

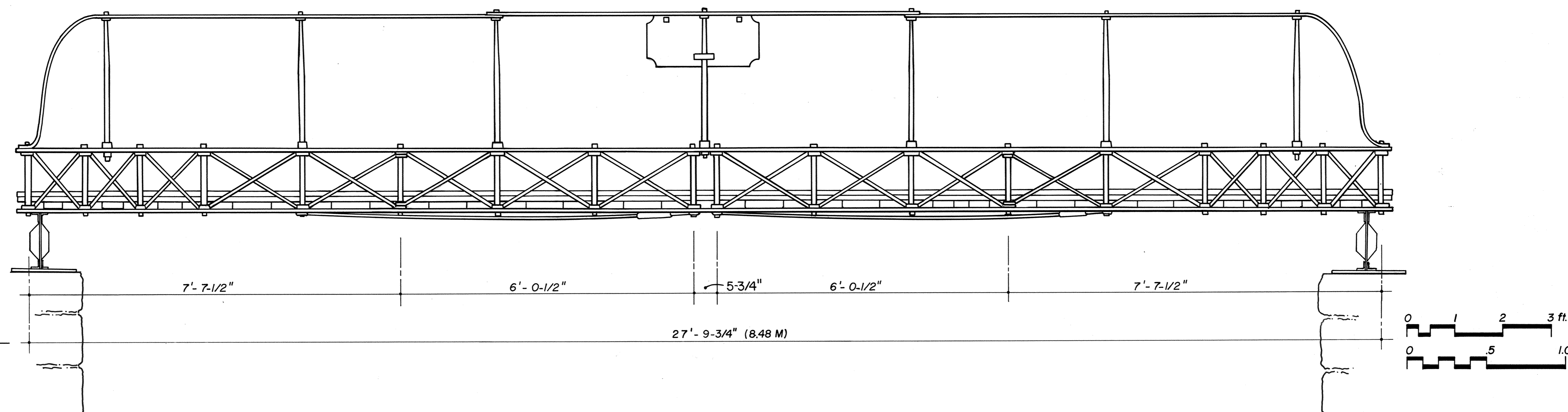
# OAK KNOLL PARK BRIDGE

## • 1859 •

### MASSILLON, OHIO

#### EAST ELEVATION

SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"



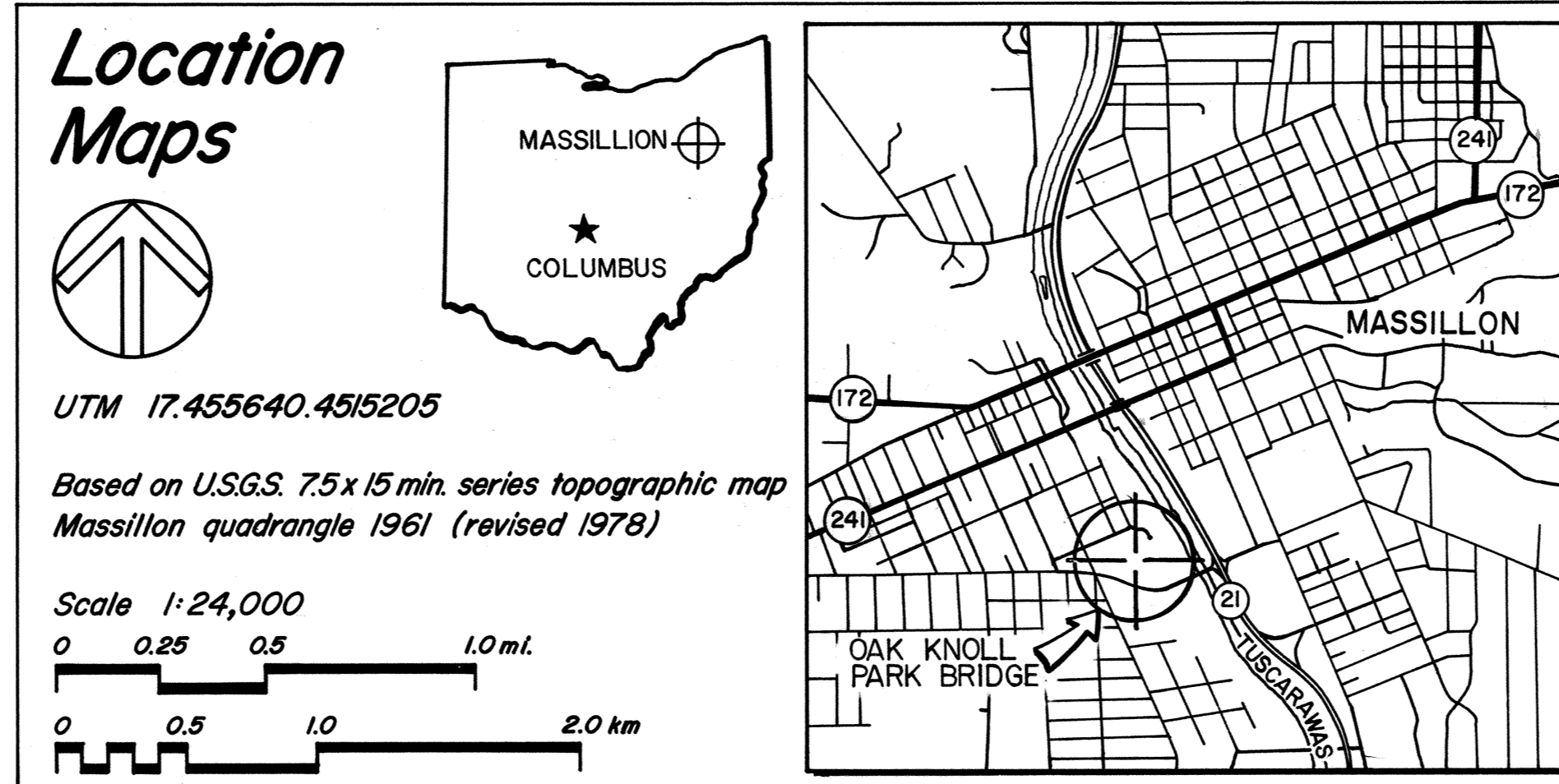
The Oak Knoll Park Bridge is the oldest known iron bridge still standing in Ohio. Although not the first, it was built in 1859 to a design by Joseph Davenport, for Russell & Bros. A type of iron Howe truss, the bridge was preliminary to "Davenport's Straight Howe Truss Bridge." In this early example of his work, Davenport used members that were greatly undersized. The dimensions of the trusswork in his later bridge designs, in the 1870s, more than doubled.

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 for railroad cars and is credited with the first cow-catcher. Arriving in Massillon soon after the railroad, he became a partner in Russell & Bros. He later joined with others to form the Massillon Bridge Company, which was incorporated in 1873.

Originally located on a county road near Alliance, the significance of the structure was recognized as early as 1899 when the bridge was moved to its present position. The county commissioners prepared a plaque of recognition to commemorate the preservation of the bridge: "Built by C. M. Russell & Co. in 1859... it was the first iron bridge built in Stark County... erected here for preservation as a pioneer in iron bridge building."

The Ohio Cast-and Wrought-Iron Bridges 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 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 at Ohio State University, José Oubrierie, 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.



OAK KNOLL PARK BRIDGE - 1859  
OAK KNOLL PARK  
STARK COUNTY

DELINEATED BY: Daron Fender, Troy Zimmermann, Julie Willis, Elaine Pierce 1993

CAST-AND WROUGHT-IRON BRIDGES  
RECORDING PROJECT, OH  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

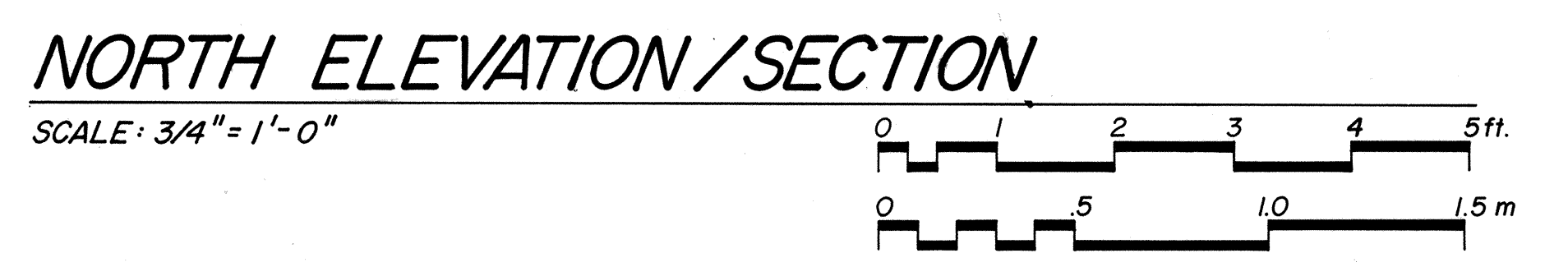
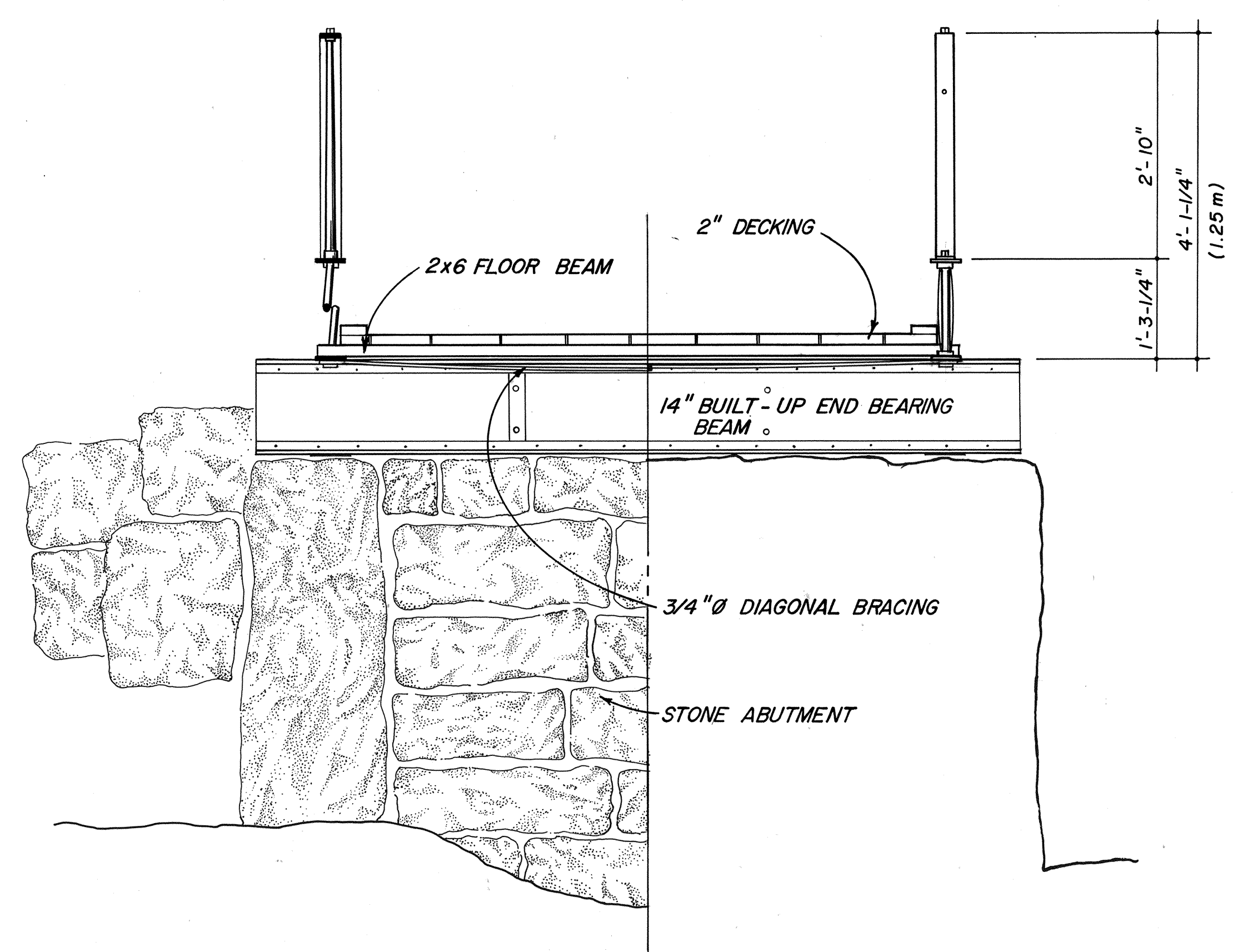
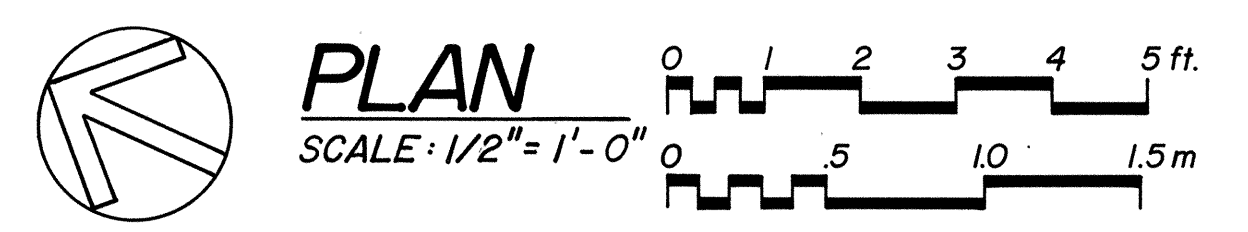
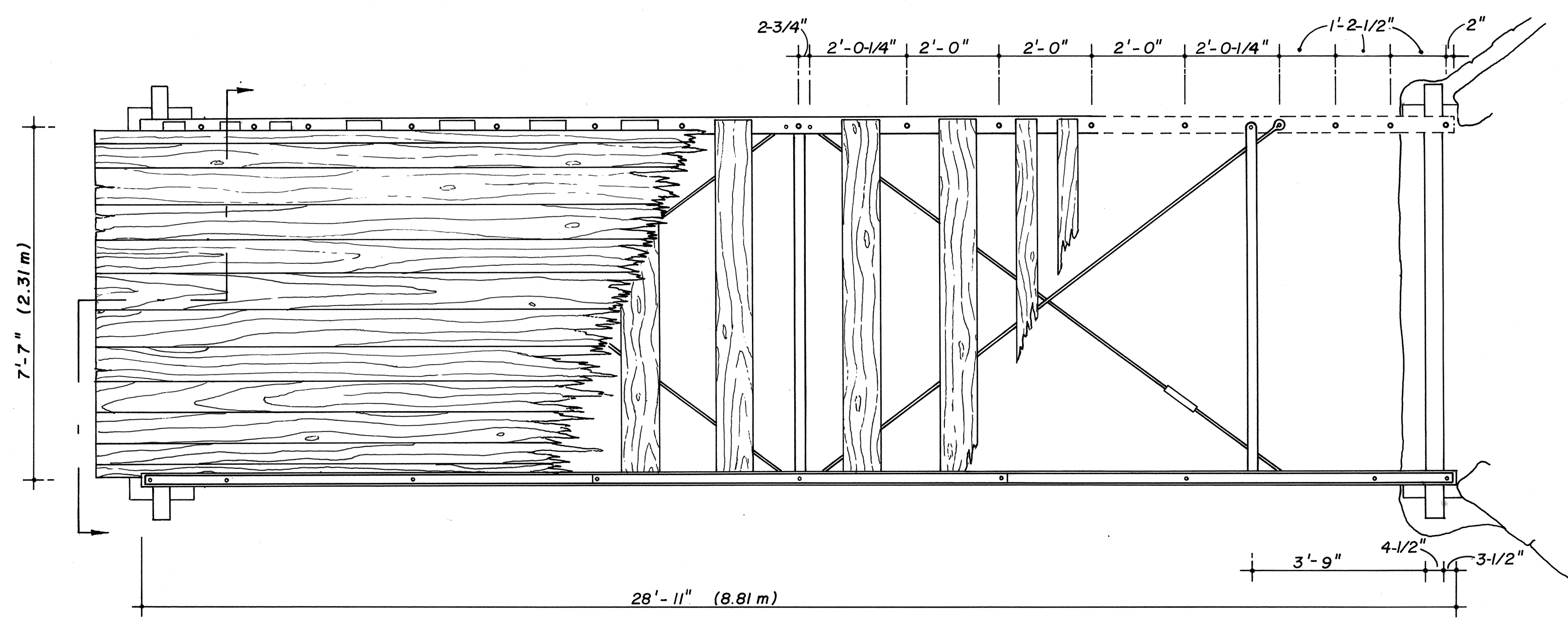
MASSILLON

OHIO

SHEET  
1 of 2

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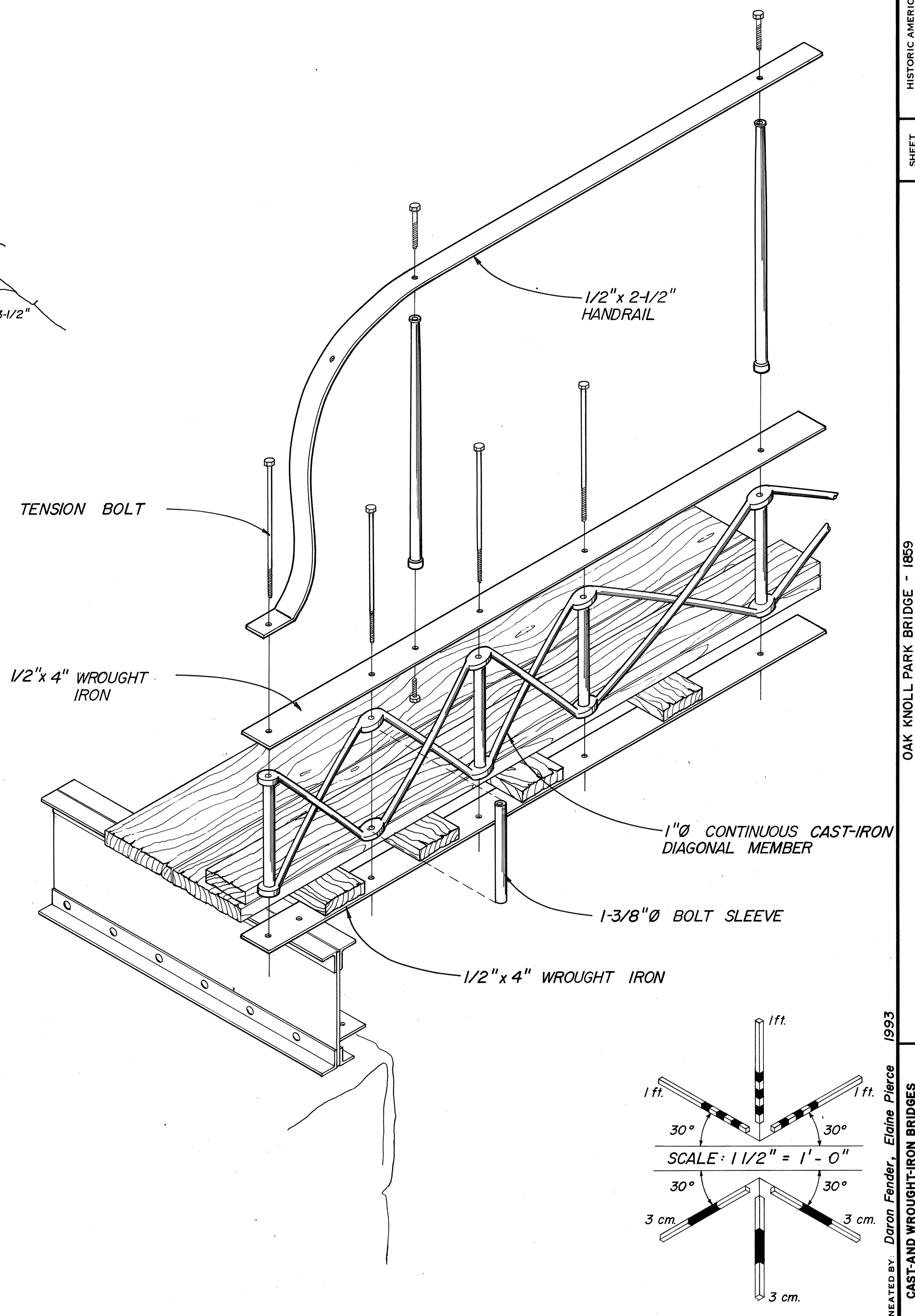
**TABLE of MEMBERS**  
SCALE: 1 1/2" = 1' - 0"

**HANDRAIL**  
2-1/2" each  
1/2" ± 1/2"

**UPPER CHORD**  
4" ± 1/2"

**DIAGONAL**  
1" Ø  
7/8" ± 1/2"

**LOWER CHORD**  
4" ± 1/2"



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SHEET 2 of 2

OHIO

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