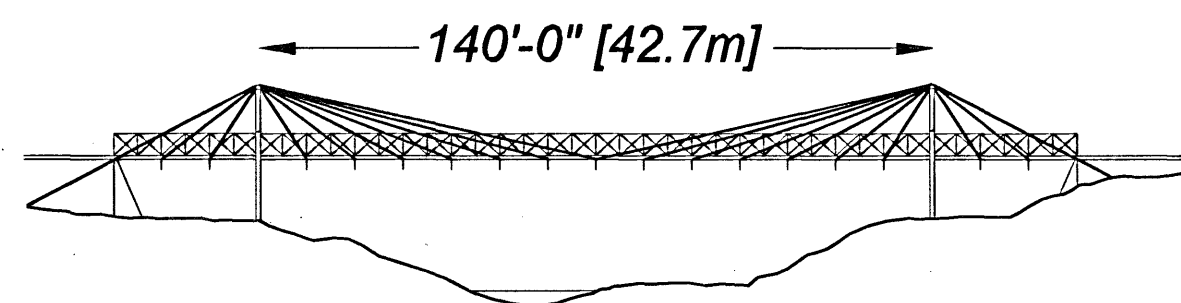
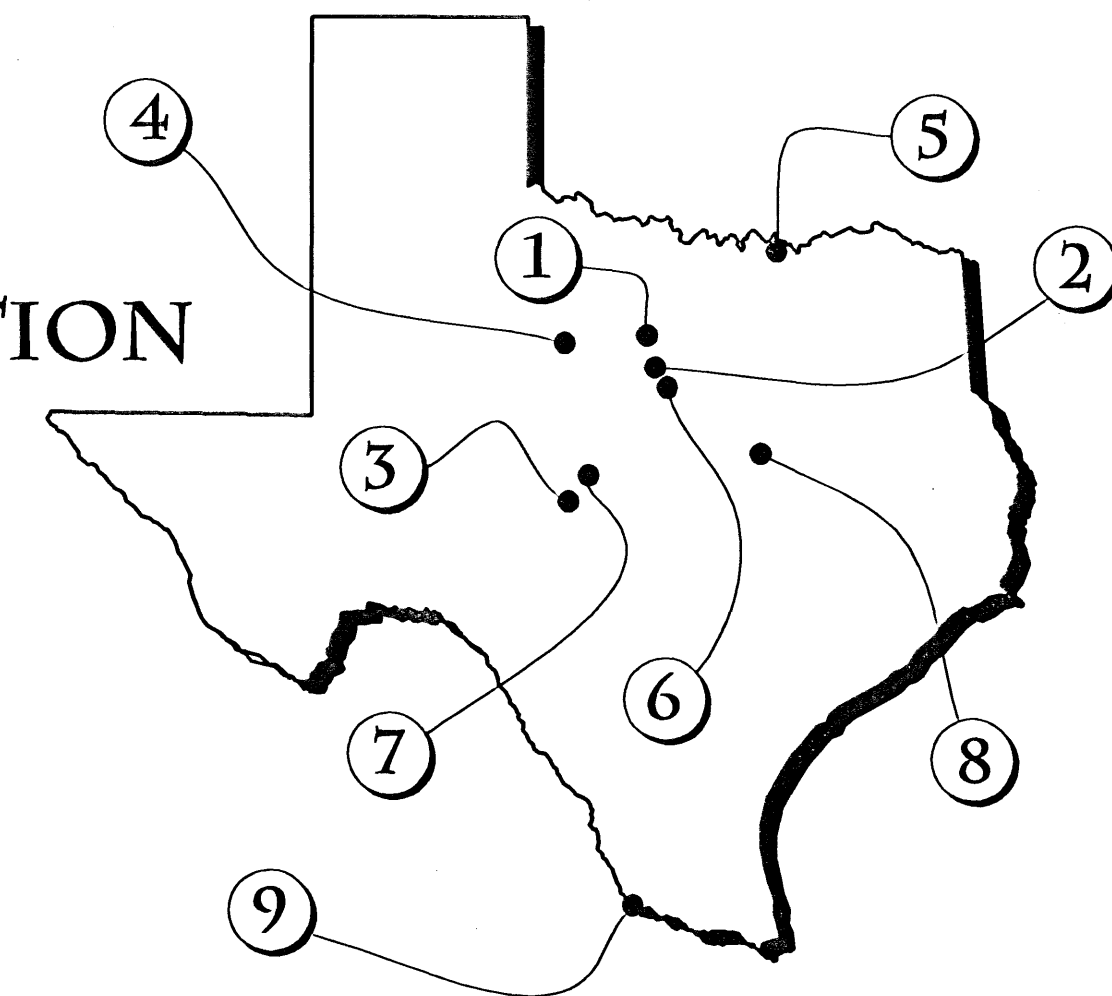


TEXAS SUSPENSION BRIDGES

The Texas Historic Bridges Recording Project II is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program documenting historically significant engineering, industrial, and maritime sites in the United States. The HAER program is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Texas Historic Bridges Recording Project II was co-sponsored during the summer of 2000 by HAER under the general direction of E. Blaine Cliver, Chief, and the Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, Dianna F. Noble, P. E., Director.

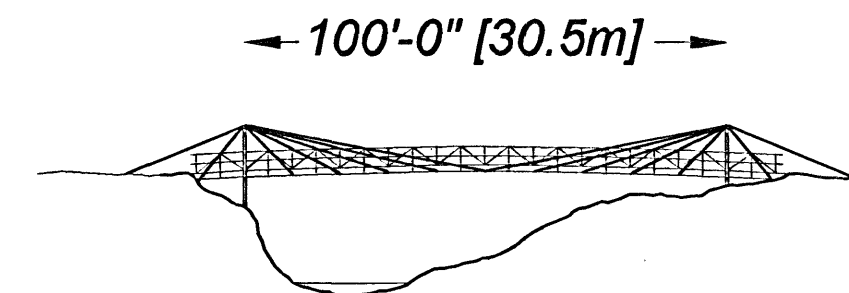
The field team, measured drawings, historical reports, and photographs were prepared under the direction of Eric DeLony, Chief of HAER. The team consisted of Pete Brooks, Architectural Supervisor (Yale University), Jennifer M. Chrusciel (Kent State University), Wenhai Li, (ICOMOS-People's Republic of China), Megan C. Olson (Washington State University), Tim S. Reynolds (University of California at Berkeley), architects; Dr. Mark M. Brown, Dr. Peggy J. Hardman, Dr. Robert W. Jackson, Dr. Joseph King, historians; Dr. Dario A. Gasparini and Stephen G. Buonopane, consulting engineers; and Bruce Harms, The Louis Berger Group Inc., photographer.

LOCATION MAP



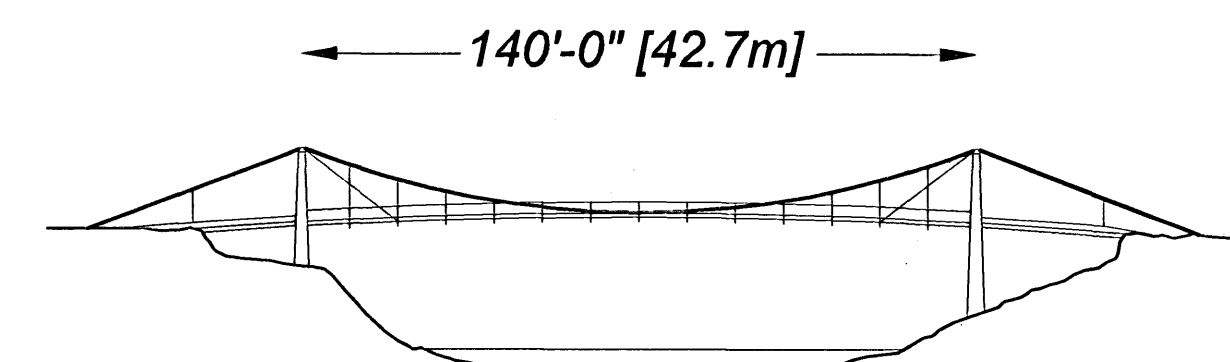
1. BLUFF DALE SUSPENSION BRIDGE, 1890

HAER No. TX-36



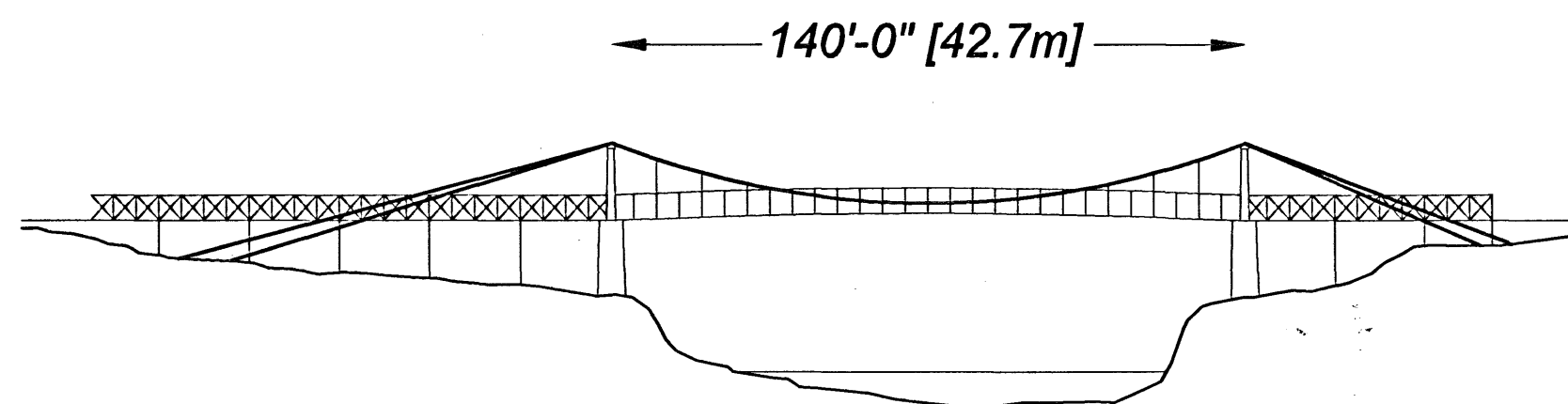
2. BARTON CREEK BRIDGE, 1890

HAER No. TX-87



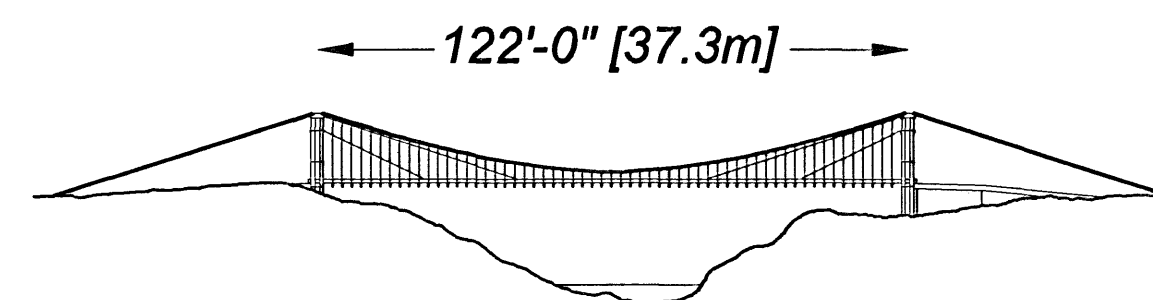
3. BEVERIDGE BRIDGE, 1896

HAER No. TX-46



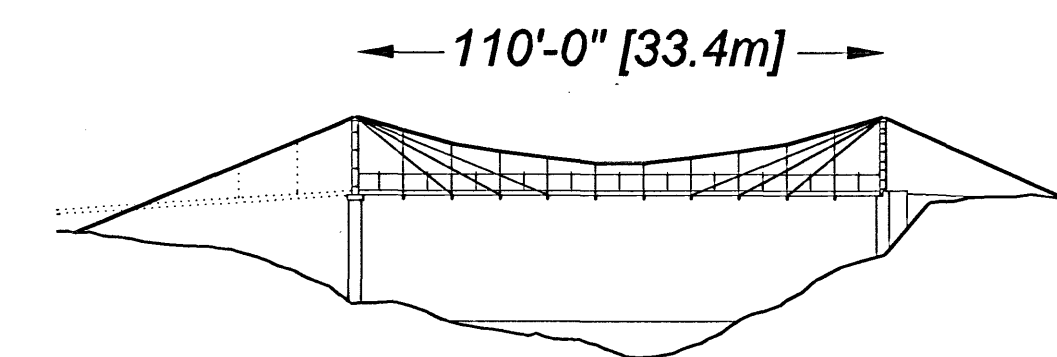
4. CLEAR FORK OF THE BRAZOS SUSPENSION BRIDGE, 1896

HAER No. TX-64



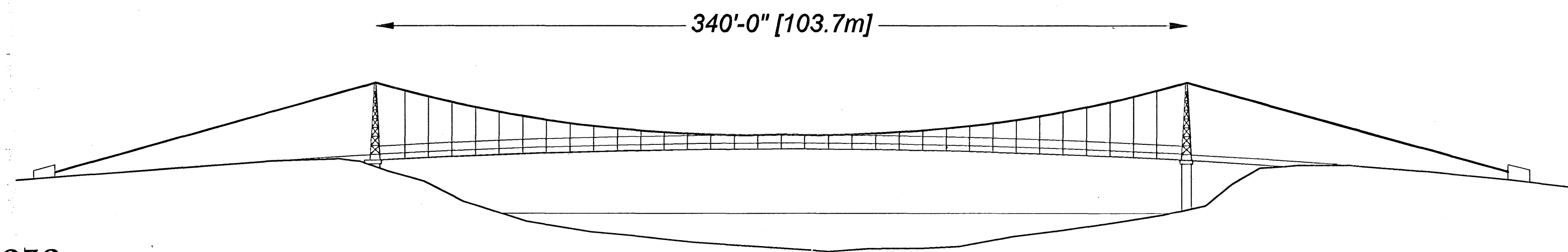
5. CHOCTAW CREEK BRIDGE, CA. 1915

HAER No. TX-85



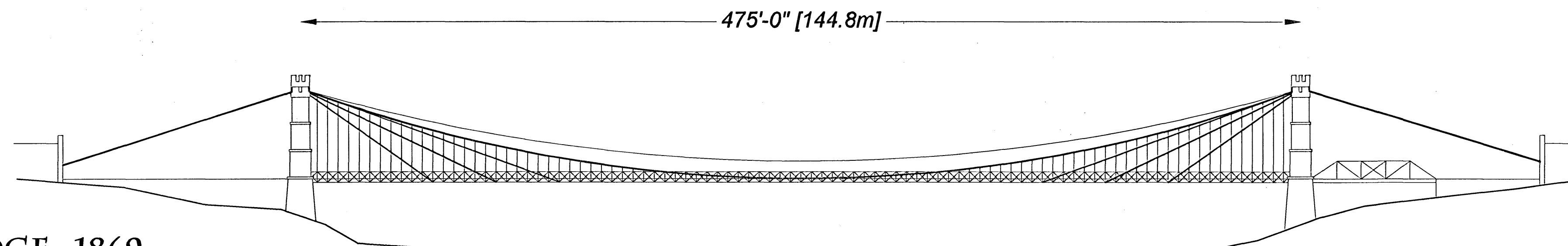
6. ROCK CHURCH BRIDGE, CA. 1917

HAER No. TX-81



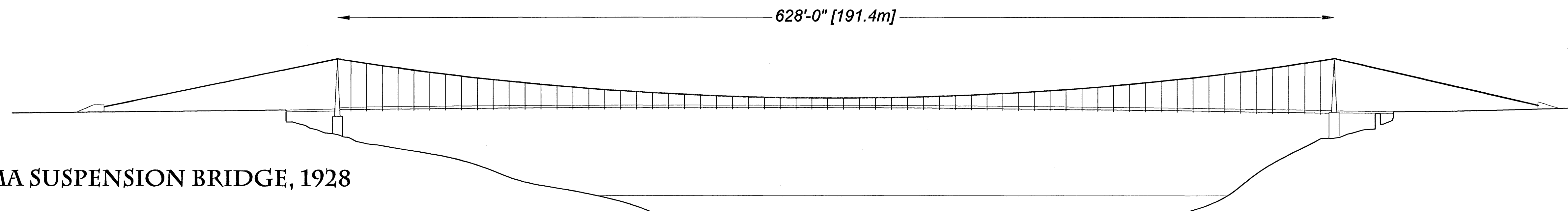
7. REGENCY SUSPENSION BRIDGE, 1939

HAER No. TX-61

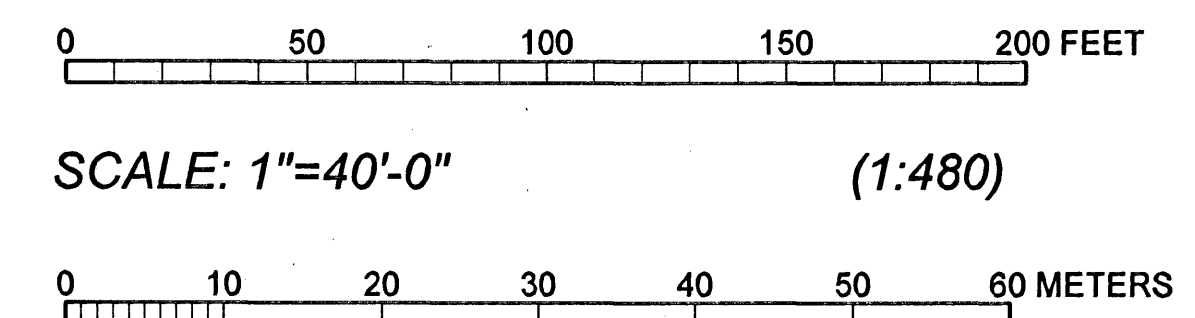


8. WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE, 1869

HAER No. TX-13



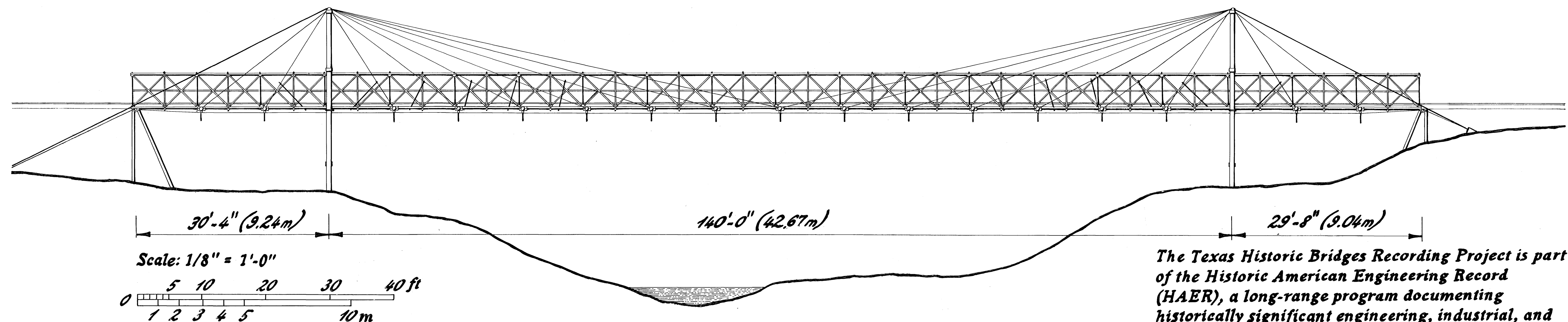
9. ROMA SUSPENSION BRIDGE, 1928



NOTE: This drawing presents all extant suspension bridges in Texas as of summer 2000. For more information on specific bridges, consult documentation under given HAER number.

BLUFF DALE SUSPENSION BRIDGE

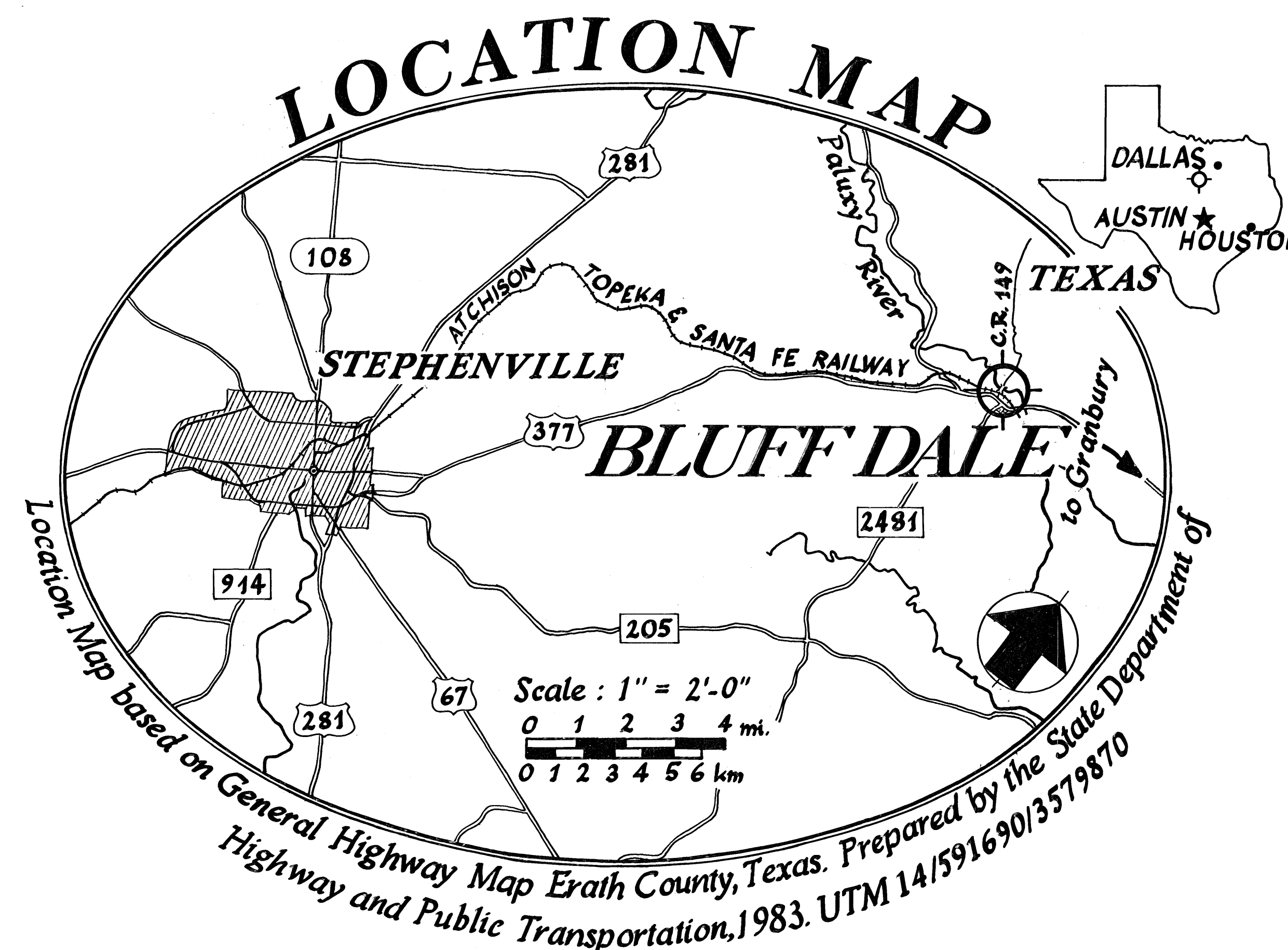
ERATH COUNTY ☆ 1890 ☆ TEXAS



The Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge was constructed across the Paluxy River in 1890 by E. E. Runyon and William Flinn of the Runyon Bridge Company, Weatherford, TX. Runyon, apparently self-taught, had recently patented a cable-stayed bridge design and subsequent improvements. Extensive use of wrought-iron pipe, twisted-wire cable, and cast fittings in the Bluff Dale bridge, the only known surviving example of Runyon's patents, reflects his mechanical vocabulary. Howe stiffening trusses were most likely added by the Flinn-Moyer Bridge Company, also of Weatherford, in an 1899 repair.

In 1934, the bridge was moved about 1.5 miles upstream from where route 377 crosses the Paluxy. The wire cables were almost certainly replaced with wire rope and somewhat improperly restrung at that time. In 1983, wooden stringers and decking were replaced with steel I-beams and plates.

The Bluff Dale Bridge is the oldest extant cable-stayed suspension bridge in Texas and may also be the oldest in the United States. One of seven Texas suspension bridges surviving from before 1940, it is part of a once-widespread tradition of suspension bridges.



The Texas Historic Bridges Recording Project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program documenting historically significant engineering, industrial, and maritime sites in the United States. The HAER program is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Texas Historic Bridges Recording Project was co-sponsored during the summer of 1996 by HABS/HAER under the general direction of E. Blaine Cliver, chief; the Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division and Design Division; and the Federal Highway Administration.

The field work, measured drawings, historical reports, and photographs were prepared under the direction of Eric DeLony, chief of HAER. The team consisted of Erick McEvoy, architectural supervisor (ICOMOS-Canada); Christopher B. Brown (University of Washington), Heather J. Dodd (Texas Tech University), Christianna Raber (Rice University) and Zsolt Zsanda (ICOMOS-Hungary), architects; Dr. Mark M. Brown, Estella M. Chung (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor), J. Philip Gruen (University of California at Berkeley) and Robert Jackson (University of Texas at Austin), historians; Joseph Elliot, photographer; Todd Ashby (Texas Department of Transportation), special assistant.

Zsolt Zsanda, 1996.

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

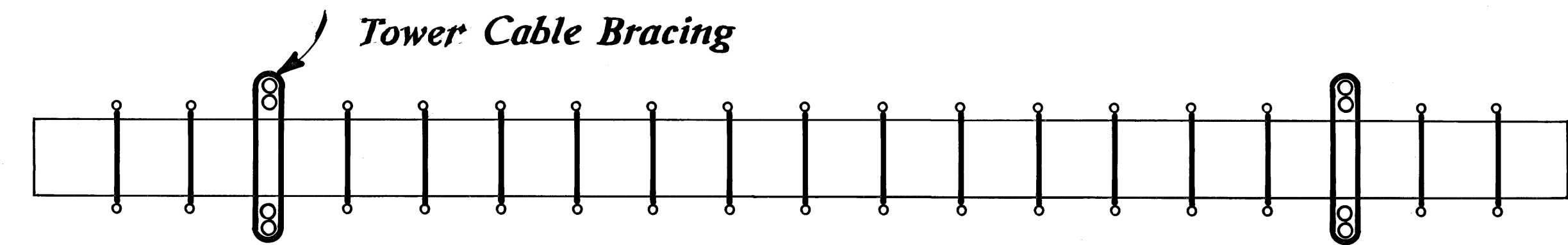
BLUFF DALE SUSPENSION BRIDGE - 1890
SPANNING PALUXY RIVER AT BERRY'S CREEK ROAD (COUNTY ROUTE 149)
ERATH COUNTY

TEXAS

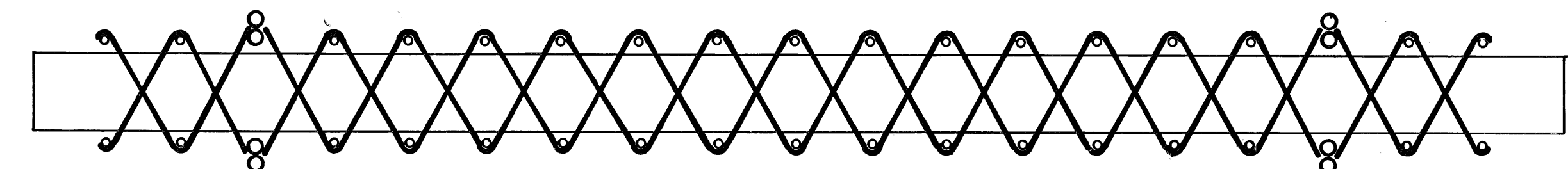
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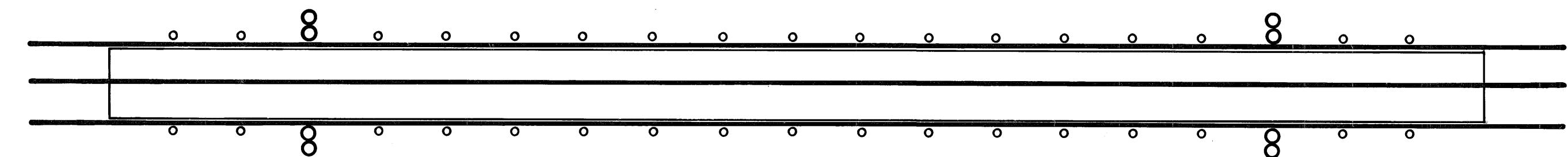
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DECK BEAM STIFFENING-TRUSS CABLES



LOWER LATERAL BRACING CABLES



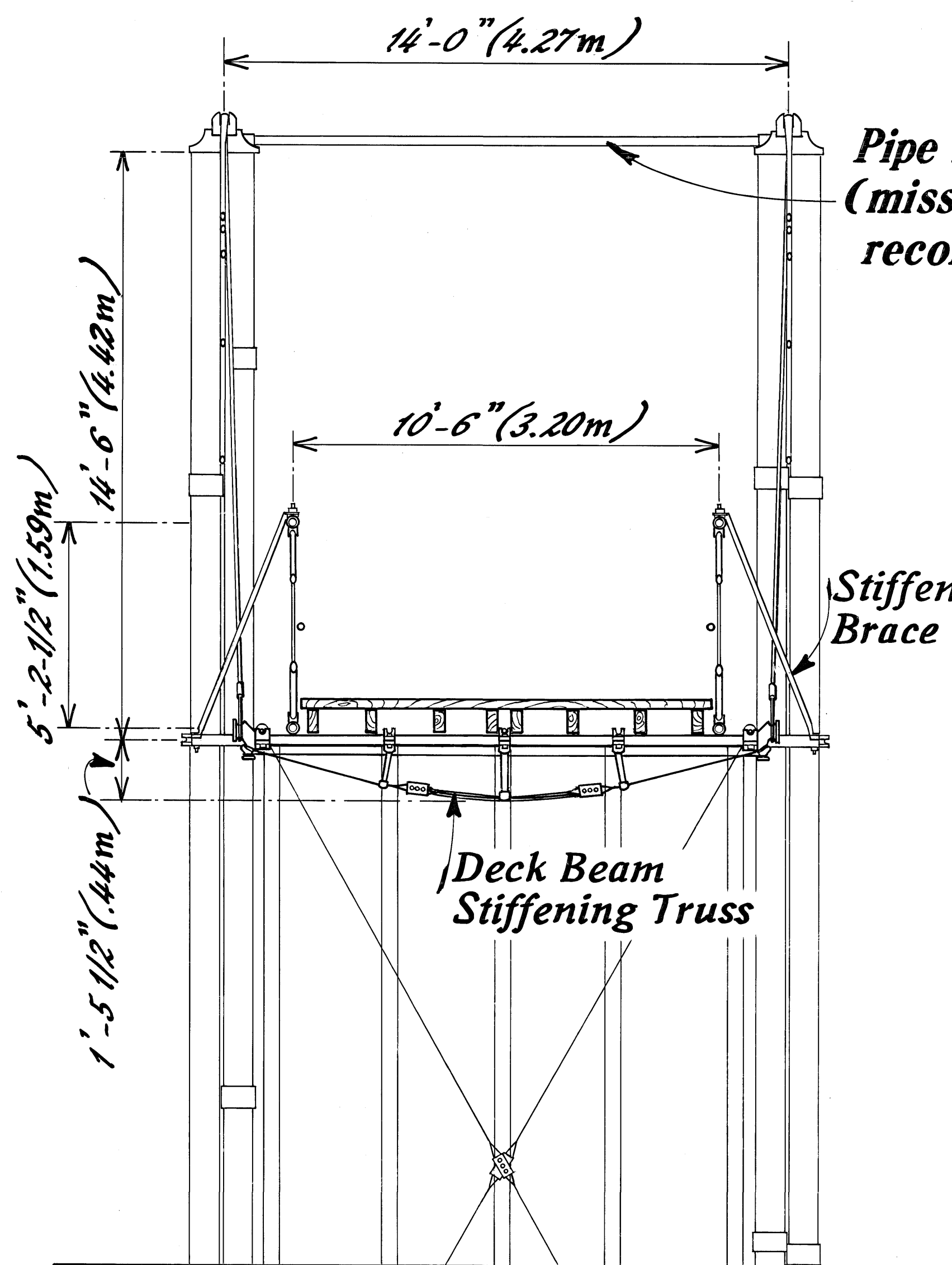
LONGITUDINAL DECK CABLES

PLAN

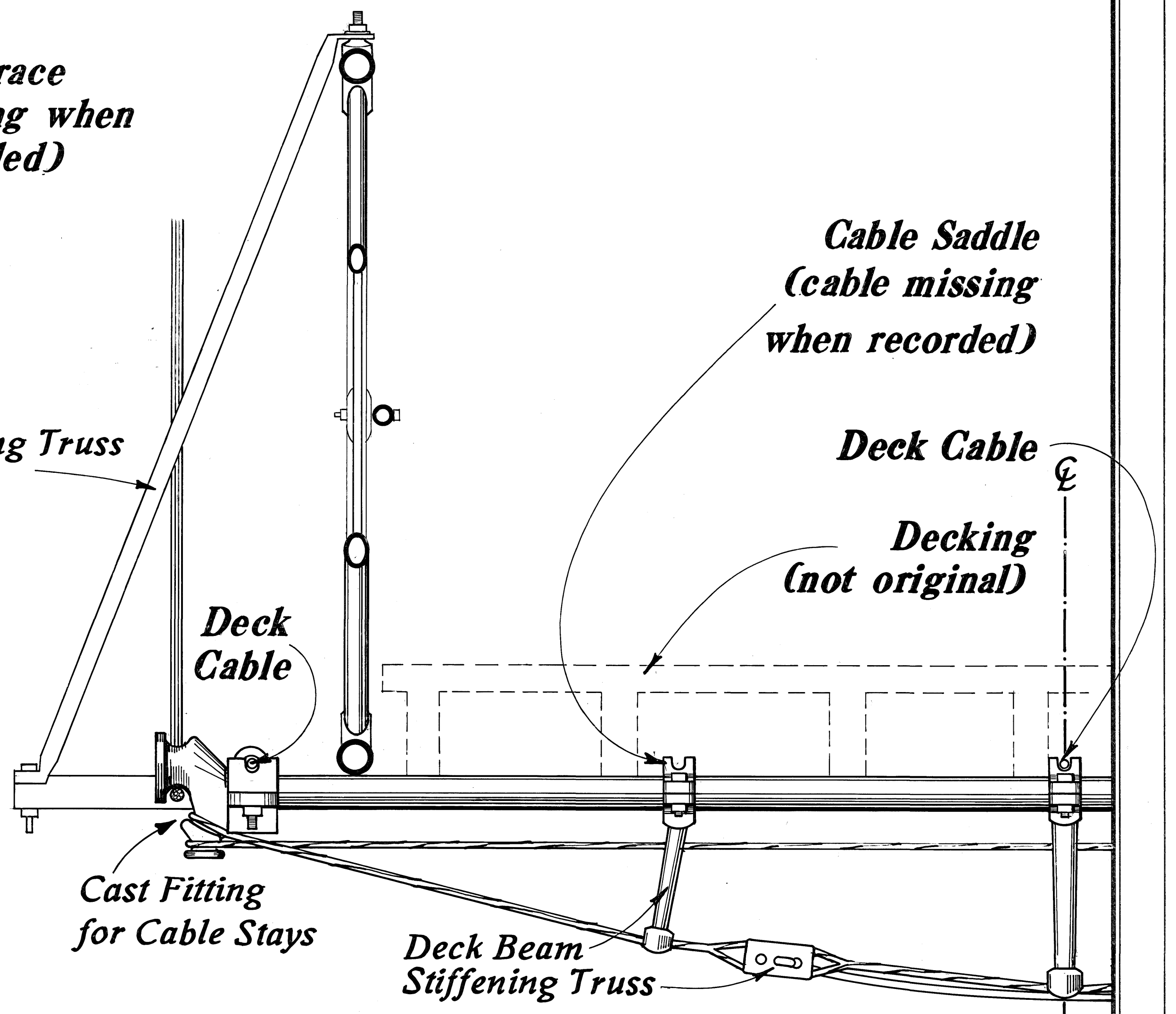
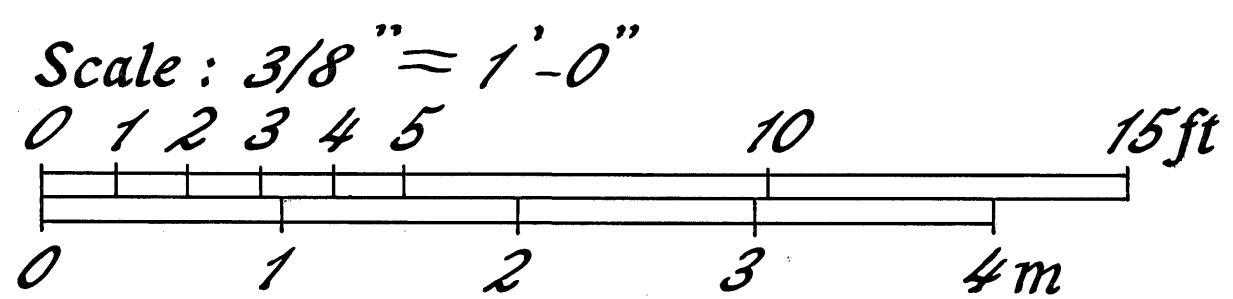
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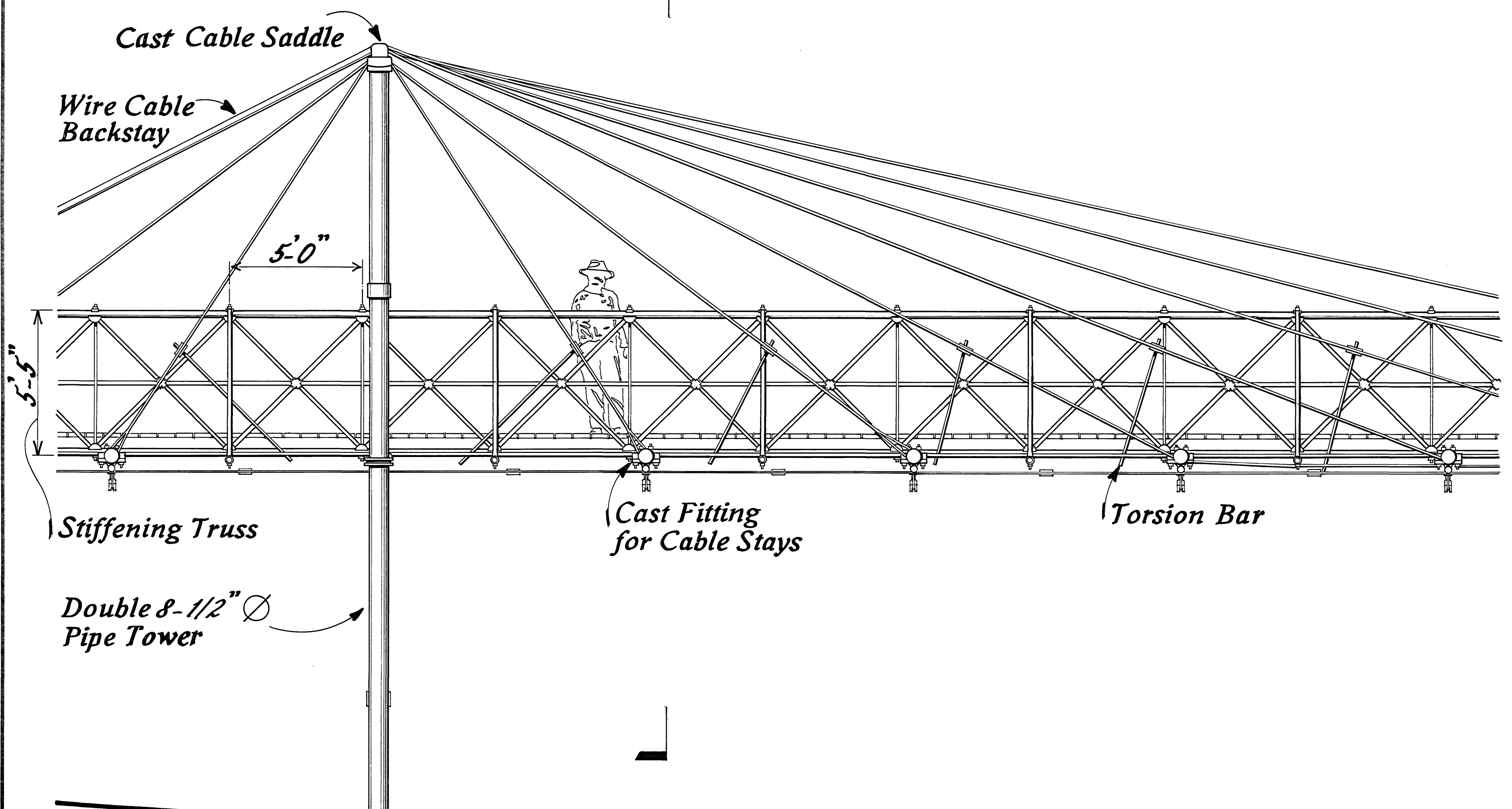
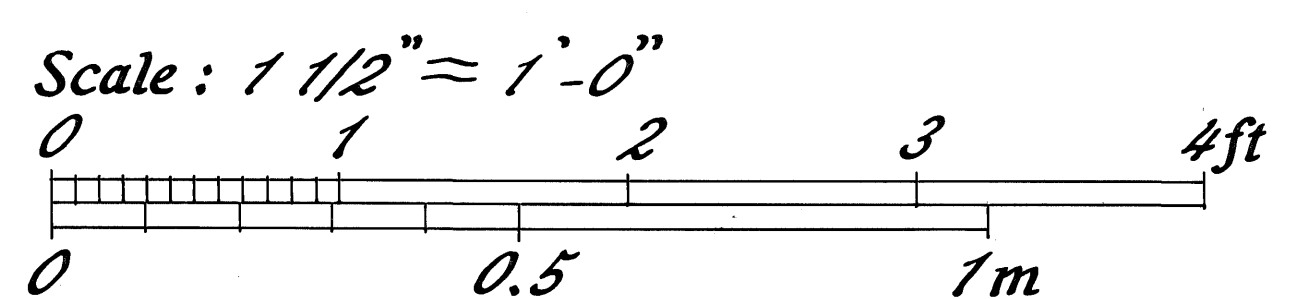




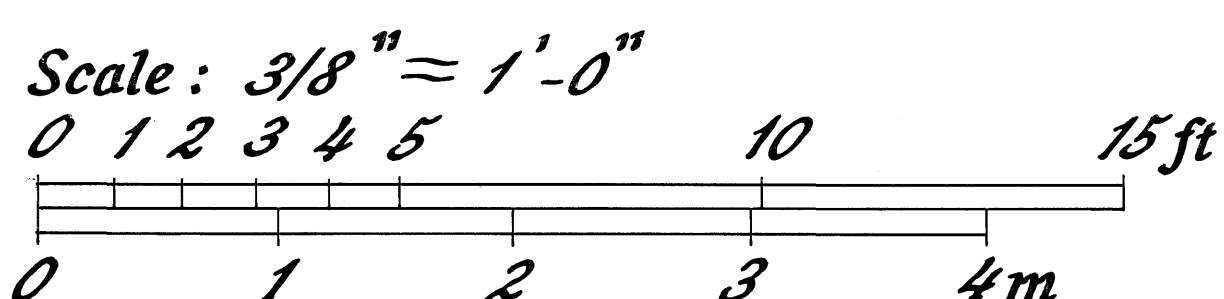
SECTION



SECTION DETAIL



PARTIAL ELEVATION



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BLUFF DALE

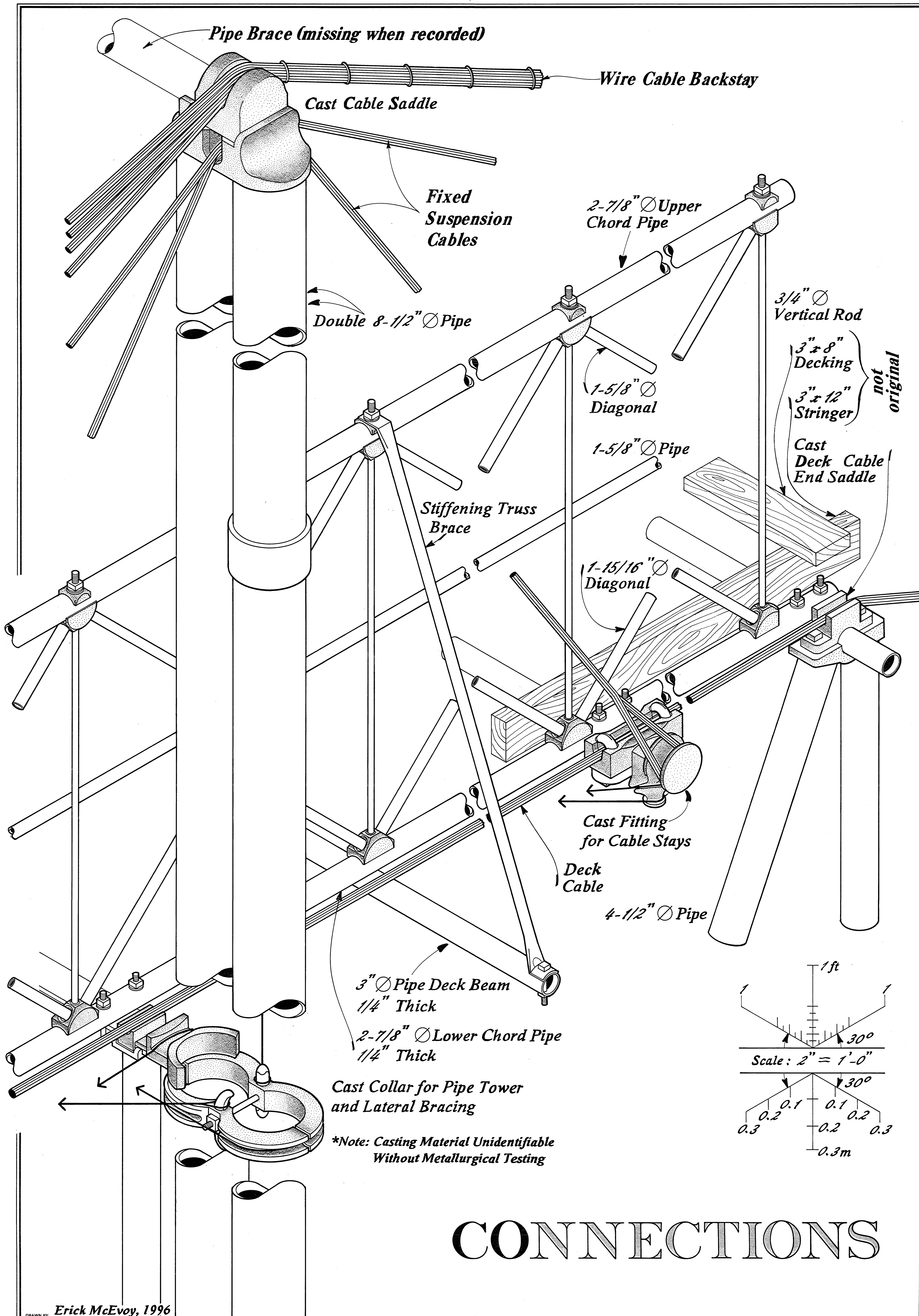
BLUFF DALE SUSPENSION BRIDGE - 1890
SPANNING PALUXY RIVER AT BERRY'S CREEK ROAD (COUNTY ROUTE 149)
ERATH COUNTY

TEXAS

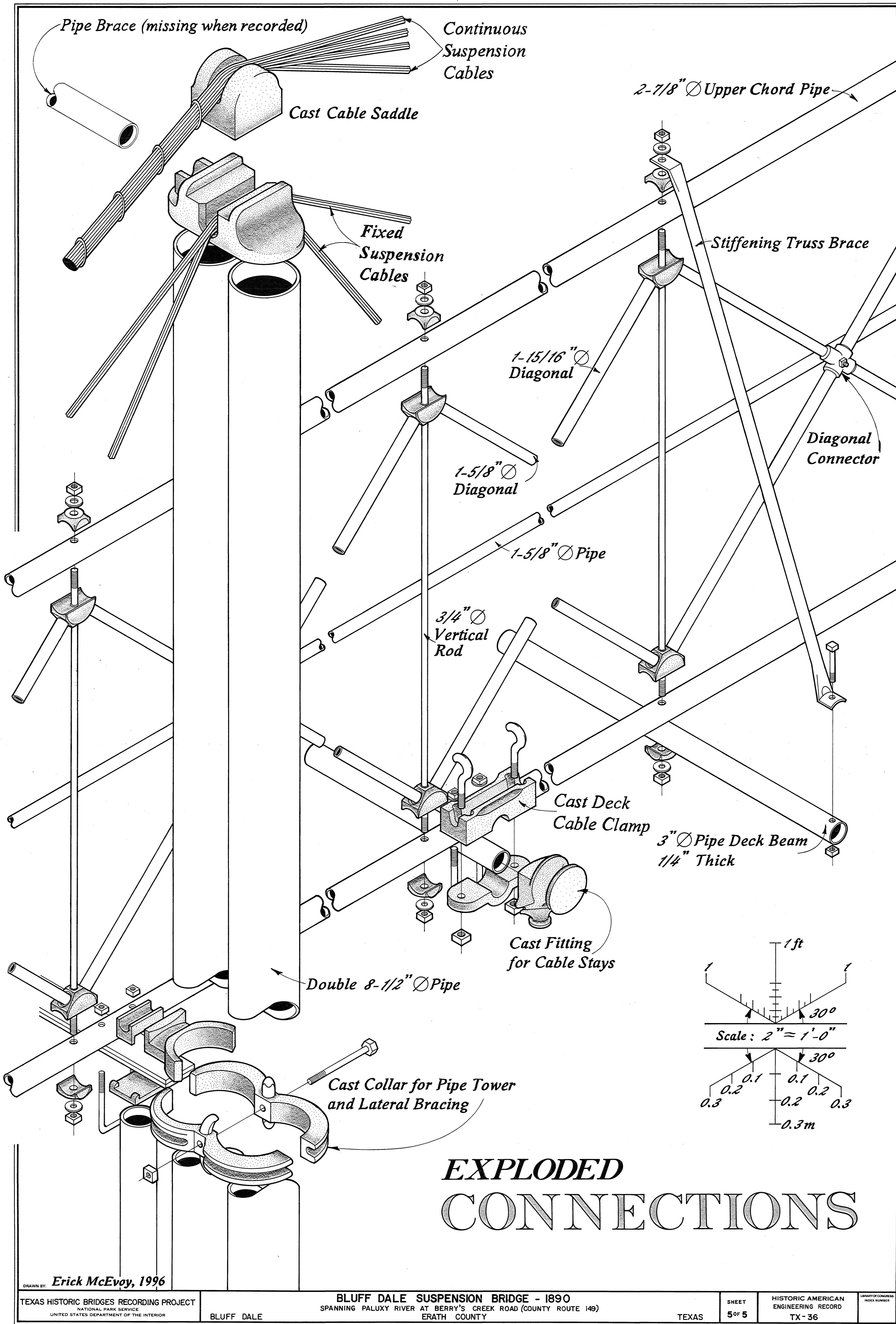
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BLUFF DALE

BLUFF DALE SUSPENSION BRIDGE - 1890
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ERATH COUNTY

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