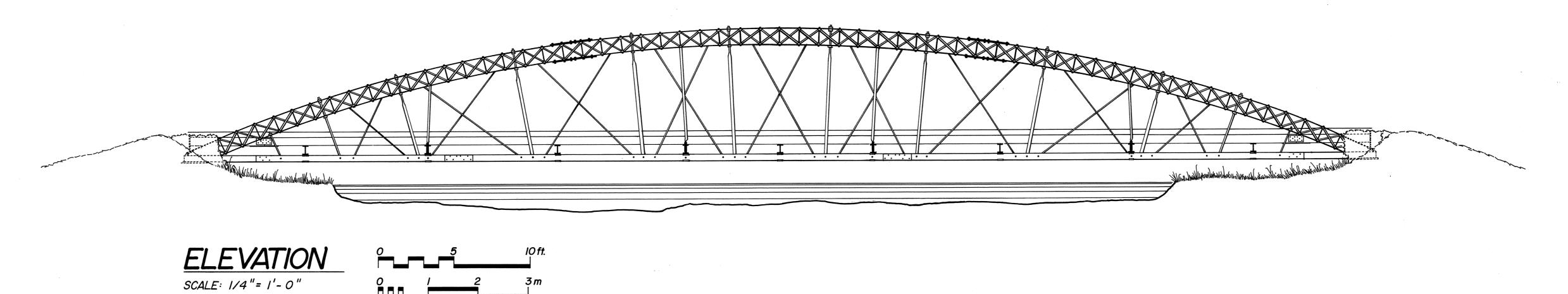
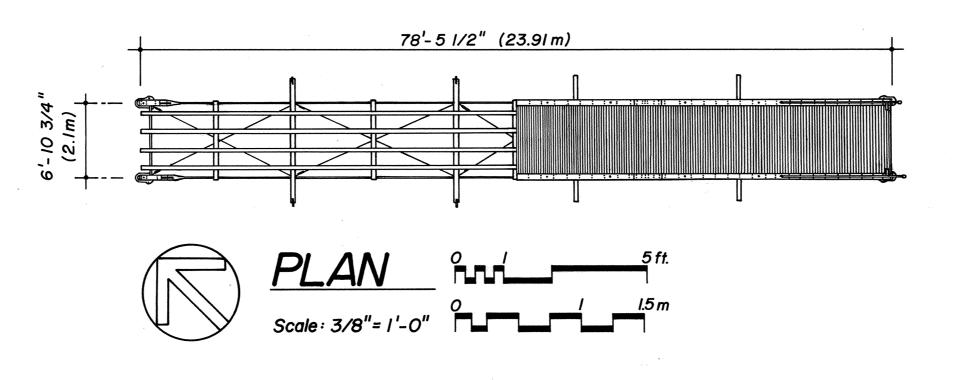
WILMINGTON, OHIO

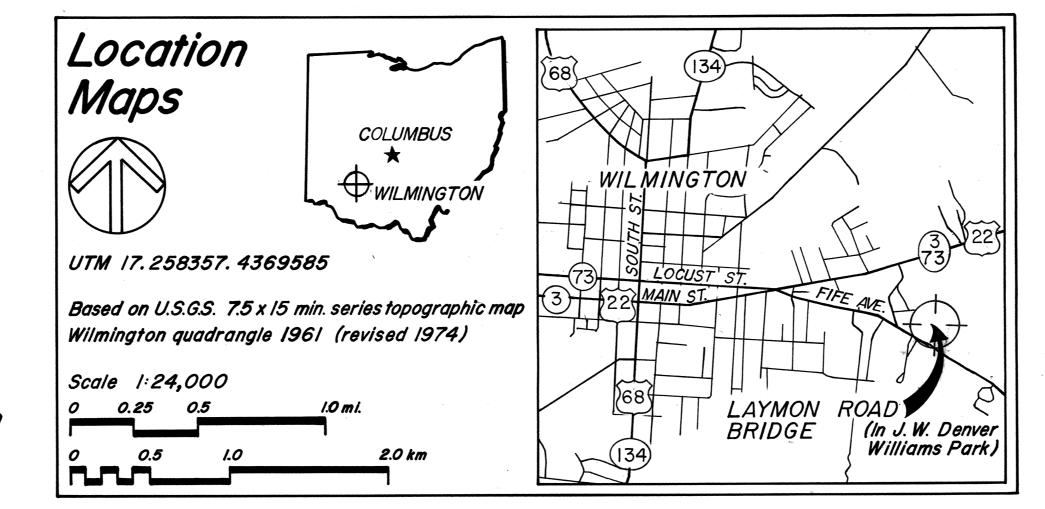


The Laymon Road Bridge was constructed in 1871 by the Massillon Bridge Company. A lattice bow-string truss, it bears considerable resemblance to a patent obtained by Joseph Davenport, founder of the Massillon Bridge Company, illustrating "improvement in bridge girders" in 1867. It appears, however, that the Laymon Road Bridge is a refinement upon the original design as the arch-shoe detail and bottom chord configuration are less cumbersome. The Laymon Road Bridge is very similar in size and appearance to another Massillon Bridge Company structure located in Lisbon, Columbiana County, Ohio. The Lisbon bridge, however, has vertical post rather than the radial posts of Laymon Road.

Joseph Davenport was not only important in Ohio's industrial heritage but also in national railroad history. Along with his brother Charles, he developed new designs of railroad cars and is credited with the first cow-catcher. Arriving in Massillon soon after the railroad, he joined with others to form the Massillon Bridge Company, which was incorporated in 1873.

The bridge was moved from its original site in 1992 and underwent restoration. The sway bracing and floor system were reconstructed using the Lisbon bridge as an example. The center-to-center width was shortened from fourteen feet eleven inches to seven feet eleven inches. The bridge is now located in the J. W. Denver Williams Park in Wilmington.





The Ohio Cast-and Wrought-Iron Bridges Project, OH 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 Division (HABS/HAER) of the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. The Ohio Cast and Wrought-Iron Bridges Project was cosponsored during the summer of 1993 by HAER under the general direction of Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, and the Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology, Dr. Emory L. Kemp, Director, with the assistance of the Ohio Historical Society, Gary Ness, Director, and David A. Simmons, historic bridge specialist, and the Department of Architecture and Ohio State University, José Oubrerie, Chairman.

The field work and measured drawings were prepared under the direction of Eric N. DeLony, Chief of HAER, Project Leader. The recording team consisted of Elaine Pierce (Auburn University), architectural field supervisor, and Daron Fender (Miami University), Julie Willis (US/ICOMOS - University of Melbourne, Australia) and Troy Zimmermann (California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo), architectural technicians.

