

Stutzman's Crossing at Walnut Creek

Some Lessons Learned

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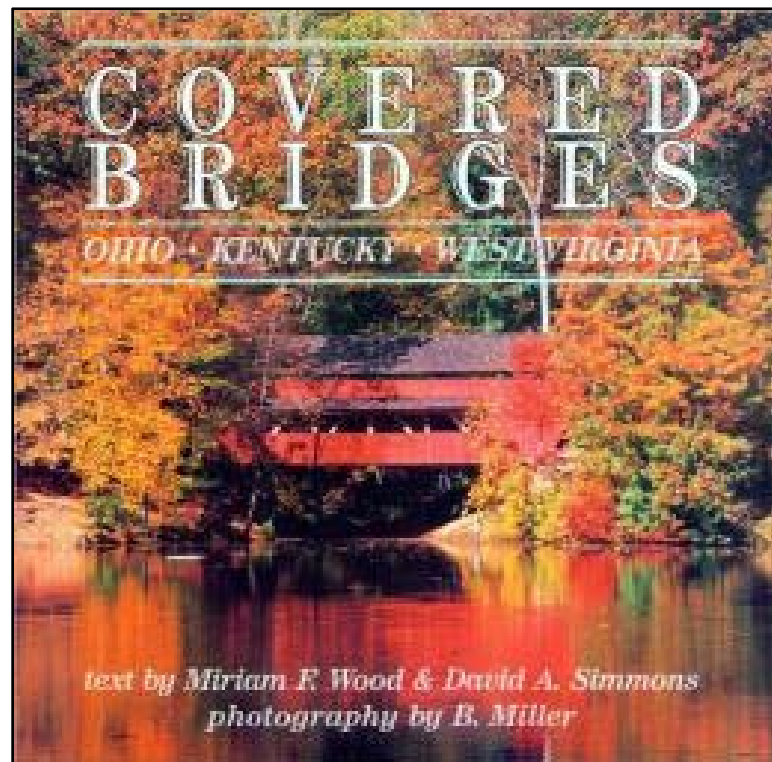
The previous bridge over Walnut Creek. The village of Walnut Creek is in the background.



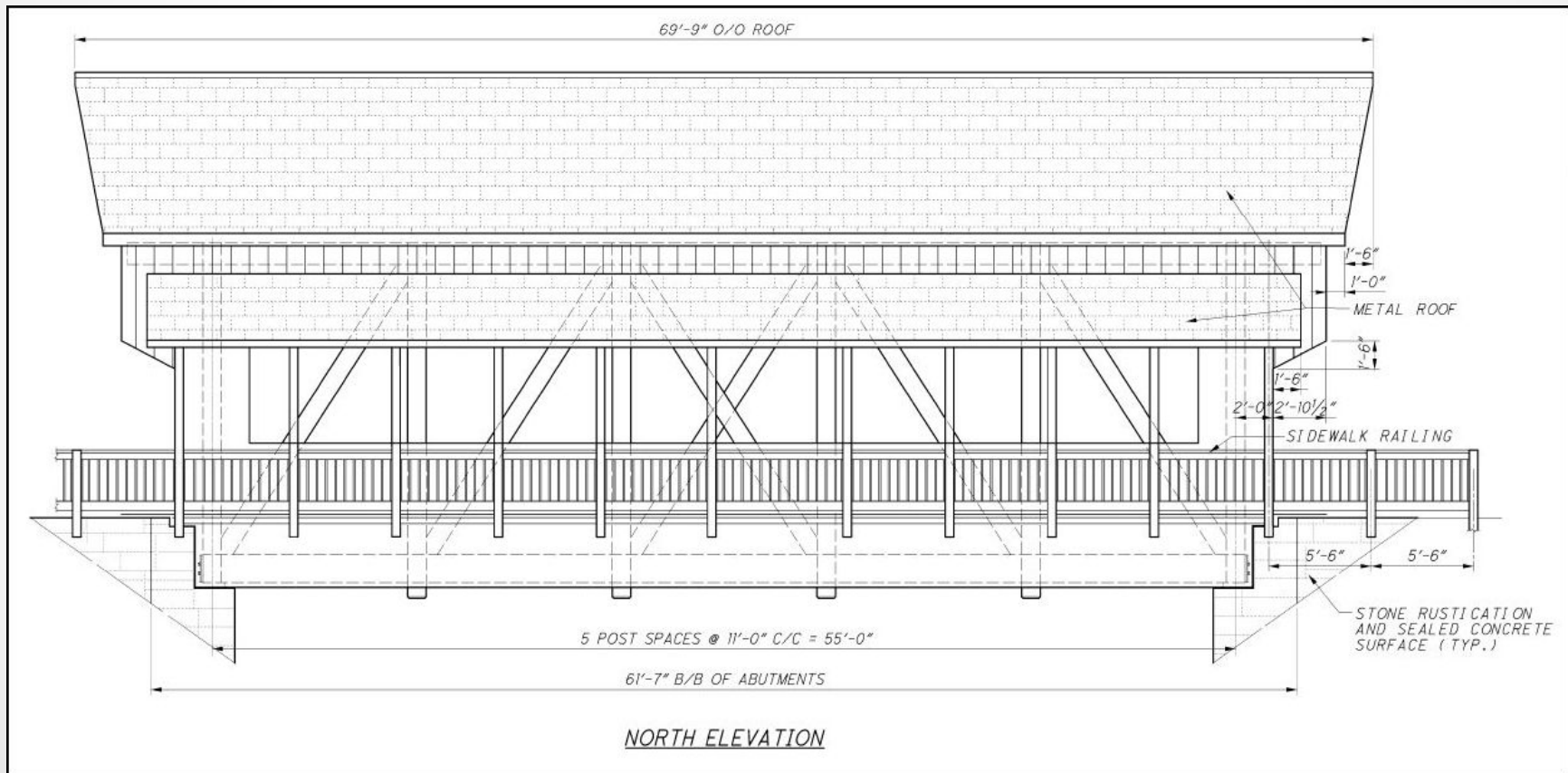
The bridge was in need of repair...or replacement.



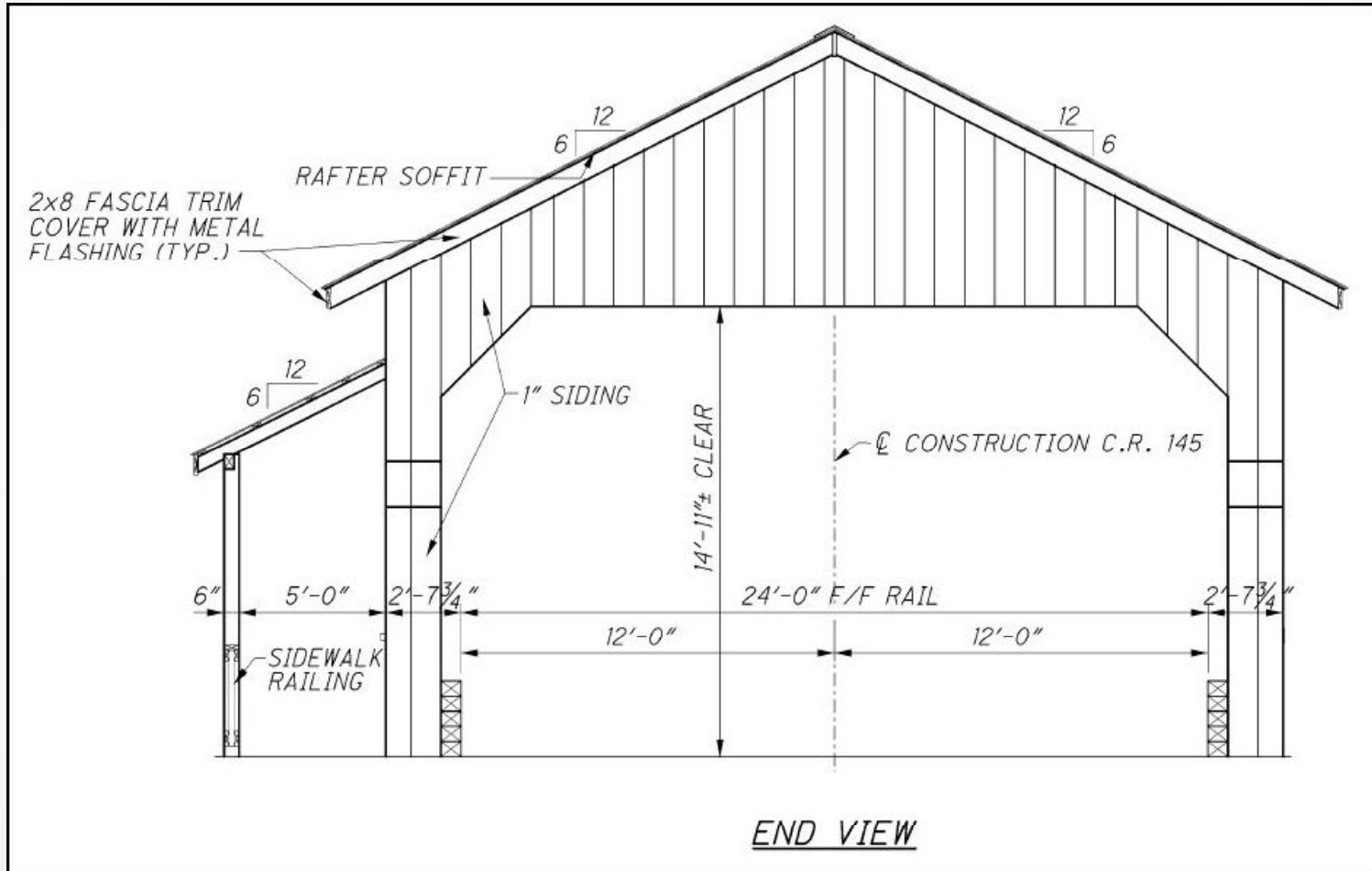
The County Engineer wanted a covered bridge that would qualify for the next edition of this book:



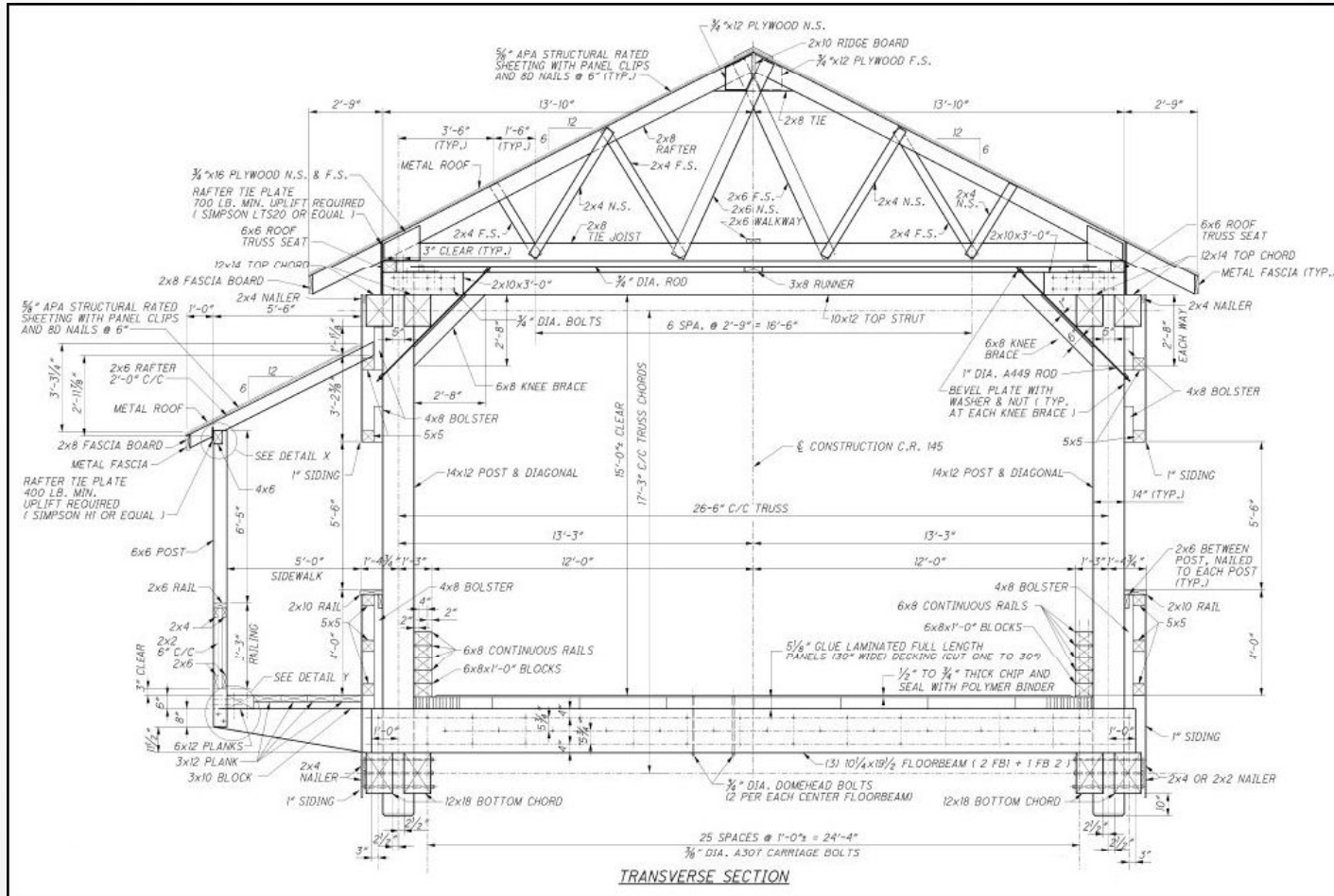
With that direction, we went to work...



...and tried to meet the County Engineer's vision...



Trusses – Northern Red Oak from Holmes County
 Other framing – Southern Pine Siding – Cedar
 Floorbeams, deck – Glu-lam beams and panels



Ribbon-cutting ceremony – November 13, 2009



Opening Day Reception on the bridge



And the bridge was open to traffic!



One year later, people were worried about the sag.



Lesson 1: Timber connections settle into place over time



Lesson 1a: Even small settlements can yield a noticeable sag

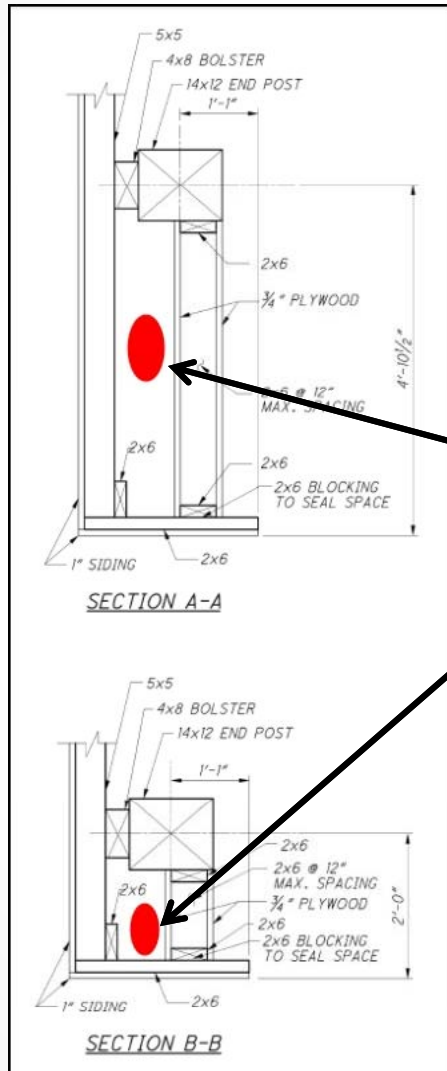


Lesson 2: Standard specifications don't cover non-standard work items

- We assumed the Contractor would submit shop drawings
- The ODOT Construction and Material Specifications requires shop drawings for structural members in steel and precast concrete – but not timber
- We didn't get shop drawings

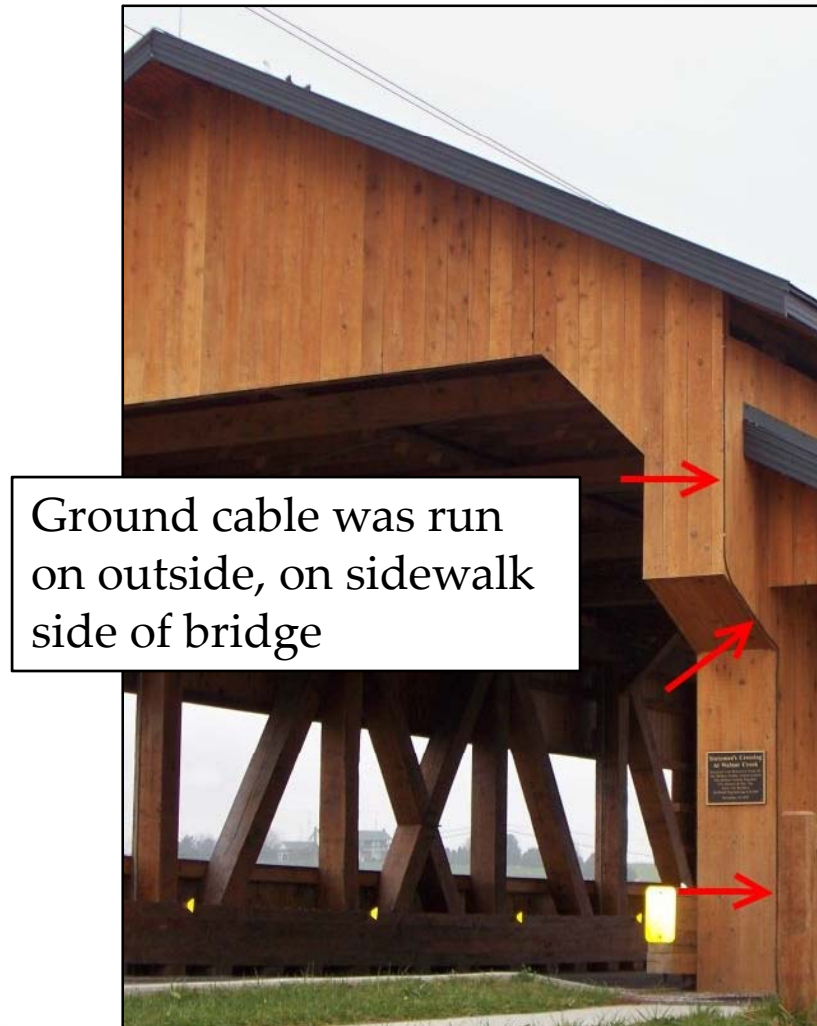
If you want shop (or fabrication) drawings for a covered bridge (or other non-standard bridge), spell it out in the general notes.

Lesson 3: If you want it done right, do it yourself

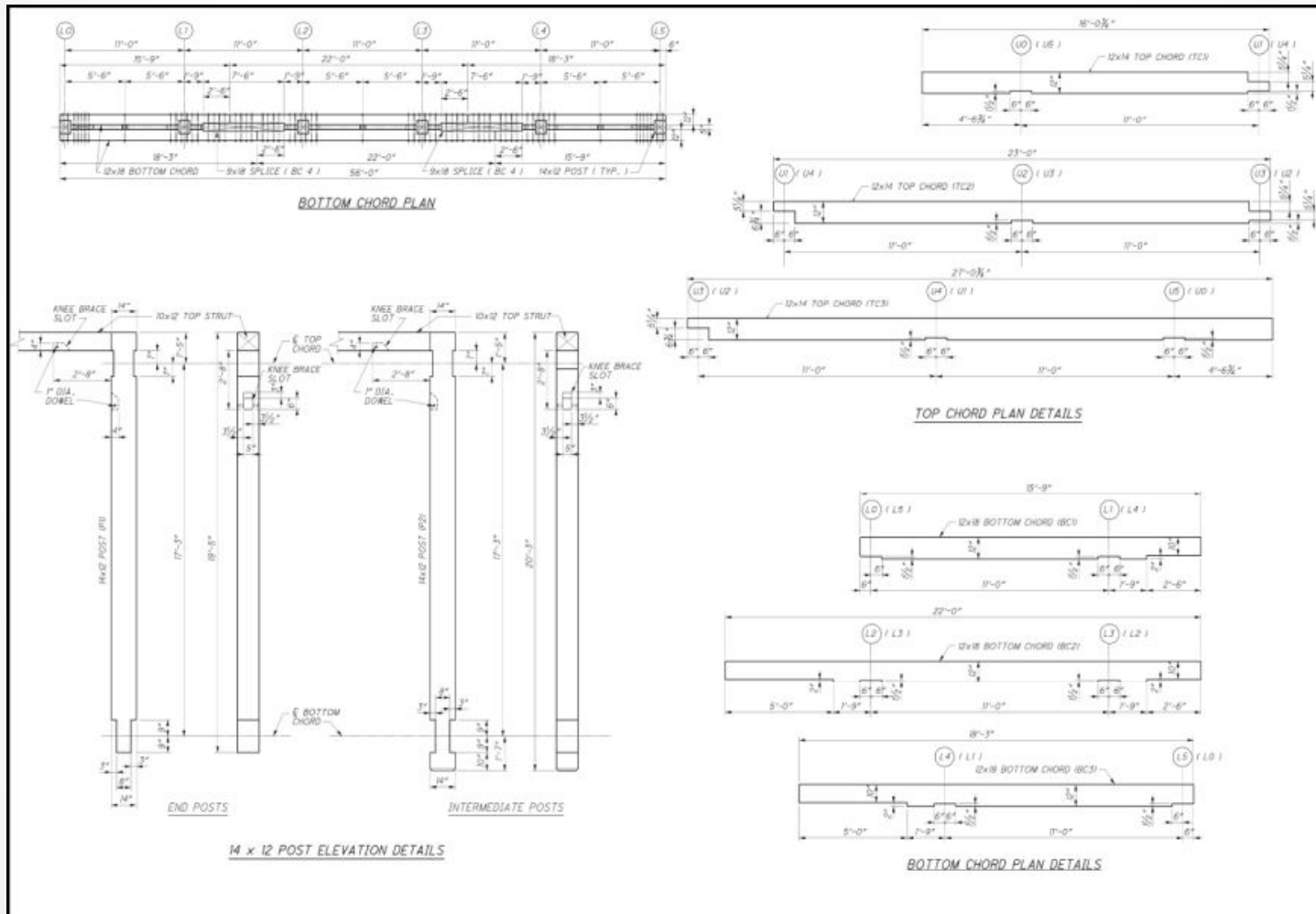


Expected ground cable for lightning arrester to run through this chase

Lesson 3a: If you want the contractor to know what you are thinking, put it in the plans



Lesson 4: Don't provide too much detail...or be sure to provide all the details



Lesson 5: If it is not in the plans, it is (probably) not going to get done

- Frequent informal communication between Contractor, Owner, and Designer is a good thing
- Changes to the contract require formal, written communication (addendum, RFI, etc.)
- Oral (and even email) requests to do or include things will get a smile, a nod, and either ignored or forgotten