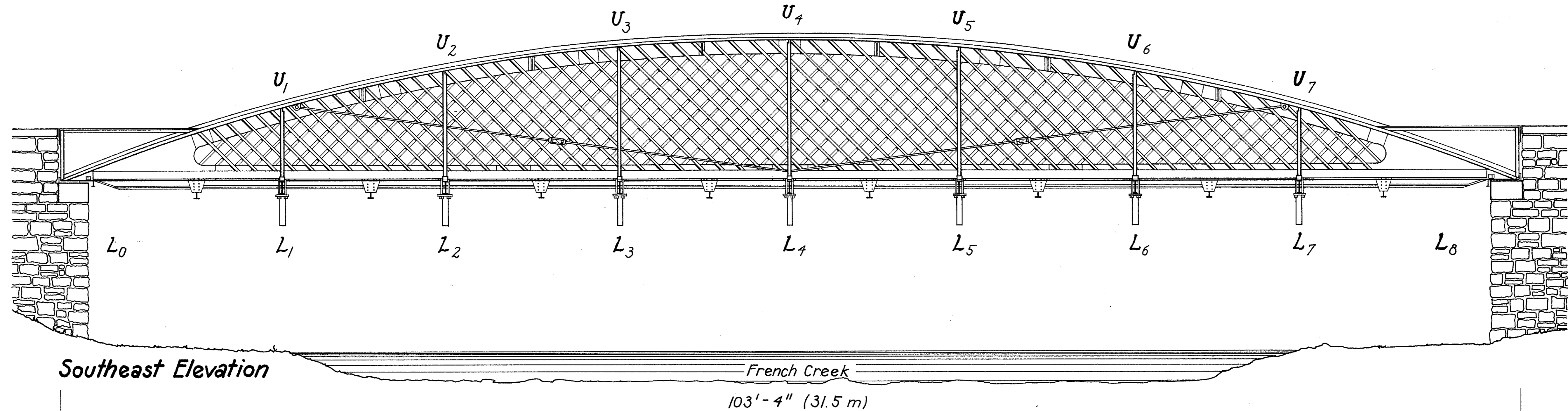


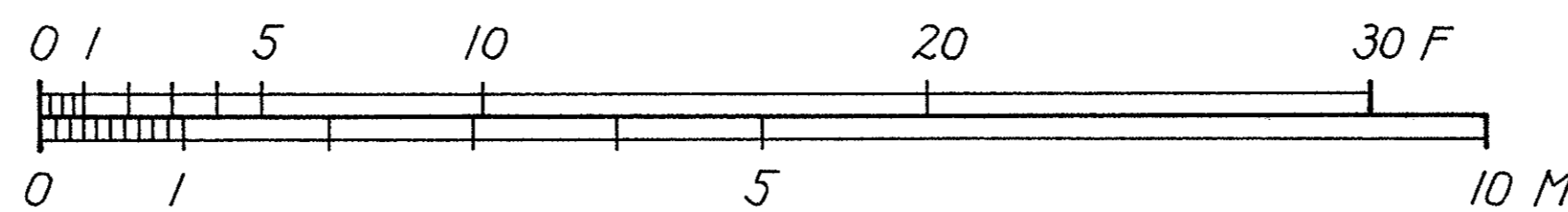
# HARES HILL ROAD BRIDGE

## KIMBERTON, PENNSYLVANIA • 1869



**Southeast Elevation**

French Creek  
103'-4" (31.5 m)



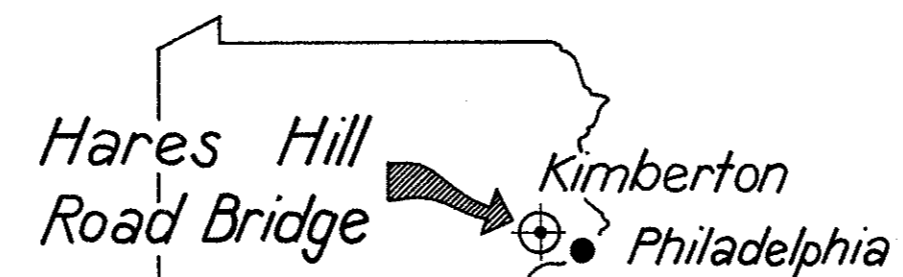
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

The Hares Hill Road Bridge, a single-span tied arch with lattice infilling was built in 1869 by Moseley Iron Bridge and Roof Company of Philadelphia to replace a ford where the road between Kimberton and Spring City crosses French Creek in Chester County, Pennsylvania. It is the only known surviving example of Thomas W.H. Moseley's "Wrought-Iron Arch Girder Bridge".

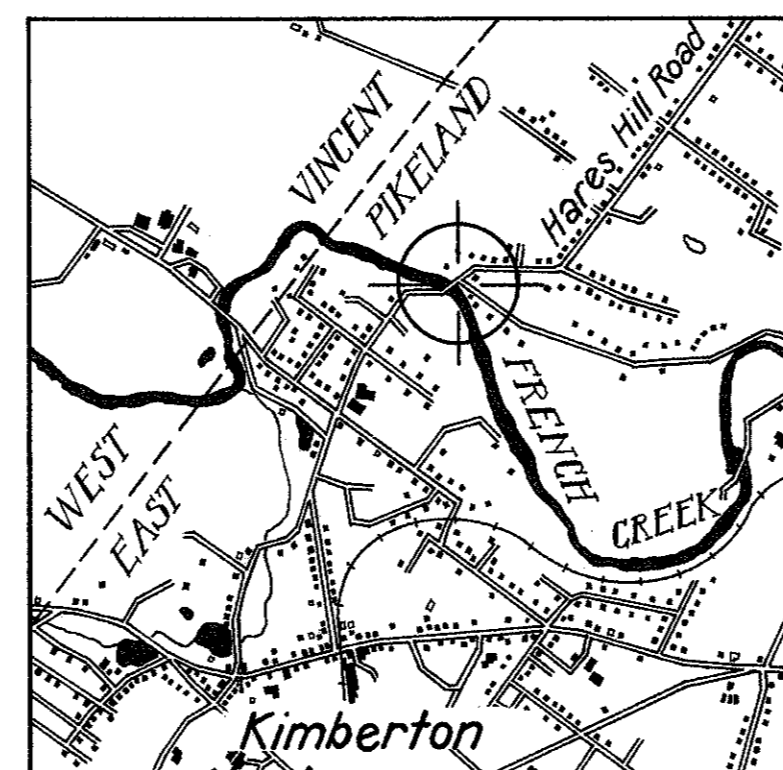
Moseley, who was known primarily for his riveted tubular arches fabricated from boiler-plate iron, developed the "arch girder" as an economic alternative for spans less than 100 feet. Patented in 1866, the design evolved over several years, but was always characterized by the distinctive upper chord formed by a pair of rolled "Z-bars" riveted together at the flange. The variation represented by Hares Hill Road Bridge was marketed as "Moseley's Wrought-Iron Lattice Girder Bridge".

The Hares Hill Road Bridge was one of the first iron highway bridges built in Chester County and is among the oldest surviving wrought-iron bridges in the United States. Although the deck and its supporting elements have been modified, the trusses and their abutments are an excellent visual representation of the vernacular designs that competed in the highway bridge market during the years immediately following the American Civil War.

**State map**



**Site map**



Based on U.S.G.S. 7.5 min. series topographic map, Phoenixville Quadrangle, 1955 (photorevised 1983)



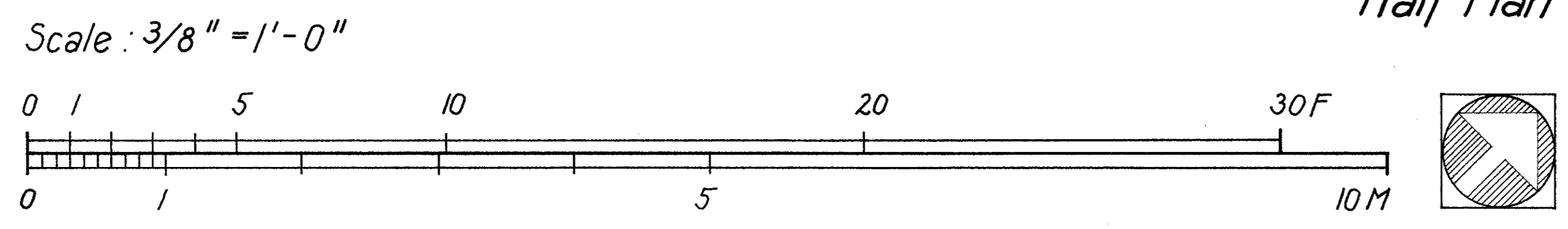
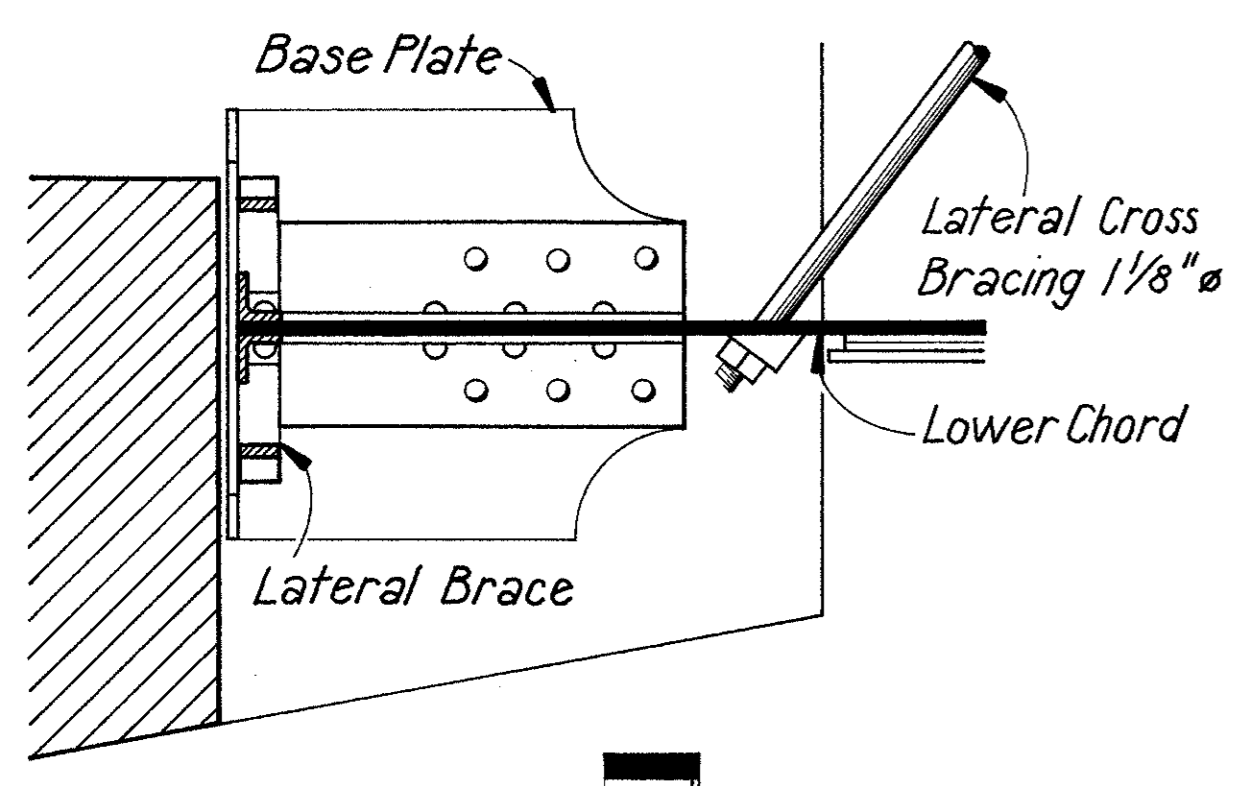
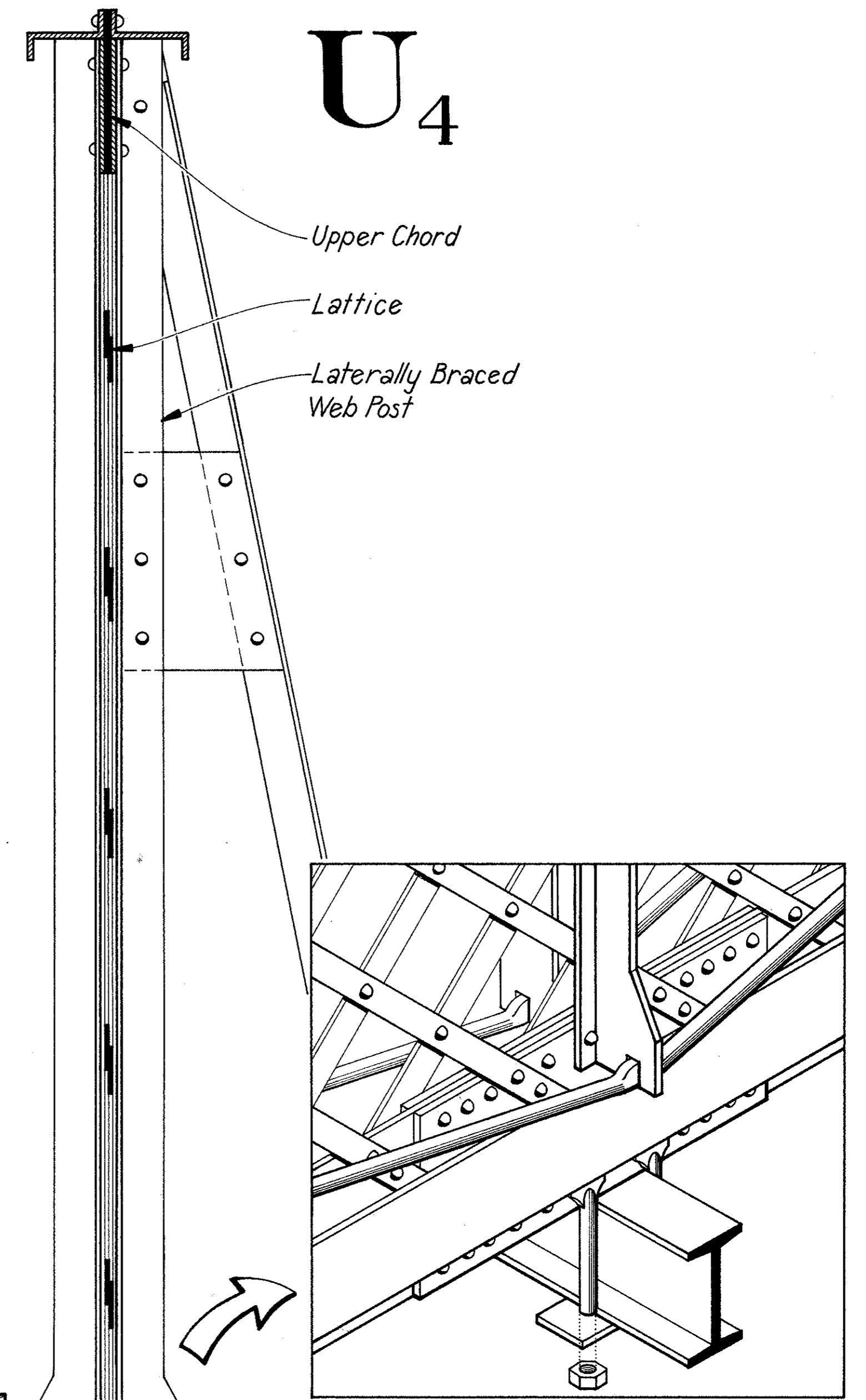
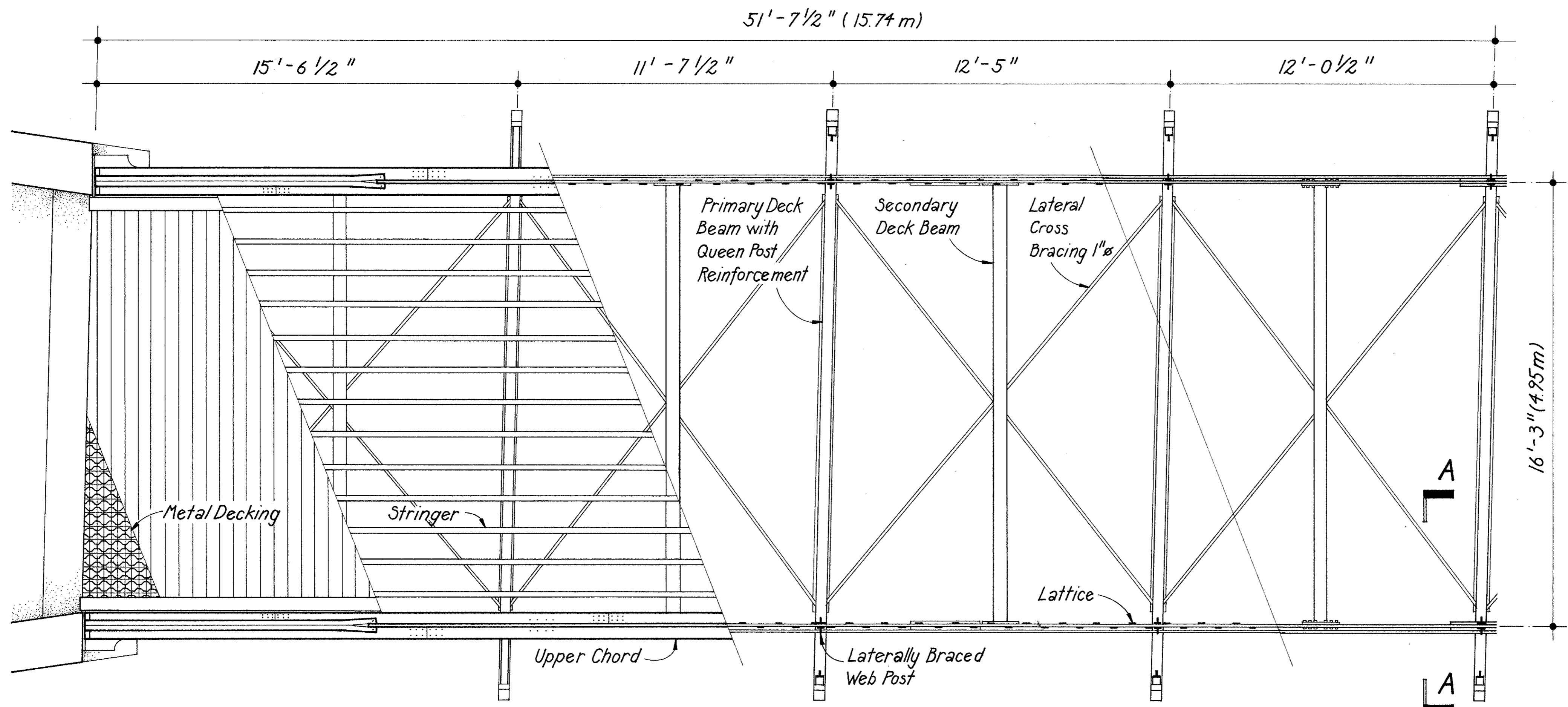
Scale 1:24,000

This recording project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), National Park Service. It is a long-range program to document historically significant engineering and industrial works in the United States.

The Cast-and Wrought-Iron Bridges Recording Project was cosponsored in 1991 by the Historic American Engineering Record and the West Virginia University Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology. Fieldwork, measured drawings, historical reports, and photographs were prepared under the general direction of Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, HABS/HAER; Eric N. DeLony, Chief and Principal Architect, HAER; Emory Kemp, Director Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology; and Dean Herrin, HAER Staff Historian.

The Recording Team consisted of Christine Ussler (Architecture Faculty, Lehigh University) Architect and Field Supervisor, Christine Theodoropoulos, P.E. (Architecture Faculty, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona); Wayne Chang (University of Notre Dame); Monika Korsós (Technical University of Budapest, Hungary, US/ICOMOS) Architectural Technicians; Robert W. Hadlow (Washington State University), William Chamberlin, P.E., Historians; and Joseph E. B. Elliott (Muhlenberg College), Photographer.

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD PA-208  
 SHEET 1 of 2  
 PENNSYLVANIA  
 HARES HILL ROAD BRIDGE, 1869  
 HARES HILL ROAD SPANNING FRENCH CREEK  
 CHESTER COUNTY  
 KIMBERTON  
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 CAST-AND WROUGHT-IRON BRIDGES RECORDING PROJECT  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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End Support

Section A-A

