



Building Historical Survey Water tower

Tala Wadeh

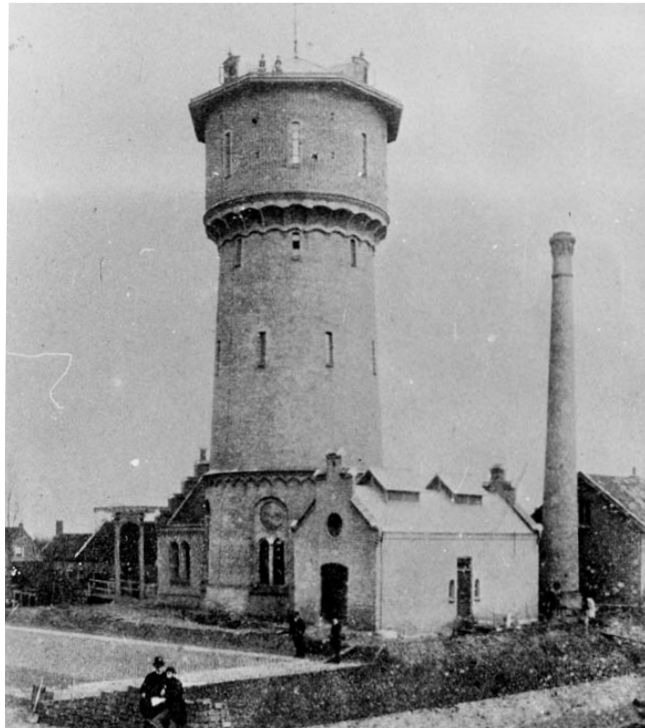
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Construction History

The Sliedrecht water tower was built in 1886 as part of the region's first water supply infrastructure. The construction was initiated by the public limited company Maatschappij tot Exploitatie van Waterleiding in Nederland, based in Amsterdam, with financial support from, among others, the beer brewer Gerard Adriaan Heineken. Architect Schotel was responsible for the design of the tower, which was built on a floodplain near Het Zaagje, along the banks of the Merwede River.

Before construction began, soil investigations were carried out by C. Hoogendoorn Kz. from Giessendam. These studies revealed that the subsoil consisted of a layered combination of clay, fine sand, and peat, with coarse sand at greater depths. This provided a stable foundation, essential for the tower's construction.



The construction of the tower took two years and was completed on December 22, 1886, with a one-week delay due to unfavorable weather conditions. The total cost amounted to f 185,000. The tower was directly connected to an extensive water supply network, with cast iron pipes transporting the purified water from the tower to Sliedrecht, Giessendam, and later even Papendrecht.

The water tower site was functionally equipped and included, besides the tower itself, a machine room, filtration buildings, and several service houses. A small bridge over Het Zaaigat provided direct access to the tower from the machinist's residence (A 238, now Rivierdijk 124).

Throughout the 20th century, the infrastructure was continuously adapted to technological advancements. In 1894, the water pipes had to be laid 50 cm deeper due to frost issues. Later, in 1975, the

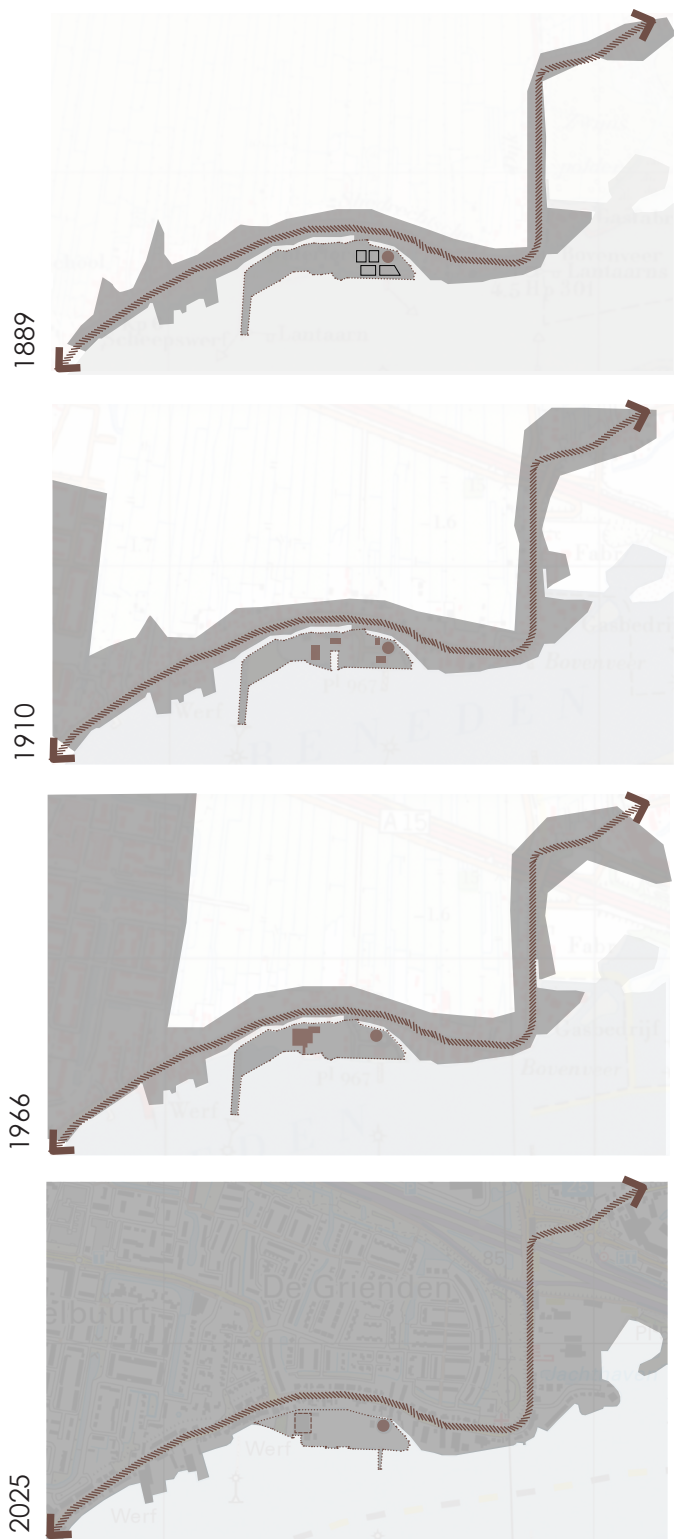


tower was decommissioned following the merger of water supply companies, after which the regional headquarters was relocated to Gouda. However, the tower was preserved as an industrial monument and remains a landmark in the Sliedrecht landscape.



The adjacent Het Zaagje developed into a vibrant area, both industrially and recreationally. It housed a shipyard and a stone quay, among other facilities. The youth used the area for play and recreation, while fishermen and shipbuilders carried out their daily activities. This industrial and social character has contributed to the historical significance of both the water tower and Het Zaagje within Sliedrecht.





Urban development history

The urban development of Sliedrecht is closely linked to its location along the Merwede River and the rise of the hydraulic engineering and dredging industry. Until well into the 19th century, the town primarily consisted of a linear settlement along the dike, with homes and businesses situated directly on the waterfront. The water tower and the Het Zaagje site played a crucial role in the further expansion and modernization of the town.

The development of water infrastructure

Before the construction of the water tower in 1886, Sliedrecht relied on rainwater and shallow wells, which led to issues with drinking water supply and public health. The arrival of the water tower and its associated pipeline network marked a significant step in urban development, as it not only improved public health but also supported industrial growth. The tower was built outside the dike, on an elevated site near Het Zaagje, an area already used for shipbuilding and sawmills. The choice of this location was strategic: it was close to the river, facilitating transport and water supply, and provided ample space for the expansion of the water infrastructure.

Het Zaagje as an industrial and social Hub

From the late 19th century, Het Zaagje developed into a dynamic industrial area, with shipyards, timber storage facilities, and workshops for hydraulic engineering constructions. At the same time, it became a popular spot for local youth, who played, swam, and spent time around the warehouse, the slipway area, and the basalt blocks along the riverbank.

During the 20th century, Sliedrecht expanded further inland. The traditional linear development along the dike saw the addition of more side streets,

creating compact residential neighborhoods. As a result, the town's center of gravity gradually shifted from the river toward higher-lying areas.

The Impact of the water supply and modernization The establishment of a regional water supply network enabled Sliedrecht to grow further. From the early 1900s, neighboring municipalities such as Giessendam and Papendrecht were also connected, making the region more economically attractive to new businesses and residents.

With the growth of industry in the 20th century, the area surrounding the water tower and Het Zaagje became increasingly urbanized. The tower itself was decommissioned in 1975 following the integration of Sliedrecht's water company into a larger regional network. Nevertheless, the tower remained an important landmark in the local landscape.

Current urban context

Today, the water tower remains a striking feature in Sliedrecht's urban fabric. Although its original function as a water supplier has disappeared, the tower continues to symbolize the town's historic industrial growth. Het Zaagje and its surrounding areas present opportunities for redevelopment, where both the industrial heritage and the scenic qualities of the floodplain can be preserved.



Construction history

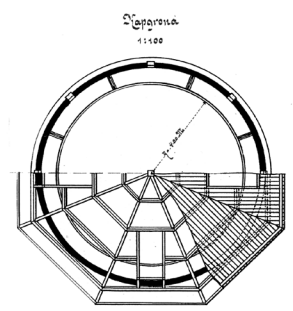
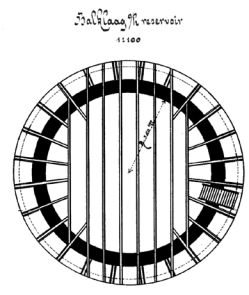
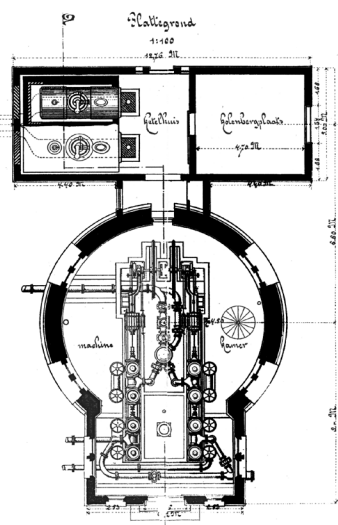
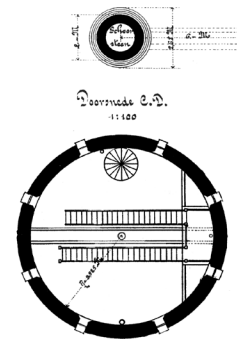
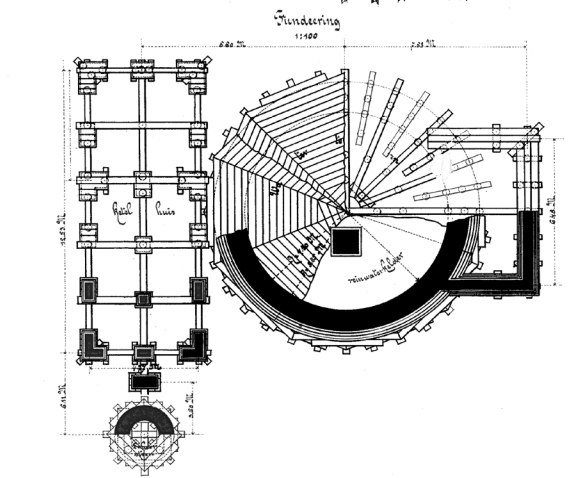
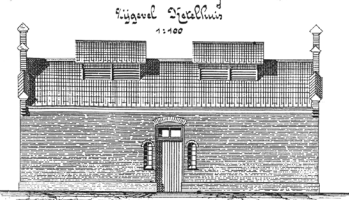
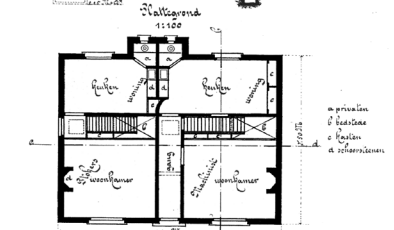
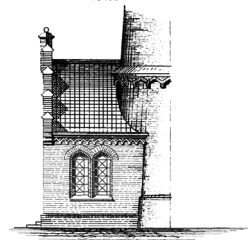
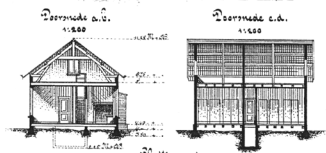
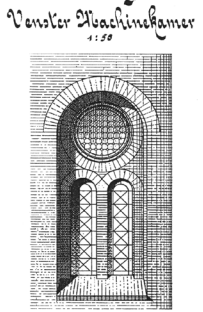
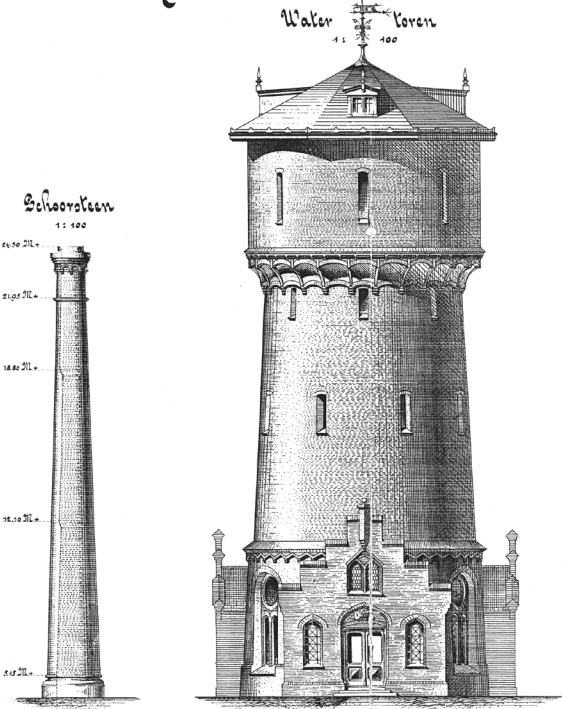
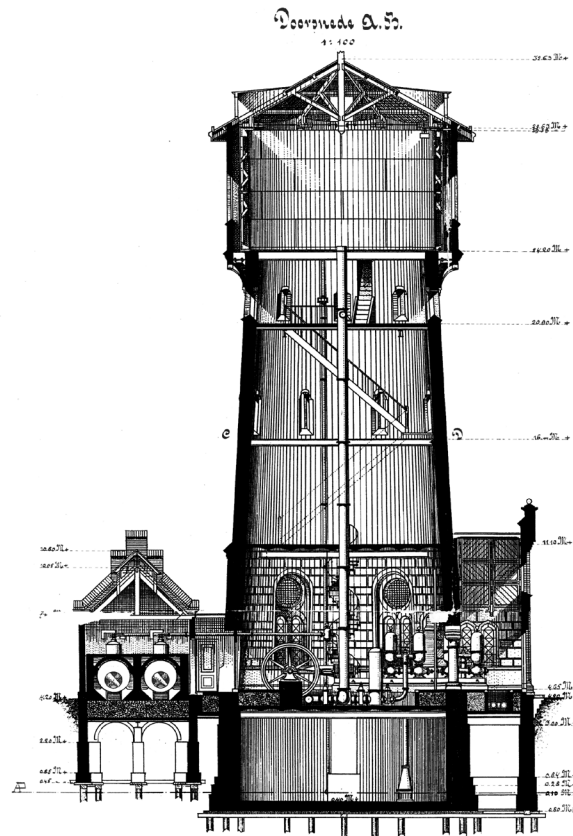
At the base of the tower was the machine room, where pumps and filters purified the water before it was distributed via a network of cast iron pipes to Sliedrecht, Giessendam, and later Papendrecht. Access to the tower was provided by a five-meter-wide wooden drawbridge over Het Zaaigat. In addition to the tower itself, the site included several auxiliary buildings, such as a filtration facility, a bunker, and service residences. The machinist lived in a service house on Rivierdijk 124 (formerly A 238) and had direct access to the tower via a small bridge.

Throughout the 20th century, the tower was modified to improve efficiency. In 1894, the water pipes had to be buried 50 cm deeper due to frost issues. In the 1960s, water meters were installed in households, revealing unauthorized connections. In 1975, the tower was decommissioned following the merger of water supply companies, and Sliedrecht's water company was integrated into the regional utility Oasen, headquartered in Gouda. However, the tower was preserved as an industrial heritage site and remains an iconic landmark in Sliedrecht today.

Het Zaaigje, the area surrounding the tower, developed into an industrial and recreational zone. It housed a shipyard and a stone quay, among other facilities. The local youth used the area for play and leisure, contributing to the site's social and historical significance within Sliedrecht.

WATERLEIDING-SLIEDRECHT

Waterkoren, Kachelhuis met Schoorsteen en Machiniekoning



Rotterdam December 1885
Jansen
 Bv.



Current State of the Water Tower

The tower itself remains in relatively good condition from the outside, though some structural concerns are evident. The transition between the base and the main shaft is marked by decorative brickwork, while the water reservoir's projecting masonry is supported by a steel framework filled with masonry trough vaults. The exterior also features various windows, including arched openings in the machine room, slot-like ventilation windows in the shaft, and tall slits near the top. However, many of these openings have been sealed off—either bricked up or covered with wooden boards—reducing their functional and aesthetic impact. Cracks in the masonry indicate localized structural weakening, and moisture-related damage is evident in certain areas.

Inside, the tower's architectural grandeur remains partially intact. The most striking interior feature is the transition from the entrance hall to the main tower, marked by dividing arches and a central cast-iron column with a decorative capital. The original steel floor structure above the machine room, composed of steel I-beams and masonry trough vaults, is still in place. However, much of the tower's operational heart—the pump installations and mechanical systems—has been lost over time.

The Entrance Hall (Voorportaal)

The entrance hall, which served as a prestigious entryway to the tower, is characterized by a stepped gable facade with a double-paneled door beneath a shallow pointed arch. On either side, two additional pointed-arch windows feature finely crafted steel tracery. Above the doorway, a foundation stone bears the year 1886, emphasizing the tower's historical significance. The stepped gable is adorned with decorative brick projections, and the roof retains its original cross-patterned

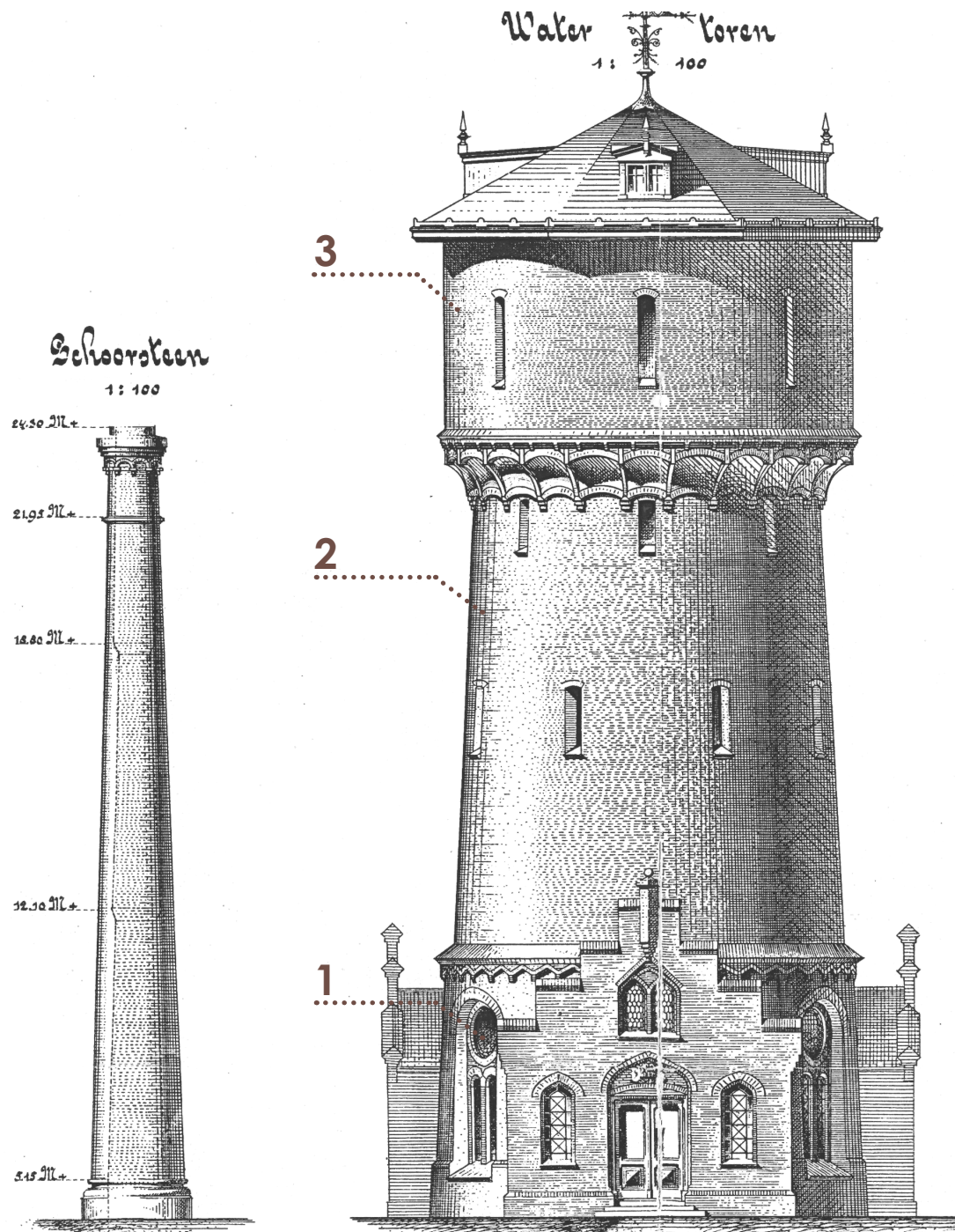


files. Though the entrance hall still showcases its architectural refinement, its structural state is uncertain due to a lack of recent detailed inspections.

Annex Buildings: Boiler House and Outbuildings

Unlike the main tower, the annex buildings, including the former boiler house, are in a state of ruin. These single-story structures, featuring simple segment-arched windows, were built with an execution that differs slightly from the original plans. They once had decorative brickwork along the roofline and a prominent chimney on the west facade. However, years of neglect have left these buildings severely damaged. The boiler house, once a key component of the water supply system, recently had its roof removed due to safety concerns. Its walls are heavily deteriorated, suffering from extensive moisture damage. Wooden doors are missing, and window frames are either severely decayed or completely gone.

Nature has begun reclaiming the site, with vegetation overtaking the annexes, further destabilizing the remaining walls. Without intervention, these structures may not withstand further exposure to the elements.



Exterior

Completed in 1886, the Sliedrecht water tower is a striking example of 19th-century industrial architecture. The structure has a cylindrical shape, standing 32.5 meters tall with a diameter of approximately 13 meters. Built from brick masonry, the tower has a robust appearance, befitting its functional purpose. The brick facades feature characteristic bonding patterns that enhance the structure's strength. The upper section of the tower houses an iron water reservoir with a capacity of 300 m³, encased within a stone shell. This design served both functional and aesthetic purposes: the stone cladding protected the iron reservoir from temperature fluctuations and corrosion, while the vertical articulation and staggered detailing gave the structure a stately appearance.

Facade Composition and Detailing

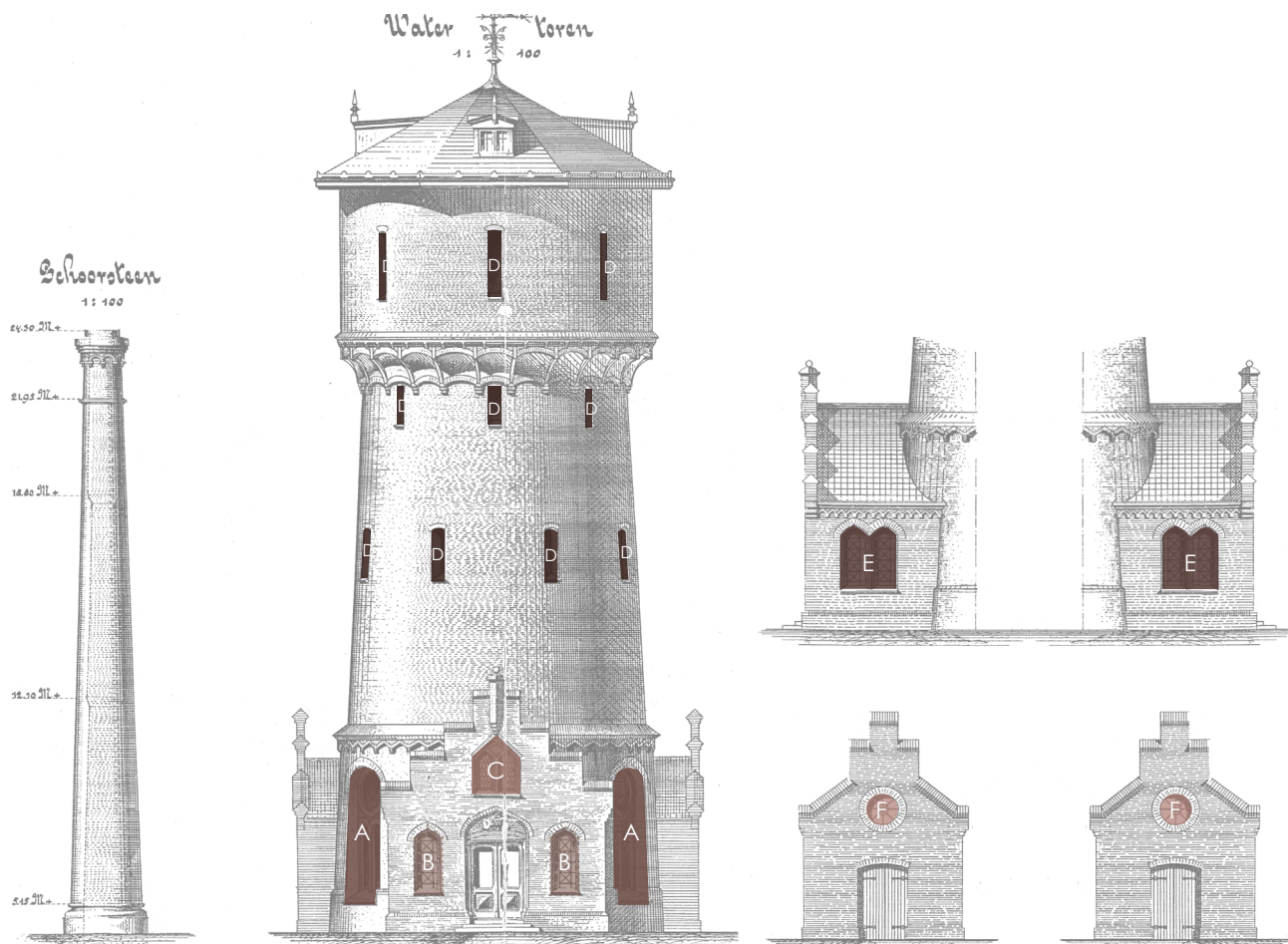
The tower's facade is divided into distinct zones:

1. The Base – The lower section is relatively enclosed, housing the original machine room and pipelines. This part features a few small, functional window openings and an entrance gate.

2. The Middle Zone – This section includes larger, symmetrically placed windows with segmental arches, providing ventilation and natural light. The facade is enriched with decorative brickwork and pilasters (vertical masonry strips).

3. The Upper Zone – The most distinctive part of the tower, where the water reservoir is located. The facade here features decorative bands and corbels that support the reservoir's weight while adding aesthetic value.

The masonry exhibits characteristics of the late Neo-Romanesque style, marked by sturdy materials, rounded arches, and rhythmic facade compositions.



Access and Bridge Construction

Originally, the tower was accessible only via a five-meter-wide wooden drawbridge spanning Het Zaaigat. This bridge connected the machinist's residence at Rivierdijk 124 to the tower. This infrastructure was essential for the daily maintenance and inspection of the water installations.

Current Condition

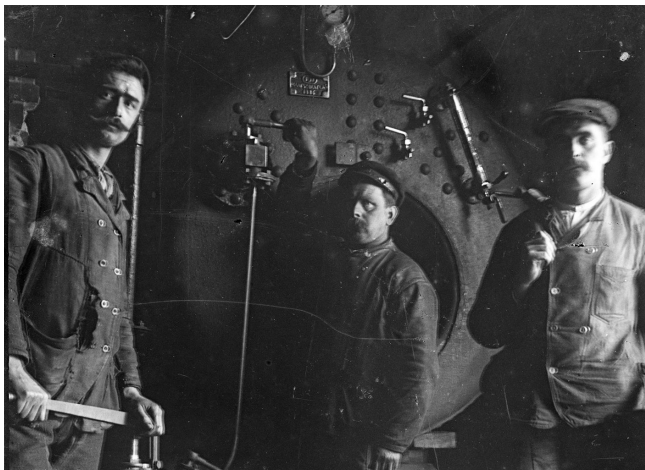
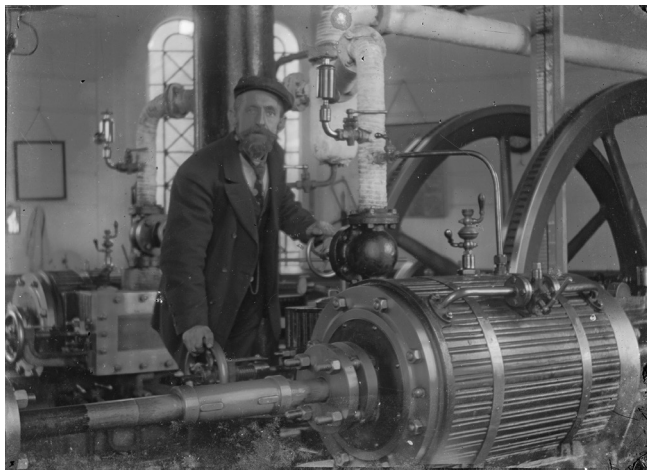
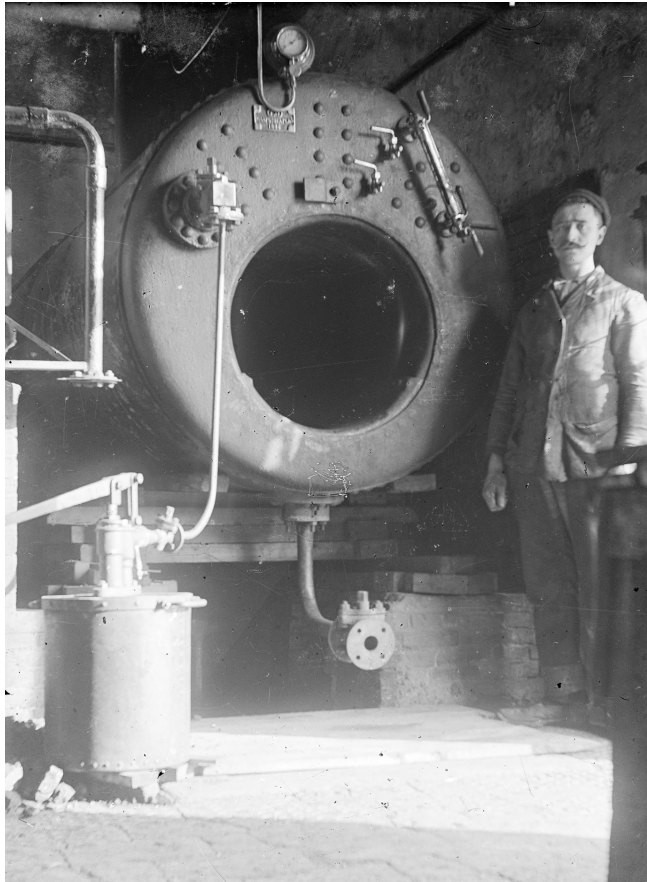
The exterior of the water tower remains in generally fair condition, but signs of weathering and deterioration are evident:

- **Brick Damage** – Some sections of the facade show signs of moisture and frost damage, resulting in cracks and masonry erosion.
- **Moisture Issues** – The foundation and lower parts of the tower exhibit moisture problems, likely due to the high groundwater level and prolonged exposure to the elements.
- **Biological Growth** – Moss and algae growth are visible on parts of the facade, indicating increased moisture retention.

Despite these issues, the tower remains a powerful example of industrial heritage and an important landmark in Sliedrecht. Restoration and repurposing plans could help restore the exterior to its historical glory while preserving its characteristic elements.







Interior

Layout and Spatial Structure

The interior of the Sliedrecht water tower was designed with a functional and industrial layout, characteristic of 19th-century hydraulic engineering structures. The tower consists of multiple levels connected by metal spiral staircases and ladders. The main interior spaces include:

1. Ground Floor – Machine Room

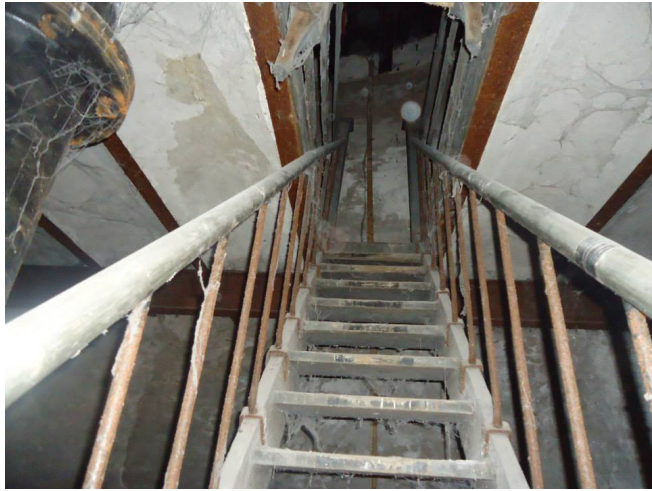
- The largest and most functional space within the tower.
- Originally housed the pump installations and filtration systems responsible for water purification and distribution.
- Features a high, open structure with sturdy brick walls and metal beams supporting the upper floors.

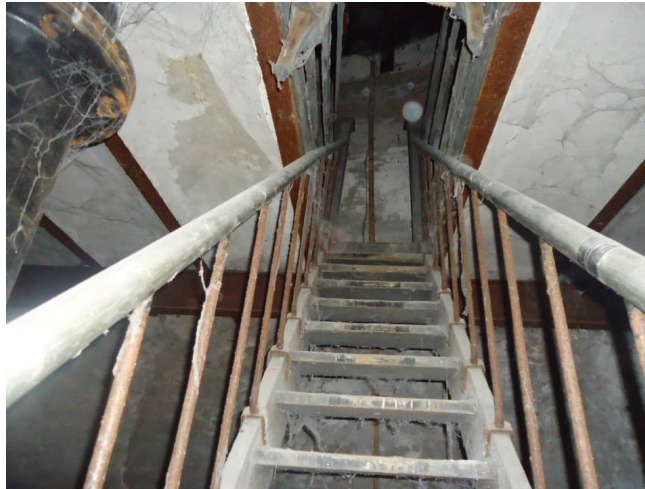
2. Middle Zone – Connection Level

- Contains pipes and support structures that transported water from the pumps to the reservoir.
- Narrow corridors and staircases provide access to the upper water tank.
- Walls still show traces of moisture and lime deposits from prolonged exposure to water and condensation.

3. Upper Level – Water Reservoir

- The most impressive space in the tower, housing the 300 m³ iron water reservoir.
- The reservoir is made of riveted iron plates and rests on a structure of metal beams and brick supports.
- Features a domed ceiling with ventilation openings to minimize moisture buildup.





Material Use and Finishing

The interior is primarily functional and minimally finished, with an emphasis on durability and ease of maintenance:

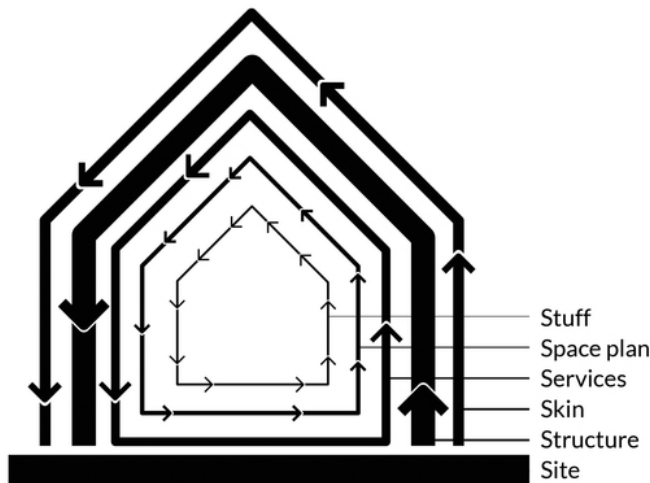
- **Brick Walls** – The interior walls remain uncoated, revealing the original red brick, with some cement repairs visible.
- **Metal Staircases and Platforms** – Made of cast iron and steel, showing signs of oxidation and wear.
- **Wooden Elements** – Some old wooden planks and beams remain, mainly in the connecting corridors and original technical spaces.

Current Condition and Conservation Challenges

The interior of the water tower remains largely in its original state but presents several restoration challenges:

- **Moisture and Rust Formation** – Prolonged exposure to moisture has led to rust damage on metal components such as staircases and support beams.
- **Deteriorating Masonry** – Some brick walls show signs of water infiltration and temperature-induced damage.
- **Limited Accessibility** – The steep staircases and ladders make the tower difficult to access for visitors without modifications.

	RIEGL +	AGE value	HISTORICAL value	INTENTIONAL COMMEMORATIVE value	NON INTENDED COMMEMORATIVE value	USE value	NEW-NESS value	(relative) ART value	RARITY value [+]	OTHER relevant values [+]
BRAND +										
SURROUNDINGS / SETTING [+]										
SITE										
SKIN (exterior)										
STRUCTURE										
SPACE PLAN										
SURFACES (interior) [+]										
SERVICES										
STUFF										
SPIRIT of PLACE [+]										



Value assessment

The internal of the Sliedrecht water tower focuses on the structural, functional, and spatial qualities of the interior. Although the tower has lost its original function, its interior remains an essential part of its heritage value. The valuation of the tower is based on the heritage value matrix, which assesses elements such as historical significance, architectural integrity, functional relevance, and urban context.

1. Structural and Architectural Value

Load-bearing structure: The tower is built with brick walls that are thicker at the base and gradually become thinner towards the top. This design contributes to stability and provides insight into late 19th-century construction techniques.

Water reservoir: The presence of the 300 m³ iron water reservoir, resting on a combination of brick walls and steel beams, is a unique and valuable feature within the tower. This reservoir demonstrates the innovative water storage techniques of its time.

Brickwork details: Original brickwork details are still visible inside, including segmental arches above doorways and niche-shaped recesses in the walls, which originally housed pipes and maintenance features.

Metal stairs and platforms: The cast-iron and steel staircases, connecting walkways, and platforms are largely original and exemplify the sturdy industrial construction style of the 19th century. Despite wear and tear, these elements hold high architectural value.

2. Functional and Spatial Value

Layout: The vertical organization of the tower, with a clear separation between the machine room (ground floor), pipe shafts (middle zone), and the

water reservoir (upper level), illustrates the tower's original role as a water distribution system.

Spatial experience: The tower's interior has a monumental feel, with high vertical sightlines that emphasize its original function as a water storage facility. The open nature of the upper floors enhances the spatial experience.

Natural light: Although the tower has limited window openings, the existing vents and ventilation openings allow subtle natural light to enter, reinforcing the industrial ambiance.

3. Historical and Experiential Value

- **Industrial heritage:** Although the original pump installations and piping have mostly disappeared, the remaining structures—such as pipe suspension points and wall grooves—still provide a clear understanding of the tower's operation.

Authenticity: The interior has remained largely in its original state, with minimal modern modifications. This contributes to the authenticity and historical value of the building.

Visitor experience: The combination of height, raw industrial finishes, and historical elements makes the interior a fascinating space, offering potential for public access through guided tours or repurposed functions.

	AGE value	HISTORICAL value	INTENTIONAL COMMEMORATIVE value	NON-INTENTIONAL COMMEMORATIVE value	USE value	NEW-NESS value	(relative) ART value	RARITY value [+]	OTHER relevant values [+]
SURROUNDINGS / SETTING [+]	Oldest industrial area in Sliedrecht	Strong historical connection to water management	Symbol of Sliedrecht's role in hydraulic engineering	Landmark visible in the wider region	Potential for preservation and development			Unique geographical structure	Community concerns about overdevelopment
SITE		Strategic location during industrialization	Part of Sliedrecht's growth into a modern town		Not in use since 1975	Site degradation due to neglect			Significant for social and cultural interaction
SKIN (exterior)	19th-century materials	Original brickwork with plaster protection		Shows decay and weathering, adding historical depth		Potential for modern materials in renovation	Decorative masonry & window tracery		
STRUCTURE	Technological advancements of the 19th century		Symbol of industrial craftsmanship	Steel + masonry combo reflects period tech	Structural potential for adaptive reuse	Modern adaptation is costly		Few original water towers remain	
SPACE PLAN	Original spatial organization visible	Historic layout of water tower and annexes		Interior voids tell story of past use	Flexible for transformation				Some rooms are inaccessible due to decay
SURFACES (interior) [+]	Some original elements lost	Retains industrial atmosphere		Industrial wear tells a story	Reuse for new functions possible		Decorative iron elements remain		
SERVICES	Outdated and non-functional	Historic function of water supply	No longer in active use		Needs complete modernization	Expensive to restore plumbing & electrics			Historical role in clean water supply
STUFF	Many original elements missing	Some historic tools remain	No significant commemorative items	Remaining artifacts reflect past use			Little artistic significance		
SPIRIT OF PLACE [+]	High due to landmark status	Reflects industrial & water heritage	Strong civic identity	Emotional connection for older generations					Needs strong storytelling for public engagement



Value assessment of the municipality of Sliedrecht

Cultural-Historical Value

Built in 1886, the water tower is of high local cultural-historical significance and a unique structure due to its role in the region's water supply, contributing to public health and hygiene in Sliedrecht. Before the water supply system was established, drinking water was sourced from the Beneden-Merwede River, ditches, or wells, which were contaminated with bacteria and contributed to the spread of infectious diseases.

The water tower provided sufficient pressure to the distribution network, ensuring clean, running water for the town and helping to reduce disease transmission. The tower remained operational until 1975, serving for nearly 90 years.

Architectural-Historical Value

The architectural-historical value is moderate. Originally, the complex included the water tower, entrance hall, boiler house, a detached residence for the stoker and machinist, and a separate chimney. The latter two are no longer present.

The tower and outbuildings were designed in a cohesive style, characteristic of the late 19th century with eclectic elements. Architect Schotel (born January 21, 1845 – died October 20, 1912) designed sixteen water towers in the Netherlands. Compared to his other works, this tower is relatively modest in style and not a key part of his oeuvre.

Ensemble Value

The site has high ensemble value as a recognizable and functionally cohesive complex. The tower is a landmark in Sliedrecht with significant urban planning value due to its prominent position along the Merwede River and its visibility across the surrounding area.

Integrity and Rarity

The tower remains a relatively intact structure along with its outbuildings. Water towers as functional structures, with their characteristic shape and construction, are becoming increasingly rare.

Values in Elements

In heritage and monument care, the Valuation Methodology for Cultural Historical Heritage is often used, where colors such as blue, green, and yellow play a role. A commonly used method in the Netherlands is the Color Scale Method, also known as the Heritage Valuation Method.

The meaning of the colors may vary depending on the organization or study, but a common interpretation is:

Blue – High historical or architectural value (e.g., national monuments or iconic buildings).

Green – Important but not unique, worth preserving (e.g., municipal monuments or culturally and historically valuable buildings).

Yellow – Moderate value, potentially adaptable or redevelopable.

- Iron Water Reservoir (300 m³)

The core of the water tower, designed for water storage and pressure regulation.

One of the few remaining examples of this size and construction technique from the 19th century.

The combination of iron beams and brick support showcases technological advancements of that era.

Why blue? Without this reservoir, the tower would lose its primary function and much of its historical significance.

- Historical Inscriptions and Construction Markings

Engineers and masons left initials and construction marks during the building process.

These markings provide direct evidence of the tower's construction history.

Why blue? Such authentic details are rare and provide direct insight into the craftsmanship of the late 19th century.

- Foundation and Structural Design

Built on a stable combination of clay and sand, ensuring durability.

The brickwork thickens at the base and thins towards the top, a strategic design for stability.

Why blue? The tower's structural integrity depends entirely on this foundation.

- Brickwork and Facade Decorations

The tower features decorative pilasters and brick banding, characteristic of late 19th-century industrial architecture.

The neo-Romanesque elements highlight the architectural style of the time.

Why green? While crucial for the tower's appearance, similar decorative techniques exist in other industrial buildings.

- Machine Room (Ground Floor)

Originally housed pumps and filtration systems, essential for water distribution.

The original machines are missing, but the spatial layout remains.

Why green? The room provides insight into the tower's function, even without the original equipment.

- Internal Load-Bearing Structure (Iron Beams and Supports)

These iron and steel components support the tower's upper sections.

Illustrates the combination of masonry and metalwork common in industrial architecture.

Why green? Important for the tower's structure, but similar systems exist in other historical buildings.

- Metal Staircases and Ladders

These allowed maintenance workers to access different levels.

Though showing signs of wear and rust, they re-

main structurally significant.

Why green? They contribute to the industrial character of the tower but can be repaired or replaced if necessary.

8. Surroundings and Urban Significance

The tower remains a key landmark in Sliedrecht's landscape.

Its riverside location reflects the town's industrial and water management history.

Why green? While enhancing the heritage value, the setting is not an irreplaceable architectural feature.

- Windows and Ventilation Openings

Originally designed for airflow and natural light, but many have been sealed off.

Why yellow? Their functional role is minor, and modifications do not significantly affect the tower's heritage.

- Wooden Drawbridge Over Het Zaaigat

Provided access from the machinist's residence to the tower.

Why yellow? Historically relevant, but not critical to the tower's overall heritage value.

- Roof Structure and Materials


While some original materials remain, the roof has undergone several repairs.

Why yellow? Important for protection, but not a defining historical feature.

- Water Overflow System

Controlled excess water discharge from the reservoir.

Why yellow? A secondary functional component, with minimal impact on the tower's historical identity.

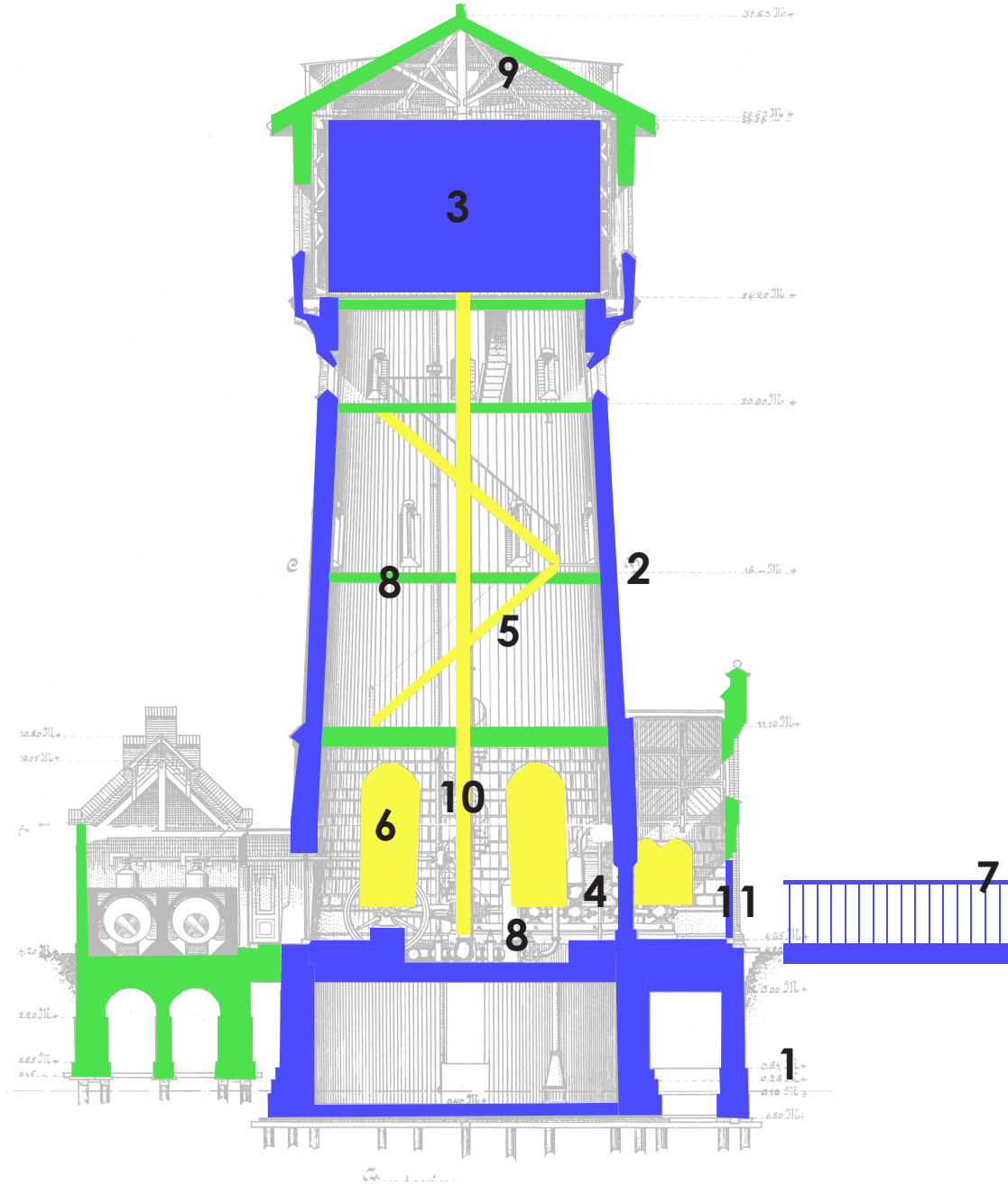
	 Very High Heritage Value	 Very High Heritage Value	 Very High Heritage Value
1. Foundation and Construction	The brickwork thickens at the base and thins towards the top, a strategic design for stability.		
2. Brick Façade and Masonry		The neo-Romanesque elements highlight the architectural style of the time	
3. Iron Water Reservoir (300 m³)	Without this reservoir, the tower would lose its primary function and much of its historical significance.		
4. Machine Room		The original machines are missing, but the spatial layout remains.	
5. Metal Staircases and Ladders		These allowed maintenance workers to access different levels.	
6. Window and Ventilation Openings			Originally designed for airflow and natural light, but many have been sealed off.
7. Wooden Drawbridge Over the Zaaigat			Provided access from the machinist's residence to the tower.
8. Internal Load-Bearing Structure		These iron and steel components support the tower's upper sections	
9. Roof Structure and Materials			While some original materials remain, the roof has undergone several repairs.
10. Water Overflow System			Controlled excess water discharge from the reservoir.
11. Entrance and Doorway Features	The tower remains a key landmark in Slie-drecht's landscape.		
12. Surroundings and Urban Integration		The tower remains a key landmark in Slie-drecht's landscape.	

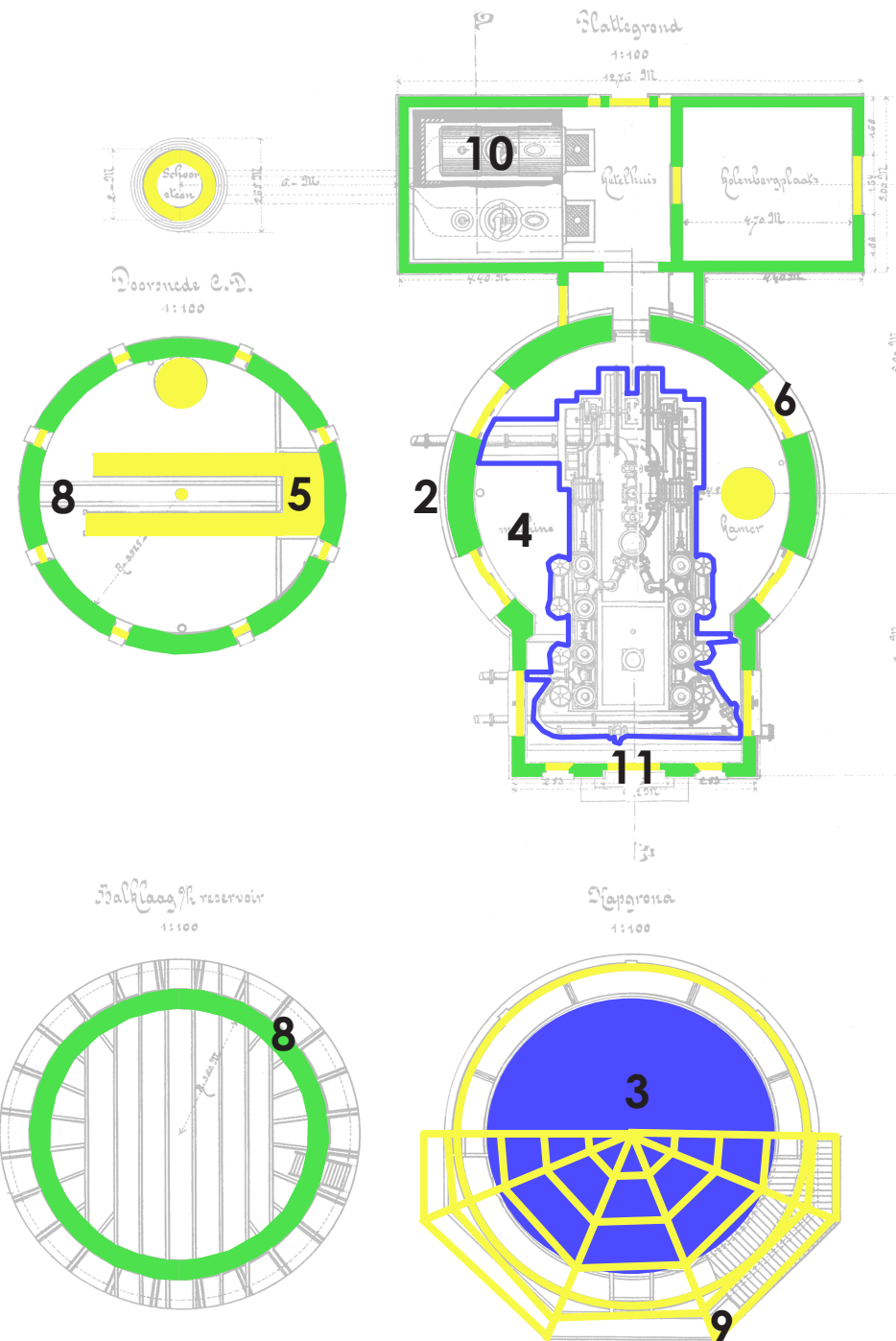
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- very high value
- high value
- medium value

1. Foundation and Construction
2. Brick Façade and Masonry
3. Iron Water Reservoir (300 m³)
4. Machine Room
5. Metal Staircases and Ladders
6. Window and Ventilation Openings
7. Wooden Drawbridge Over the Zaaigat
8. Internal Load-Bearing Structure
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10. Water Overflow System
11. Entrance and Doorway Features
12. Surroundings and Urban Integration





- very high value
- high value
- medium value

1. Foundation and Construction
2. Brick Façade and Masonry
3. Iron Water Reservoir (300 m³)
4. Machine Room
5. Metal Staircases and Ladders
6. Window and Ventilation Openings
7. Wooden Drawbridge Over the Zaaigat
8. Internal Load-Bearing Structure
9. Roof Structure and Materials
10. Water Overflow System
11. Entrance and Doorway Features
12. Surroundings and Urban Integration

Values in Elements (own perspective)

The Sliedrecht water tower contains various historical, architectural, and functional elements that contribute to its heritage value. Below is an assessment of each element based on historical, architectural, urban, and experiential value.

1. Foundation and Construction

Value: High

Explanation:

The foundation ensures the tower's stability, constructed with deep brick masonry resting on clay and sand. This reflects 19th-century engineering expertise in dealing with soil conditions and load-bearing requirements. Preserving the foundation is crucial for maintaining the tower's structural integrity.

2. Brick Façade and Masonry

Value: High

Explanation:

The façade consists of durable brickwork in a cross-bond pattern, reinforced with pilasters and decorative bands. These elements are characteristic of the construction period and contribute to both structural strength and aesthetic appeal. The masonry remains largely intact, demonstrating exceptional craftsmanship.

3. Iron Water Reservoir (300 m³)

Value: Very High

Explanation:

The iron reservoir is the core functional component of the tower, designed for water storage and pressure regulation. Its integration within the brick structure exemplifies advanced 19th-century water management techniques. The reservoir is one of the few remaining examples of its kind, making it a crucial historical element.

4. Machine Room (Ground Floor)

Value: High

Explanation:

Originally housing the pumps and filtration systems, the machine room was the operational heart of the tower. While the original machinery is gone, mounting points, pipe fittings, and structural reinforcements remain as evidence of its past function. Preserving this space enhances the understanding of the tower's historical utility.

5. Metal Staircases and Ladders

Value: High

Explanation:

The internal staircases and ladders, made of cast iron and steel, allowed maintenance workers to access different levels. Though showing signs of wear and rust, these elements retain their industrial character and remain vital to the building's original layout.

6. Window and Ventilation Openings

Value: Low

Explanation:

Small openings were integrated for ventilation and natural light, preventing moisture buildup and supporting machinery operations. While functional, they are secondary elements compared to the tower's structural and mechanical components.

7. Cast Iron Water Pipes and Connection Points

Value: High

Explanation:

The remaining cast iron pipes illustrate how the tower was connected to the municipal water system. These elements provide insight into early water distribution technology and contribute to the technical heritage of the structure.

8. Internal Load-Bearing Structure (Iron Beams and

Supports)

Value: High

Explanation:

The iron beams and supports distribute the weight of the reservoir and maintain the tower's stability. These elements highlight 19th-century industrial construction methods and remain in relatively good condition, making them essential to the building's longevity.

9. Historical Inscriptions and Construction Markings

Value: Very High

Explanation:

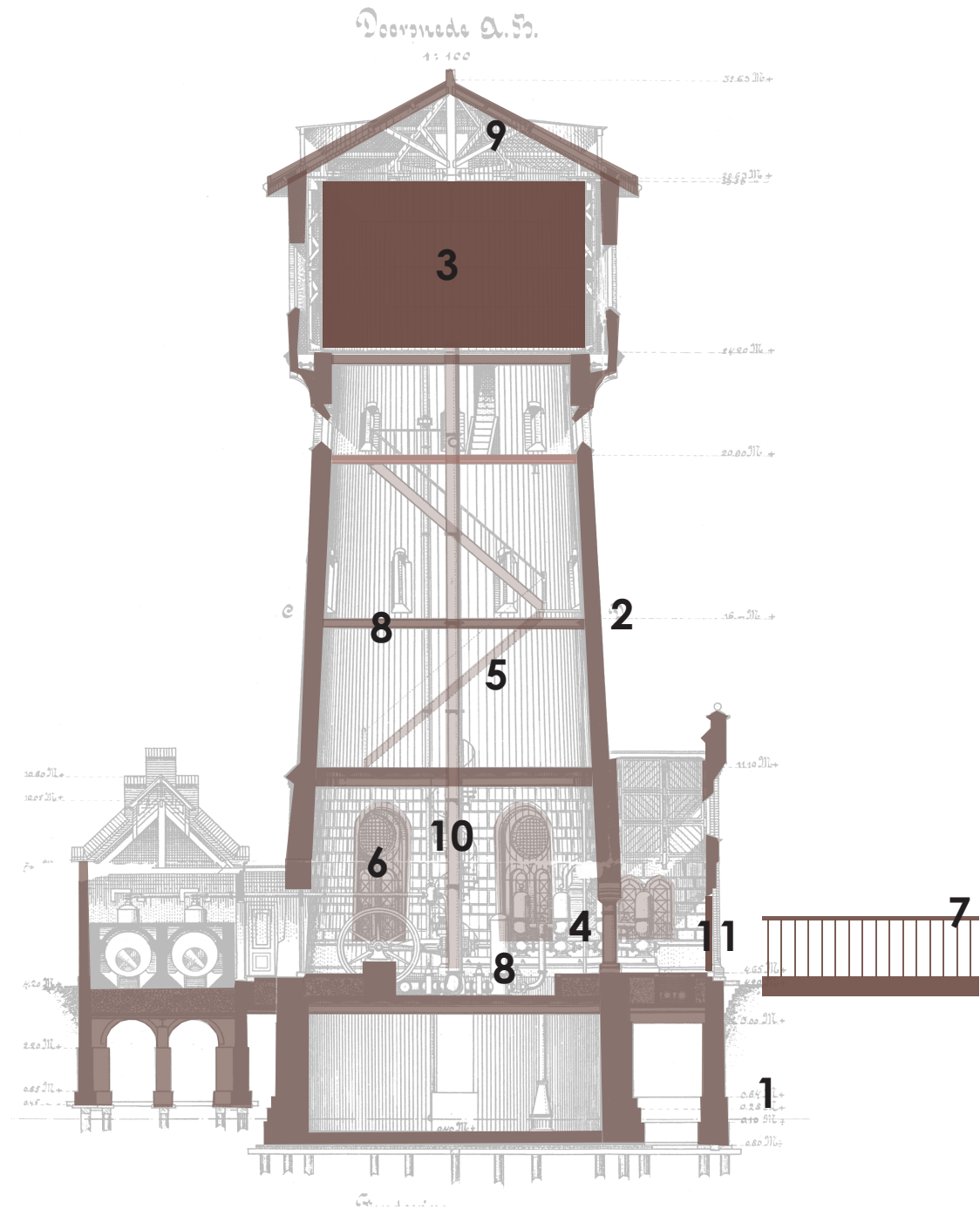
Markings left by builders and engineers, including engraved initials and numbered bricks, provide a direct link to the tower's construction history. These inscriptions are rare, authentic details that enhance the structure's historical significance.

10. Surroundings and Urban Integration

Value: High




Explanation:

The tower's position near the river and dike historically connected it to Sliedrecht's water management system. As an architectural landmark, it remains a vital part of the town's industrial heritage, reinforcing its historical and cultural value.



- very high value
- high value
- medium value

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-  very high value
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