed.

Floor Holes Pose Slip, Trip and Fall Risks

A floor hole is defined by OSHA as a gap or void 2 inches or more at its smallest point in a floor, roof, or other walking/working surface. Floor holes are commonly found on construction and demolition sites and pose significant safety hazards. Not only can a worker be injured, or worse, by falling through a hole, there is also a risk of heavy objects falling and striking someone below.

Work sites must be continually surveyed as the job progresses for new holes, which must be covered or guarded without delay as soon as the hazard is created. Floor holes must either be covered with material larger than the hole that is capable of supporting the maximum weight re-



quired, or access must be restricted with rails or other barriers. Ensure that coverings are well-secured over the opening and will support at least twice the combined weight of personnel, equipment, and other materials that could be present on the cover at any one time.