

Evaluation of Existing Structures

BY KURT GUSTAFSON, S.E., P.E.

Structural documentation of an existing building can give the engineer an idea of the building's original framing and assist with renovation decisions.

"WHAT DRAWINGS ARE AVAILABLE OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE?" F ZSfie fZWüdef cgWfla` S` WY` Wle T` Wkfa

F ZWdabWaX[`hWf]YSfa` `WMSdk fa la` úd `Wf]` Y Vdsi ž
[Ye ad fa WmWab Sežtg[f [xad Sf]a` [eS _ SffWaXWY] Wf]` Y
gVY_ Wf, I Zsf fkWaXXS_ [Y ekefW i Se geW1 6 aWfZWbdabž
Wf [ha`hWá` k S e S^badf]a` aXS efđUfgMAdS_ Sadbadf]a` 1
I [^fZWSWbSžadWMSef]` Y ekefW TWSXXW Tk fZWbdabaeW
_ aVjúUsf]a` el; eS UZS YW` aUgbS Uk b'S` W1; eS [lMSew
`aSV]` YS f[UjsbfW1; eS UZS YW` XS_ [Y Skagf `WMSdk1I Zsf
[e fZWSYWaXfZWfdgUgdW3^axfZWWSLfad i [^1] Wk [ûgWUW
fZW` hWf]YSfa` ž

Paper Trail

; XfdgUfgd^VdS [Ye aXS Tg[V` Y SdWshs[ST'WzZW fZWudf
fSe] YWWs^k TWa_ Ws_ SffW aXla_ úd_ [Y fzsf fzWWMef` Y
efdgUfgdWZke[US^k dMdwWfei Zsf [eeZai ` a` fzWaUg_ Wfež; X
VaUg_ Wfsf[a` [e` af Shs[ST'WzZWSe] fzW TWa_ W_ gIZ_ adW
VXUg/fZF Z[e_ Sk_ VWMefsfWS_ WfWejhWuWW_ hWf[YSf]` bdaž
Yd_ fa WMWab SežTg[f` [Xad_ Sf]` žG` WdS` V` Y fZW SfgdW
aXFZWeđgUfgd^Xs_ [YkefW eS VfZwZagYZf bdaWewaXFZw
Tg[V` Ye adY]` S^WY]` Wd_ eZag` V TWS YdS` ZWb_ [WMWab` Y
fZW WMesd_ [Xad_ Sf]` fa WS` gSfWZWeđgW UsbSUfjW

3' k úWV [hVf[YS]fa` i [^mWg[dWZsf efdgUfgd^]Ua_ ba_ Wfe
TWbZke[US]k SUWd[T]Vz3dU[fWfgd^]WUaegdW aXfZWfdgUfgdW
/W/ Yd i S^d Ua^g_ ` u [eZW]WUfii [^m] Wk_ Wf a TWm ahW
[fzWSdMse eSWXad] ebWf[a` z;` SeFWXIS_ WfdgUfgdWa` UW
fZWUahW] Ye SdWdW ahW S V efdgUfgd^ eFWXIS_ [Y TWa_ W
h[eT]WfZW[hVf[YS]fa US _ S] W_ WsegdW Wfe aXTW_ Skagfe
S_ VebSU_ Yi TWS_ WfZd US_ YWfZ[U] ` WfS Vi [WfZe3dS_ YW
_ WfeaXsb[UST]WfSdS ZadUWdMef] YekfW el egUZ SeTdSU_ Yi
_ a_ Wf XIS_ Wf ad eFWekfW e Ua_T] W i [fZ Ua_ UdMWéZsd
i S^d US_ TWh[W]WZ FZ[e S'ea bdah[W]S` abbadfg` [fk fa fS] W
SFVIS^as b'WXdFVf` Y[X WfSdZ

The Way Things Were

8S_ [!`Sdfk i [fz fZWfkW aXXS_ [Y kefW e S' V SeeaU\$ifW
WdY bSd_ VVd geWVgd` YS UWTS` WS aXtA` edgUfa` Y]W
S TMFW g` WdS` V` Y aXi Zsf fa `^aa` Xdi ZW VMS`gsf` Y S

efdgUgdW7lā_ a_ [S^ S V egUWeg^ efdgUgd^ lā_ Wfe ZShWS
fWWWlk fa TWlab[WI ea [f [e` af egdbdq` Y fa ú` V e_ [Sd lā_ Ž
efdgUla` fkblWgeW WfWehWk Vgd` Y S k bSdf[lg` Sd WS aXLā_ Ž
efdgUla` ŽF ZWZVYZf aXS Tg[V` Yi Sea` VSfadfZsf i ag` VZShW
S `SdW` úgWUWā` fZWfkWbWAXlā_ efdgUfa` l S V WmWab_ Wfe
[` lā_ efdgUfa` fWZ` a` aYk b` SkWS S_ Sad daW` i Zsf ZWVYZf S
Tg[V` Yiag` VSZUWVW

Hm& Wd& k efgUgdW i Ww_ aef'k Tw&d Yž S^m ekefW e egbz
badf] Y eZadŽbs_ Zađla` fs^ XS_ [Yž? Se` dk Tw&d Y i S^m e
egbbadf] Y f_ Tw&XS_ [Yi Wwla_ a` lSei Wwla_ bWwWwWfž
Us^S VZađla` fs^ i aaV XS_ [Y ekefW ežF ZWWdWfa Tg[V fa
YdWfW ZWYZfd aXW ge] Y_ Se` dk Tw&d Y i S^m d i Se WSTW
Tk fZWfZ[U W[Y aXfZW_ Se` dk i S^m d WbWfS^k Sf fZWfSeWf3e
Tg[V Y ZWYZfde] UmsWf qY [uUs f ūaaadebSUW Se STeadfTWfTk
fZWfWf] Y i S^m ež

;` fZWSWf^`" efdgUfgd^eWWZS` YWfZWZsdflVlaXZjYZZ
dewU` fdgUfa` ž 5a_bSdW fa bdMage Ua_` a` k Shs/STW
fdgUgd^_ SFWSd fZ|e` W_ SFWS^i Seefda` YWfTafZ` fWl_e
aXfWd`VS` V Ua_` bdWefhWbdabWfWzF ZWbaef S` V TW_` eFW
XS_` YkefW i SegeWfa bWl_` f` a` YWdS` eS` VYdSFWTgjVZ
` YZWfYZfež3eTgjV` YeTWS_` VZjYZWfZWSfVSfžadWžMdef` Y
ekefW` S`ea TWS_` W adWdflUS1` S` V eFWXS_` YkefW` e i WW
WMWabW gef` Y_` a_` Wf XS_` W S` V hmflUS` Tds` YFZ|e i Se
fZWfW` ` Y aXfZWUa_` a` e` VWS` XS_` WfkbWaxUa` fdgUfa` ž
FZW#` Žefak : a_` W` egd` UW4gjV` Yi Ua` efdgUfW` 5ZjUSya
` #**` li SefZWudef fdgUfgdMgbbadWWfldWk Tk S` eFWXS_` W
` fZWfZFS` V|e aXWfZWS` VfZWS` VfZWS` VfZWS` VfZWS` VfZWS`

8'aad X_S [Y S'ea hsdjW i [Wk VbWW] Y a` fZW_h ` efdgU_Z
fla` VbZ3e efWW_e VbIS^X_S _ W_h ` efdgU_a ` Vla hW_i ea V[V uaad
ekefW fkblW [adWlfa SU_h _ aVsFW_h Udm_h ` Y dsS eZ8/Sf fVW
SdZ ekefW ei VbW [Wk geW_h] la` ` g` Ifla` i [fZW TW_h efWW
TWS_ e[fZWfSfW+fZ S VhWk Vsdh k S" fZ UWfgdW_h 5 a` UMWa[ef
ekefW el X_d Wi [fZ _ VbS^bS eS VegbbadW Tk S ej VbIS^efWW
X_S VVLS_h eW [la` UMWWTWS_ WcgfFW_h _ a` [fZW#S" eZ
8a^ai [YI adVI Sd; ; l VbS^VbW ekefW ei VbW fdaVgUW fZSF
IhgVX_h Ifla` SeeSK_h Z SLW_h egeWi fZagf eZad` Y_S

Material Considerations

3 bd_ W~~S~~fad[fZWMSgSf[a` bdaW[e fZWfdWYfZ aXfZW
efWfZSf i SegeWfa U` efdgUf fZWf[g[V] Yz; XfZWMSaXla` efdgU
f[a` [e] ` ai ` l a` WLS YWS XS|dk YaaV [WS aXfZWefWW_SfW
dS^efdWYfze fZSf i WMI] Wk geWzfZ[e US TWSUa_b[eZWfTk
dWMSdZ[YZ|efadUS^VaUg_ Wfe egUZ Se bdM[age 3; E5 ebWq[uS^Z
f[a` e S V_ S gSe S V 3_ WfUS EaU[Wk XdFWM] Y S V? SfWfZ
S'e/3EF? fi_ SWMS^efS^VsDVe3 Z|efadUS^eg_ Sdk aX3EF?
efS^VsDVe i Se Ua_ bl'W Xd3; E5 S^V bgT[eZW[S Taal] ffl'W

ASTM and AISC Steel Bridges

*Iron and Steel Beams 1873 to 1952; E5 the Design Guide 15 WbS Ve
a` fZ[ebgT]lSf[a` S V[UgWWSeg_ Sdk aXVaUg_ Wfe fZdagYZ
S''' "žF ZWWY Yg[VWS'ea Ua` fS` e SW[f[a` S^Z]efad[S^`] Xaž
- Sf[a` a` 3; E5 ebWlúSf[a` eS VLa` efdgUf[a` _ S gS'd S VZSe
egbWeWW Iron and Steel Beamsž*

? WIS^efdgUgdS'Ua_ ba` WfeUag'VTWag` V[fZWGZEzSeWdk
Se fZW#% ežF ZWWY W WáXUSef [da` l S_ SfW[S^aXZ]YZ Ua_ bdMž
ehWefdWYfZl `ai` fWe'WefdWYfZl `a UWdk W W kVWba` fl
S` VTdffWZSdUWž? adWgUf'Wad_ e aXUSef [da` i W W W W Wž
abWS` V geW` fZW#!" d S V SfWdi dagYZf [da` l fZW#") "ež
ESWdæ efdugeRallfugSfWd_ aef'kUlh'g` d i W W geW` fa

