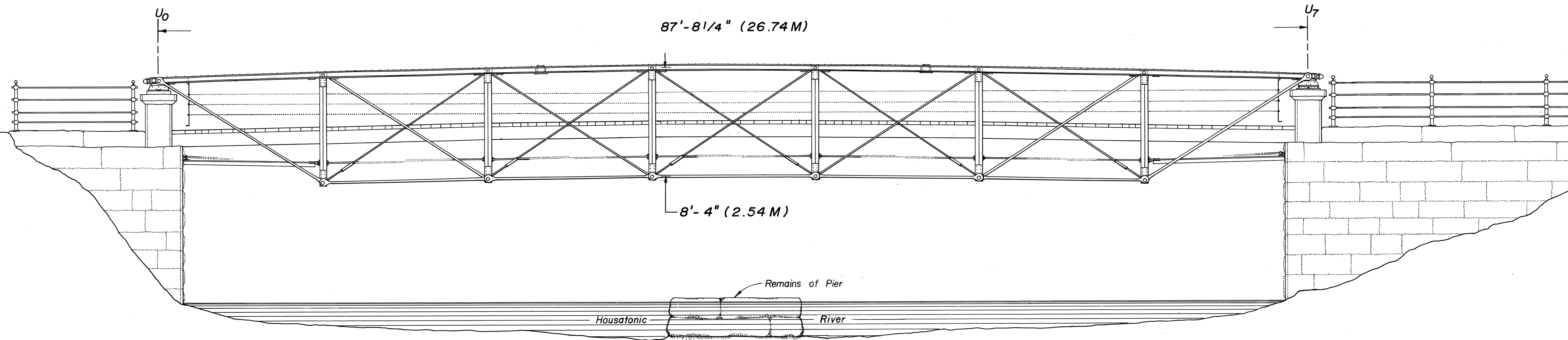


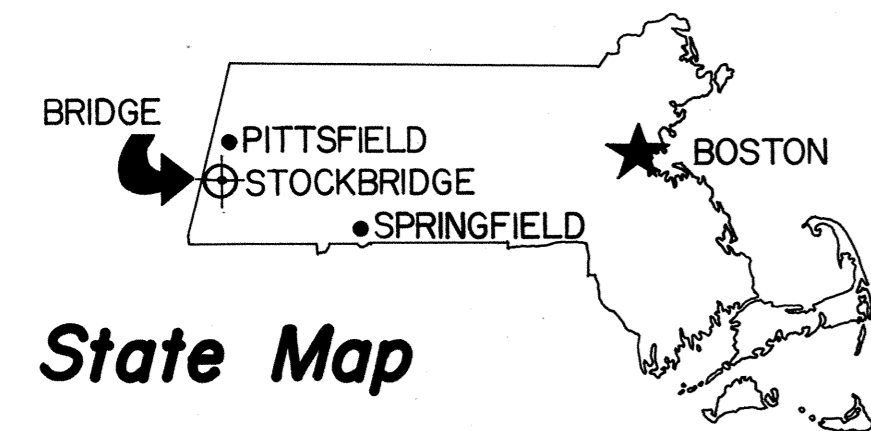
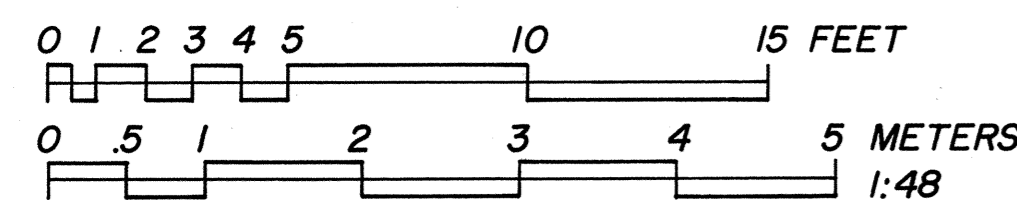
BUTLER BRIDGE • 1882

STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS



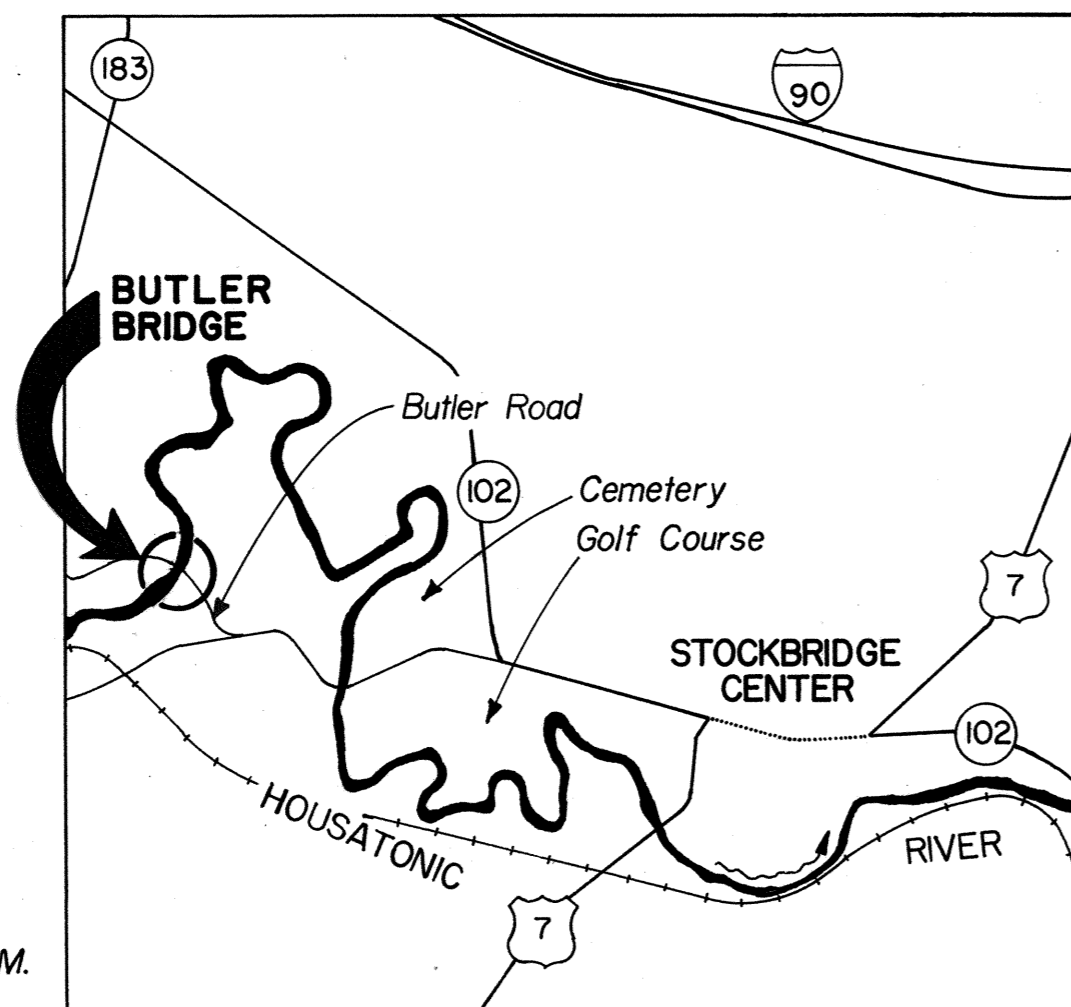
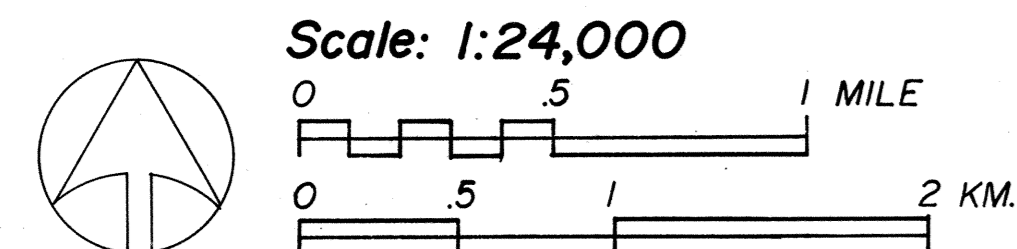
South Elevation

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



Local Map

UTM 18.66481.471058.
Based on U.S.G.S. 7.5 min. series
topographic map,
Stockbridge Quadrangle, 1973.



The Butler Bridge is a single-span, wrought-iron, half-through Pratt type truss, supported on masonry pillars. It is an apparently unique example of a small highway bridge designed by the pre-eminent American bridge engineer, George Shattuck Morison, who is remembered primarily for his long-span railroad bridges and his service with the Panama Canal Commission. Morison's involvement in the design and construction of a small highway bridge is unusual, and appears to have resulted from his personal and professional associations in the Stockbridge area.

One of Morison's close friends was Charles Edward Butler, a successful New York lawyer, with whom he had worked in his early law career. When a timber bridge needed to be replaced near his Stockbridge estate, Butler offered to share its cost with the town, and enlisted his friend and former law associate, George Morison, to draw up the plans. Although one can only speculate on Morison's reasoning, the half-through design of the bridge allowed clearance from floods without detracting visually from the landscape, while the masonry pillars added a decorative element to the essentially utilitarian design.

The Butler Bridge is the oldest metal truss bridge known to survive in Berkshire County, and one of the ten oldest truss bridges identified in the Massachusetts Department of Public Works database. It is also the only known surviving example of Morison's work in his native state.

The Massachusetts Historic Bridge Project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program to document historically significant engineering and industrial sites in the United States. The National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, administers the HAER program. The Massachusetts Department of Public Works, Jane F. Garvey, Commissioner, George R. Turner, Jr., Chief Engineer, and Stephen J. Roper, Historic Bridge Specialist; and the Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, co-sponsored the Massachusetts Historic Bridge Project with the cooperation of the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Elsa Fitzgerald, Acting Exec. Director. The field team under the direction of Eric DeLony, Chief and Principal Architect, HAER, consisted of Daniel L. Schodek, professor of architectural technology (Harvard University), field supervisor, Patricia Reese (Boston Architectural Center), Gary Kleinschmidt (Harvard University), Chris Payne (Columbia University), Morgen Fleisig (Harvard University), Mark Rowan (Catholic University of America), and Rudolf Sosef (Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands, US/ICOMOS), architectural technicians; Lola Bennett (University of Vermont), Patrick Harshbarger (University of Delaware/Hagley Museum and Library), and John Healey (University of Birmingham, England; US/ICOMOS), historians; and Marty Stupich (Massachusetts College of Art), photographer.

DELINEATED BY: MÖRGEN L. FLEISIG, 1990.
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORIC BRIDGE PROJECT
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

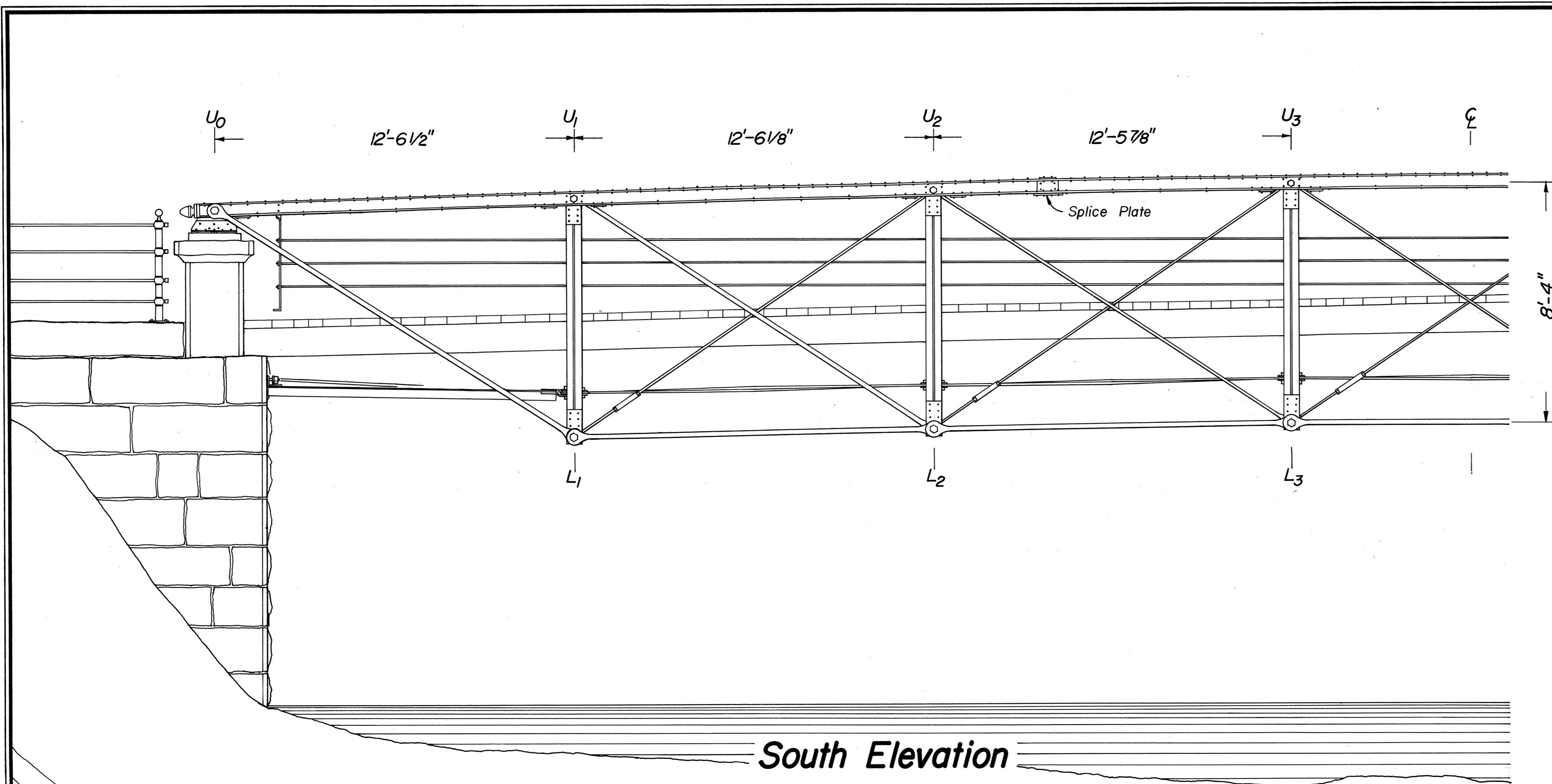
STOCKBRIDGE

BUTLER BRIDGE (LESTER BRIDGE) - 1882
Spanning the Housatonic River on Butler Road
BERKSHIRE COUNTY MASSACHUSETTS

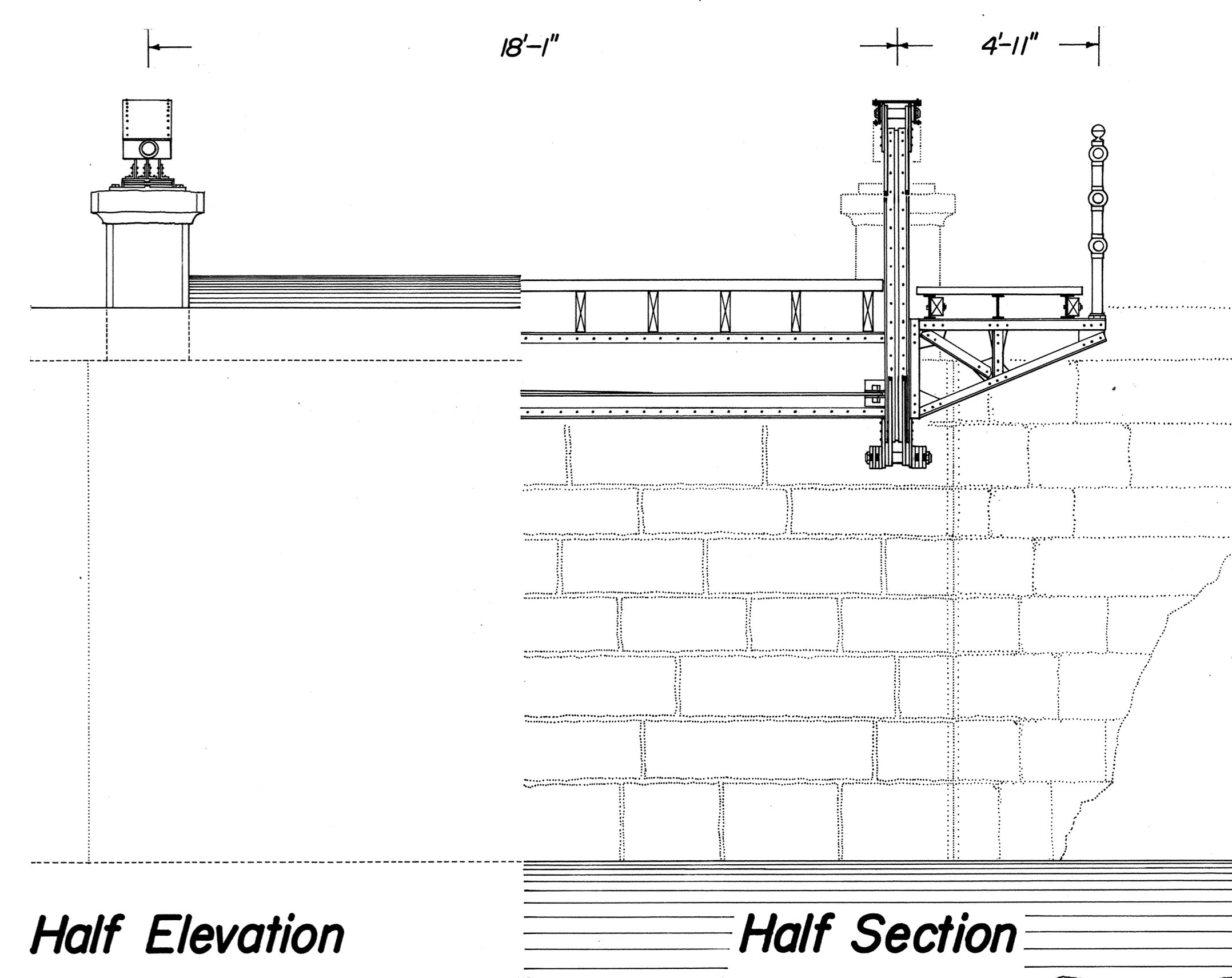
HISTORIC AMERICAN
ENGINEERING RECORD
SHEET
1 of 4

MA - 115

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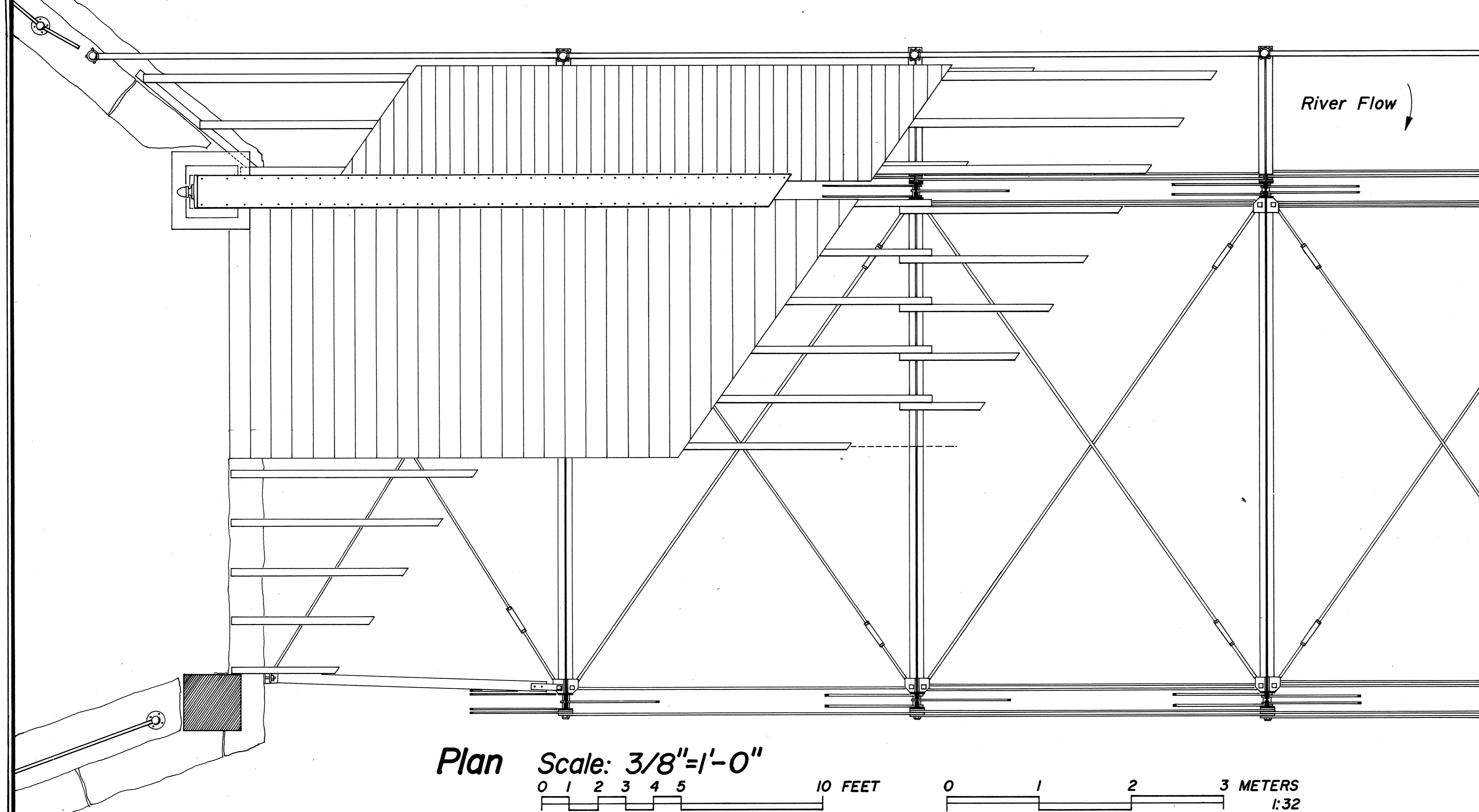


South Elevation



Half Elevation

Half Section



Plan Scale: 3/8"=1'-0"

0 1 2 3 4 5 10 FEET
 0 1 2 3 METERS
 1:32

Table of Member Sections

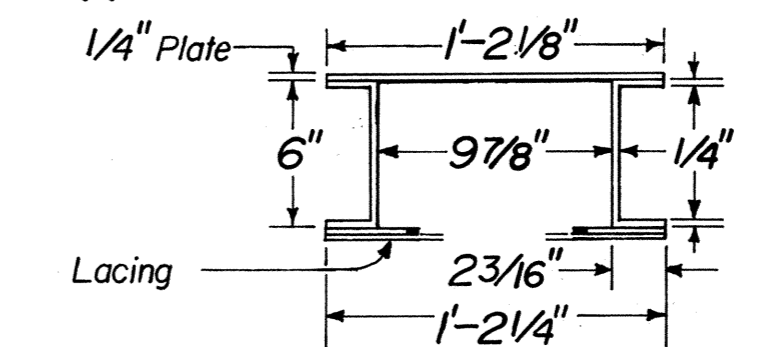
Scale: 1/2"=1'-0"

0 .5 1 2 FEET

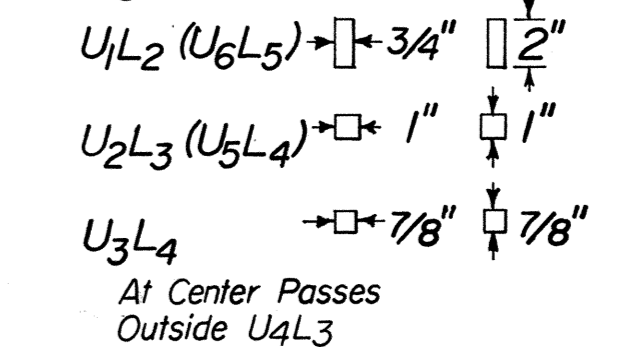
0 1 2 3 4 5 1 METER
 1:8

All primary members are wrought-iron. Decking and stringers are timber.

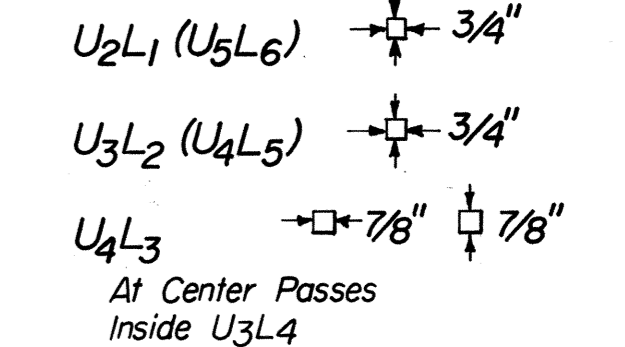
Upper Chord



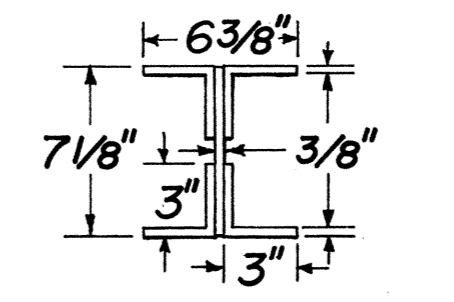
Diagonals



Counters



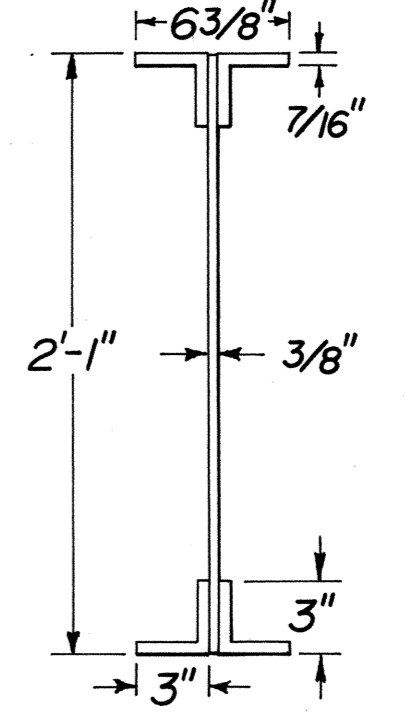
Verticals



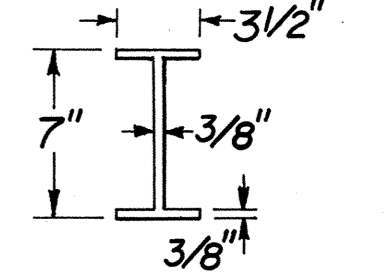
Diagonals Below Deck

1" Typ. - O -

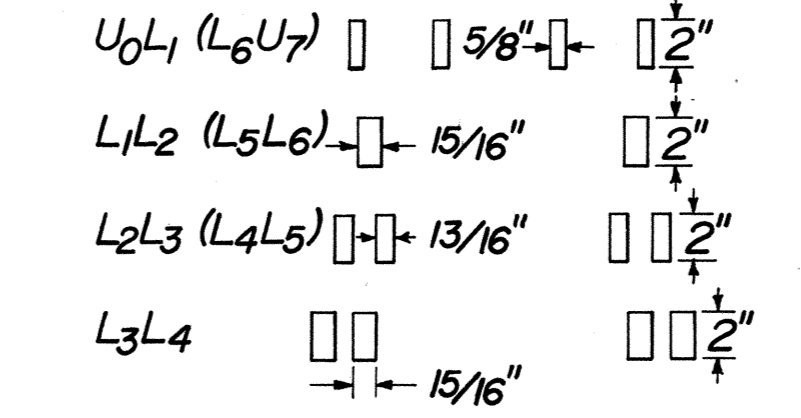
Transverse Beam



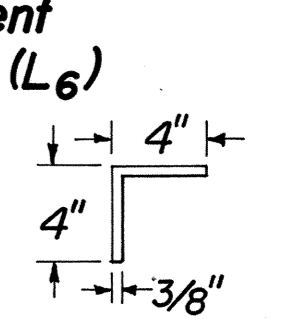
Walkway Stringer

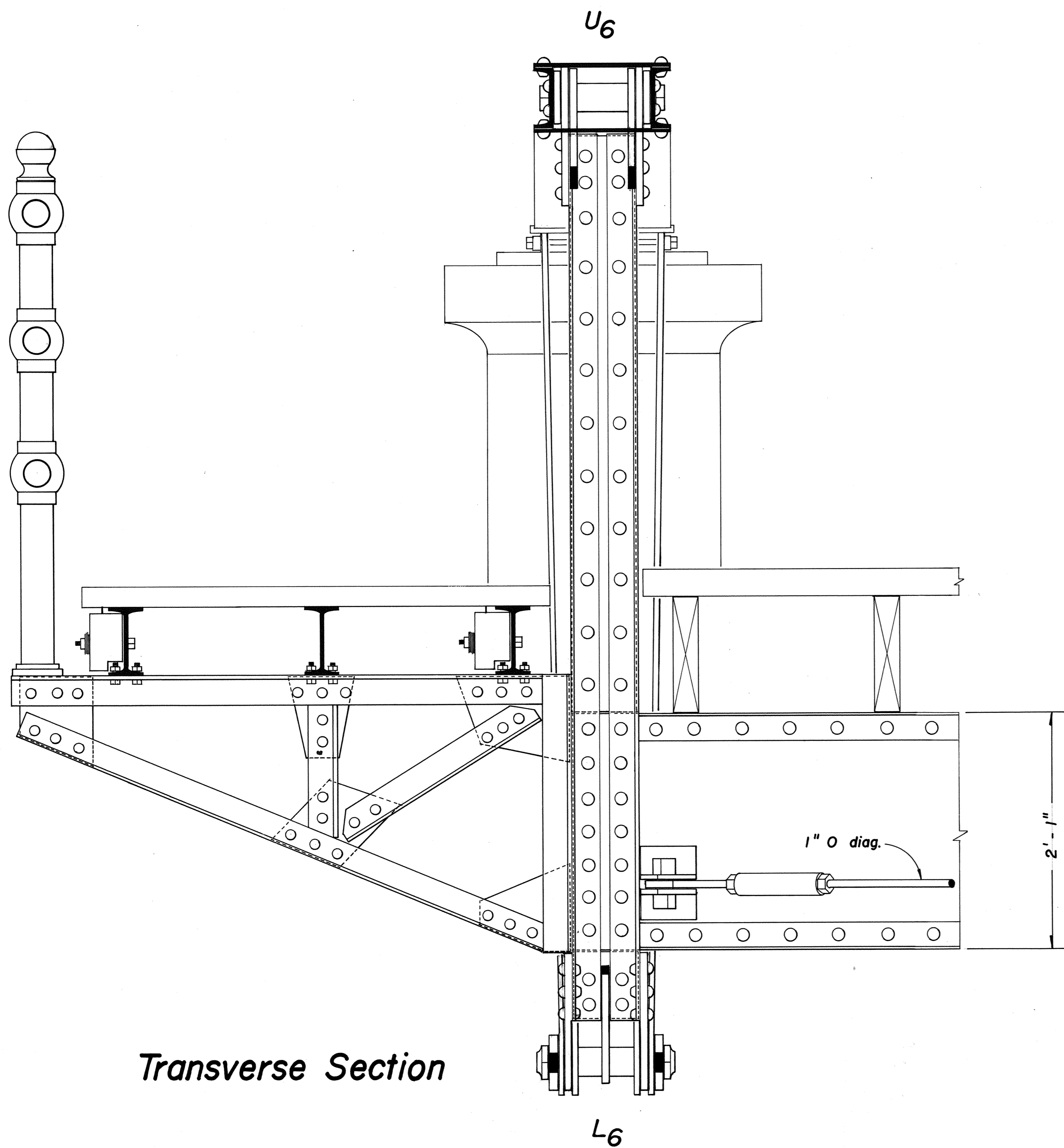


Lower Chord Eyebars

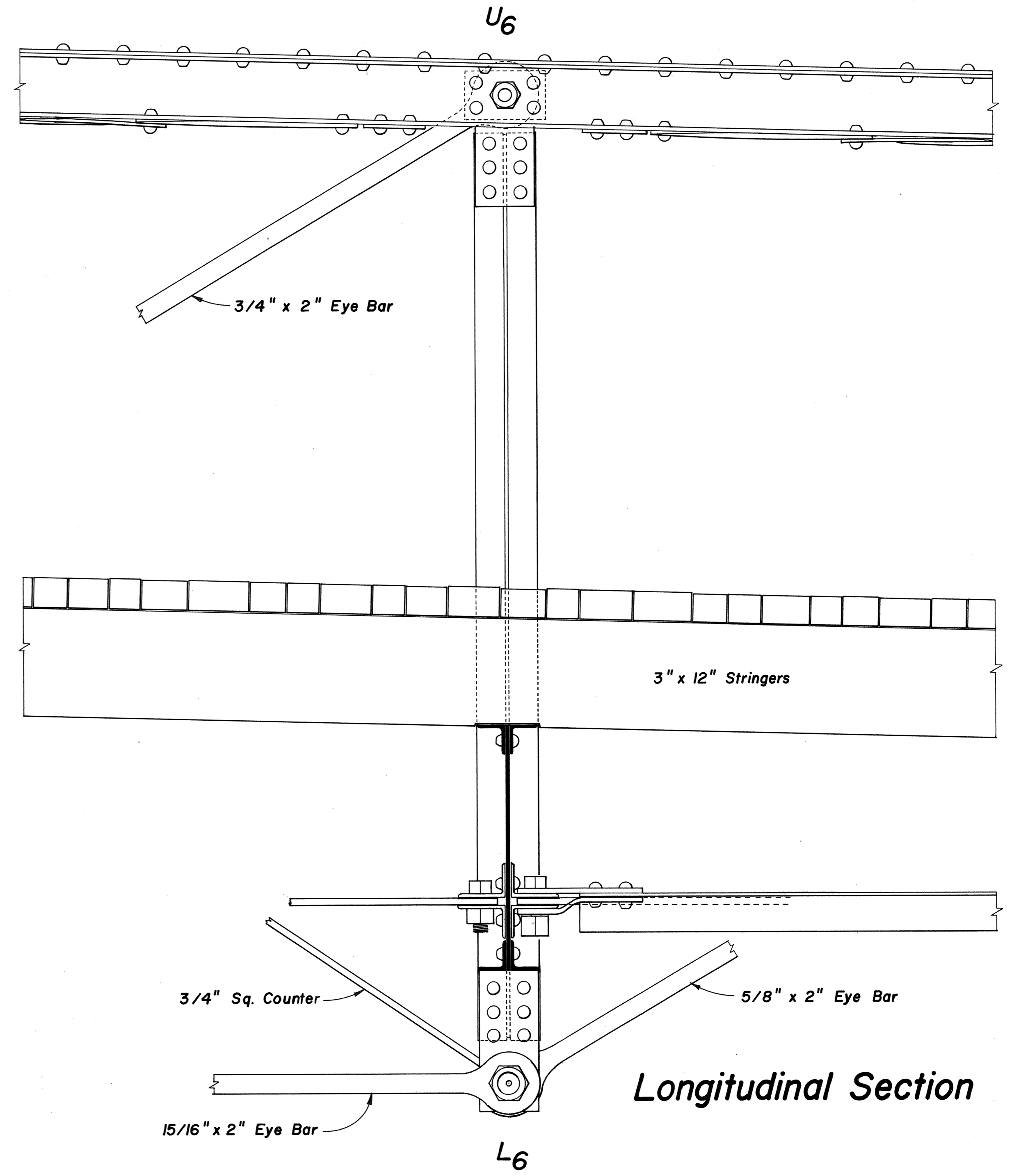


Member between Abutment and L1 (L6)

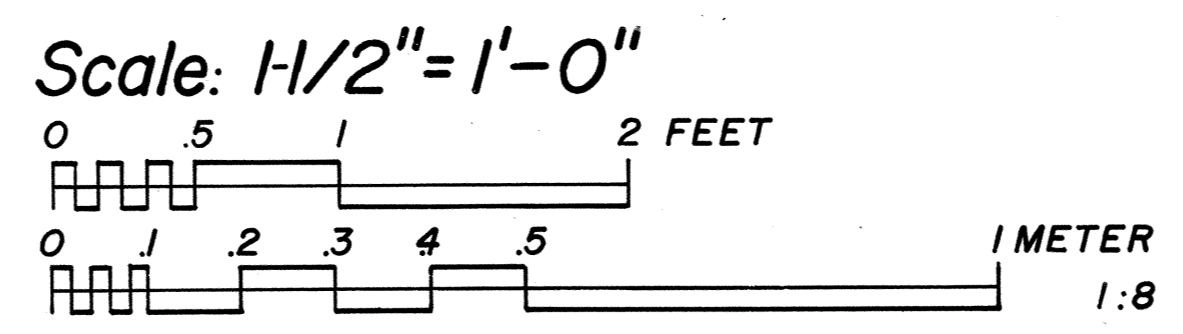




Transverse Section



Longitudinal Section

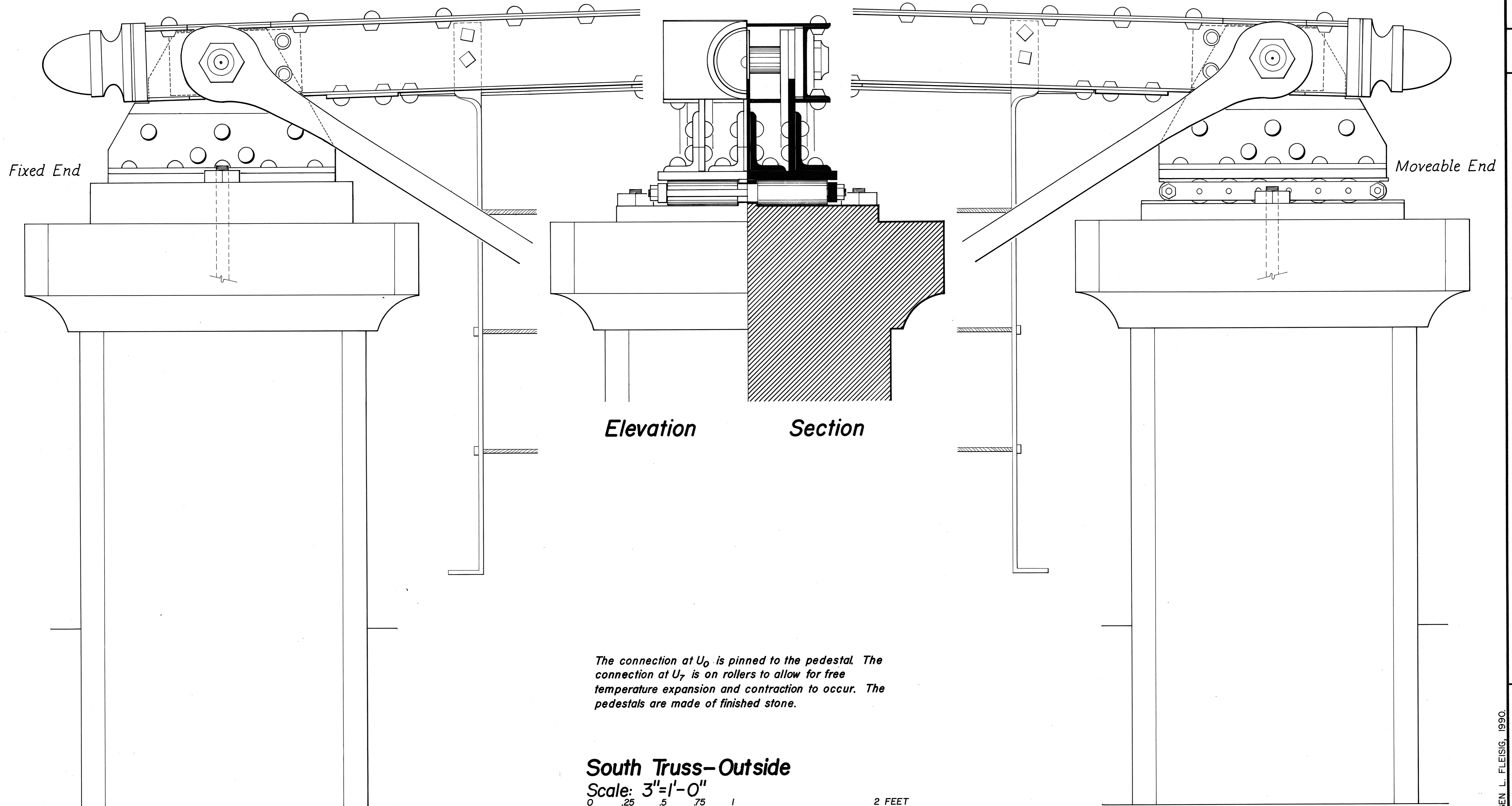


DELINEATED BY: MARK C. ROWAN, 1990.
 MASSACHUSETTS HISTORIC BRIDGE PROJECT
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 STOCKBRIDGE
 BUTLER BRIDGE (LESTER BRIDGE) - 1882
 Spanning the Housatonic River on Butler Road
 BERKSHIRE COUNTY
 MASSACHUSETTS
 SHEET 3 of 4
 HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
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U_0

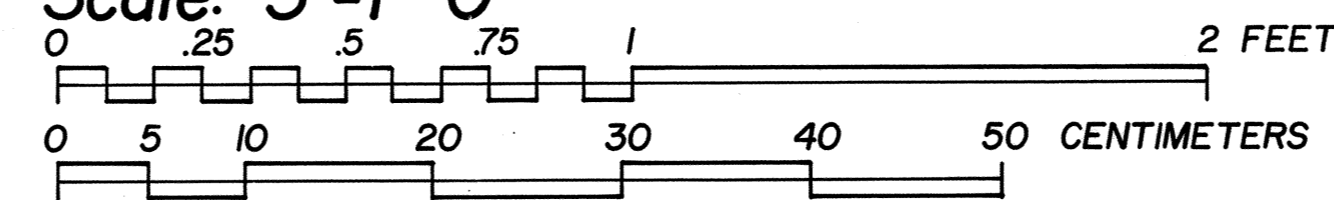
U_7



The connection at U_0 is pinned to the pedestal. The connection at U_7 is on rollers to allow for free temperature expansion and contraction to occur. The pedestals are made of finished stone.

South Truss-Outside

Scale: 3"=1'-0"



West End

East End