

= Finnieston Crane =

The Finnieston Crane or Stobcross Crane is a disused giant cantilever crane in the centre of Glasgow , Scotland . It is no longer in working order , but is retained as a symbol of the city 's engineering heritage . The crane was used for loading cargo , in particular steam locomotives , onto ships to be exported around the world .

It is one of four such cranes on the River Clyde , a fifth one having been demolished in 2007 , and one of only eleven giant cantilever cranes remaining worldwide . The crane can be seen in the background of news broadcasts from BBC Pacific Quay .

= = History = =

Queens Dock was opened in August 1877 as a 61 acres (25 ha) dock for exporting goods from the centre of Glasgow . A 130 tonnes (130 long tons ; 140 short tons) steam crane was constructed west of the current one in the 1890s , until it was demolished to make way for a proposed bridge crossing between Finnieston Quay and Mavisbank Quay that was never built . The present crane , constructed as a replacement , was the last giant cantilever crane to be built on the Clyde .

It was commissioned in June 1928 by the Clyde Navigation Trust , the operators of the port and dock facilities in Glasgow , completed in 1931 and commenced operation in 1932 . The tower was built by Cowans , Sheldon & Company of Carlisle and the cantilever by the Cleveland Bridge & Engineering Company , under the supervision of Daniel Fife , mechanical engineer to the Clyde Navigation Trust . The contract to build the crane did not go to Sir William Arrol & Co . , who had significant experience in dock cranes , and built a number of other cranes along the Clyde including the Titan Clydebank , although Arrol was involved in the design of the foundations .

The total cost of the crane and foundations was GB £ 69 @, @ 000 , 85 % of which was met by the Trust . It is properly known as the " Stobcross Crane " or " Clyde Navigation Trustees crane # 7 " , but its proximity to Finnieston Quay , and the fact that it was intended to replace the previous Finnieston Crane , has led to its being popularly known as the Finnieston Crane .

= = Public artwork = =

In the summer of 1987 , a full @-@ size replica locomotive made from straw by local sculptor George Wyllie was hauled from the old Hyde Park Works in Springburn and suspended from the crane , then hauled back to Springburn and burned to reveal the metal framework underneath .

After Wyllie 's death in May 2012 , a giant question mark was suspended from the crane in an acknowledgement of his work . In 2013 , microphones were attached to the crane by American artist Bill Fontana , to record the sounds made by the structure .

= = Purpose = =

Connected to a spur of the Stobcross Railway , the crane 's primary purpose was the lifting of heavy machinery , such as tanks and steam locomotives , onto ships for export . As many as 30 @, @ 000 locomotives were hauled through the streets of Glasgow by Clydesdale horses , traction engines and diesel tractors , from the works at Springburn to the crane for export to the British Empire . The crane is (as of 1988) not in working order , but is retained as a symbol of the city 's engineering heritage .

= = Design = =

The Finnieston Crane is a giant cantilever crane , 174 feet (53 m) tall with a 152 feet (46 m) cantilever jib . It has a lifting capacity of 175 tons , and could perform a full rotation in three and a half minutes . It can be ascended either by a steel staircase or an electric lift , the only example of

such a personnel lift in Britain . It is also the only crane fitted with a horizontal rail to permit movement of the jigger hoist , an auxiliary crane intended to handle lighter loads .

The docks serviced by the crane were closed in 1969 , and have since been filled in and redeveloped . The North Rotunda (part of the defunct Clyde Harbour Tunnel) stands to the east of the crane , and the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre and the Clyde Auditorium to the west .

It is one of four such cranes on the Clyde , after the Fairfield Titan was demolished in 2007 , and one of only eleven giant cantilever cranes remaining worldwide . The crane can be seen in the background of Reporting Scotland broadcasts from BBC Pacific Quay and also in the backdrop of The Riverside Show on STV Glasgow .