

HOFMANN DAM IN DES PLAINES RIVER COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

1950

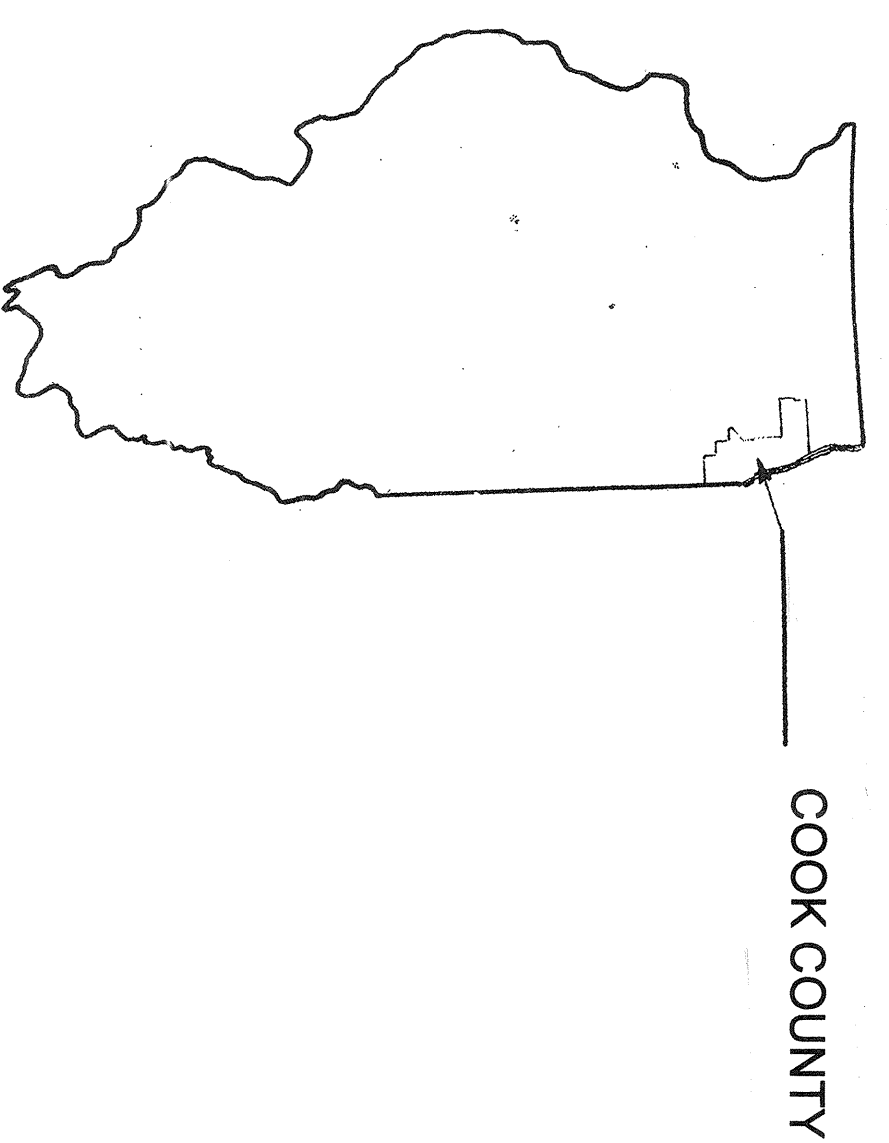
ERECTED IN 1950, THE PRESENT DAM SPANNING THE DES PLAINES RIVER, BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF RIVERSIDE AND LYONS OF ILLINOIS, IS THE THIRD AND LAST SUBSTANTIAL DAM TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT THE HOFMANN DAM SITE. THE FIRST OF THESE WAS BUILT BY THE LAUGHTON BROTHERS IN THE 1830S. THIS TEMPORARY DAM STRUCTURE FUNCTIONED AS A MILL DAM THROUGH THE MID-1800S FIRST AIDING SAWMILL PRODUCTION, THEN SERVING A GRISTMILL FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE CENTURY.

HISTORICAL RECORDS DEMONSTRATE THAT THE SUBSEQUENT DAM, THE FIRST TO BE MADE OF SUBSTANTIAL BUILDING MATERIALS, DATES TO 1866. FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED THIS DAM IN THE FIRST PLANNED SUBURBAN COMMUNITY OF RIVERSIDE, ILLINOIS, IN 1868. HIS INCORPORATION OF THE DES PLAINES RIVER, INTO HIS PLAN OF RIVERSIDE AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING RECREATIONAL WATER ACTIVITIES AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE, MARKED A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN. MADE OF STONE AND TIMBER, THE DAM OF 1866 WAS DESTROYED BY FLOOD AND REBUILT NUMEROUS TIMES BEFORE GEORGE HOFMANN ERECTED THE DISTINCTIVE HOFMANN DAM IN 1908.

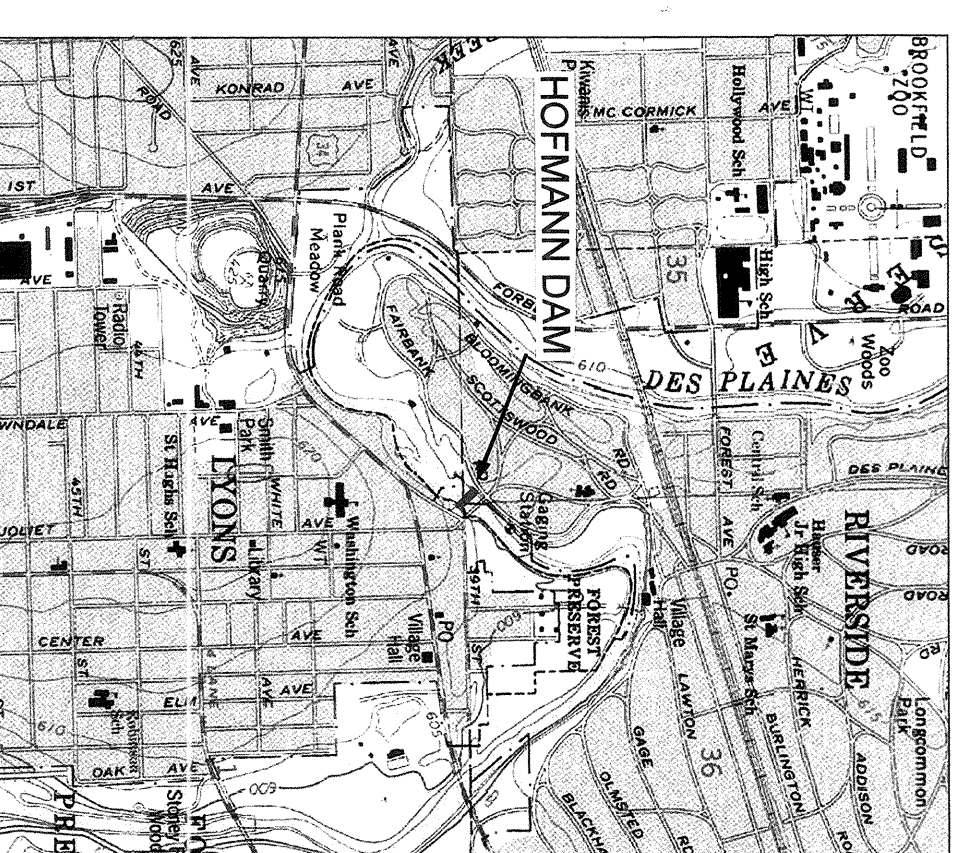
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF GEORGE HOFMANN, THE HOFMANN DAM AND TOWER WE SIMULTANEOUSLY BUILT. CONSTRUCTION OF THESE AND THE USE OF

CONCRETE AS A BUILDING MATERIAL REPRESENTED THE BEGINNING OF INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS AND THE INVENTION OF NEW BUILDING MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY. THE HOFMANN DAM, INTENDED AS A MORE PERMANENT MEANS OF POOLING WATER FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AS WELL AS TO AID THE CREATION AND SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR THE RECREATIONAL PARK, EMBODIED THE RISE OF RECREATIONAL BOATING AND PICNICKING POPULAR DURING THE EARLY 1900S. THE HOFMANN DAM REMAINED INTACT UNTIL 1928 WHEN RAW SEWAGE AND SLUDGE BEGAN TO COLLECT BEHIND IT.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO HALT POLLUTION, MR. HOFMANN REFUSED DEMANDS MADE BY THE DES PLAINES VALLEY RESIDENTS AND THE CHICAGO SANITARY DISTRICT TO OPEN HIS GATES AND ALLOW SLUDGE TO PASS. AS A RESULT OF HIS CONTENTION, A BY-PASS SYSTEM WAS BUILT BY THE CHICAGO SANITARY DISTRICT INTO THE NORTH BANK OF THE RIVER. THE HOFMANN DAM, THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF GEORGE HOFFMAN, REPRESENTED INITIAL CONCERNS REGARDING WATER SANITATION IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY. THE HOFMANN DAM REMAINED UNTOUCHED UNTIL IT WAS CUT BACK, BELOW WATER LEVEL, AND THE CURRENT DAM WAS ERECTED EAST OF THE HOFMANN DAM REMNANTS IN 1950. THE EXISTING DAM AT THE HOFMANN DAM SITE IS UNDERGOING AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT BY THE ARMY CORP. OF ENGINEERS IN PREPARATION FOR AN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT.



REGIONAL MAP



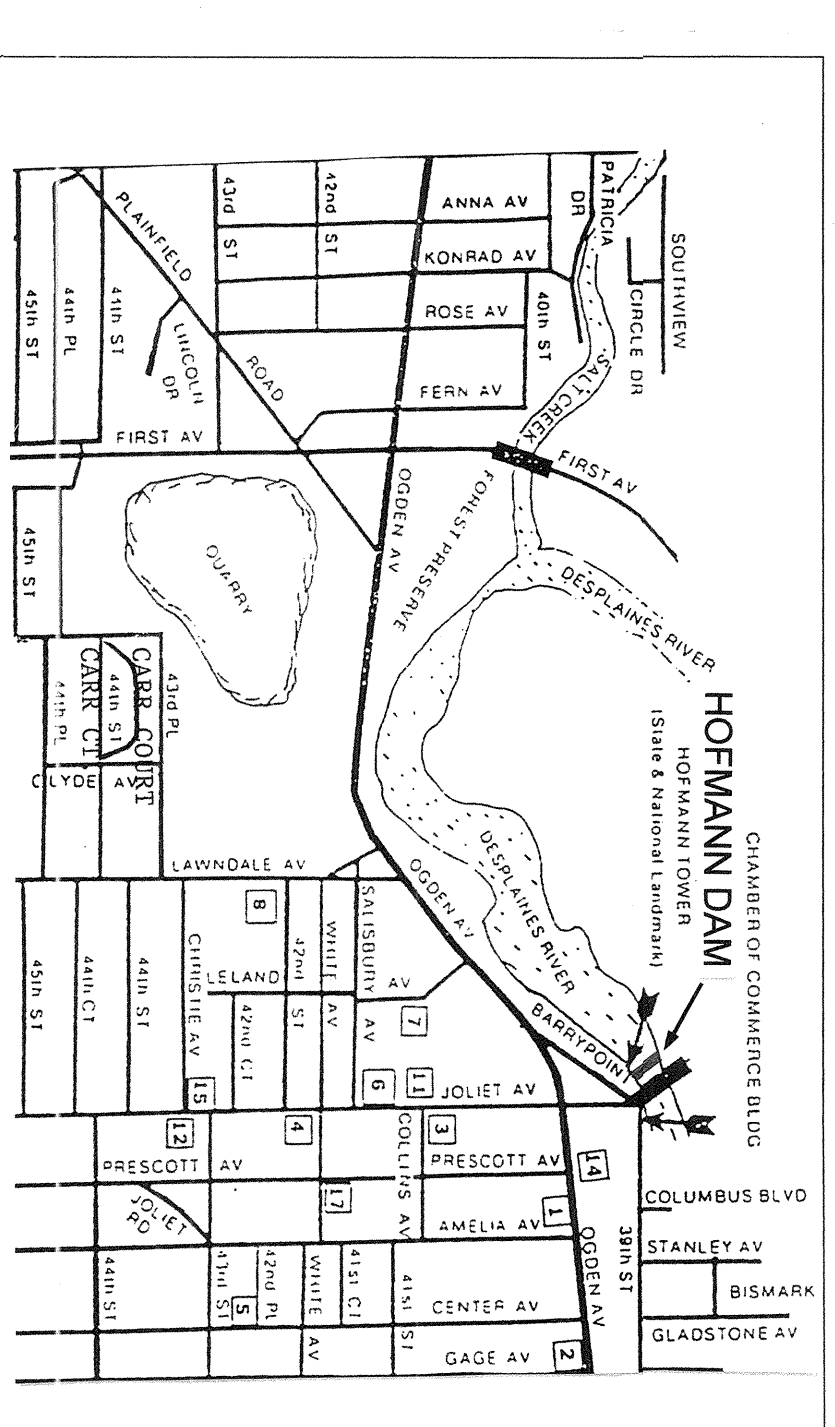
BERWYN QUADRANGLE

7.5 MINUTE SERIES

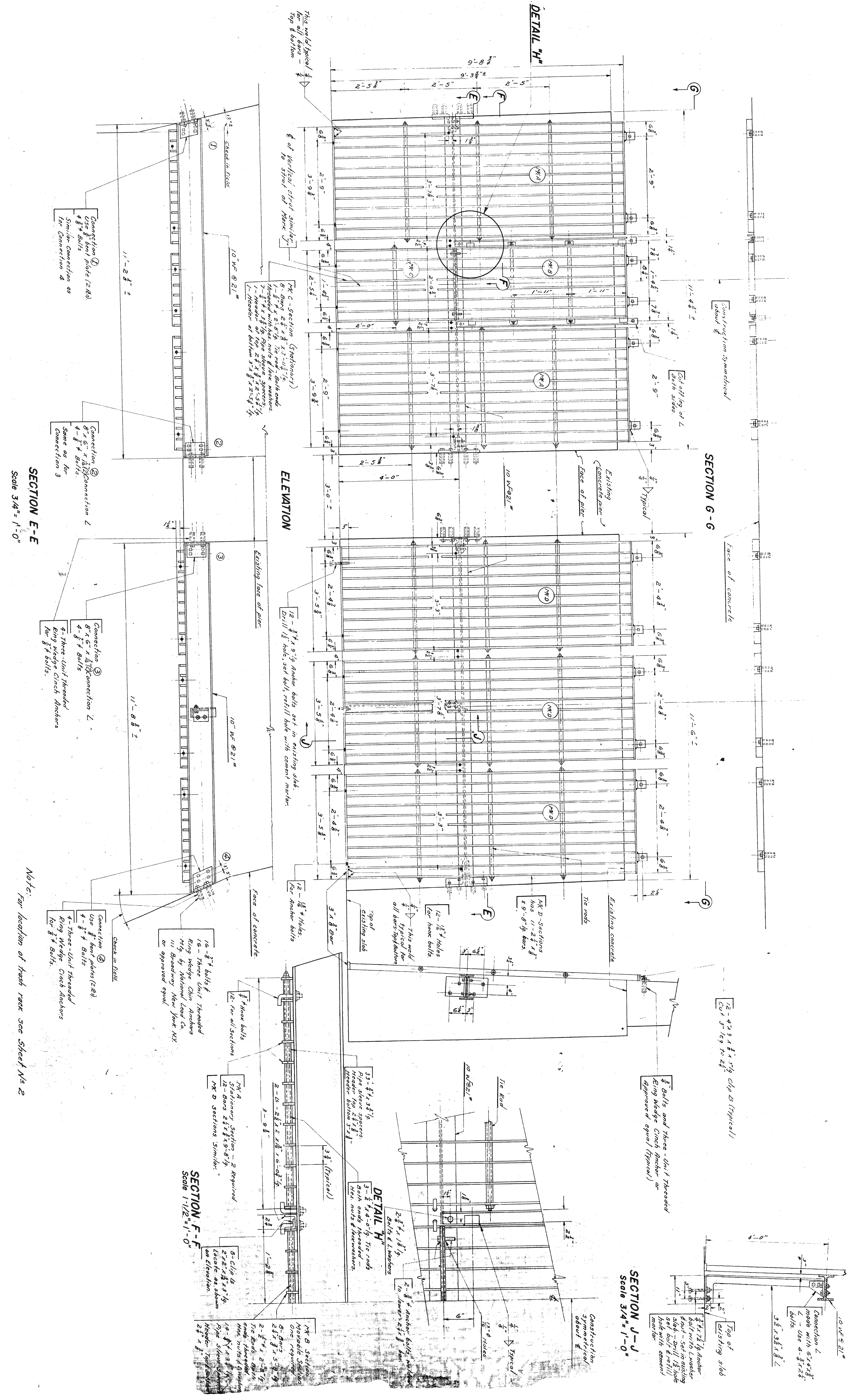
ILLINOIS-COOK COUNTY (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SCALE 1: 24000

LOCATION MAP



TAKEN FROM MAP "VILLAGE OF LYONS (COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS)"



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HOFMANN DAM
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LYONS AND RIVERSIDE

HOFMANN DAM
SPANNING THE DES PLAINES RIVER
COOK COUNTY

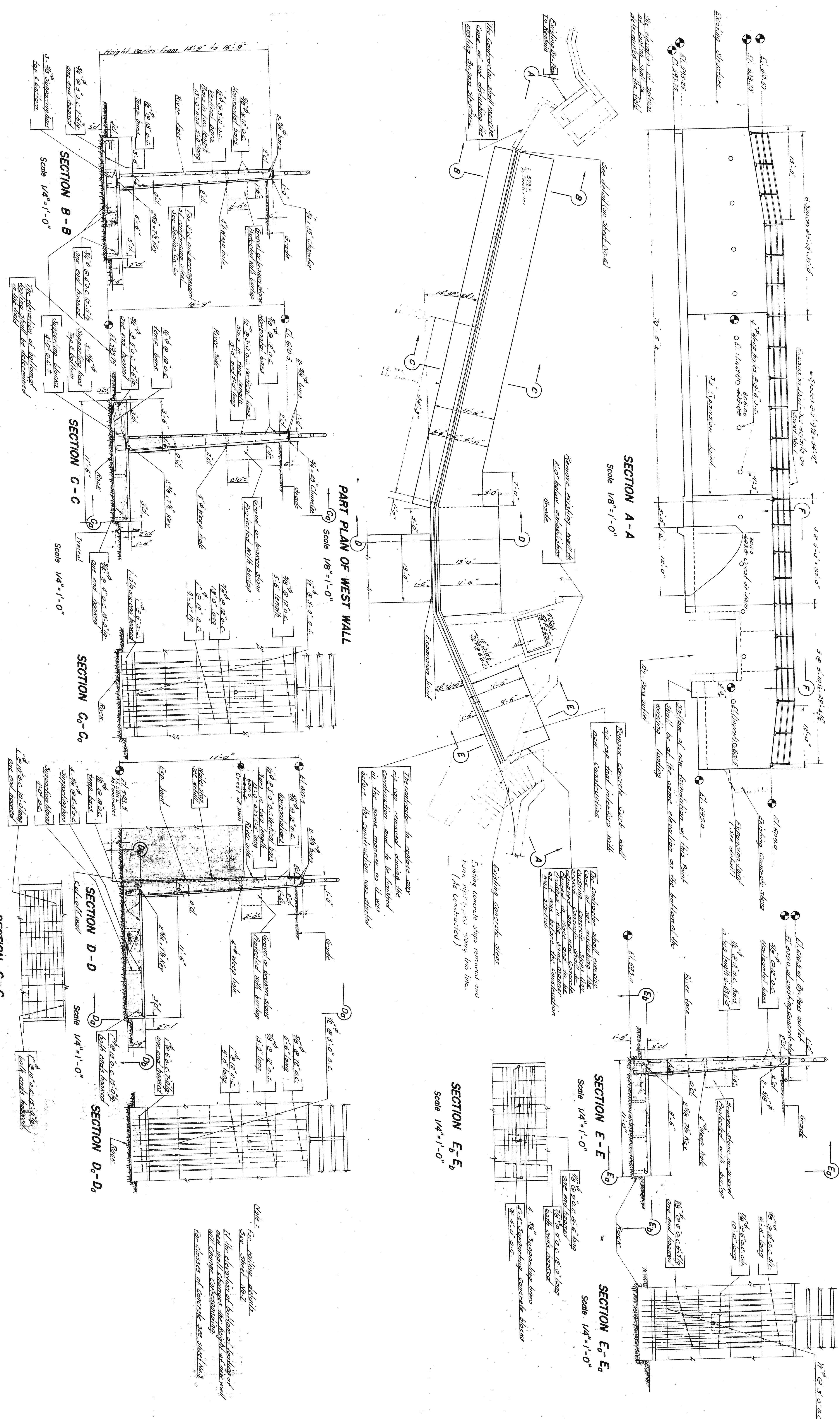
ILLINOIS

SHEET
5 OF 6

HISTORIC AMERICAN
ENGINEERING RECORD
IL-163

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
ROCK HARBOR

IF REPRODUCED, PLEASE CREDIT THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NAME OF DELINEATOR, DATE OF DRAWING



PART PLAN OF WEST WALL
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

SECTION A-A
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

SECTION B-B
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION C-C
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION C₂-C₂
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION D-D
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION C-C
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION D₂-D₂
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION E₂-E₂
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION E-E
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SECTION E₂-E₂
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

Note:
See existing details.
See sheet 1862.
If the elevation of bottom of footing of wall varies from height shown, wall change construction to fit. Details of concrete see sheet 1863.

The contractor to replace any concrete removed during the construction and to be finished to the same manner as it was before the construction was started.

Existing concrete steps removed and form (As constructed)

The contractor shall exercise care in the construction of the concrete wall and shall be held responsible for the construction of the concrete wall.

Remove concrete wall with top cap and masonry with open construction

Bottom of new foundation of this wall shall be at the same elevation as the bottom of the existing footing

Expansion joint

Existing concrete steps

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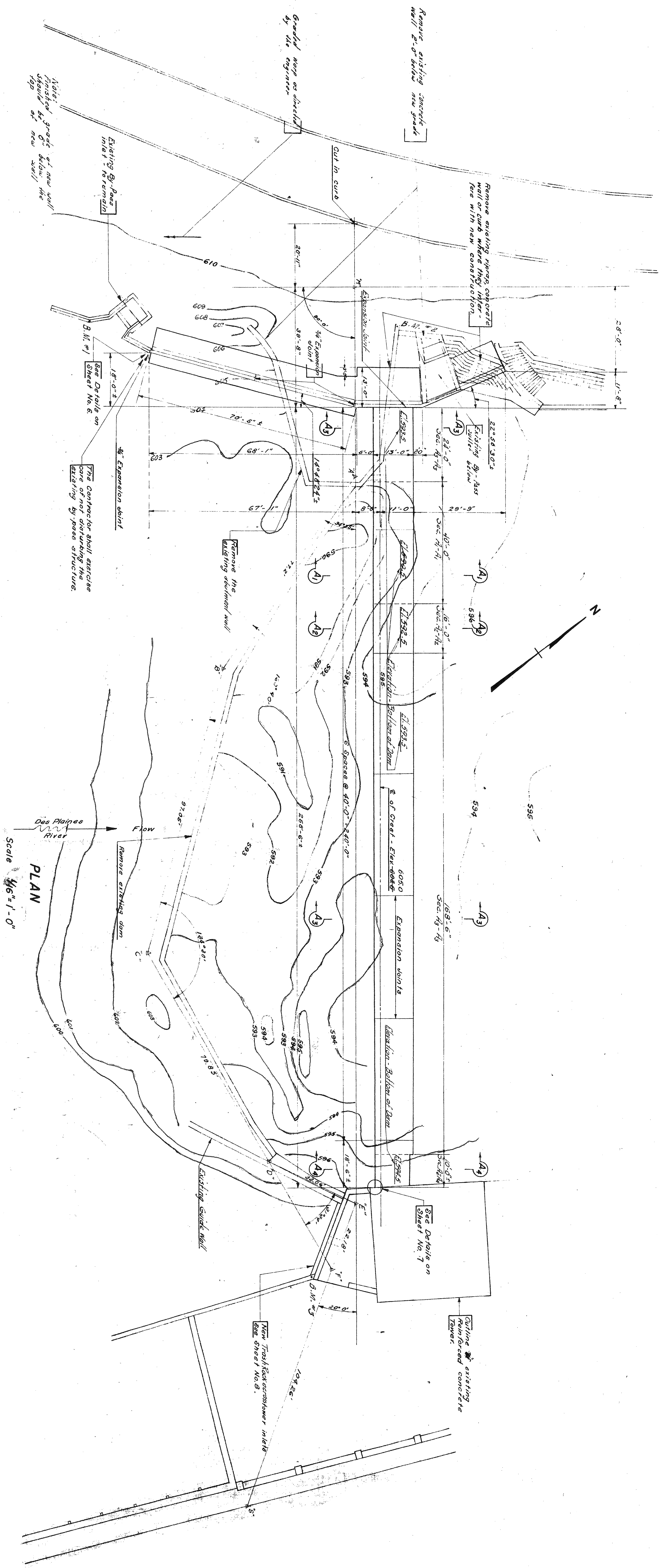
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Notes:
 B.M. #1 - a cut in west wing wall of upstream by-pass intake, left side of river, elev. 508.87.
 B.M. #2 - top in concrete post 147' bank near end of dam, elev. 512.186.
 B.M. #3 - Top of pipe on right bank 20' upstream from Hofmann Dam and embedded in concrete, elev. 510.082.
 All elevations by the Div. of Waterways in 1948 (N.S.L. 1929 - 6th Revised Ed.).

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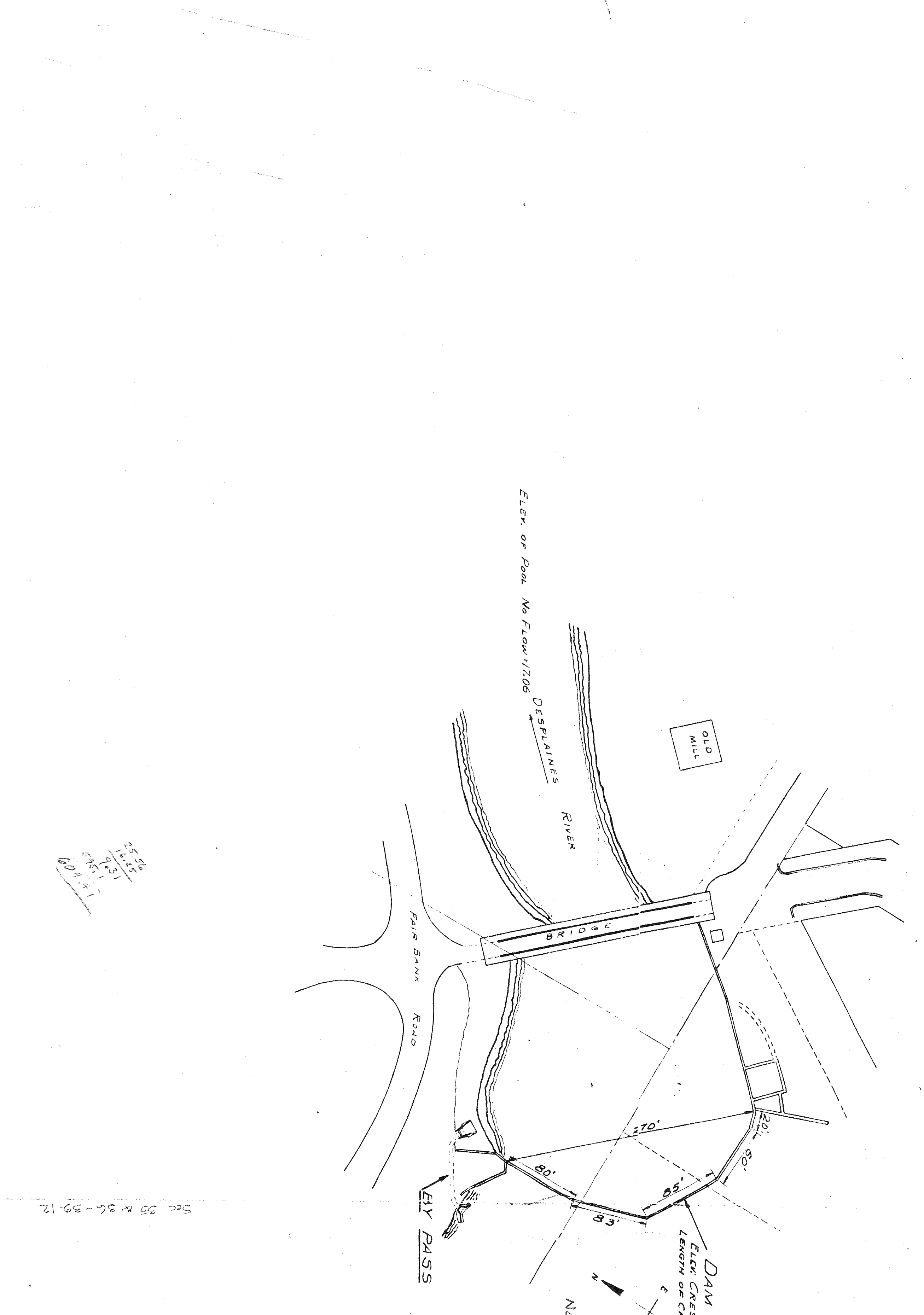
ILLINOIS

SHEET
 2 OF 6

HISTORIC AMERICAN
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 IL-163

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
 ROCK MANSER

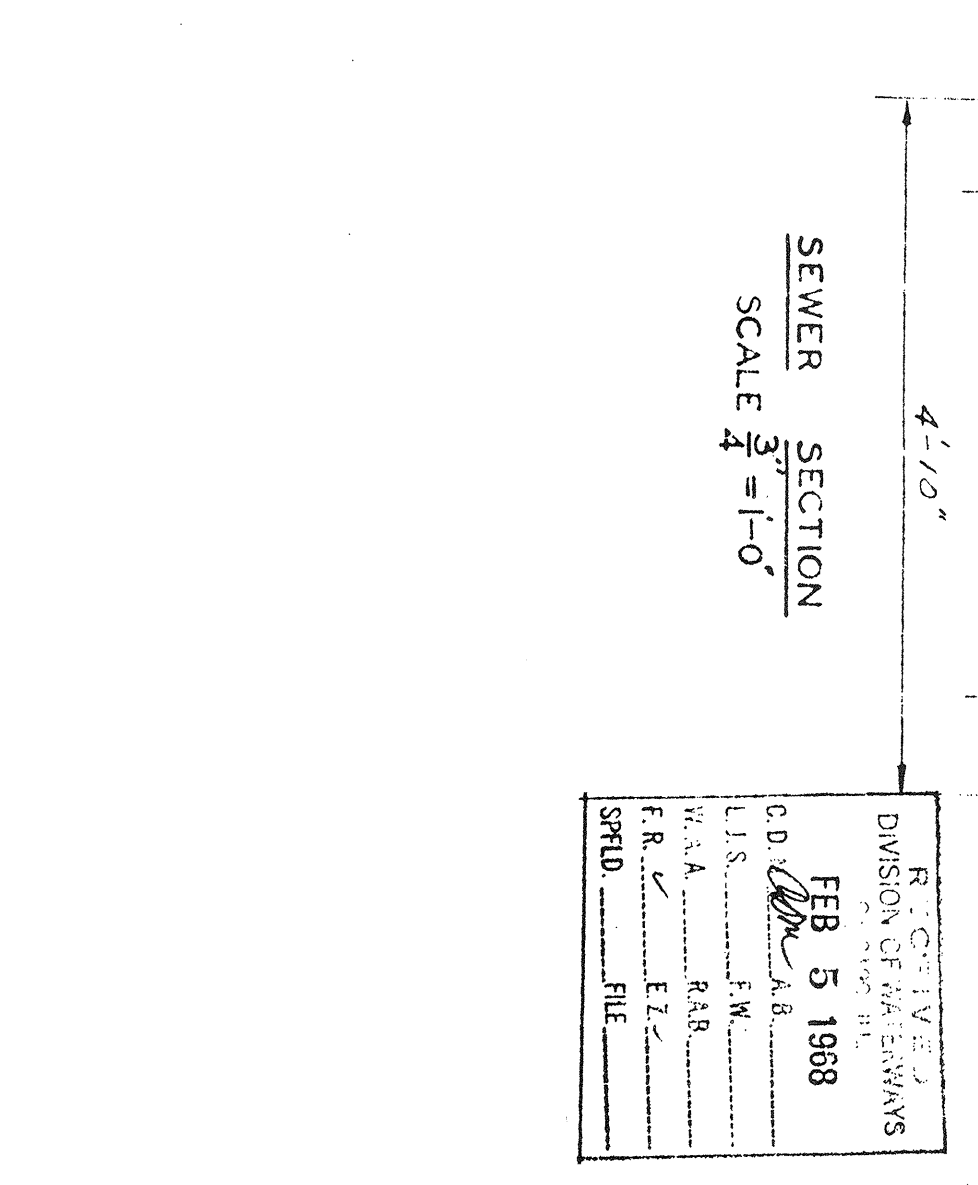
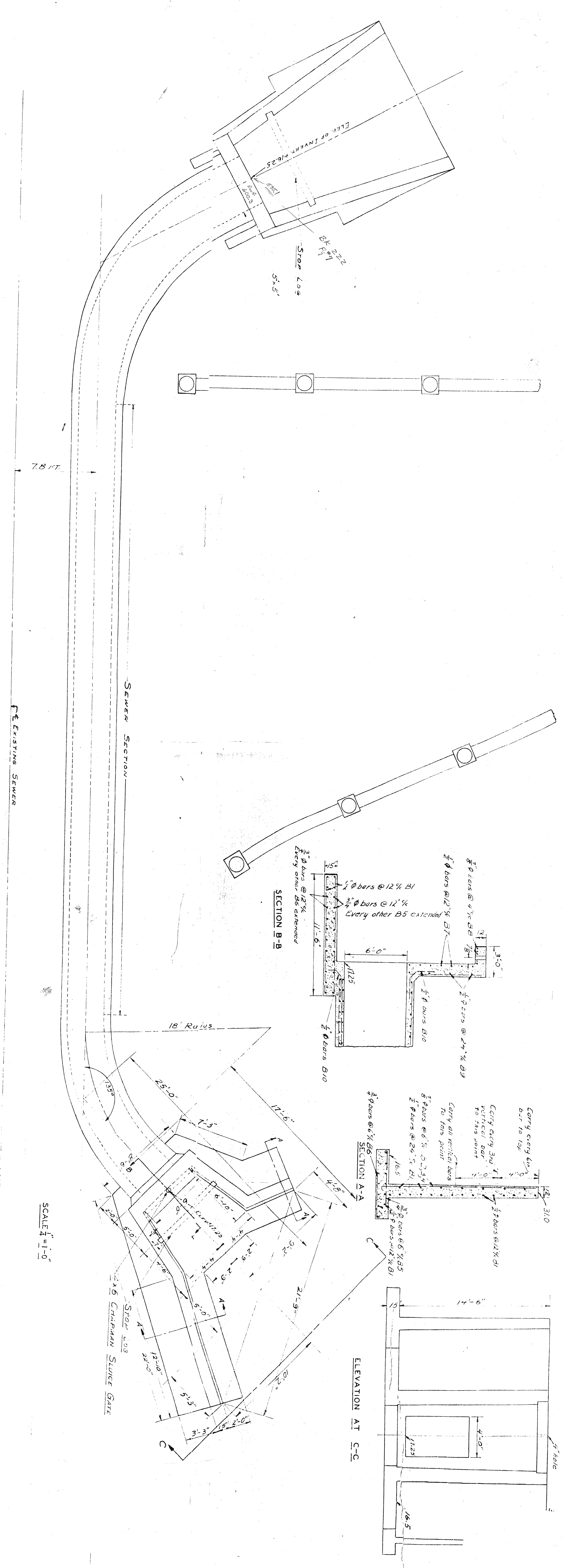
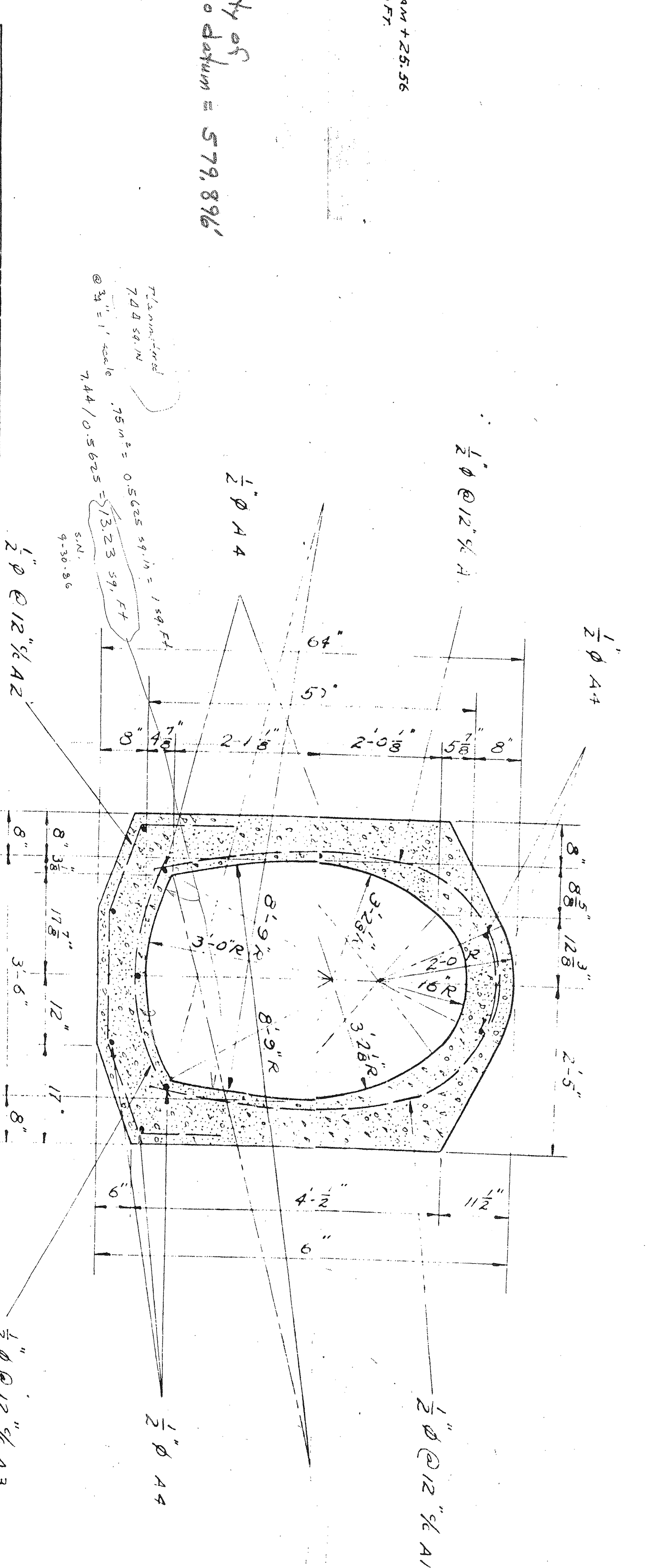
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NOTE: City of Chicago datum = 579.896'

STEEL LIST

Mark	Size	No.	Length	Radius	Bending	Weight
A1	3/4" Ø	398	7'-0"	N/A		1860
A2	3/4" Ø	139	7'-9"	R2.5"		720
A3	3/4" Ø	139	4'-6"	3'-2"		420
A4	3/4" Ø	714	17'-2"			1170
Total						4170



REVISIONS

DATE

BY

FOR

1 FEB 5 1988

C.B. [Signature]

L.S. [Signature]

R.M. [Signature]

S.T.D. [Signature]