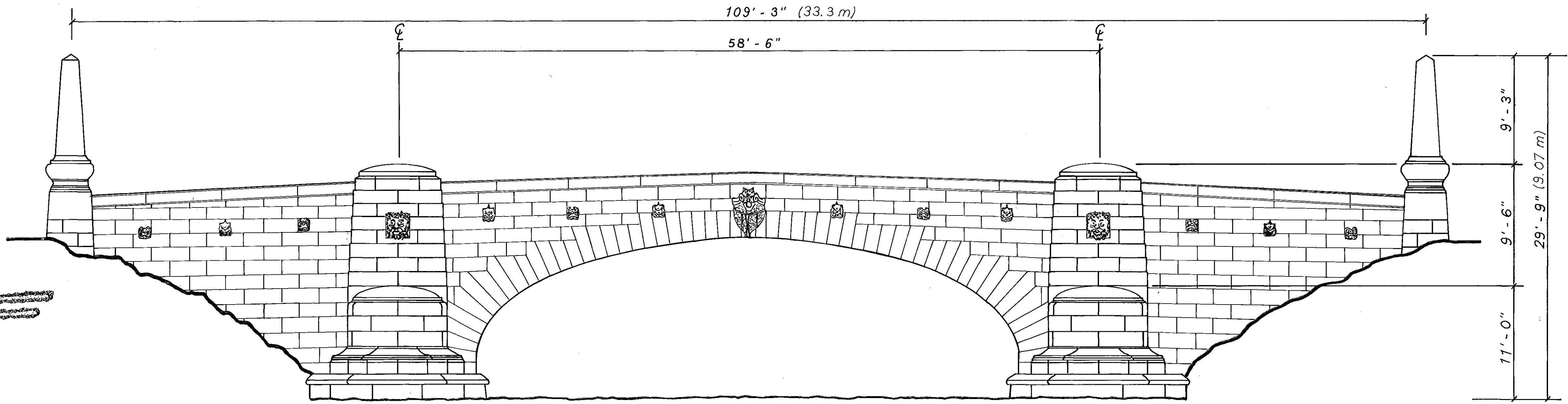
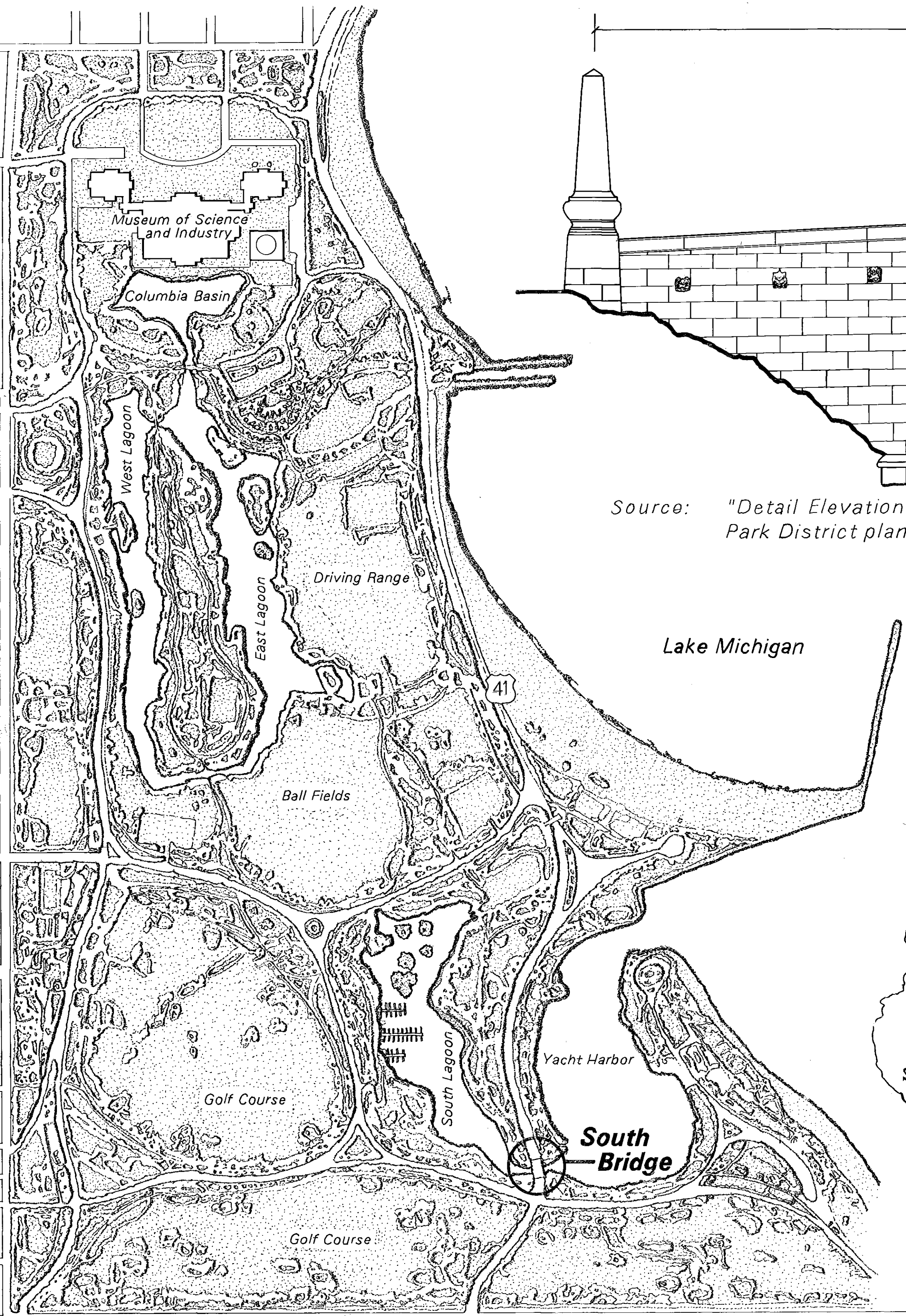


SOUTH BRIDGE

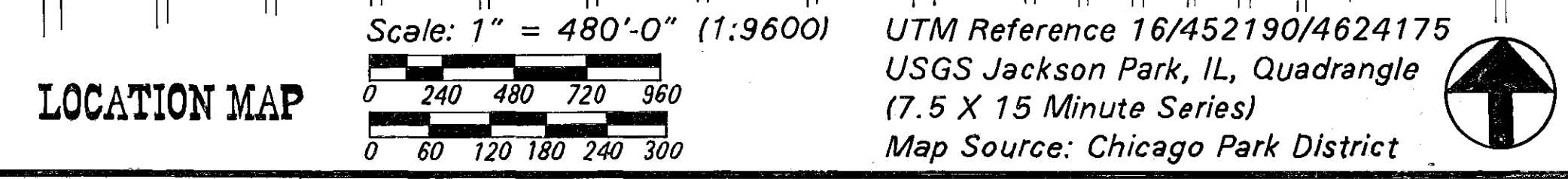
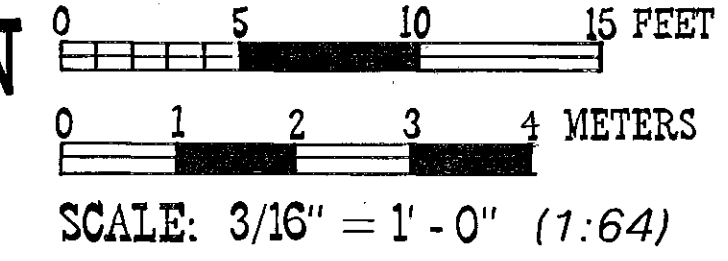
SPANNING JACKSON PARK LAGOON

1904 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Source: "Detail Elevation, South Bridge, Jackson Park, Chicago, Ill.," drawing, n.d. Chicago Park District plan files.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION



In 1894, the South Park Commission, administrator of Chicago's south side park system, retained the Boston-area landscape architecture firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot to refurbish Jackson Park, a lagoon-studded preserve on Lake Michigan. The redesign was ready a year later. In addition to new plantings, roadways, and recreational areas, it called for reshaping the park's two southern lagoons and spanning their connecting waterway with a new bridge. South Bridge, designed by Chicago architect Peter J. Weber, would be completed in 1904 as a 46-foot, barrel-vaulted, reinforced-concrete arch. As befit its highly visible location near the park's perimeter, the structure delivered a polished Beaux Arts statement, its spandrels clad in dressed ashlar limestone accented by sculpted heads of exotic animals.

If the bridge's exterior was striking, its interior construction was equally remarkable, employing a new reinforcing system patented by Detroit engineer Julius Kahn in 1903. The system's key was the "Kahn Trussed Bar," a steel rod flanked by flat wings designed to be cut and bent into a series of inclined fins. According to Kahn, concrete reinforced with such bars functioned like a truss, the steel fins acting as tension members and the concrete itself as compression members. Among the earliest examples of this influential reinforcing system, South Bridge is the oldest identified Kahn-patent bridge.

The Chicago Bridges Recording Project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program to document historically significant engineering and industrial works in the United States. The HAER program is administered by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Division of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, E. Blaine Cliver, Chief. The project was sponsored during the summer of 1999 by the City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor; and the Chicago Department of Transportation, Thomas R. Walker, Commissioner, and S. L. Kaderbek, Chief Engineer, Bureau of Bridges and Transit.

The field work, measured drawings, historical reports, and photographs were prepared under the direction of Eric N. DeLony, Chief of HAER. The recording team consisted of Architectural Field Supervisor James P. Hanley (Peoria, IL); Engineering Field Supervisor Justin M. Spivey (HAER); Architects Susan H. Gordon (University of Virginia), Karen L. Hassey (University of Virginia), Julia M. Koslow (University of Notre Dame), and Domagoj Kranjcevic (ICOMOS, University of Zagreb, Croatia); and Historians Jeffrey A. Hess (Minneapolis, MN) and Matthew T. Sneddon (University of Washington). Large-format photographs were taken by Jet Lowe (HAER). Bureau of Bridges and Transit Assistant Chief Engineer Christopher Holt served as department liaison.

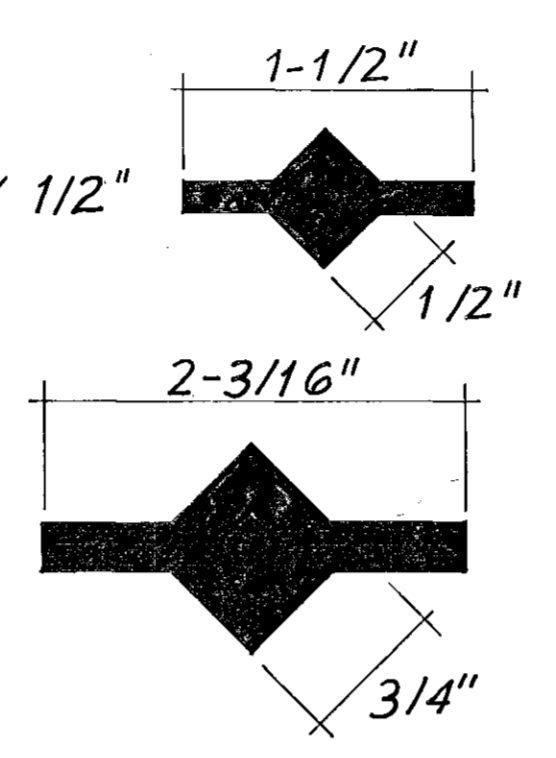
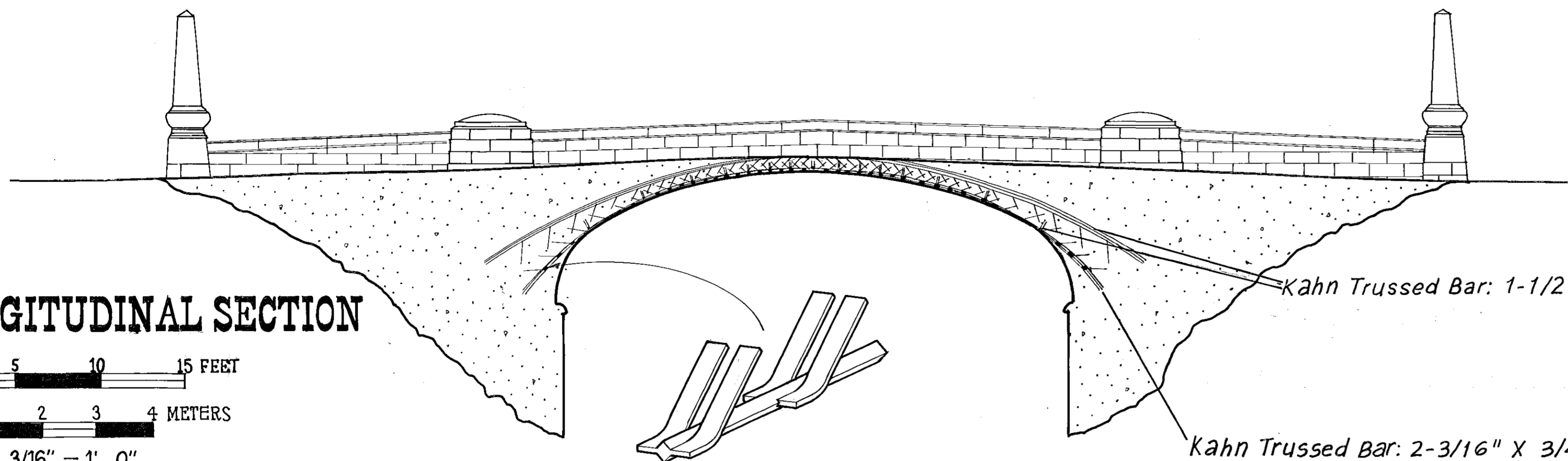
HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
 SHEET 1 of 2
 ILLINOIS
 SOUTH BRIDGE
 SPANNING JACKSON PARK LAGOON AT SOUTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE (US 41)
 COOK COUNTY
 DELINEATED BY: Susan Gordon and James Hanley, 1999 Lisa Gardner, 2000
 CHICAGO BRIDGES RECORDING PROJECT
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, INTERIOR
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 IF REPRODUCED, PLEASE CREDIT: HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NAME OF DELINEATOR, DATE OF THE DRAWING

Sources: *Trussed Concrete Steel Co., "South Bridge, Jackson Park, Chicago, Ill.," drawing, "approved for construction" 1904; and "Detail Elevation, South Bridge, Jackson Park, Chicago, Ill.," drawing, n.d. Both: Chicago Park District plan files.*

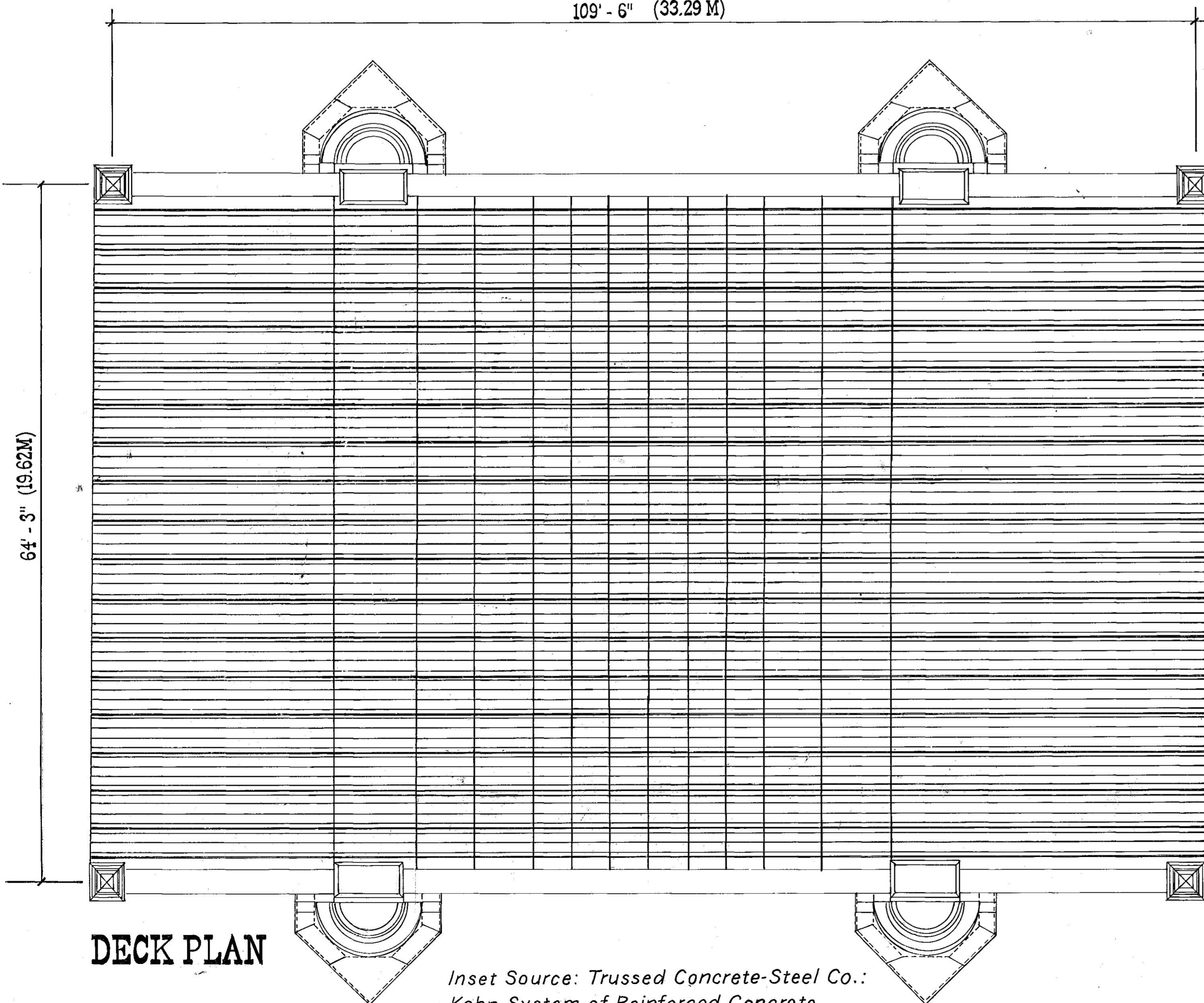
REINFORCING

LONGITUDINAL SECTION

0 5 10 15 FEET
0 1 2 3 4 METERS
SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"

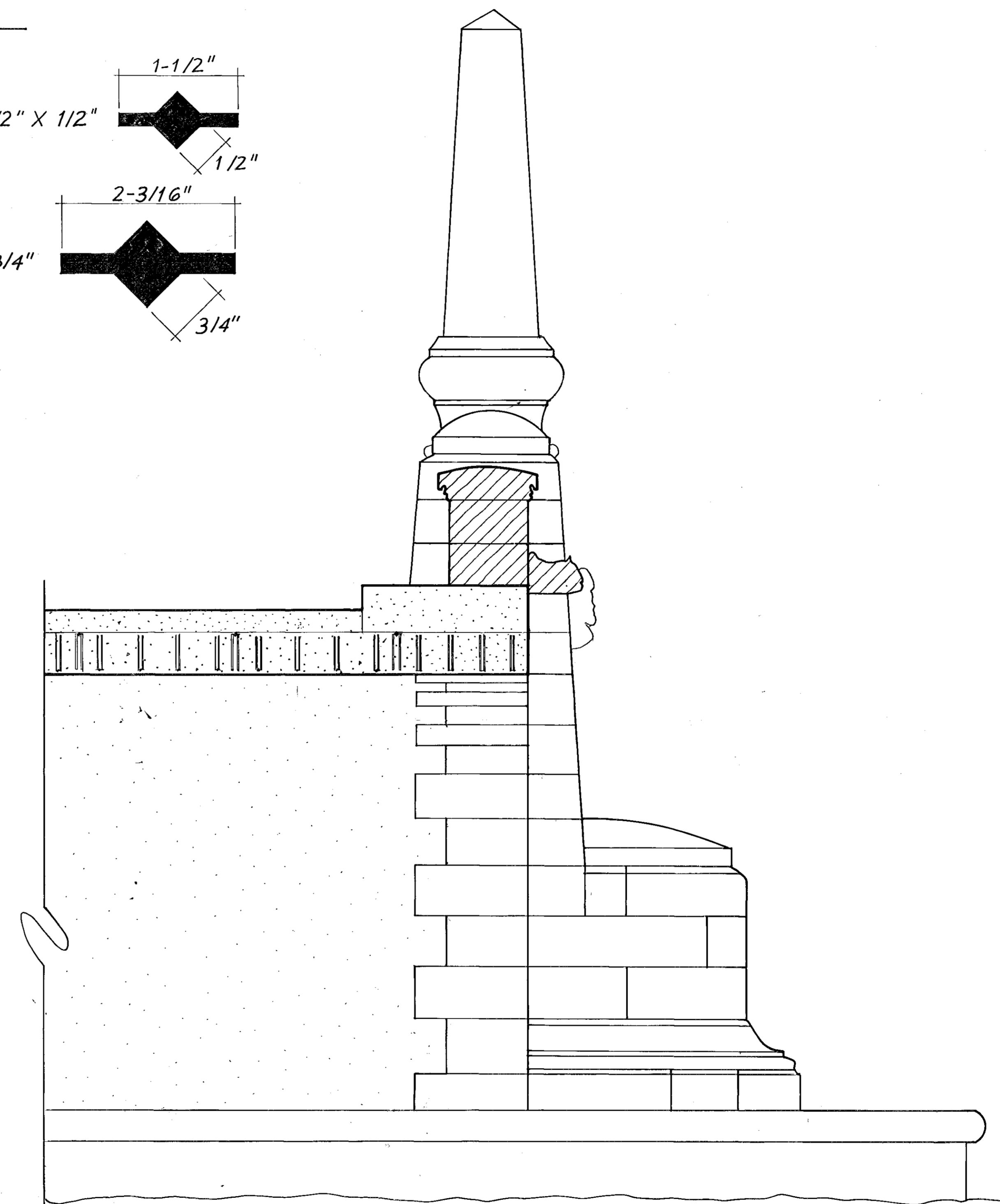


109' - 6" (33.29 M)



DECK PLAN

*Inset Source: Trussed Concrete-Steel Co.:
Kahn System of Reinforced Concrete
(Detroit, n.d.)*



TRANSVERSE SECTION

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 FEET
0 1 2 METERS
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

DELINEATED BY: Susan Gordon, 1999 Bejalework A. Haiye, 2000

CHICAGO BRIDGES RECORDING PROJECT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SOUTH BRIDGE
SPANNING JACKSON PARK LAGOON AT SOUTH LAKE SHORE DRIVE (US 41)
COOK COUNTY

ILLINOIS

HISTORIC AMERICAN
ENGINEERING RECORD

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IL - 146

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