State Level Historic Documentation Report

State Project No. S314-28-22.27 Federal Project No. BR-0028(058)D

John Blue Bridge Hampshire County



Prepared by:

Randy Epperly, Historian

Department of Transportation Division of Highways Engineering Division Environmental Section

May 22, 2018

STATE LEVEL HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION JOHN BLUE BRIDGE

<u>Location</u>: WV Route 28, Spanning South Branch Potomac River

Hampshire County West Virginia

USGS Springfield Quadrangle

Date of Construction: 1936

Builder: Fort Pitt Bridge Works

<u>Present Owner:</u> West Virginia Department of Transportation

Division of Highways

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, Building 5, Room A-110

Charleston, WV 25305

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: John Blue Bridge is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a

good example of a truss bridge and its association with a known builder, Fort Pitt Bridge Works. John Blue Bridge was formerly known as Grace Bridge and is listed on the 1990 Final List of Historic Bridges in WV.

Project Information: The project has been undertaken due to its poor condition and deficiencies

of the structure. The project will provide a new bridge crossing the South Branch Potomac River. The existing bridge is posted for weight limits and trucks and buses must cross one at time. The existing bridge warrants replacement. The documentation was undertaken in May 2018 in

accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, West Virginia Department of Transportation, and West State Historic Preservation Office. The bridge is scheduled to be replaced

in 2020.

Original bridge plans are attached.

Randy Epperly, Historian

West Virginia Division of Highways

Charleston, WV 25305

May 22, 2018

John Blue Bridge, formerly the Grace Bridge, is located on WV Route 28 in Hampshire County, spanning the South Branch of the Potomac River in the Blues Beach area. The bridge consists of steel riveted pony trusses for the end spans and the main span is a steel riveted through truss. It is supported by two concrete abutments and two rectangular concrete piers. The overall length is 419 feet 6 inches and the overall width is 25 feet 2 inches. The Average Daily Traffic in 2015 was 3,054 Vehicles Per Day. The bridge was built in 1936 by Fort Pitt Bridge Works. The bridge was constructed as a replacement to a flood damaged bridge.

John Blue Bridge is listed on the 1990 Final List of Historic Bridges in WV under the name Grace Bridge, with a rating of 32. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its engineering significance (good example of a truss bridge) and its association with an important bridge builder, Fort Pitt Bridge Works.

The bridge is showing many signs of deterioration and contains fracture critical members. It is posted for weight limits and trucks and buses must cross one at a time. The steel superstructure contains heavy section loss, portal members have been damaged by vehicles, and both abutments show cracking and heavy deterioration. The concrete deck is cracking, the piers have underwater deterioration, and several steel members have been bent and twisted due to high water damage (WVDOH, 2017).

Camp Washington was built in 1861 by the Union on Washington Bottom Farm, home to ancestors of George Washington who surveyed the area. The camp was located near the Wire Bridge (located in the vicinity of the John Blue Bridge) and was used to secure the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The camp was later occupied by the Confederacy after the Union forces withdrew (Civil War Trails). In 1861 the Wire Bridge Engagement occurred as Union General Benjamin Kelly attempted to march from Keyser to Romney in order to occupy the town. Kelly was to attack from the west while Colonel Thomas Johns attacked from the north. Johns encountered enemy troops at the Wire Bridge and during the battle Johns' troops had to take cover behind the bridge parapets. Johns withdrew to Maryland when he heard Kelly's troops entering Romney. The Union took control of Romney for nearly 3 months before retreating over the Wire Bridge into Maryland as Stonewall Jackson arrived reinforcing the Confederacy (Civil War Trails).

The Wire Bridge was destroyed during the war. It would be rebuilt, and then demolished 2 more times before the current bridge was built. The bridge was named for John Blue, one of the first settlers in the area. He came to the area around 1725 and owned land where present day WV 28 is located (WV Legislature, 2003).

WV Route 28 roughly follows the alignment of the Moorefield and North Branch Turnpike, chartered in 1847. The turnpike crossed the river near the location of the current John Blue Bridge, but no remnants of the turnpike remain (Moorefield and North Branch Turnpike).

Fort Pitt Bridge Works was founded in 1896 and eventually sold in 1986 (Fort Pitt Bridge Works). Fort Pitt Bridge Works is known for its steel fabrications for bridges and steel used in both World Wars (Barnes, 2006). The company's steel was also used for post offices, hospitals, schools, etc. (Mounts, 2006).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1990 Final List of Historic Bridges. West Virginia Division of Highways. 1990.
- Barnes, Tom. "Fort Pitt Bridge Works Site to Be Redeveloped." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette 26 July 2006, Local sec.: n. pag. Web.
- Civil War Trails, West Virginia. Kiosk located along WV Route 28.
- Fort Pitt Bridge Works, Pittsburgh, Pa., Records 1886-1949, AIS 1963.27, Archives Service Center, University of Pittsburgh.
- Moorefield & North Branch Turnpike. Turnpike Files. West Virginia Division of Highways, Engineering Division. Charleston, WV.
- Mounts, Carol. Washington PA Nostalgia. "Fort Pitt Bridge Works." 2006. Retrieved 29 Oct. 2014. www.freepages.nostalgia.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ebgschol/ftpitt~1.htm
- West Virginia Division of Highways, Bridge Files, Maintenance Division, Building 5, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305. 2014, 2017.
- West Virginia State Legislature. Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21. 2003. http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Text_html/2003_SESSIONS/RS/bills/scr21%20intr.htm Retrieved 30 October 2014.

STATE LEVEL HISTORIC DOCUMENTATION INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

John Blue Bridge WV Route 28 South Branch Potomac River Hampshire County, West Virginia

Photographer: Randy Epperly October 2014

JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-1	View of John Blue Bridge looking south.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-2	View of John Blue Bridge looking south.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-3	View of John Blue Bridge looking north.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-4	View of John Blue Bridge from riverbank looking southwest.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-5	View of bridge plate on northern end of the bridge.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-6	View of bridge plate on southern end of the bridge.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-7	View of through truss looking north.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-8	View of pony truss approach.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-9	View of bridge pier.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-10	View of bridge abutment.
JOHN BLUE BRIDGE-11	View of underside of bridge.



Photo #1



Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #4



Photo #5



Photo #6



Photo #7



Photo #8



Photo #9



Photo #10



Photo #11

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG

THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER AND THE WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOHN BLUE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

STATE PROJECT #S314-28-22.27 FEDERAL PROJECT #STP-0028(060)D HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA NOVEMBER 2017

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH), proposes to replace the John Blue Bridge, hereinafter referred to as the Project. The project will replace the existing bridge with a new bridge upstream and demolish the existing bridge; and

WHEREAS, the FHWA has determined that the Project will have an adverse effect upon the John Blue Bridge, a property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); and

WHEREAS, the FHWA has consulted with the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (WVSHPO) pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 Implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; (16 U.S.C., 470f); and

WHEREAS, the FHWA has determined that the Project will not affect archaeological properties with WVSHPO concurrence in a letter dated July 26, 2017; and

WHEREAS, The WVDOH has contacted the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia, Historic Hampshire County, Seneca Nation of Indians, Pemunkey Indian Tribe, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and the Delaware Nation. The Historic Hampshire County responded to the letter with information regarding the project area and the Seneca Nation of Indians responded to potential archaeological resources; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6 (a) (1), the FHWA has notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of its adverse effect determination providing the specified documentation, and the ACHP has chosen not to participate in the consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6 (a) (1) (iii);

NOW, THEREFORE, the FHWA, the WVSHPO, and the WVDOH agree that the undertaking will be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties.

STIPULATIONS

The FHWA shall ensure that the following stipulations are carried out:

John Blue Bridge Replacement Project

- I. The John Blue Bridge will be documented in its present historic setting. The documentation package will include 5"x7" black and white digital prints in accordance with the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Survey Photo Policy Expansion of January 2009.
- II. A brief history of the structure will be included along with fully completed West Virginia Historic Property Inventory forms and copies of any available plan sheets and drawings of the bridge from WVDOH bridge files
- III. West Virginia Division of Highways staff will provide the Hampshire County Public Library in Romney a copy of the John Blue Bridge State Level Historic Documentation for references and educational purposes.
- IV. 50 color brochures of the John Blue Bridge will be developed by the WVDOH and distributed to the Hampshire County Public Library in Romney. The WVSHPO will be given the opportunity to review all educational materials developed for this stipulation. A CD containing the brochure will also be given to the library to print brochures when the original total has been exhausted.
- V. The John Blue Bridge will be documented on the West Virginia historic bridge website.

VI. Duration

This MOA will expire if its stipulations are not carried out within five (5) years from the date of its execution. At such time, and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, the FHWA shall either (a) execute an MOA pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6, or (b) request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR 800.7. Prior to such time, FHWA may consult with other signatories to reconsider the terms of the MOA and amend it in accordance with Stipulation X below. FHWA shall notify the signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

VII. Post-Review Discoveries

If any unanticipated effects to or discoveries of historic properties or archaeological sites, including human burial sites and/or skeletal remains, are encountered during the implementation of this undertaking, work shall be suspended in the area of the discovery until the WVDOH has developed and implemented an appropriate treatment plan in consultation with the WVSHPO pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13 (b).

VIII. Monitoring and Reporting

Each year following the execution of this MOA until it expires or is terminated, FHWA shall provide all parties to this MOA a summary report detailing work carried out pursuant to its terms. Such report shall include any scheduling changes proposed, any problems encountered, and any disputes and objections received in FHWA's efforts to carry out the terms of this MOA.

IX. Dispute Resolution

Should any signatory or concurring party to this MOA object at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this MOA are implemented, FHWA shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. If FHWA determines that such objection cannot be resolved, FHWA will:

- A. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the FHWA's proposed resolution, to the ACHP. The ACHP shall provide FHWA with its advice on the resolution of the objection within thirty (30) days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the dispute, FHWA shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP, signatories and concurring parties, and provide them with a copy of this written response. FHWA will then proceed according to its final decision.
- B. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) day time period, FHWA may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, FHWA shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories and concurring parties to the MOA, and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response.
- C. FHWA's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this MOA that are not the subject of the dispute remain unchanged.

X. Amendments

This MOA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all signatories. The amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all of the signatories is filed with the ACHP.

XI. Termination

If any signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other parties to attempt to develop an amendment per Stipulation X, above. If within thirty (30) days (or another time period

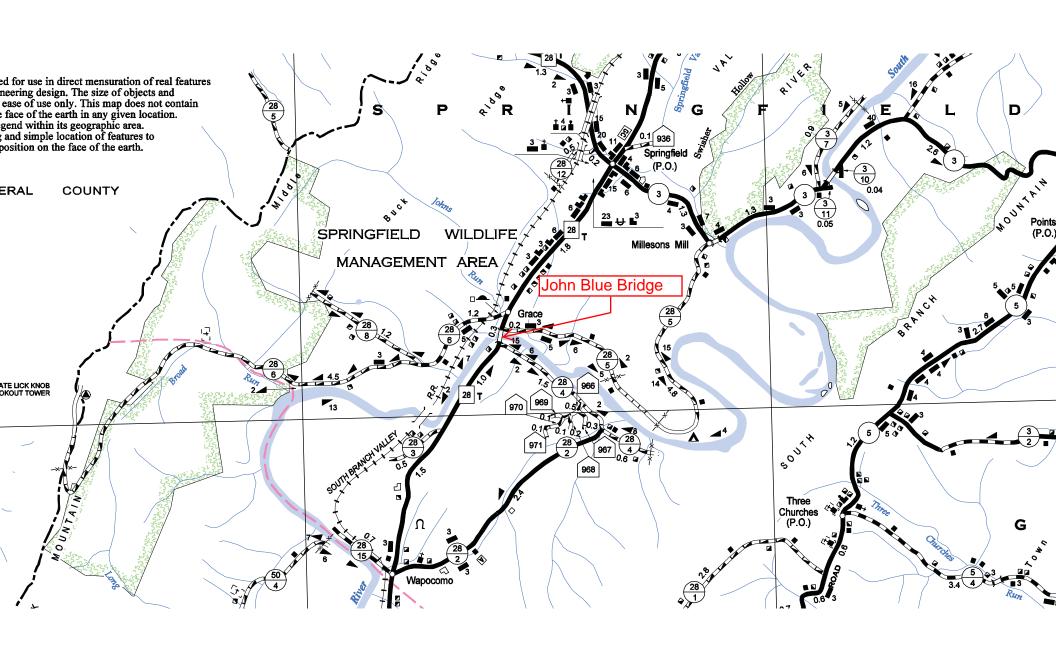
John Blue Bridge Memorandum of Agreement Page - 4 –

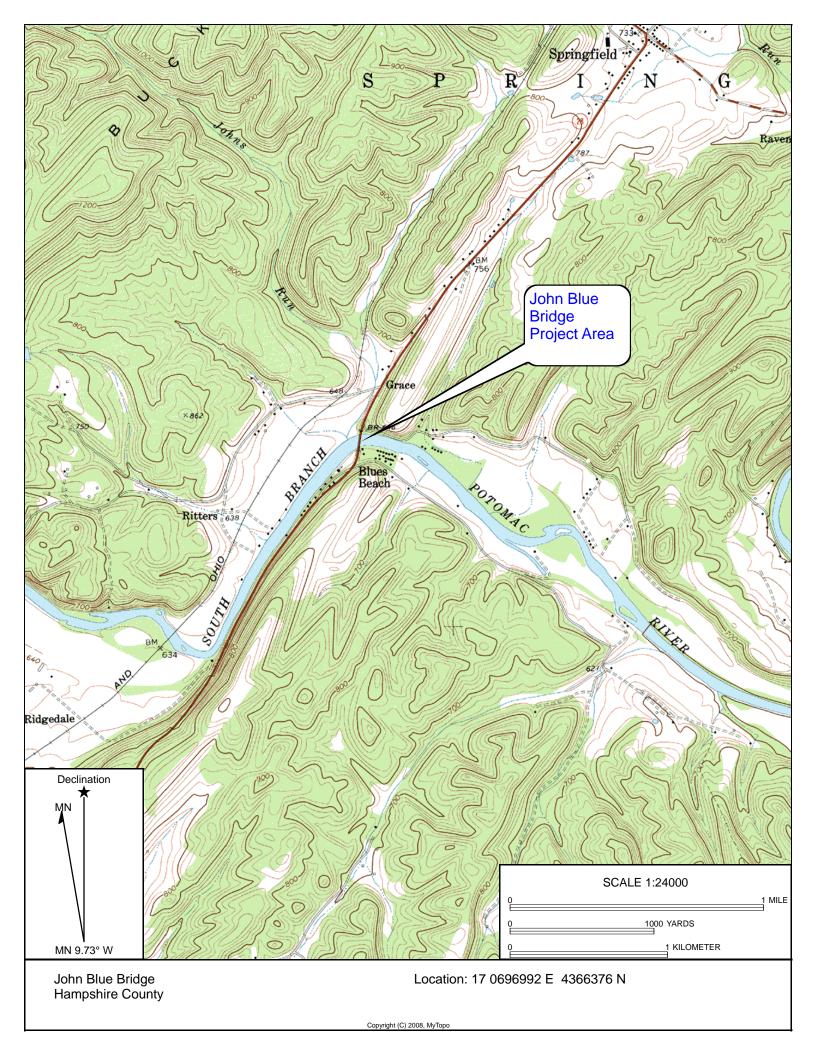
agreed to by all signatories) an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other signatories.

Once the MOA is terminated, and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, FHWA must either (a) execute a MOA pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6, or (b) request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 CFR 800.7. FHWA shall notify the signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

EXECUTION of the Memorandum of Agreement by the FHWA, WVSHPO, the WVDOH and the Council, and implementation of its terms evidence that the FHWA has afforded the Council an opportunity to comment on the John Blue Bridge Replacement Project and its effects on historic properties, and that the FHWA has taken into account the effects of the undertaking on the historic properties.

Signatories Page	
Jun 2 Value	5/11/18
Federal Highway Administration	Date
West Virginia Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	<u>u/27/17</u> Date
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	 Date
INVITED SIGNATORY: Houles JAnut	3/12/18
West Virginia Division of Highways	Date



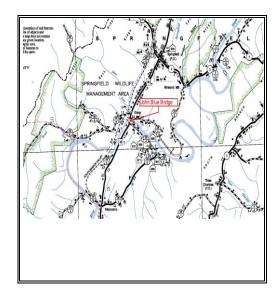


Internal Rating: _____



WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

Street Address Located along WV Route 28, spanning South Branch of the Potomac River,near Grace.	Common/Historic Name/Both ☑	Field Survey # HPI #1	Site # (SHPO Only)
Town or Community	County Hampshire	Negative No.	NR Listed Date
Grace	Tiampaniic		
Architect/Builder	Date of Construction	Style (SHPO Only)	
Fort Pitt Bridge Works	1936		
Exterior Siding / Materials	Roofing Material	Foundation	
Main Span: Steel Riveted Through Truss End Span: Steel Riveted Pony Trusses	Deck Material: Concrete	Abutments: Concrete Piers: Concrete	
Property Use or Function	UTM Zone 17 NAD 1983		
Transportation	Easting 0696673E Northing 4366701N		
	Quadrangle Name		Anto Bion Brigger
Survey Organization & Date	Springfield		
WVDOH October 16, 2014	Part of What Survey / FR# State County Route S314-28-22.27 Federal Route BR-0028(058)D		





Name: John Blue Bridge
Survey #: HPI #1
Survey / FR#: State County Route S314-28-22.27 Federal Project #BR-0028(058)D

Present Owners	Owners Mailing Address
WVDOH	Capitol Complex Building 5 Charleston, WV 25305
	Chaneston, WV 20000
Describe Setting	Unknown <1 Acres
G	Archaeological Artifacts Present
The bridge is located in a rural area in Hampshire County ne Branch of the Potomac River approximately 0.03 miles south horizontal curves on each side.	
Description of Buildings or Site (Original and Present)	Stories Front Bays
The structure was built by Fort Pitt Bridge Works in 1936. It central span. The end spans are steel riveted pony trusses bridge has an overall total length of 419 feet 6 inches. It is sconcrete piers. The overall width is 25 feet 2 inches. The brand trucks and buses are restricted to cross one at a time. (VPD) with a 20 year ADT projected to be 3,800 VPD.	and the main span is a steel riveted through truss. The supported by two concrete abutments and two rectangular ridge has a concrete deck. It is posted for weight limits
Alterations ☐ Yes ☑ No If yes, describe	
Painting and routing maintenance work	
Painting and routine maintenance work.	
Additions ☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, describe	
Describe All Outbuildings N/A	
Statement of Significance: See Continuation Sheet.	
See Continuation Sneet.	
Bibliographical References WVDOH Bridge Inspection Report. Maintenance Division. 2 Barnes, Tom. "Fort Pitt Bridge Works Site to be Redevelope Fort Pitt Bridge Works, Pittsburgh, Pa., Records 1886-1949, Pittsburgh.	d." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. 23 July 2006.
Form Prepared By:	Date: October 20, 2014
Name/Organization: Randy Epperly	
Address: WV Division of Highways Capitol Complex Building 5, Rm. 431 Charleston, WV 25305	

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Name John Blue Bridge Survey Number: HPI #1

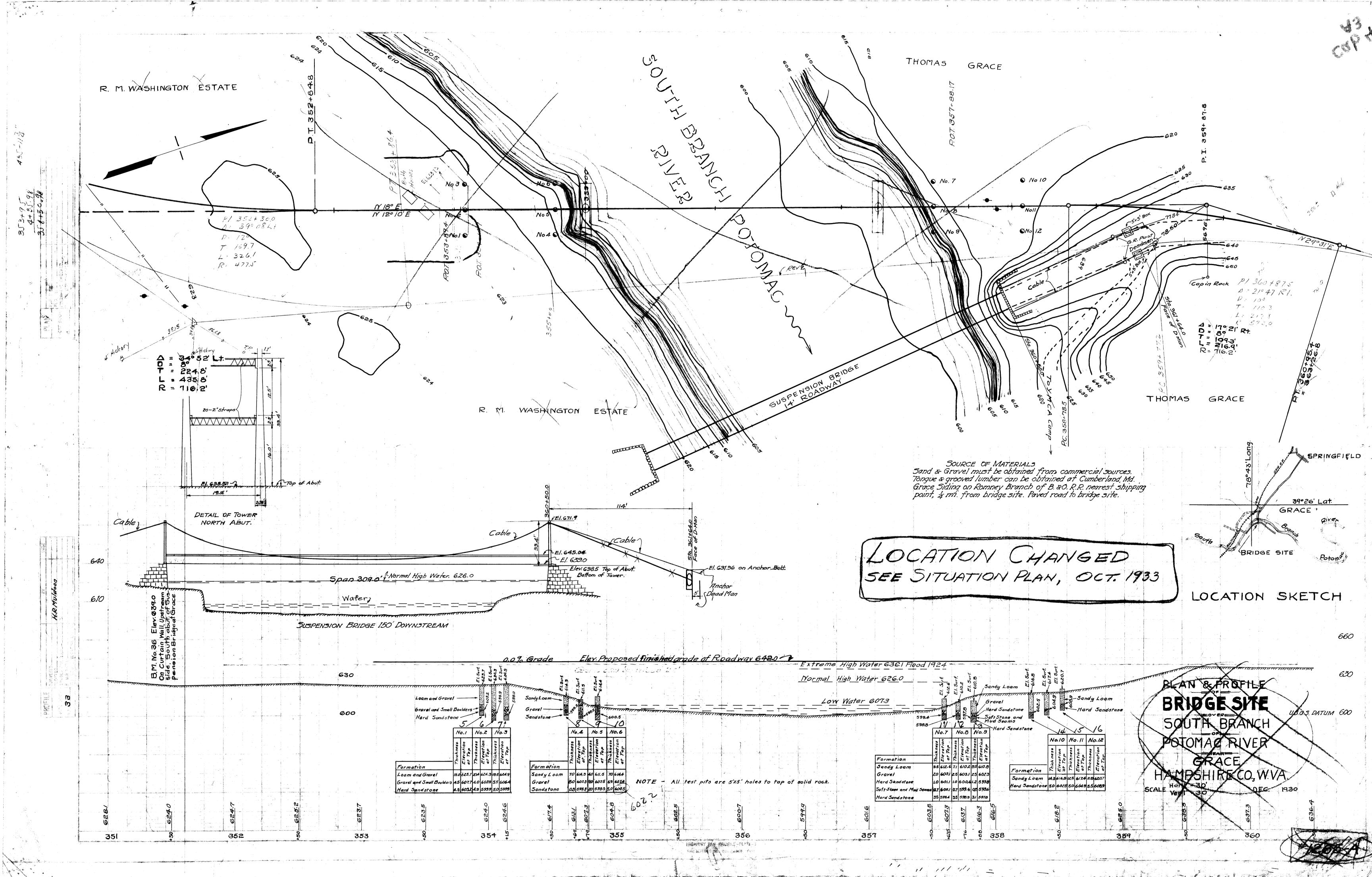
Project / FR#: State County Route S314-28-22.27 Federal Project # BR-0028(058)D

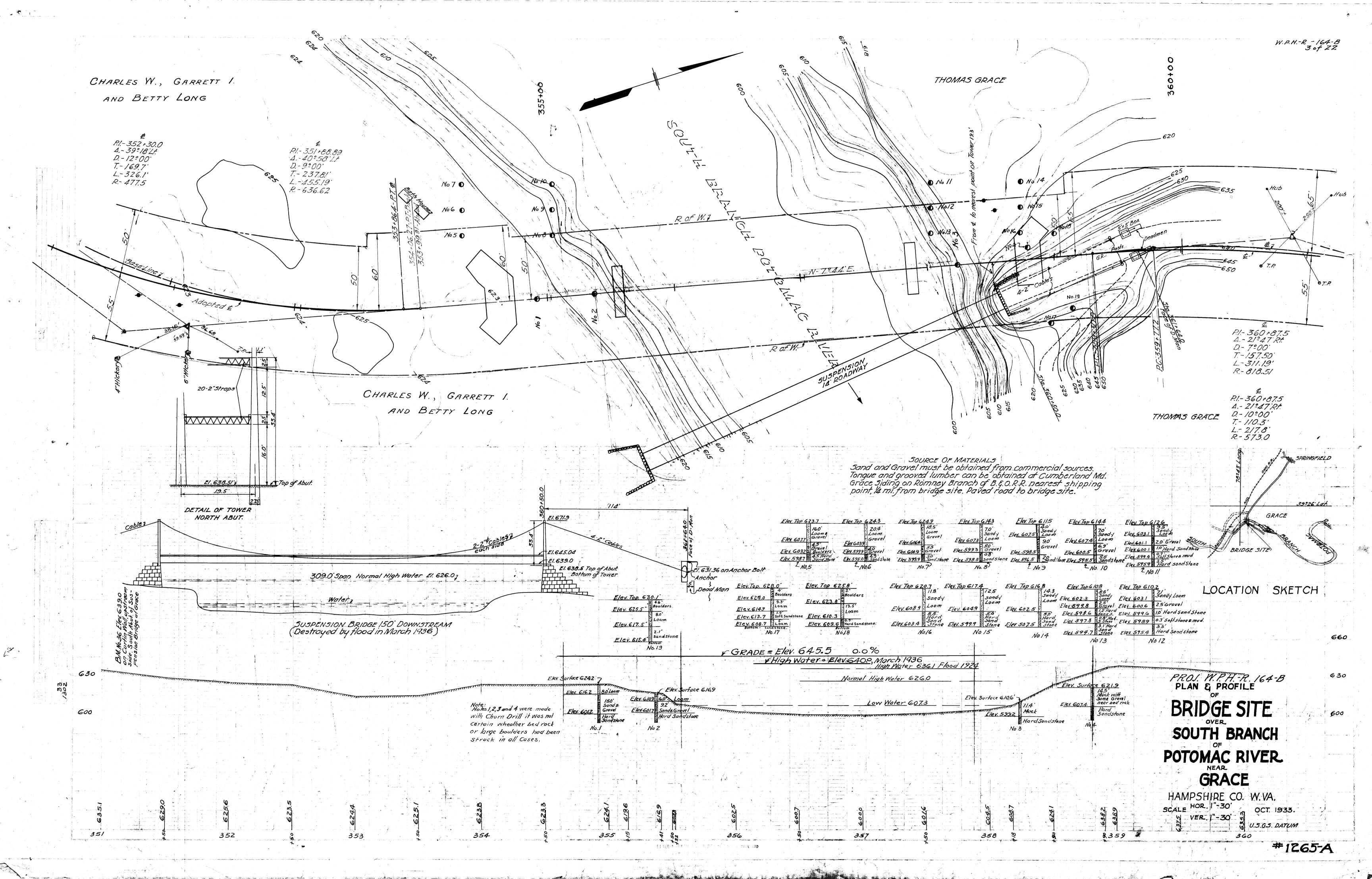
Other than a general association with the history of the area, the John Blue Bridge has no important link with events or trends that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history. The bridge was constructed in 1936 to replace a bridge in the general location that had been damaged in the 1936 flood. This bridge was not built as a new linkage between major towns but was a replacement needed for a damaged bridge. Therefore this bridge is not eligible for the National Register under Criterion A.

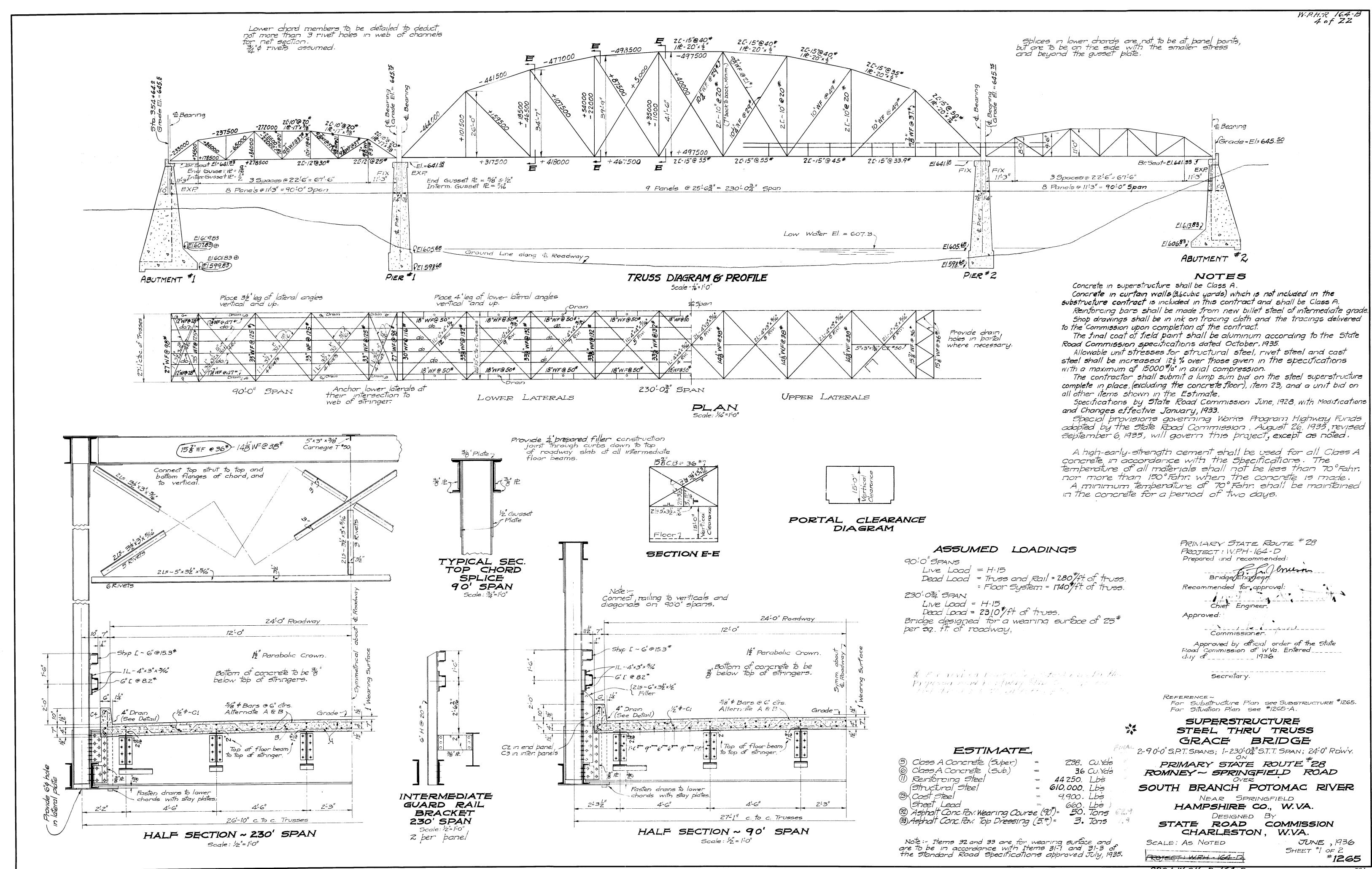
The bridge was named for John Blue, one of the first settlers in Hampshire County. Blue came to the area around 1725 and owned the land where present day WV Route 28 is located. The bridge itself does not have a direct association with the family. The Blue family settled in the area and may have had a connection to the original wire bridge. The current bridge was built in 1936 and named in honor of John Blue in 2003. The bridge is also known as Grace Bridge and Blue Beach Bridge. The bridge is not associated with a significant person or significant person's life and is not eligible under Criterion B.

The John Blue Bridge is a 419 foot 6 inch truss bridge consisting of a through truss and pony trusses. It was listed as Grace Bridge on the 1990 Final List of Historic Bridges for West Virginia. The bridge contains few alterations and remains a good example of a steel truss bridge. It was built by Fort Pitt Bridge Works, founded in 1896 and was eventually sold in 1986. Fort Pitt Bridge Works is known for its steel fabrications for bridges and also steel used in both World Wars. The bridge is eligible under Criterion C for being a good example of its bridge type and its association with a known builder.

The bridge is not likely to contain any important information that will contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory. It is not eligible under Criterion D.



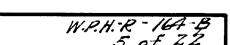


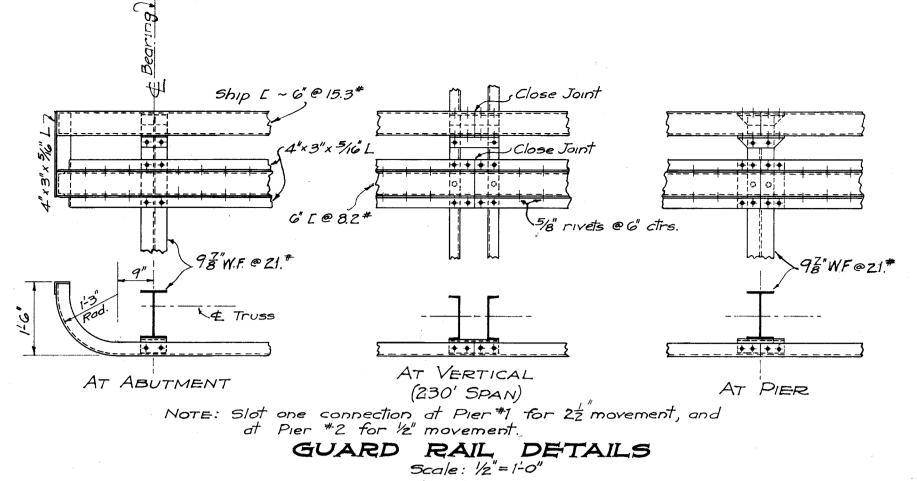


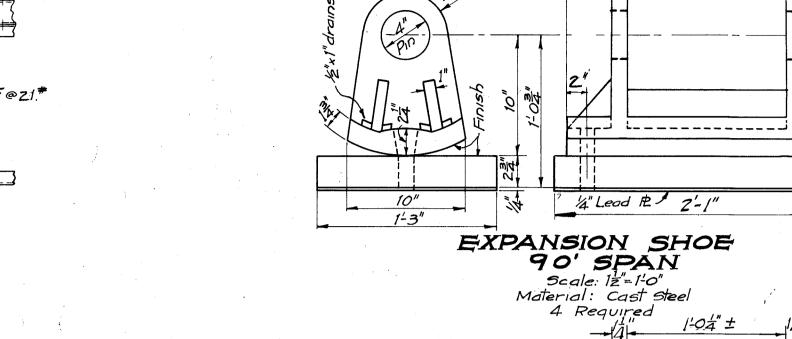
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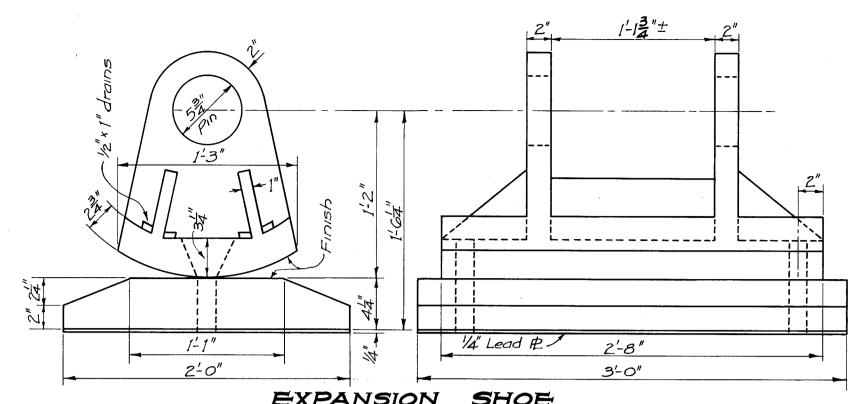
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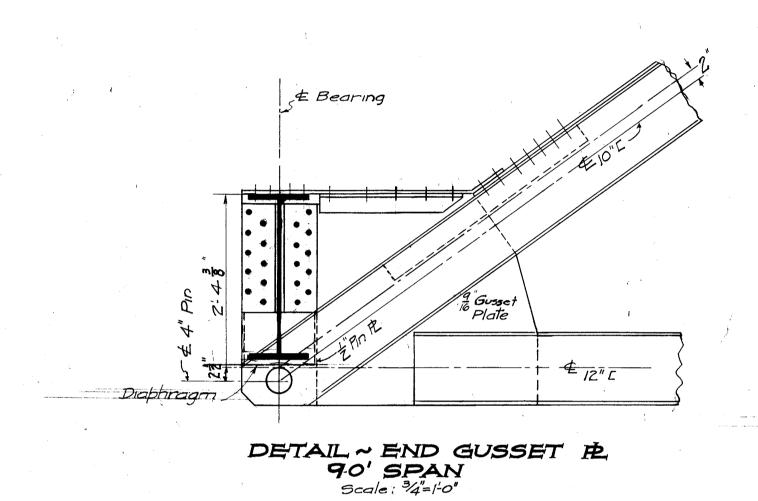
PROJ. W.P.H.-R-164-B

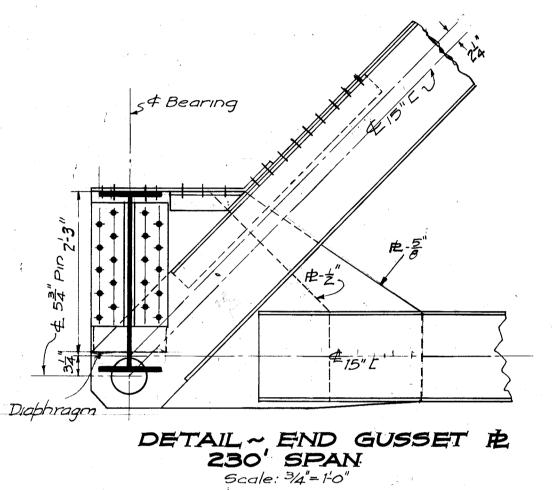


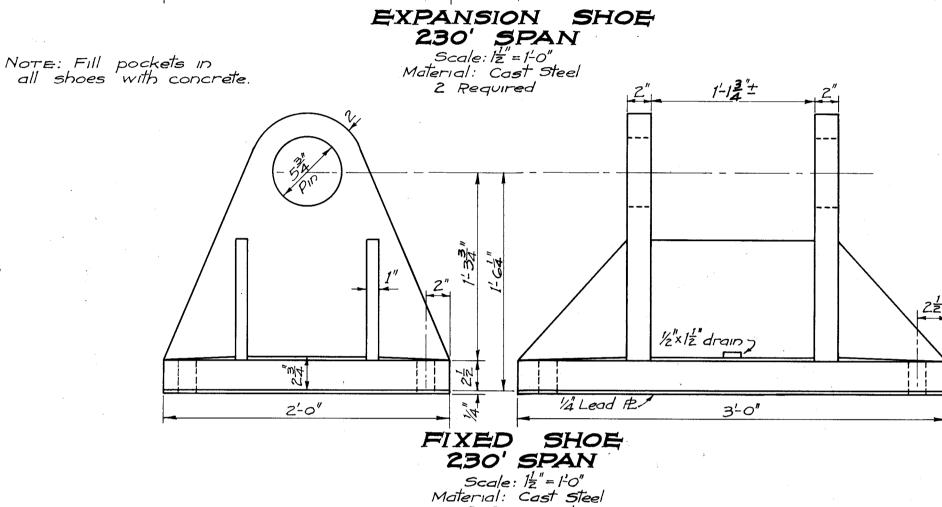




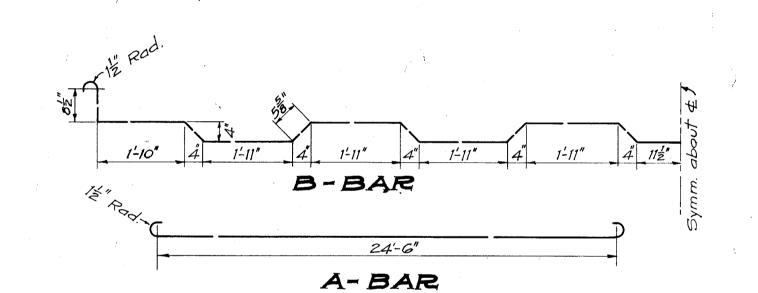


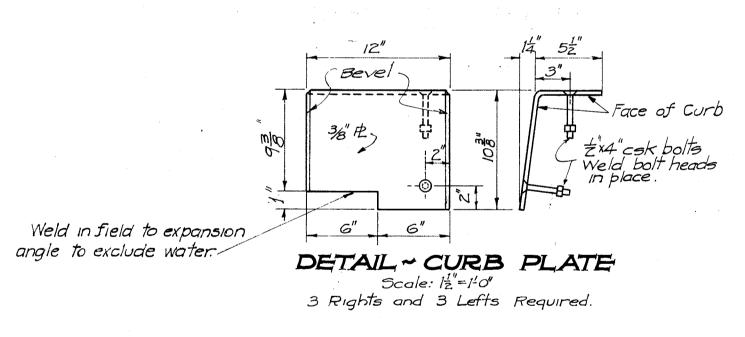


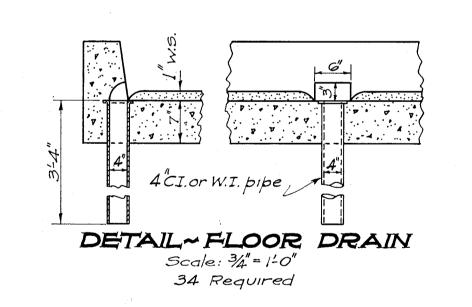




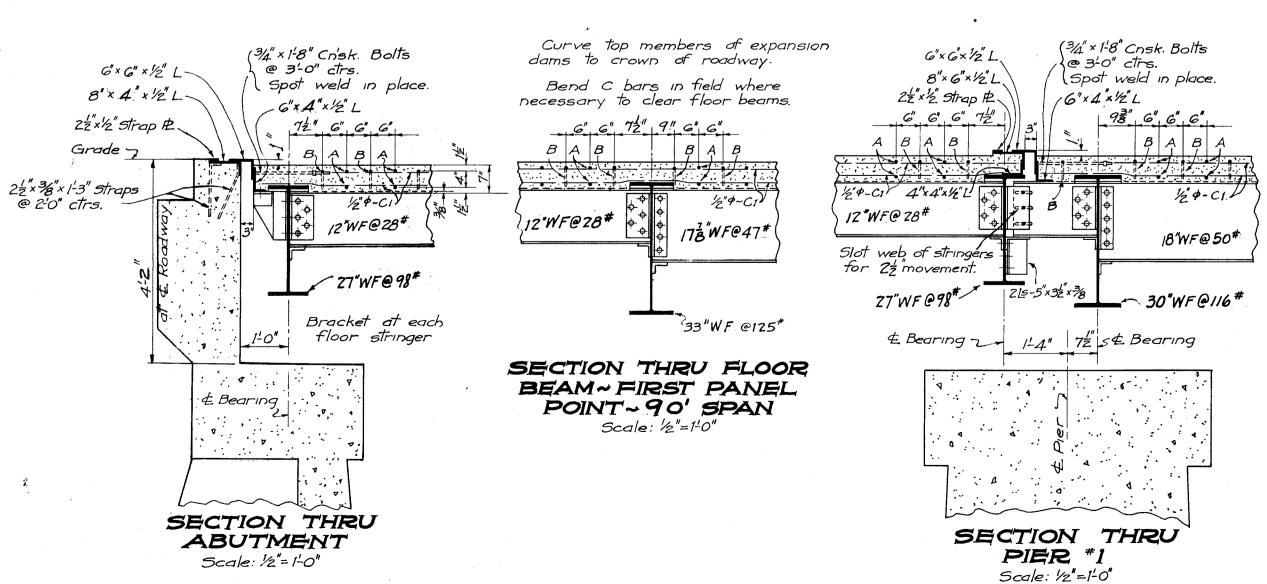
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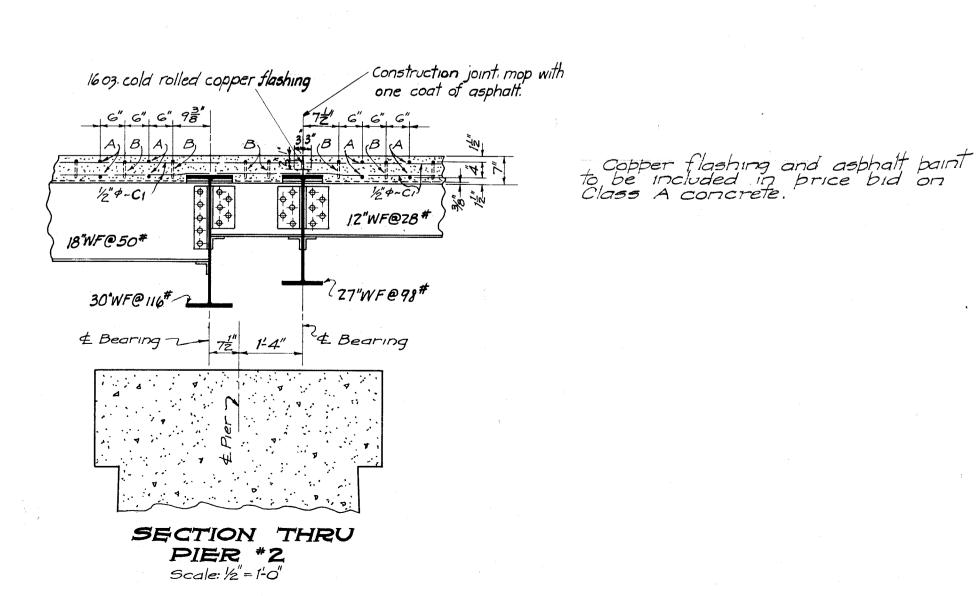






_	31LL FORCII	VG VG	STEEL	
Nº Bars	LETTER	SIZE	LENGTH	
76.6	Q	5/8" Þ	25-6"	
404	B	5⁄8" Φ	28 <u>'</u> 0"	
56/	C/	1/2" Ф	31-0"	
8	Cz	1/2" \$	11:0"	
12	C3	1/2" ф	22-0"	
18	C4	1/2" P	25'-0"	





SUPERSTRUCTURE STEEL THRU TRUSS GRACE BRIDGE 2~90'-0" S.P.T. SPANS; 1~230'-03" S.T.T. SPAN; 24'-0" ROWY.

ROMNEY- SPRINGFIELD ROAD
SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER
NEAR SPRINGFIELD

HAMPSHIRE CO., W.YA.

DESIGNED BY

STATE ROAD COMMISSION

#1265

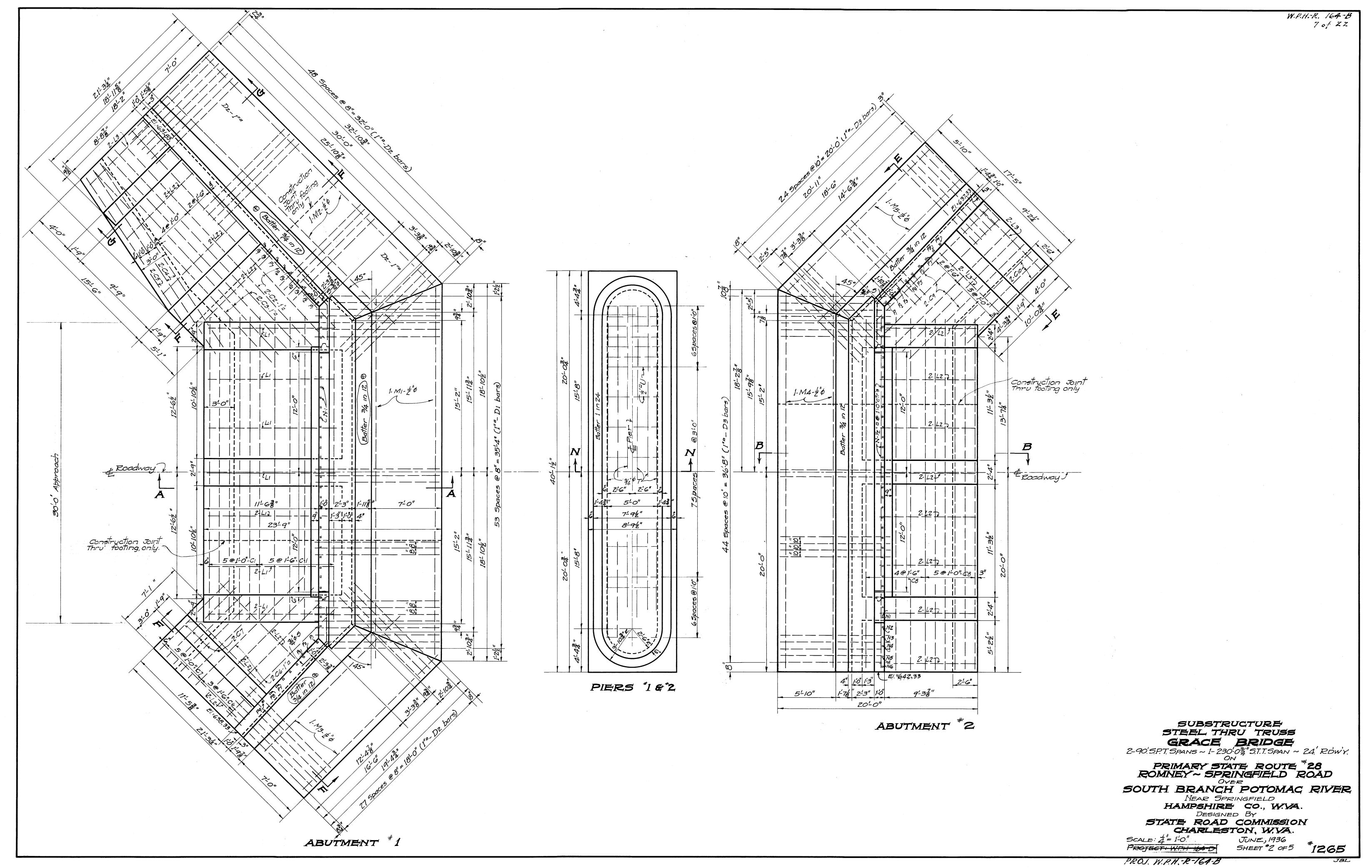
CHARLESTON, W.VA.

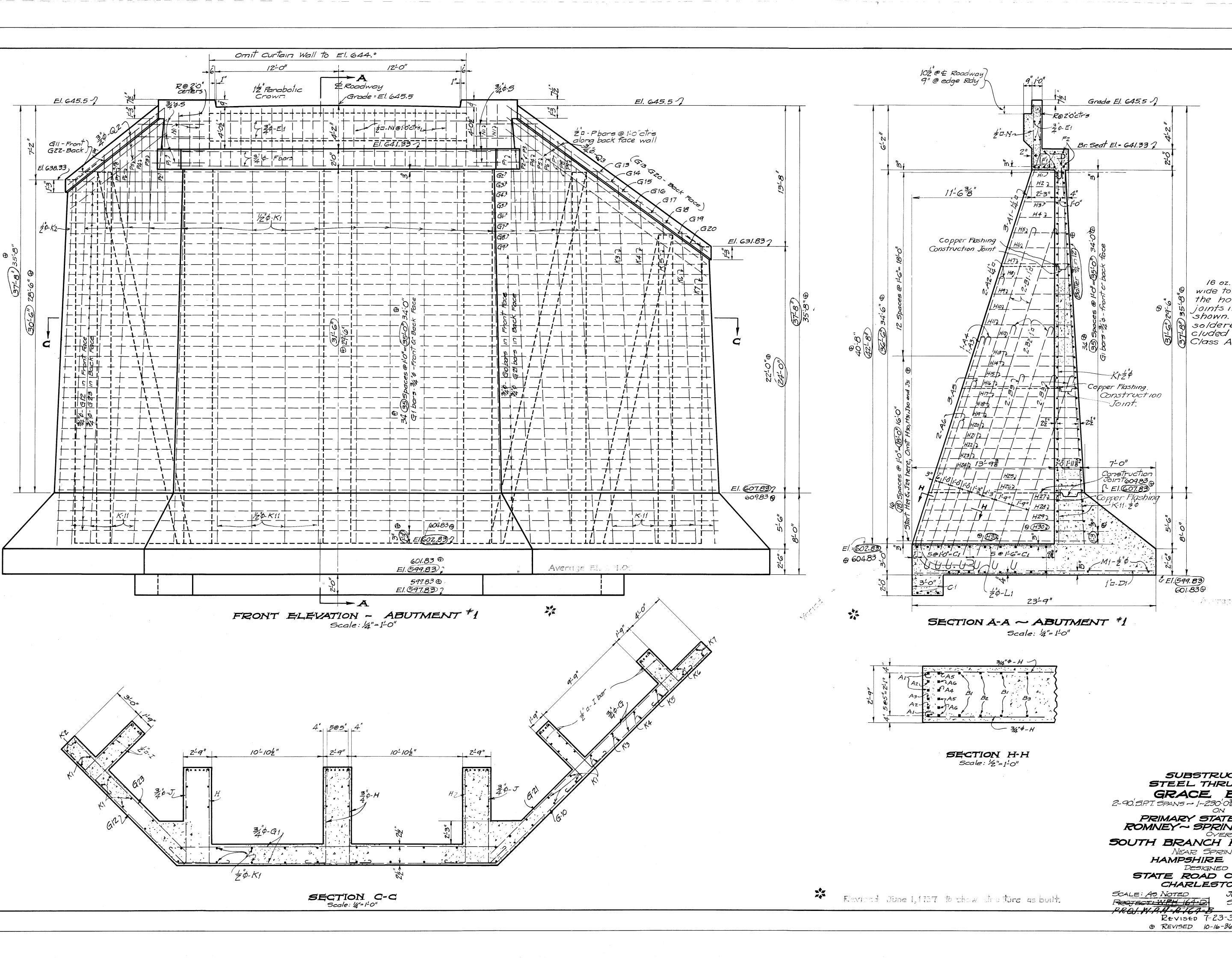
SCALE: AS NOTED

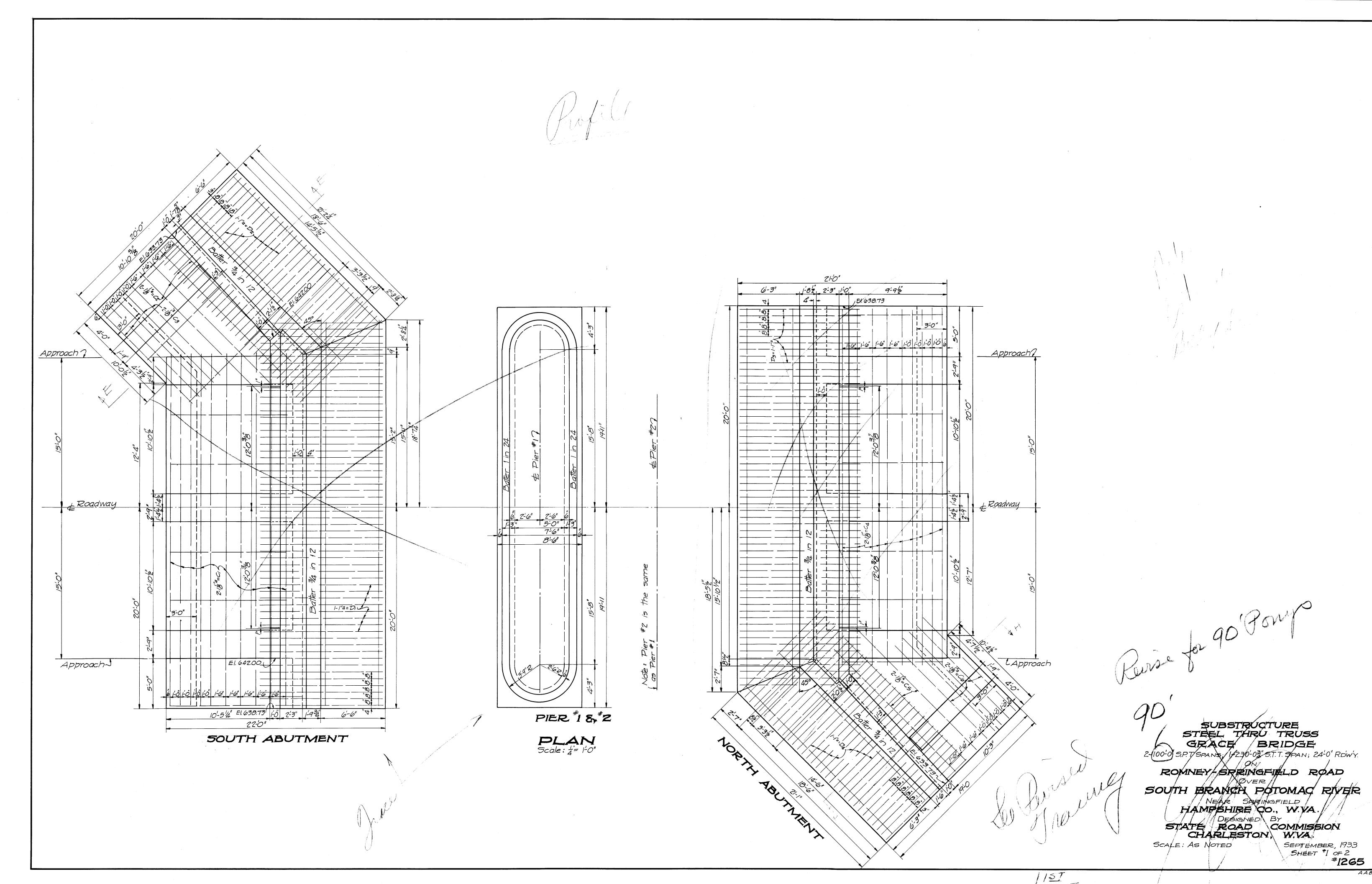
JUNE, 1936

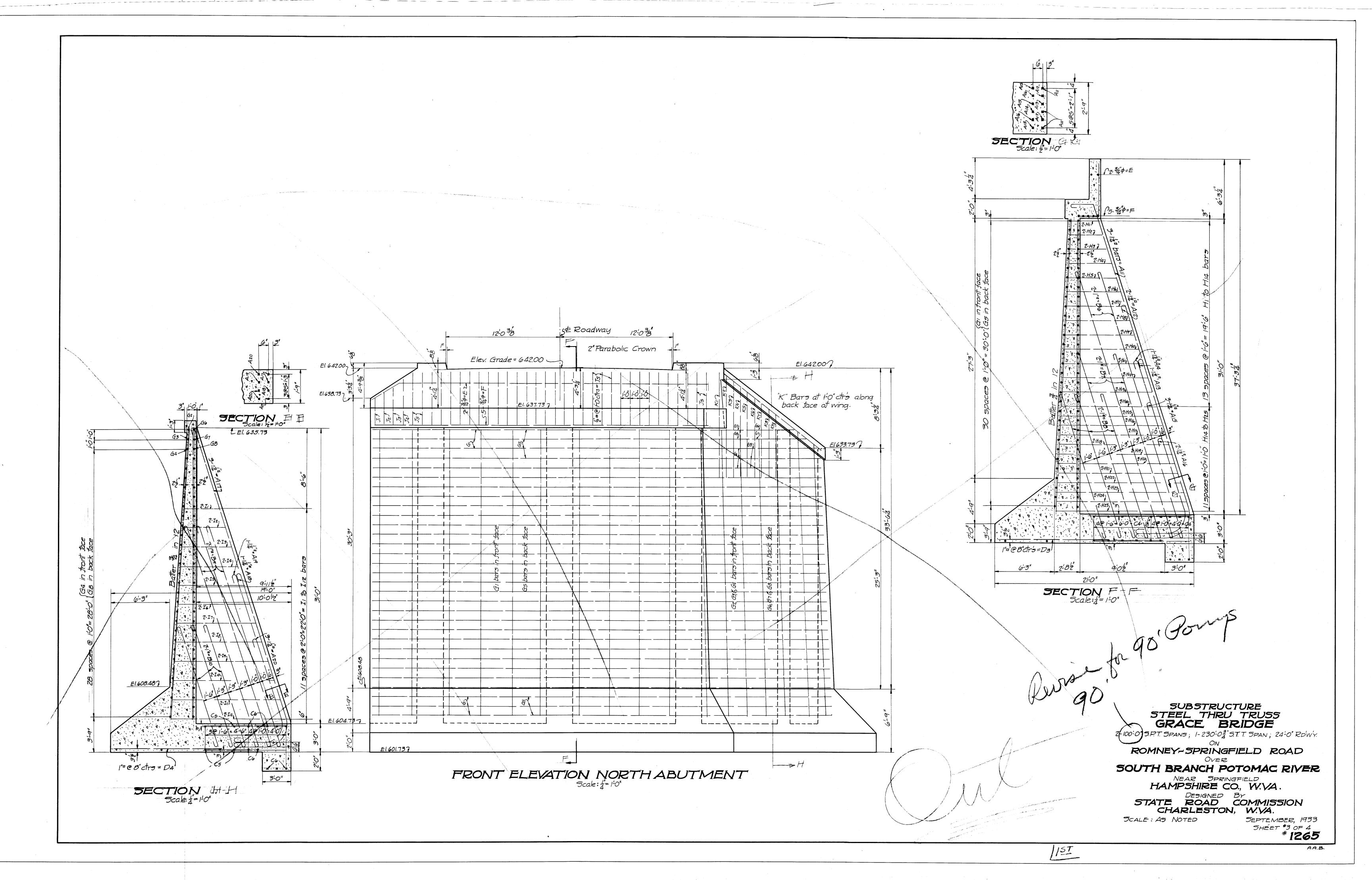
SHEET *2 OF 2

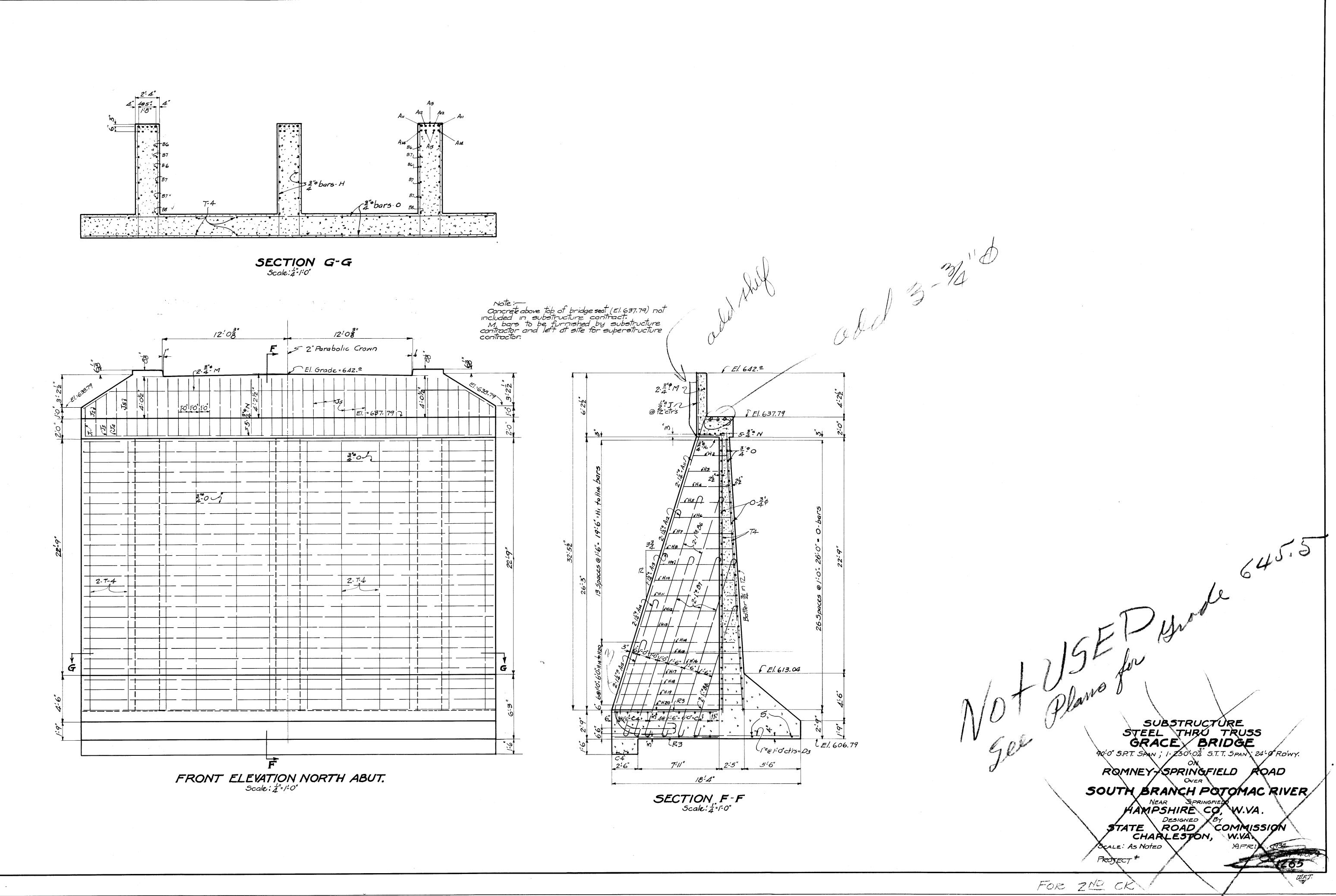
PROJECT: WIPH-164-D



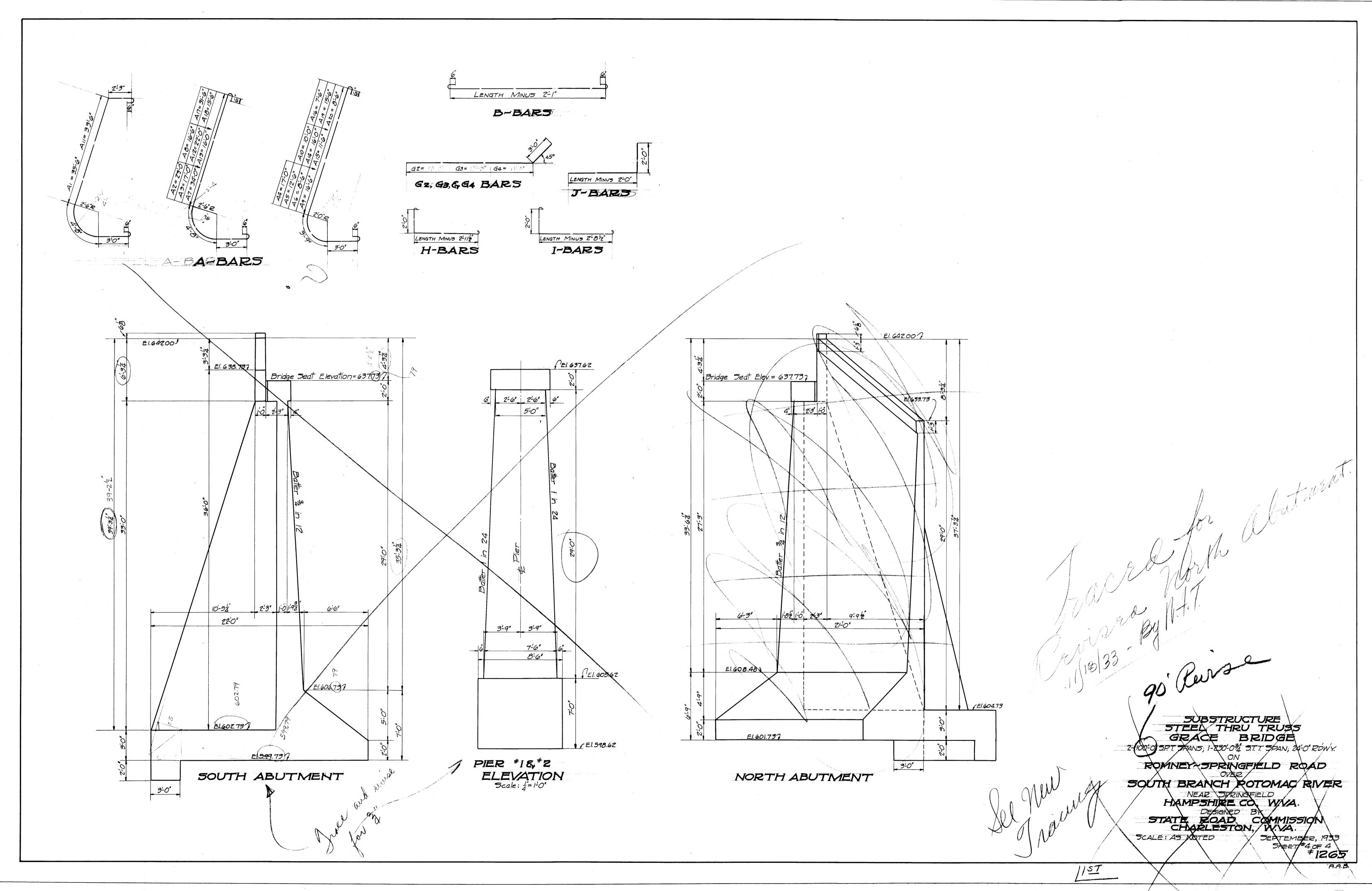


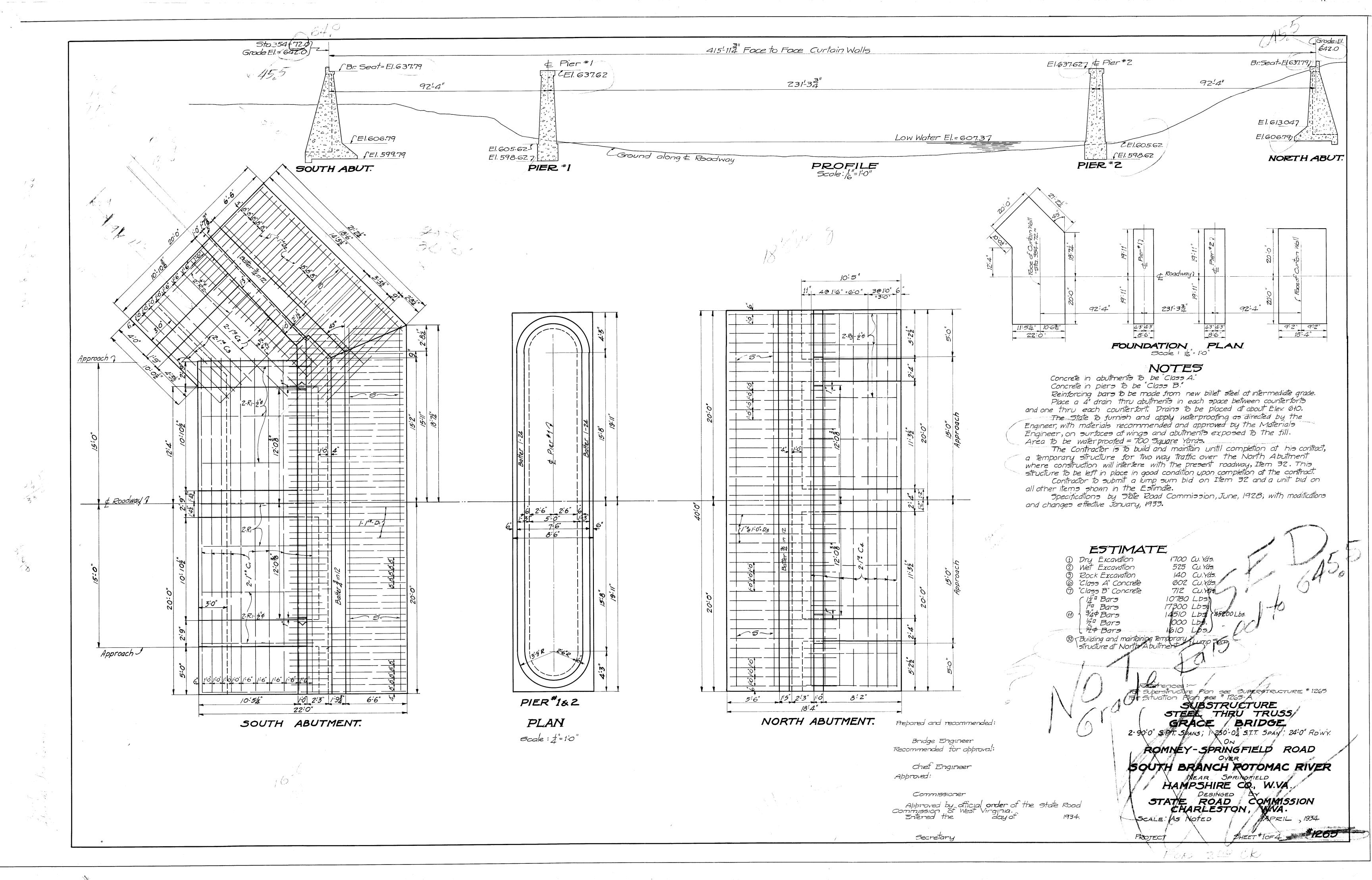


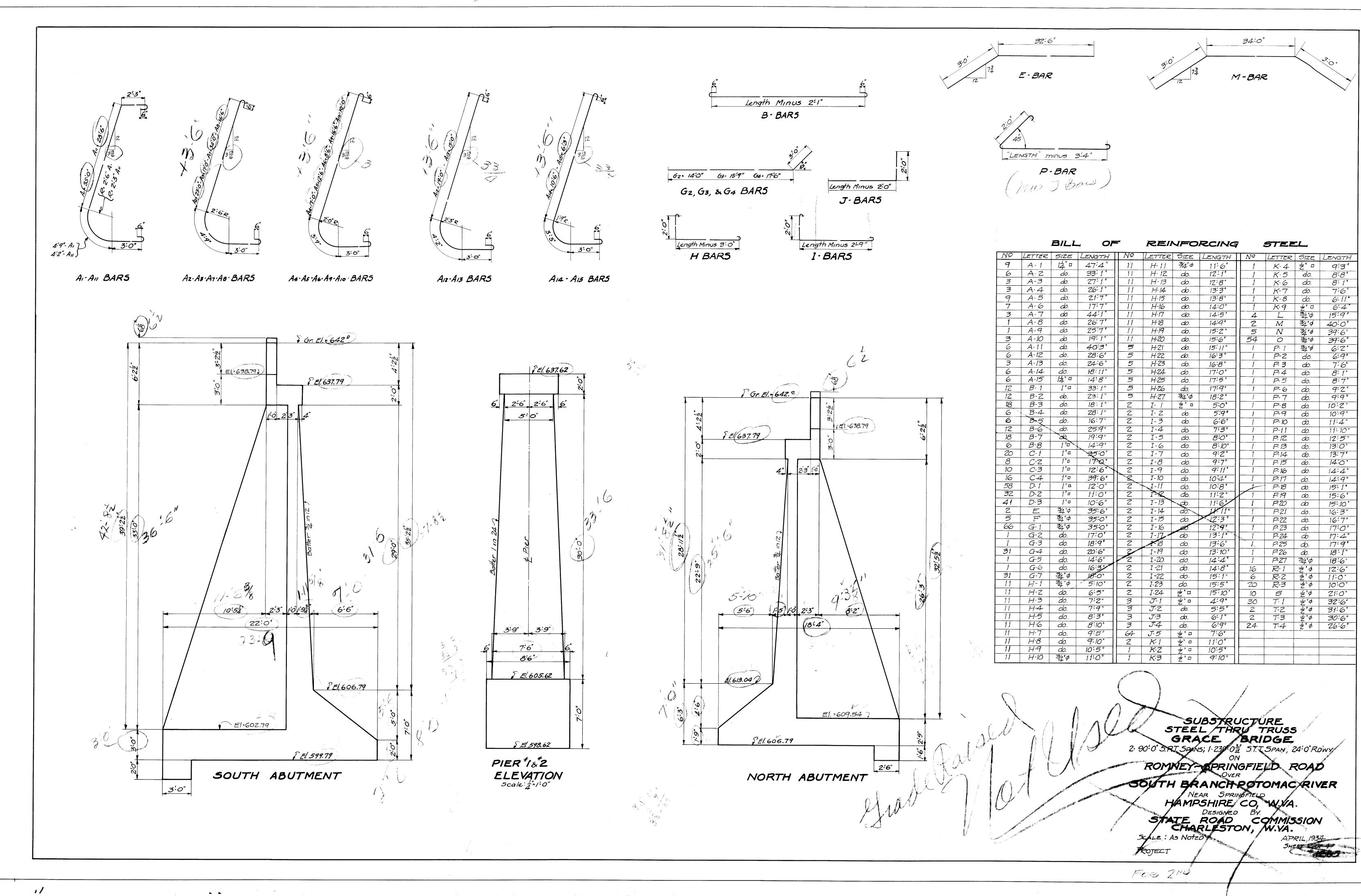


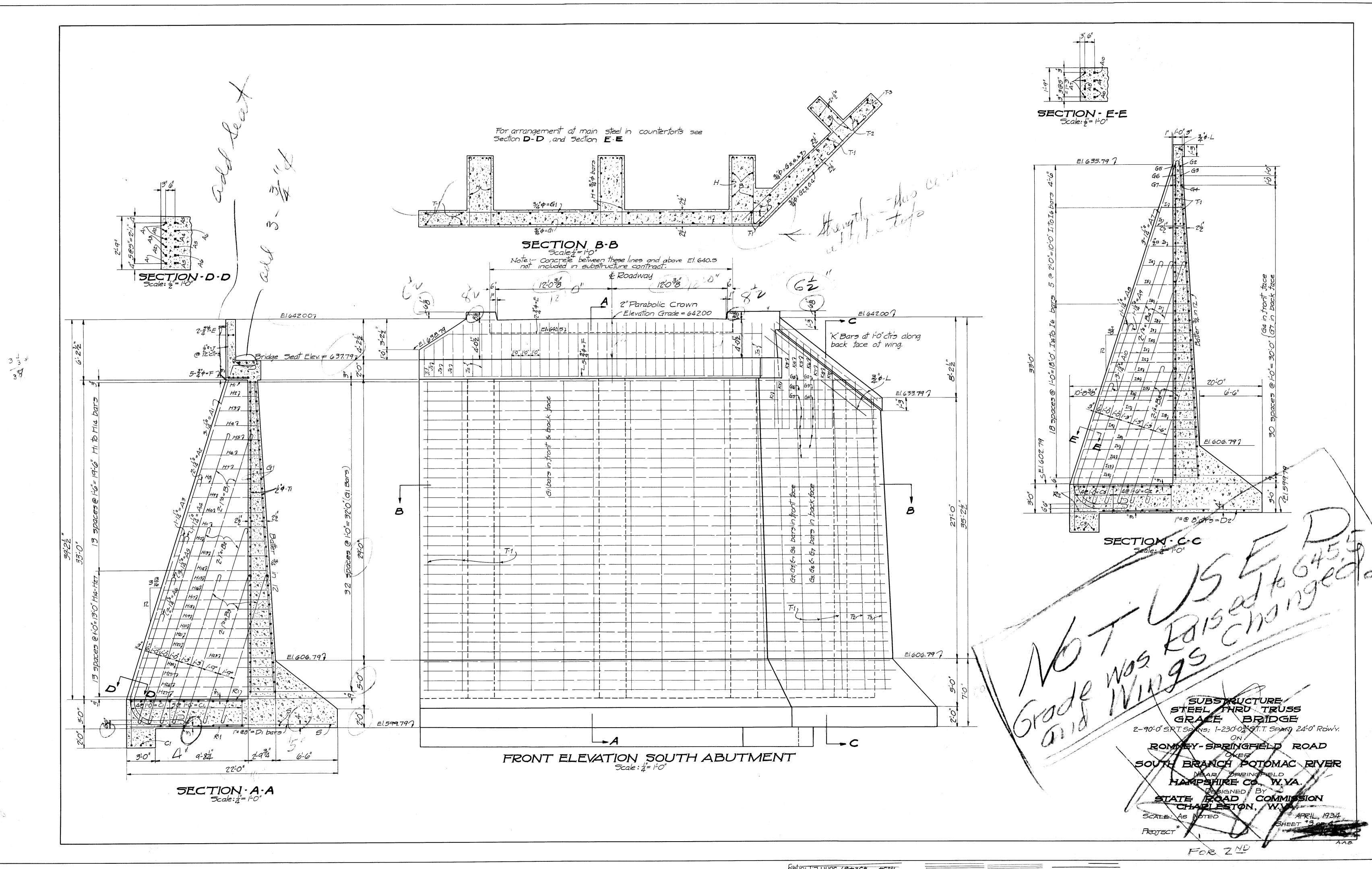


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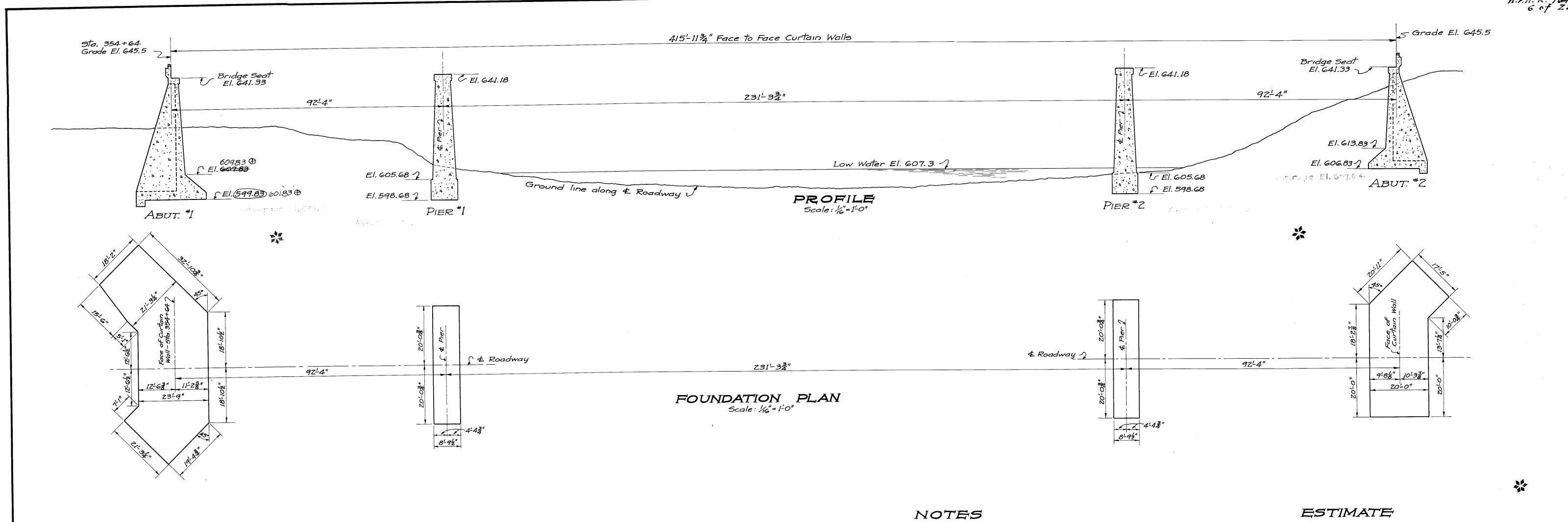








HATCH TSEE 3925 TOUR [MUTPHY



Concrete in abutments shall be Class "A".

Concrete in piers shall be Class "B".

Reinforcing bars shall be made from new billet steel of intermediate grade or from rail steel.

Place a 4" drain through abutments in each space between counterforts and one through each counterfort. Drains to be placed at about Elevation 610.

The backs of abutments from the base slab to within one foot of the top, including the top of the base slab, shall be waterproofed in accordance with Section 10 of Division II of the specifications, except that the protection course need not be applied. The contractor will, however, be responsible for and must make good any damages to the waterproofing.

The contractor shall submit a unit bid on the items shown in the estimate and an alternate bid for rail steel reinforcing bars, item 32.

Specifications by the State Road Commission, June 1928, with Modifications and Changes effective January 1933.

Special provisions governing Works Program Highway Funds adopted by the State Road Commission August 26, 1935, revised September 6, 1935, will govern this project.

For basis of bayment for reinforcing bars see note on Sheet #5 of 5.

Dry Excavation 2100. Cu. Yds 665. Cu. Yds Wet Excavation 150. Cu. Ydé 917. Cu. Ydé + 898.5 793. Cu. Ydé Rock Excavation Class "A" Concrete Class "B" Concrete (14" Reinf. bars = 16,170.) 70,030.) Lb's 69,219. 6975 " = (2,270) " = (2,840) " = (2,695) Bituminous Waterproofing 1100. 5q. Yds (70,070) Lb's @ 69,219. Not used 8 Bituminous Wate32 Rail Steel Bars

With and r live # 35 \$11.79

FOR SITUATION PLAN See *1265 A. FOR SUPERSTRUCTURE PLAN SEE SUPERSTRUCTURE #1265

SUBSTRUCTURE STEEL THRU TRUSS

GRACE BRIDGE 2-90'S.P.T. SPANS ~ 1-230'-03" S.T.T. SPAN ~ 24' R DWY.

PRIMARY STATE ROUTE *28
ROMNEY ~ SPRINGFIELD ROAD SOUTH BRANCH POTOMAC RIVER

NEAR SPRINGFIELD HAMPSHIRE CO., W.VA.

DESIGNED BY

STATE ROAD COMMISSION CHARLESTON, W.VA.

SCALE: AS NOTED JUNE, 1936
PROJECT W.P.H.164D SHEET *1 OF. SHEET *1 OF 5 #1265

Revised In a 1985 to show discher as built.

PRIMARY STATE ROUTE Nº 28.

6. Comism

Approved by official order of the State Road Commission of West Virginia. Entered the day of 1936.

L. toplantesperson

Chief Engineer.

Secretary.

Prepared and Recommended:

Recommended for Approval:

PROJECT: W.P.H. 164 D

Approved:

REVISED 10-16-36

Note:-

Item 32 is alternate for Item 11.

PROS. W.P.H-R-164-B

