Bucket coaling station drawings in 1:29 scale

Color renderings and illustrations by Steve Terry
(redrawn from the June 1955 issue of *Model Railroader* magazine)

Giant coal tipples are impressive structures on any railroad. However, they were expensive to build and maintain, so were mostly used on busy railroads that had a lot of locomotives to service. What happened on branch and small narrow-gauge lines that also relied on coal to fuel their motive power? A bucket coaling station like the one shown here was one solution.

A bucket coaling station was all about manual labor. Coal would typically arrive in a gondola car. Workers would shovel it from the car to the coal pile in the shed. From there, it would again be shoveled, this time into large buckets about three feet across and three feet high. A bucket this size that was full of coal would be too heavy for a man to lift. For that purpose, a simple crane was employed. This was usually of the hand-crank variety but, particularly in later years, some were automated.

The bucket would be lifted by the crane until it was high enough to clear the tender. The boom would then be swung around so that the bucket was over the tender's coal bunker. A latch on the bottom of the bucket would be released, usually by a blow of a hammer, by the fireman on top of the tender, and the coal would pour out. The procedure would be repeated until the tender was full. Though decidedly low tech and labor intensive, this was a cheap way for impecunious railroads to service their iron horses.

These drawings, reproduced here from the June 1955 issue of *Model Railroader* magazine, were originally supplied in HO scale. They have been redrawn by Steve Terry to 1:29 scale.

Included are color renderings of the finished building, a grid showing how the pieces of the plans go together, framing elevations, finished elevations, and accessory drawings.

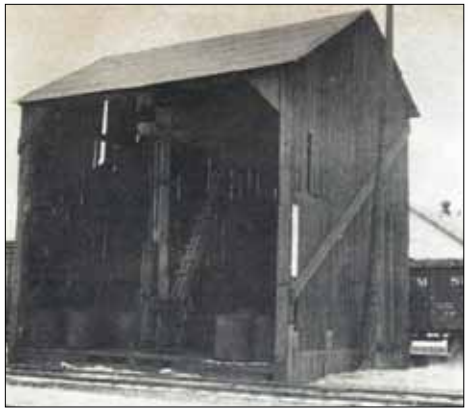
We've also included two diagrams from the original article that offer suggestions on how to build the crane and buckets. If you want to make buckets using the same technique shown, you'll need a dowel 1¼" in diameter for 1:29 scale, or 1¾" for 1:20.3 scale.

Assembled coaling station

Are you working in a different scale?

If you're not working in 1:29 scale, print the drawings out at the percentage given below for your scale.

1:32 scale	91%
1:24 scale	121%
1:22.5 scale	129%
1:20.3 scale	143%
1:19 scale	153%
1:13.7 scale	212%



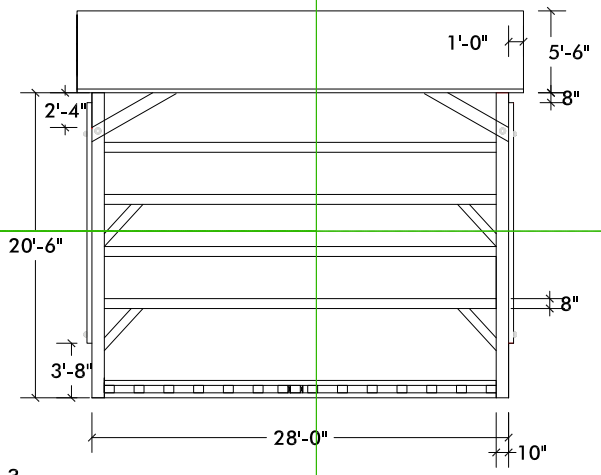
PAUL LARSON

Prototype at Brodhead, Wis., was used to service locomotives on Milwaukee Road's Mineral Point branch. Coal was shoveled from gondolas through opening in rear of shed onto inside platform.

Right side

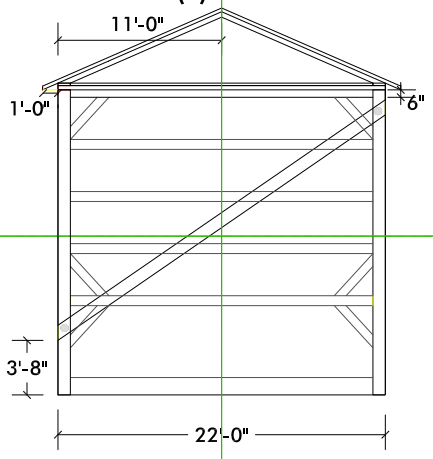
How to assemble the drawings

RE-1 Rear Elevation RE-2



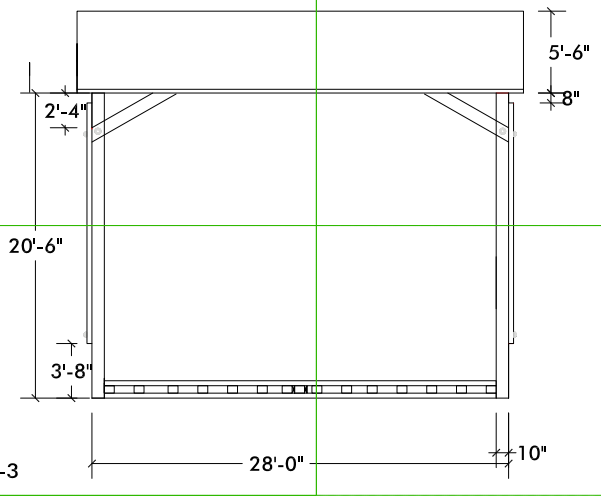
RE-3 RE-4

SE-1 Side(s) Elevation SE-2



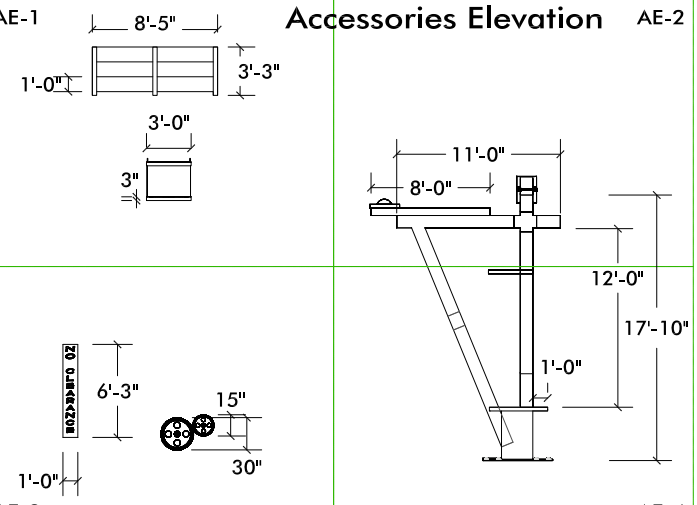
SE-3 SE-4

FE-1 Front Elevation FE-2

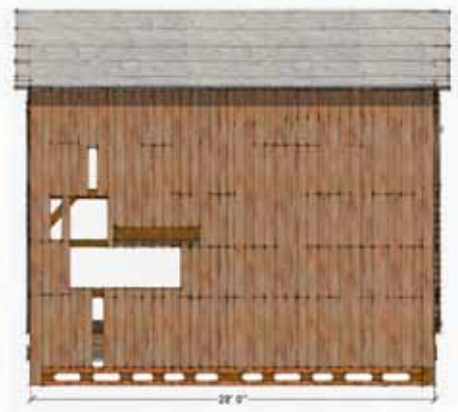


FE-3 FE-4

AE-1 Accessories Elevation AE-2



AE-3 AE-4

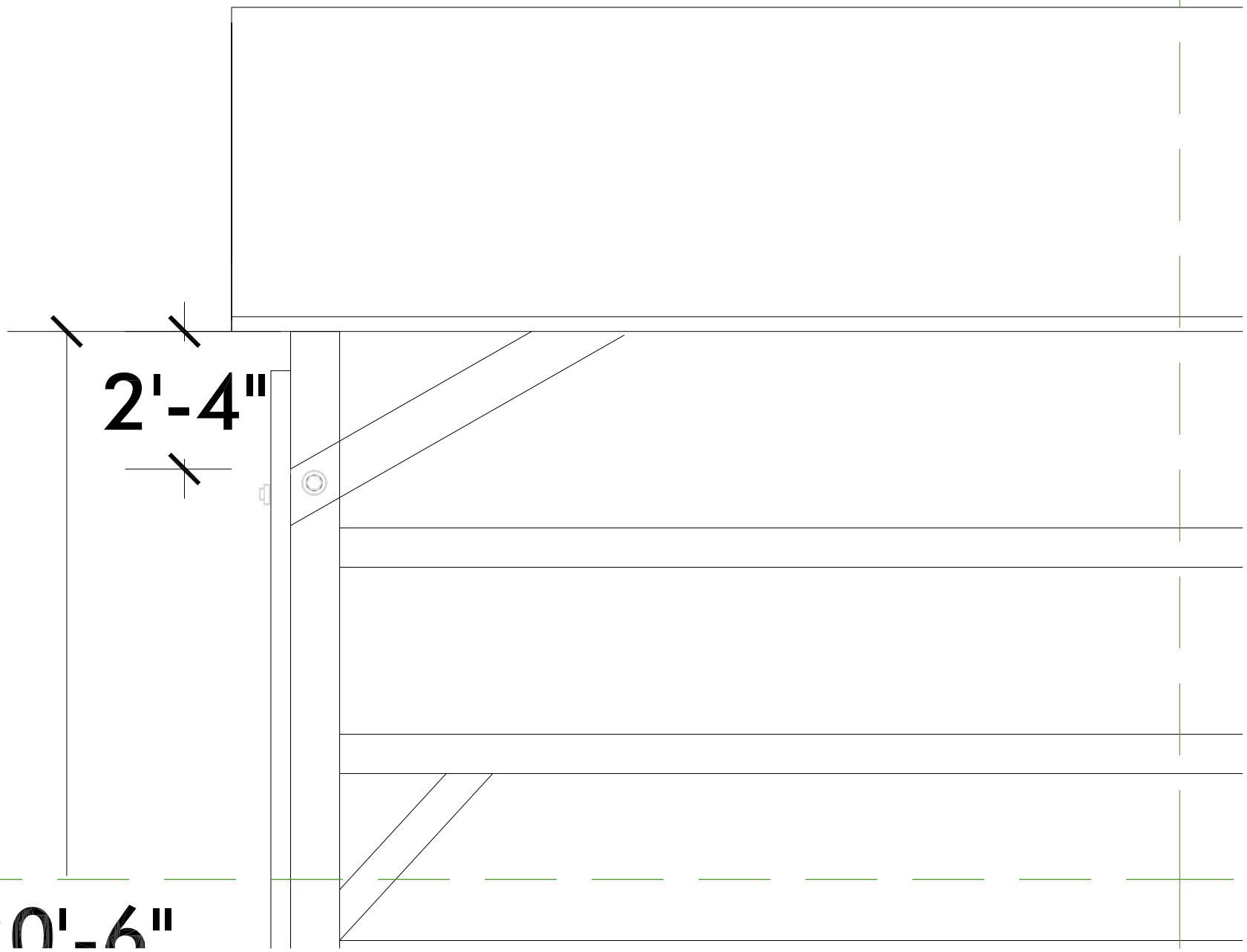


Rear final elevation

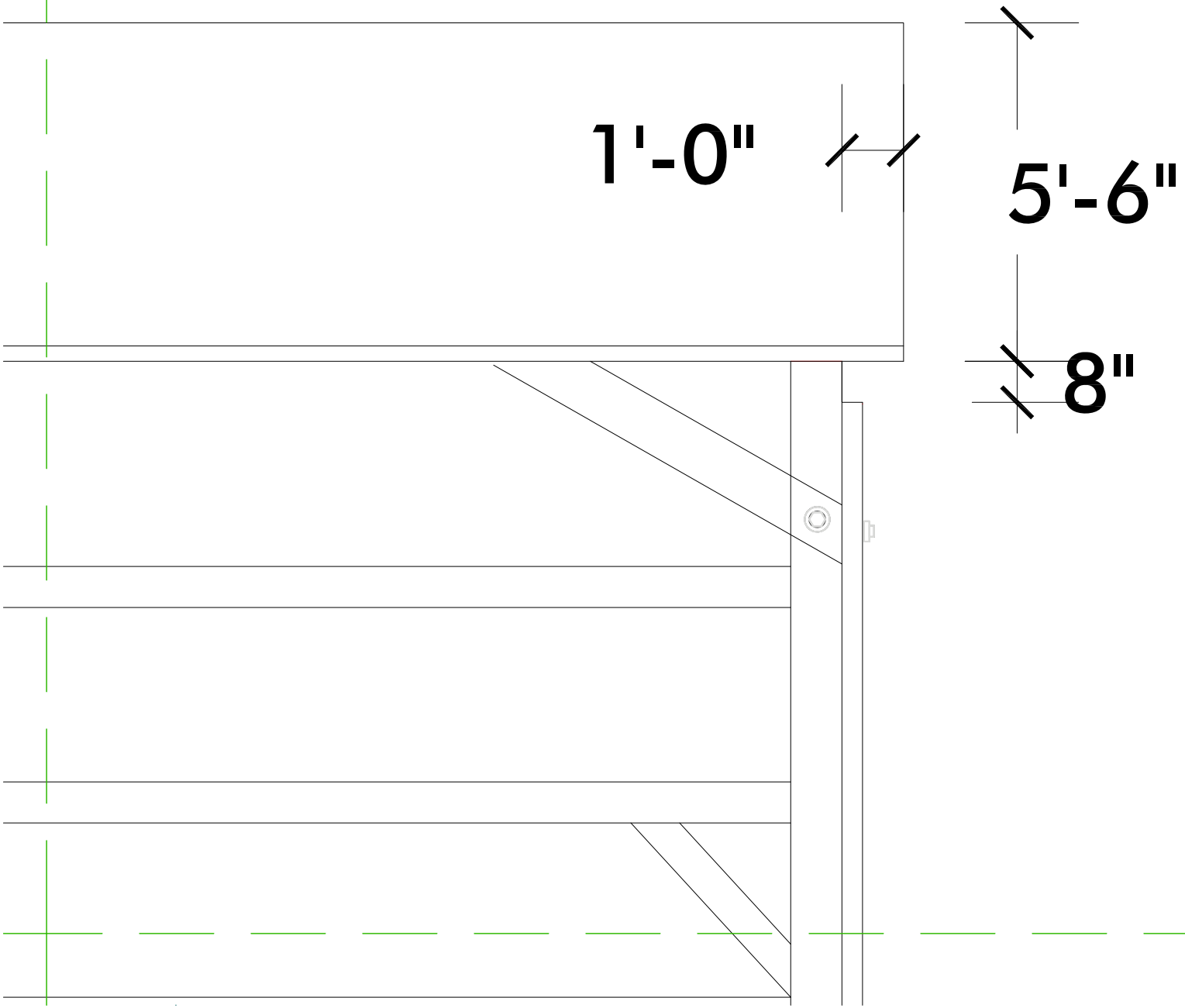
Front final elevation

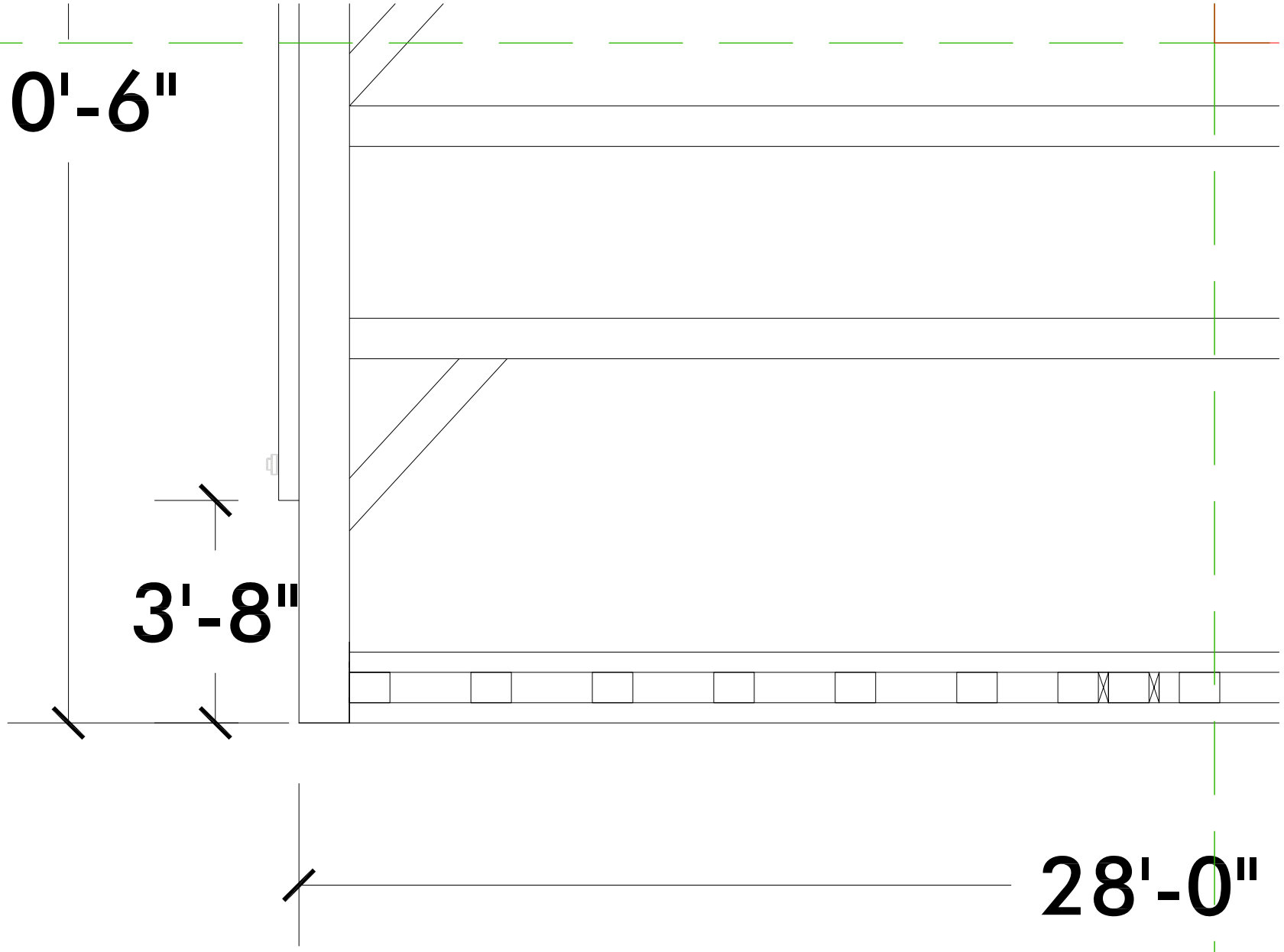
Left side

REAR ELEVATION - RE-1

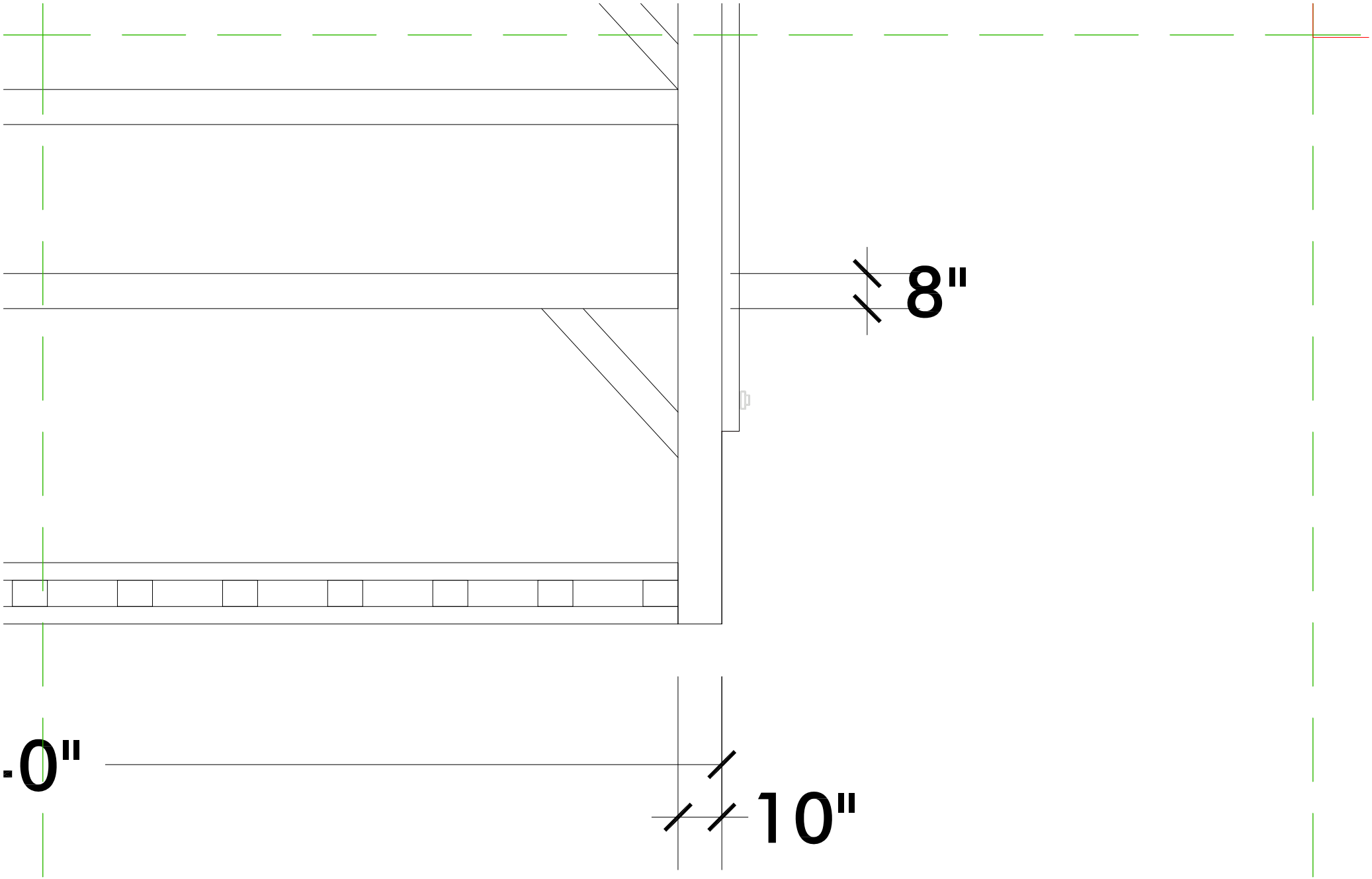


REAR ELEVATION - RE-2



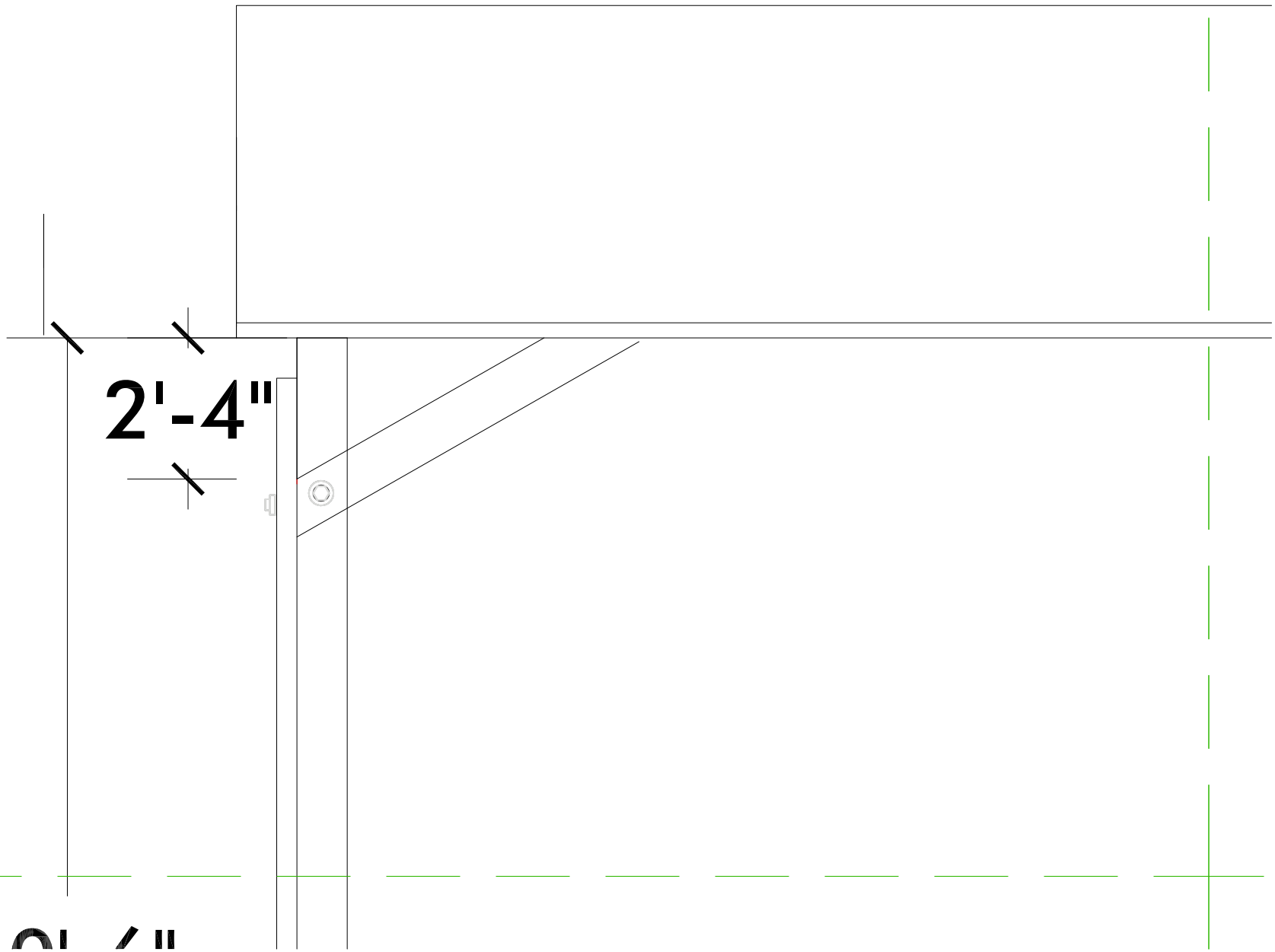


REAR ELEVATION - RE-3

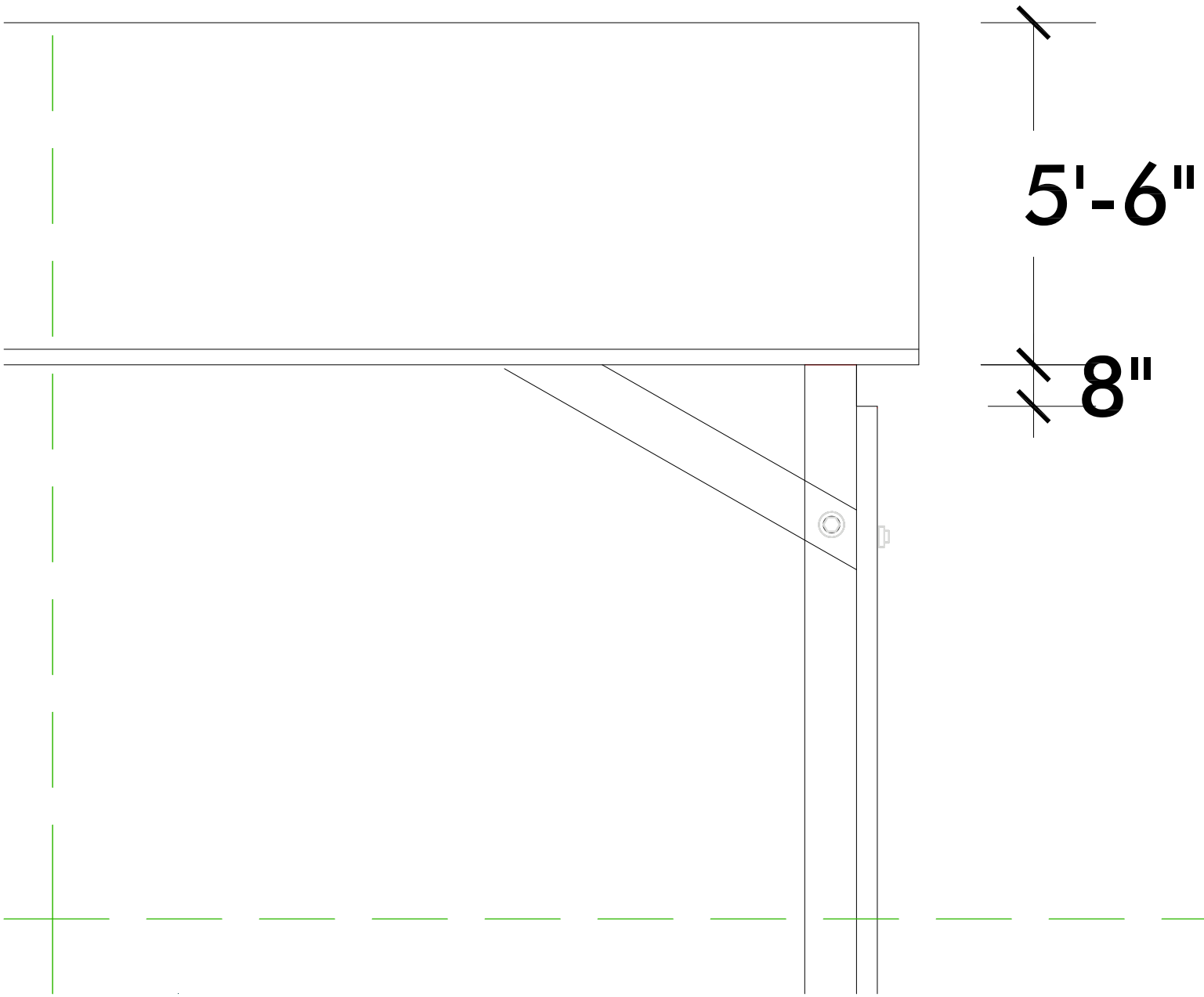


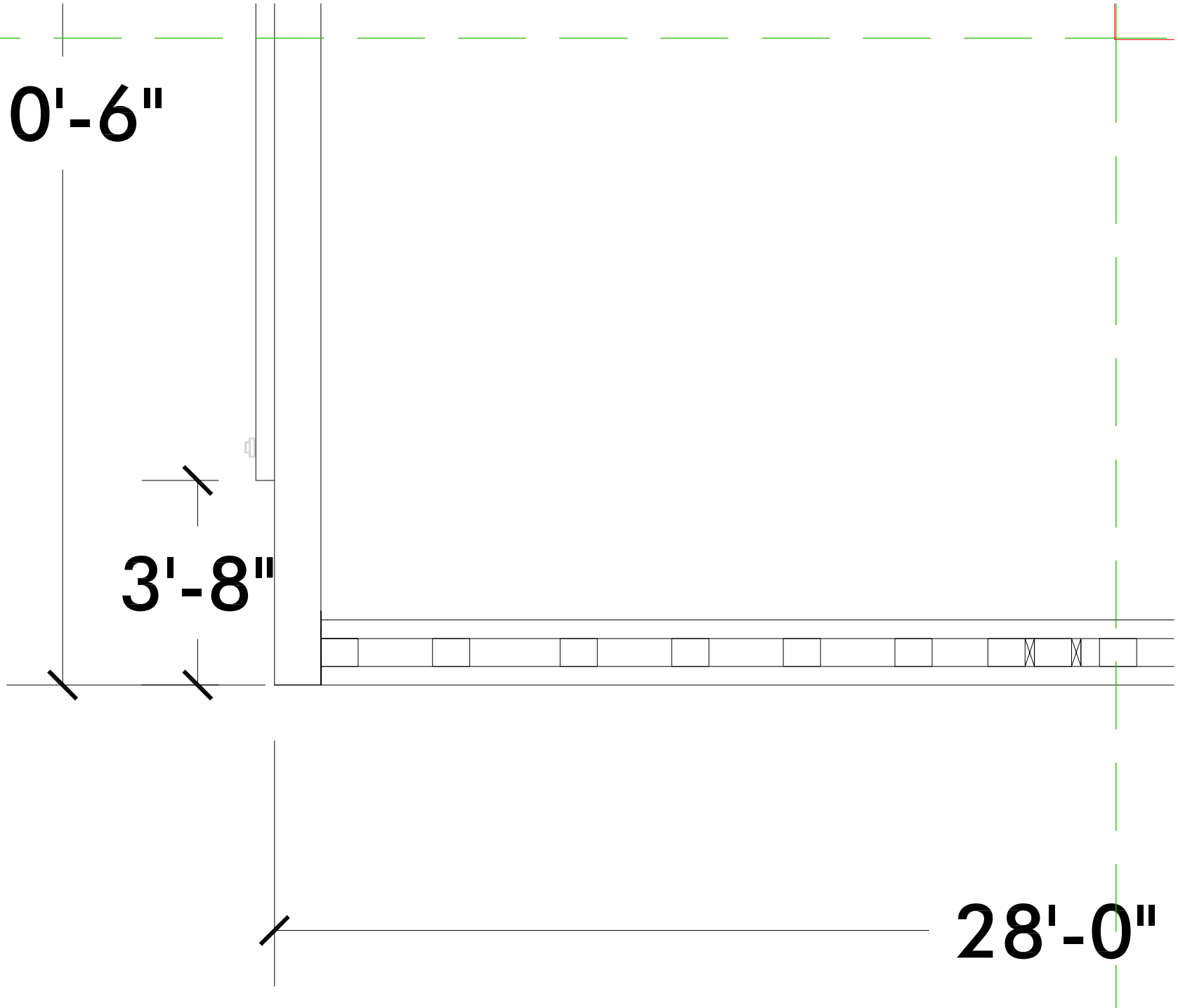
REAR ELEVATION - RE-4

FRONT ELEVATION - FE-1

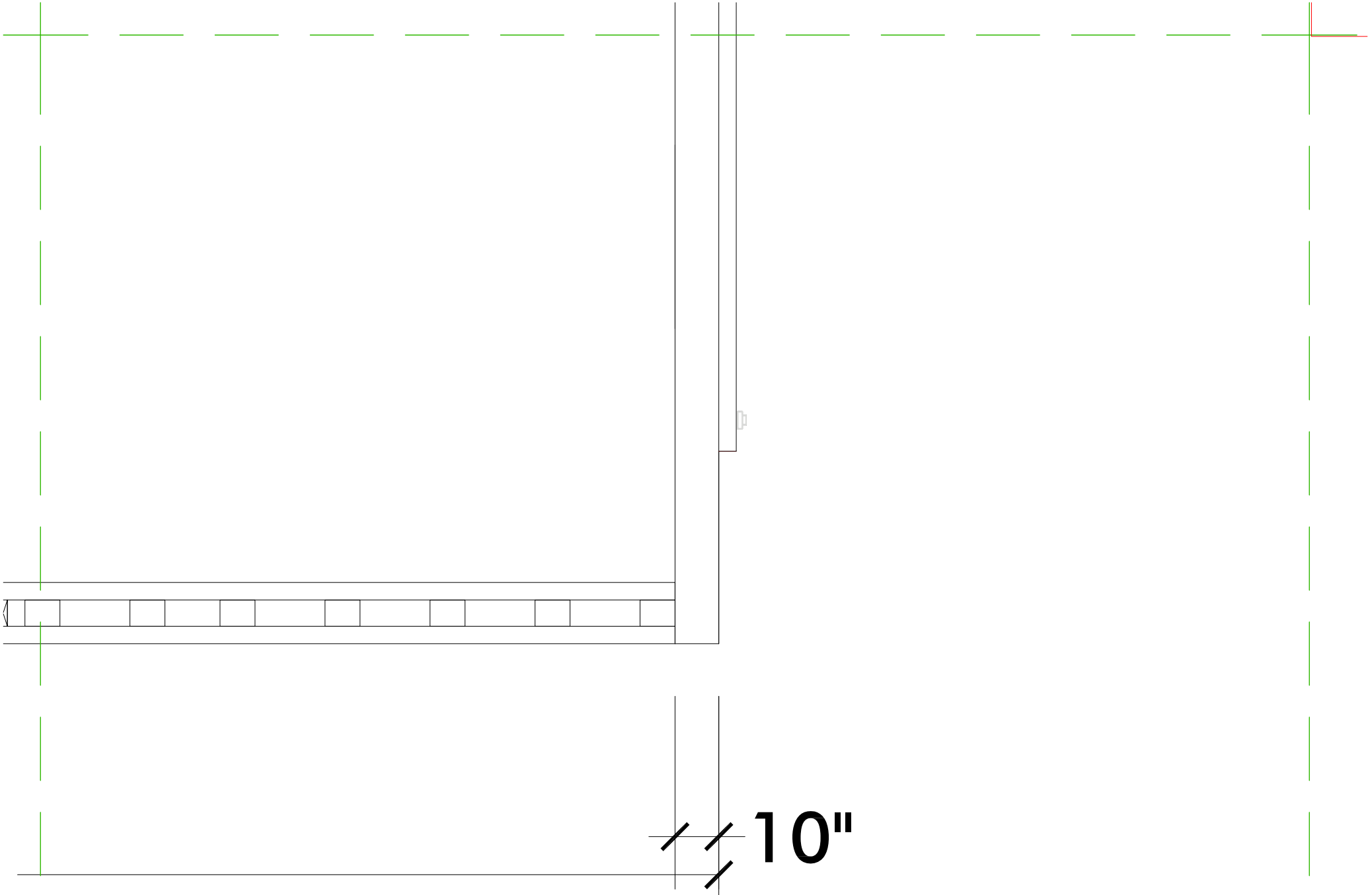


FRONT ELEVATION - FE-2



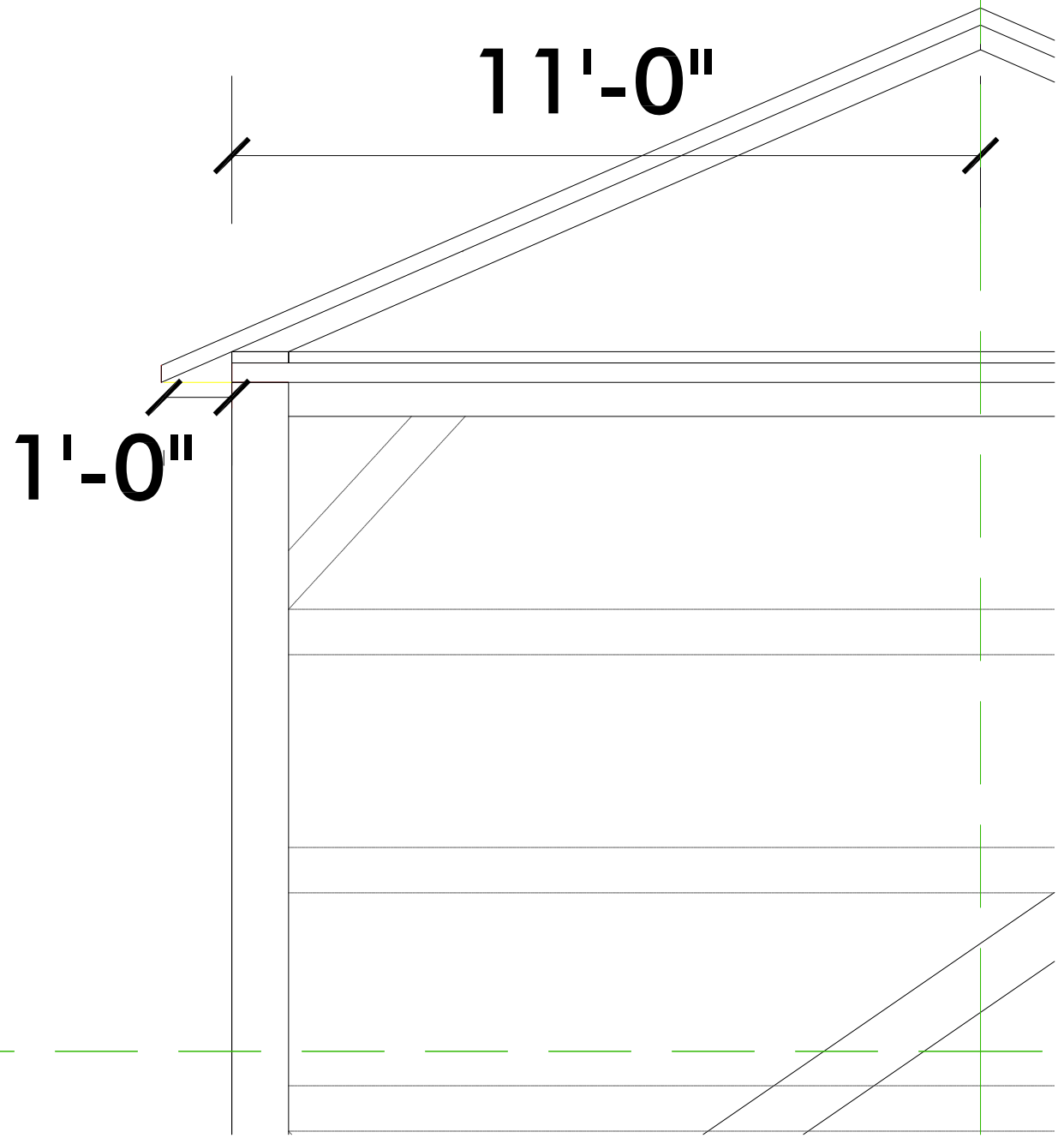


FRONT ELEVATION - FE-3

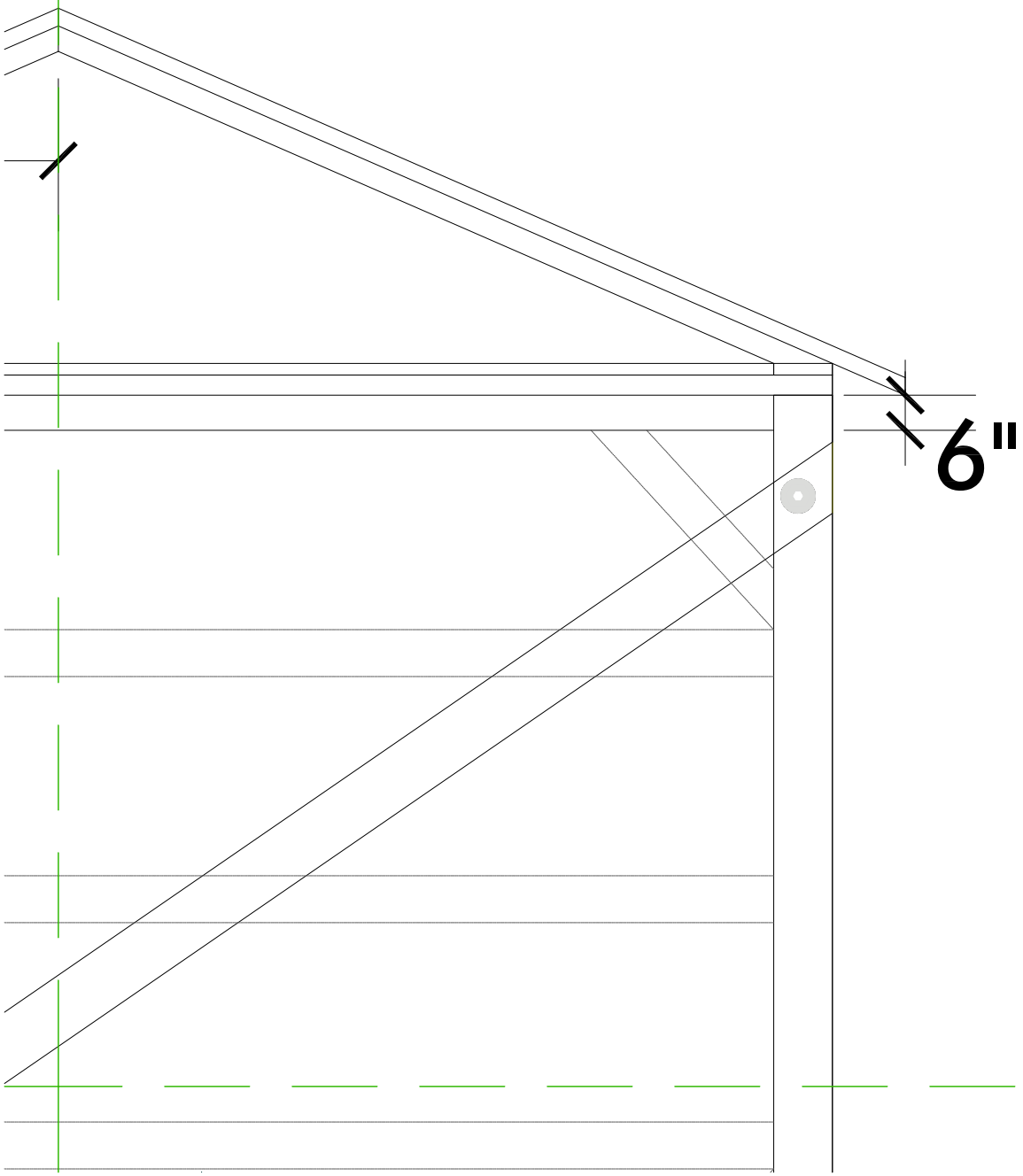


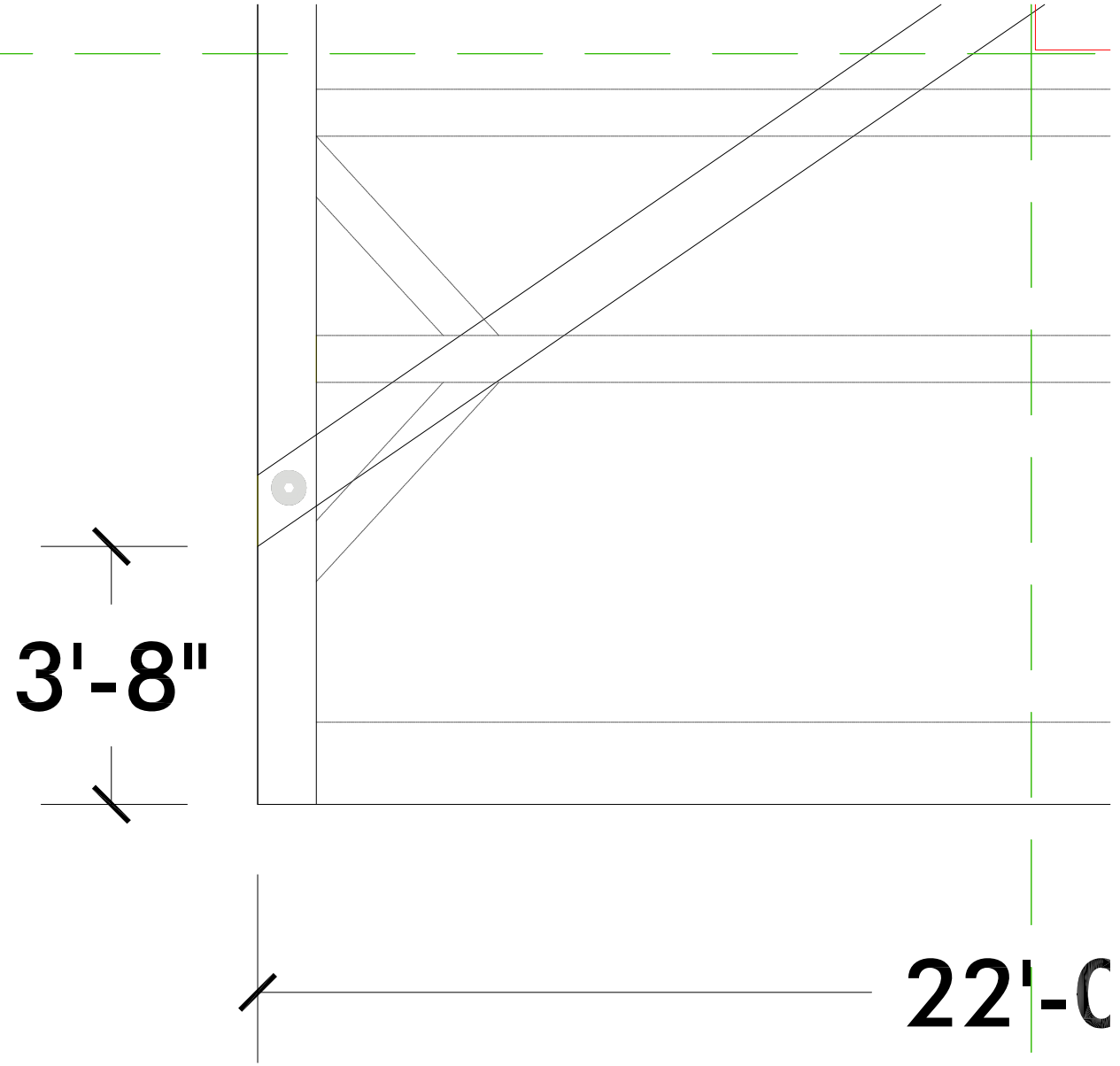
FRONT ELEVATION - FE-4

SIDE ELEVATION - SE-1

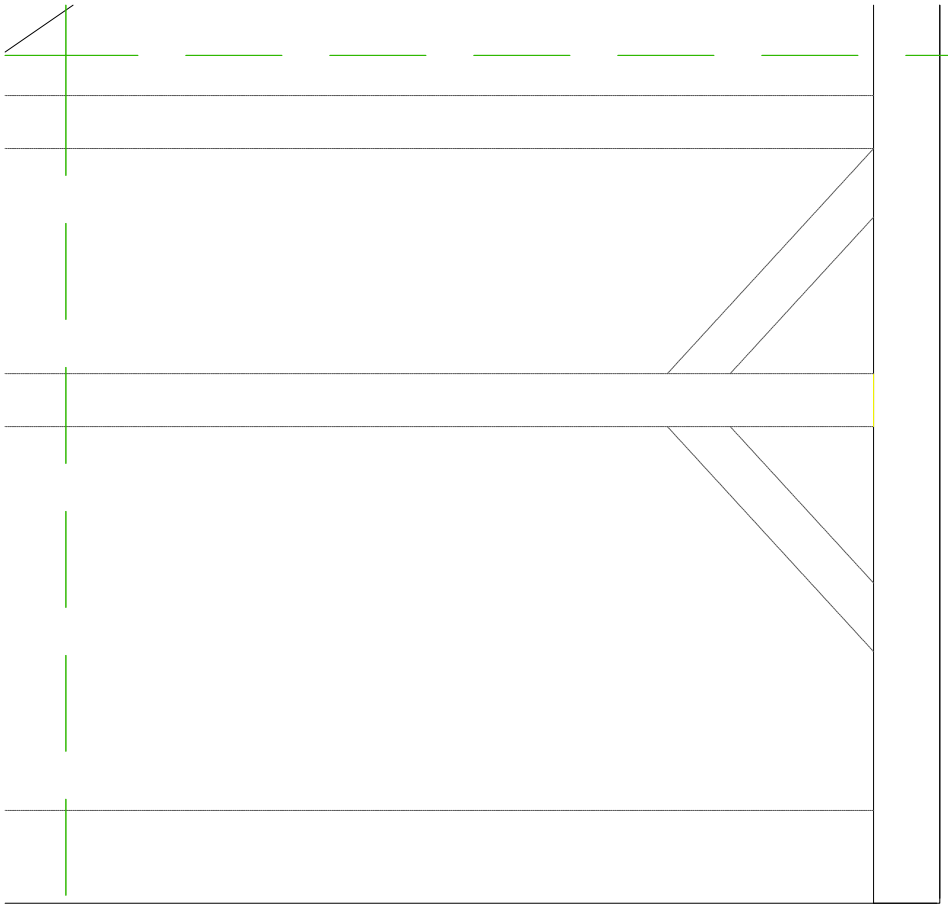


SIDE ELEVATION - SE-2





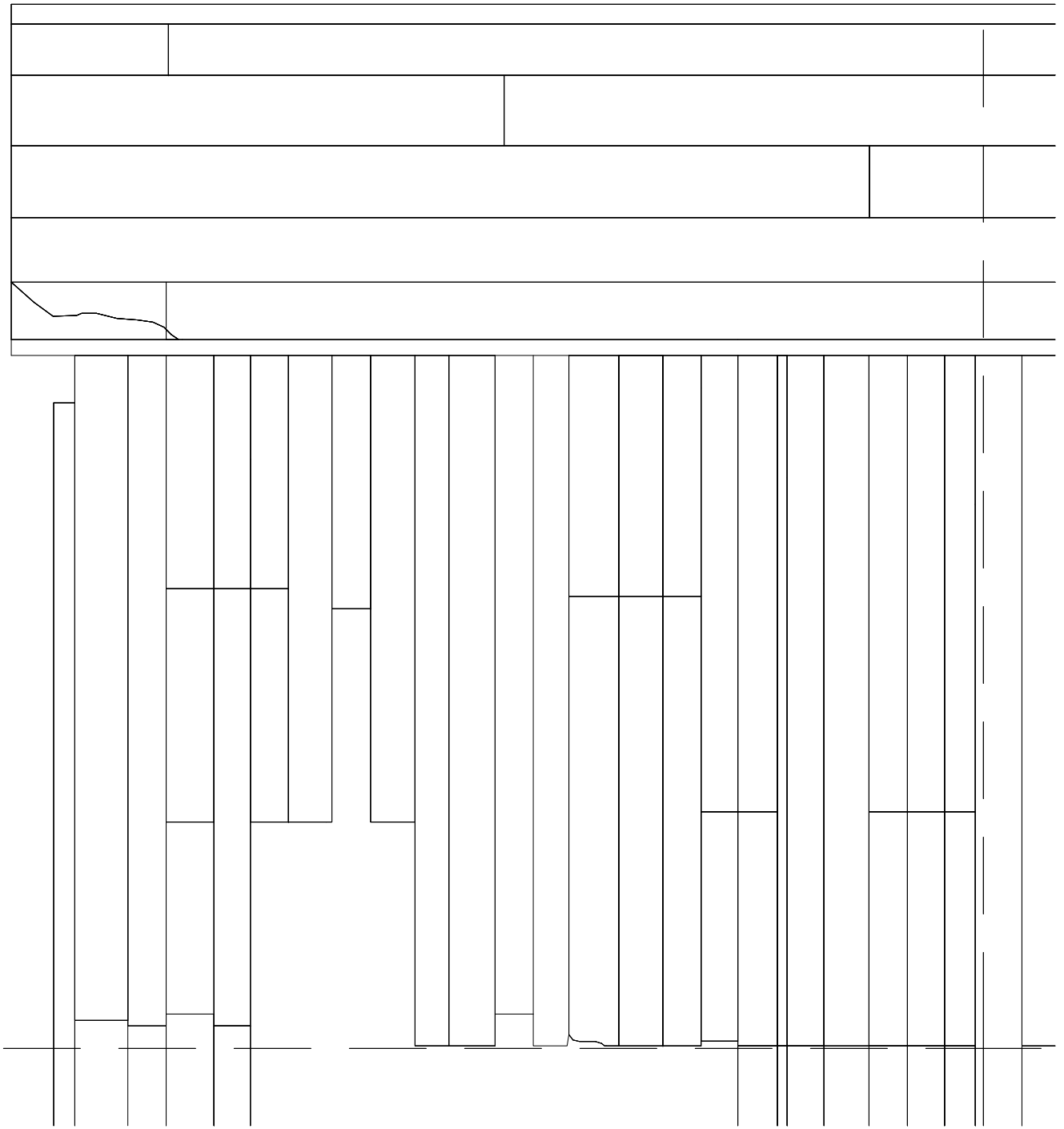
SIDE ELEVATION - SE-3



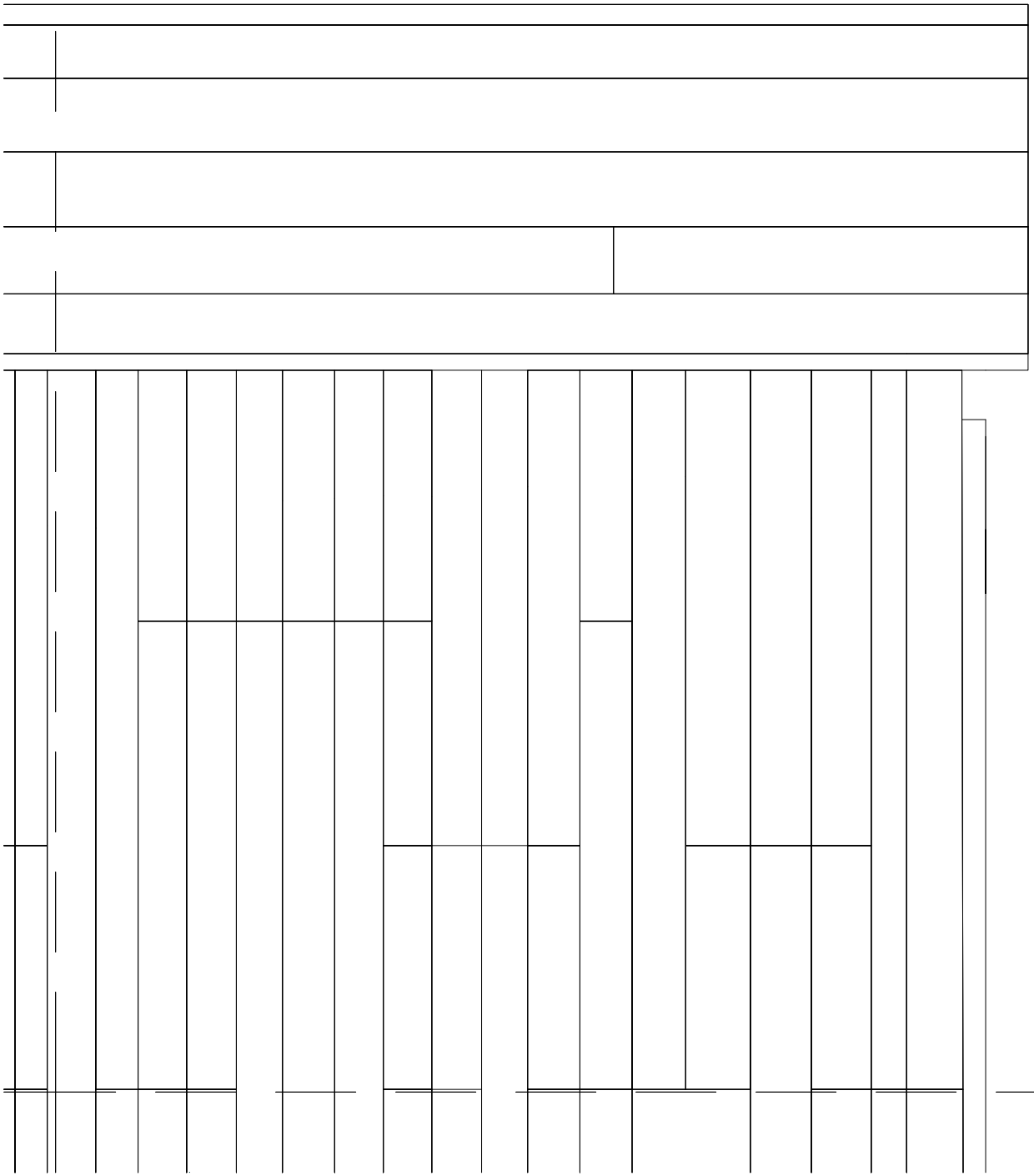
2'-0"

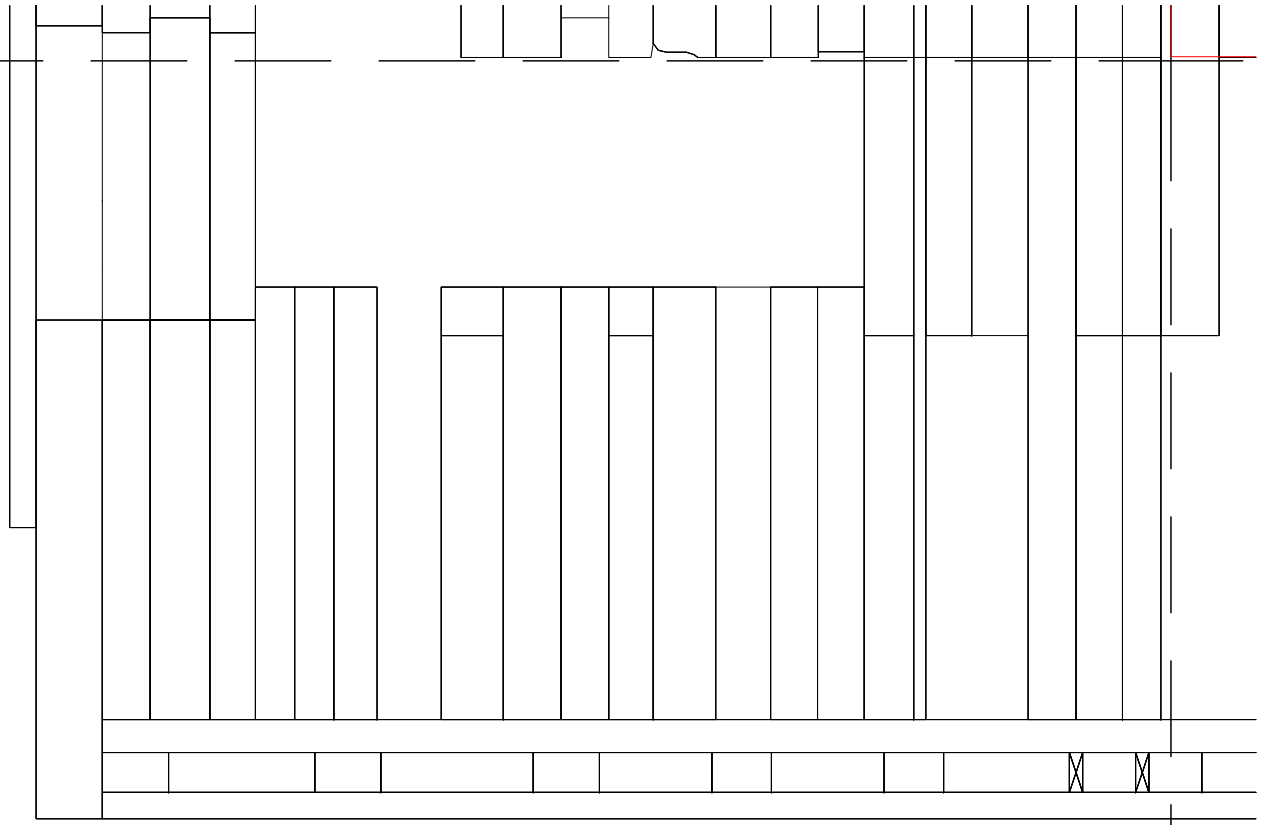
SIDE ELEVATION - SE-4

FINISHED BACK ELEVATION - FBE-1

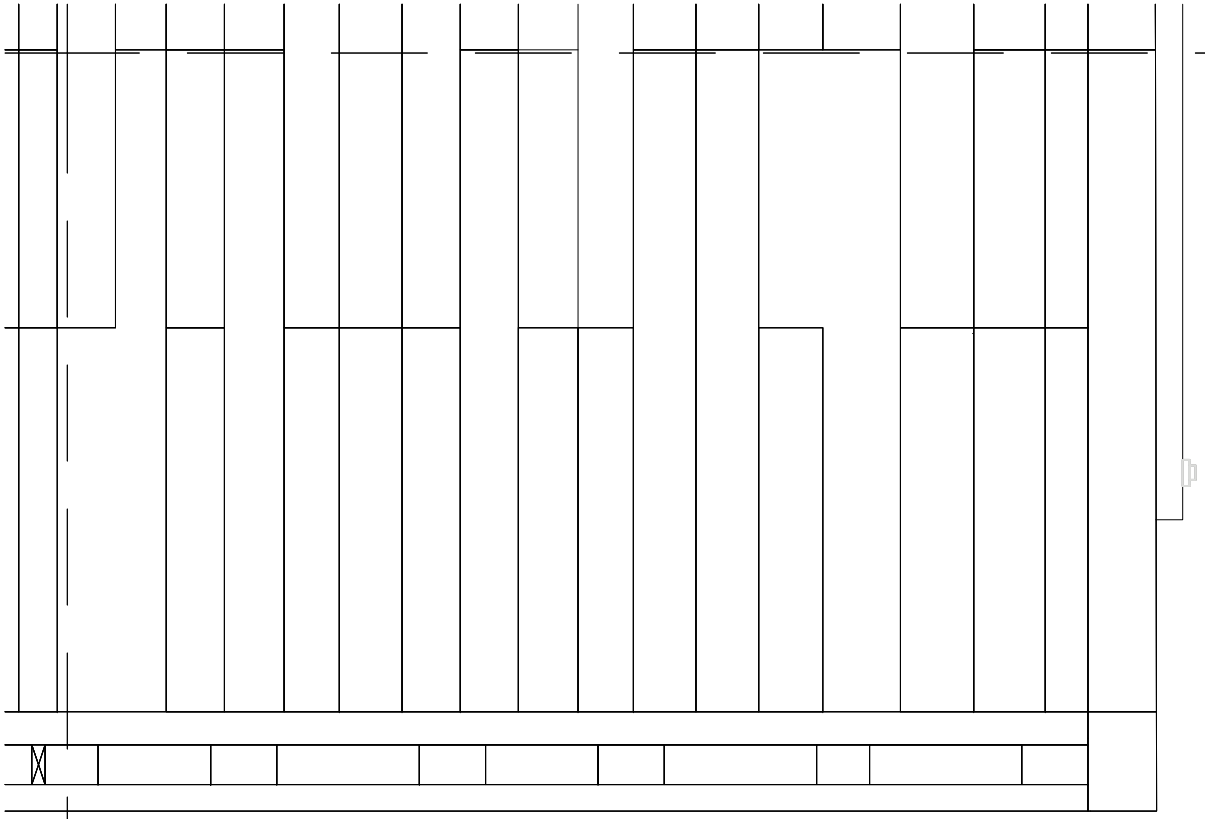


FINISHED BACK ELEVATION - FBE-2



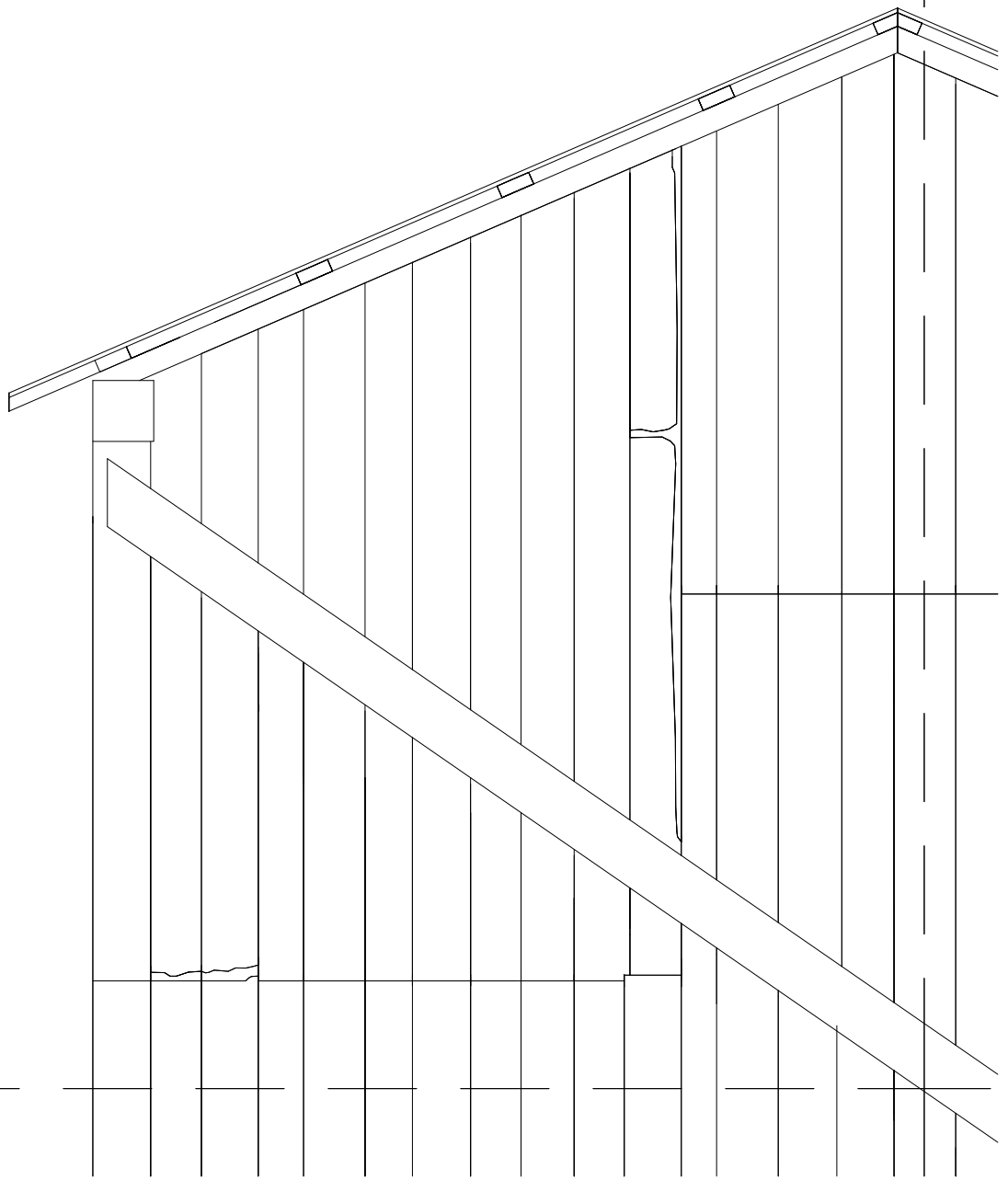


FINISHED BACK ELEVATION - FBE-3

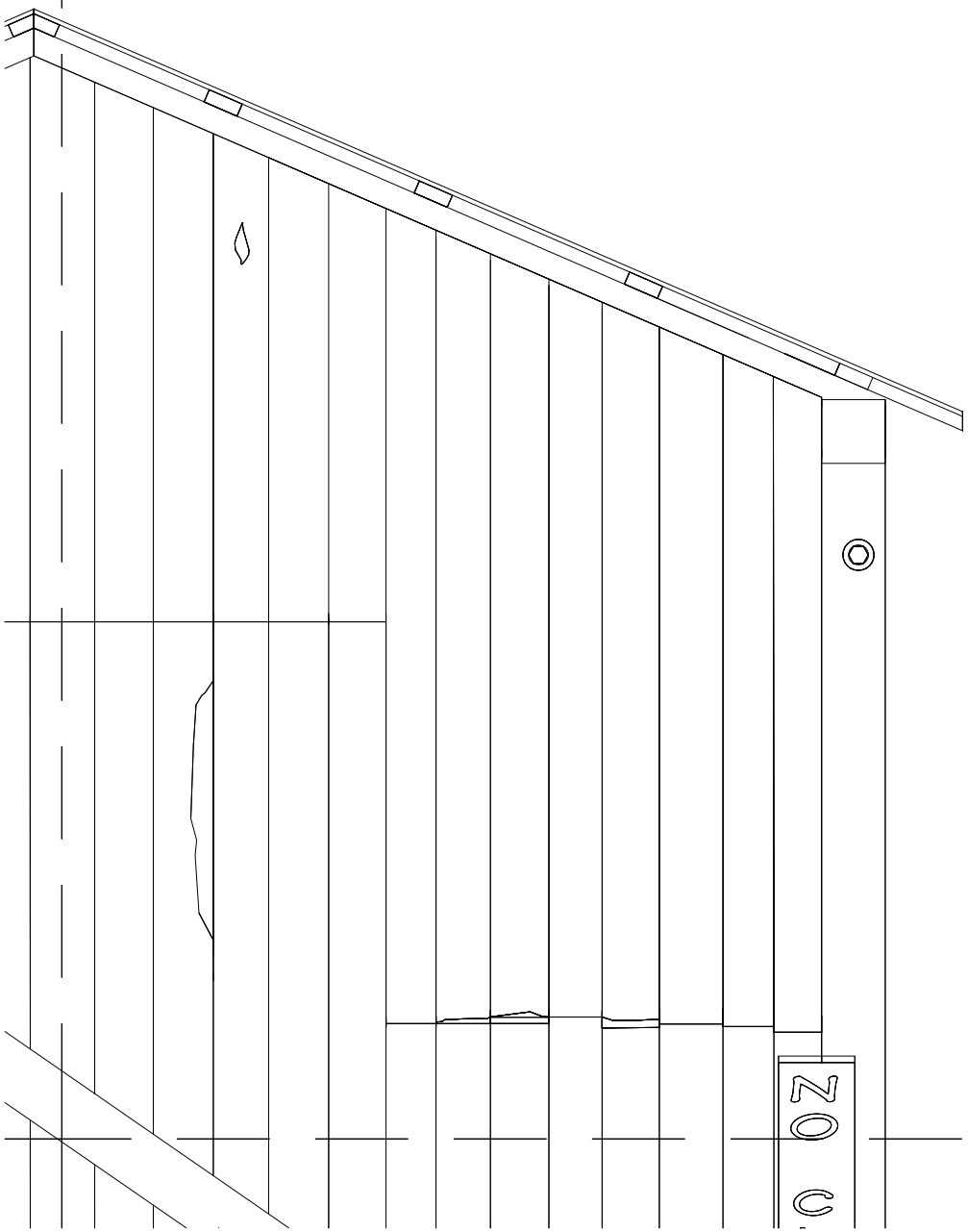


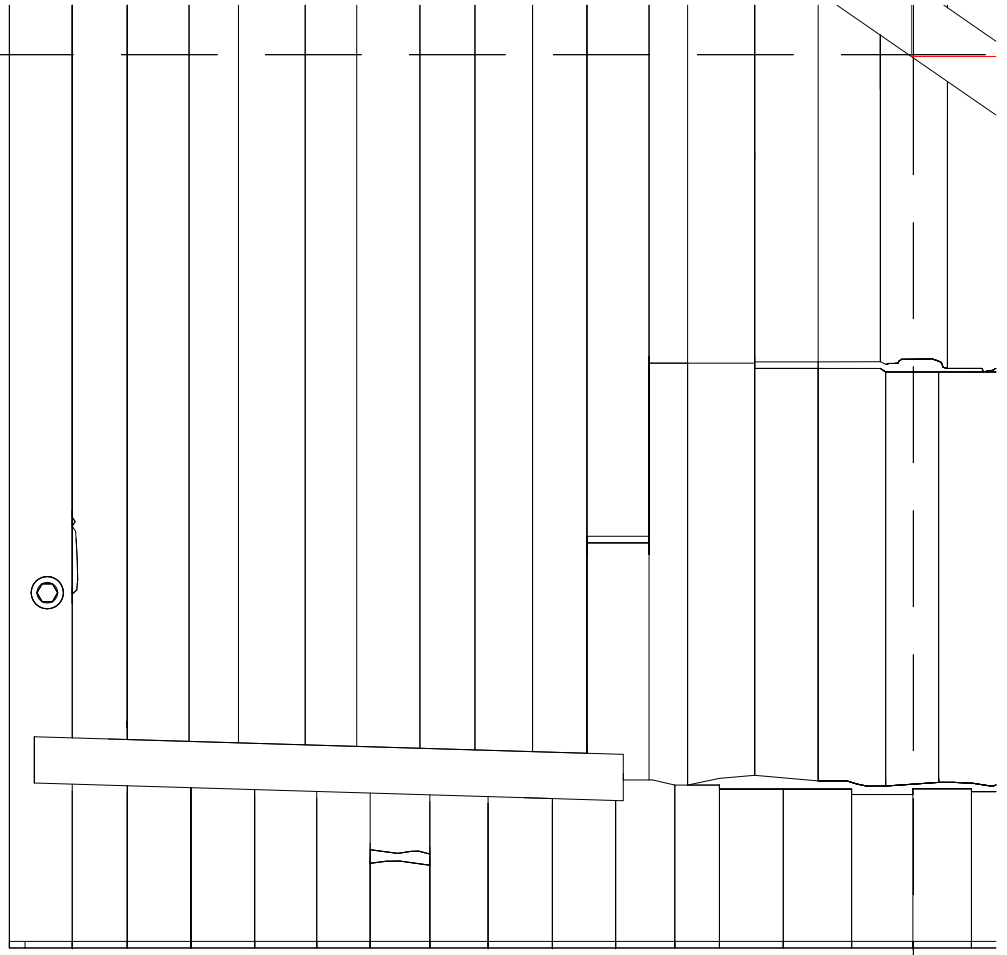
FINISHED BACK ELEVATION - FBE-4

FINISHED LEFT ELEVATION - FLE-1



FINISHED LEFT ELEVATION - FLE-2





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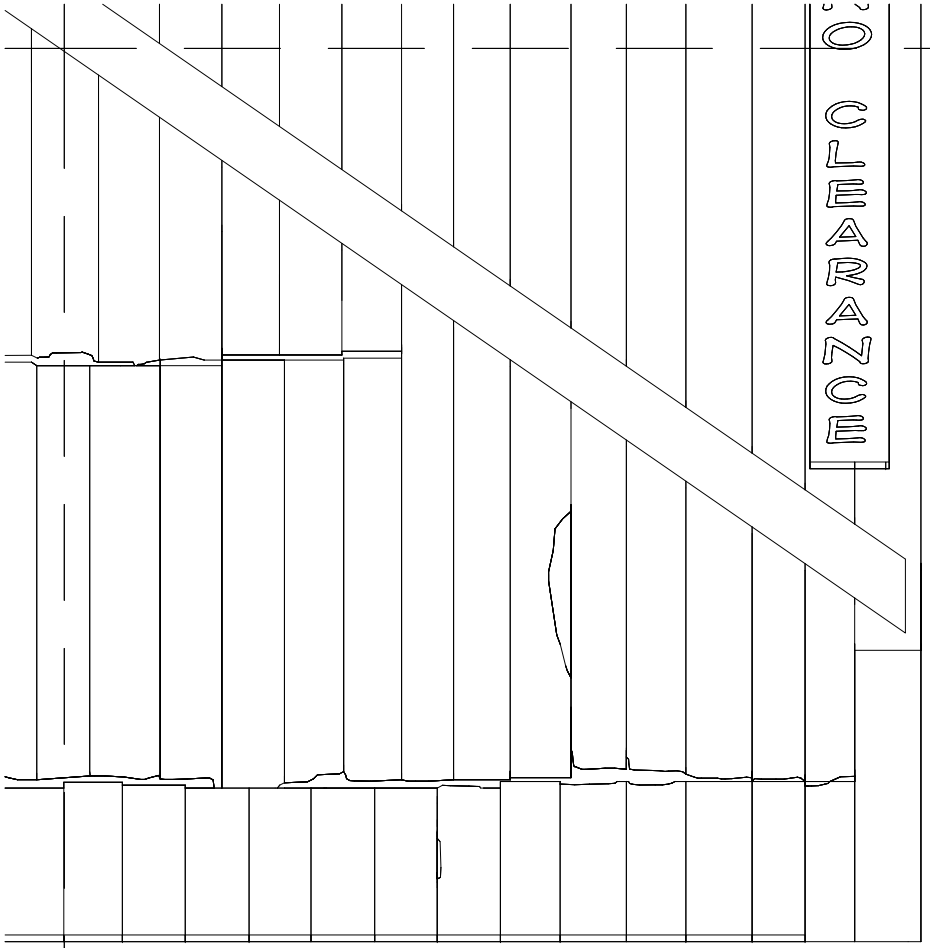
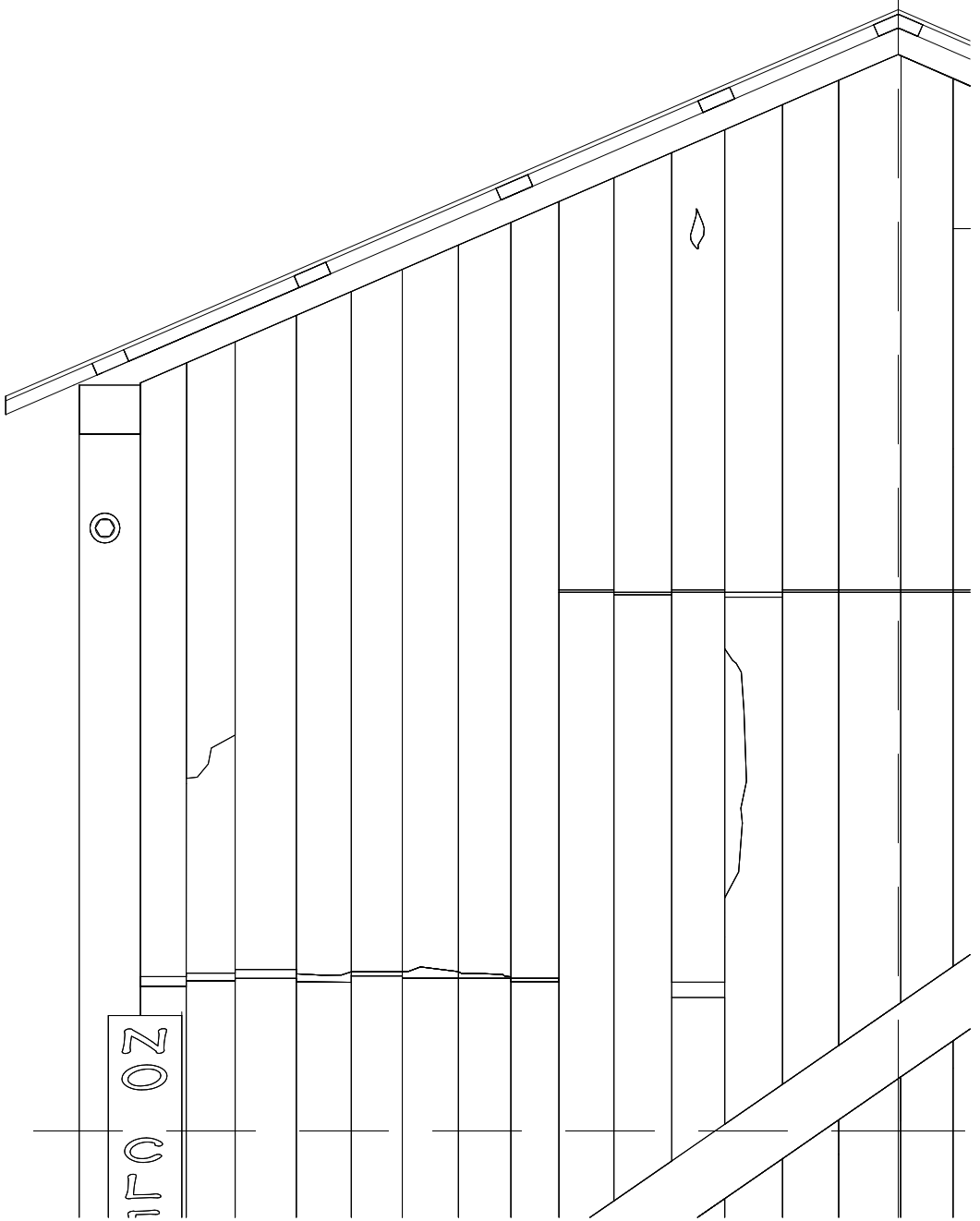
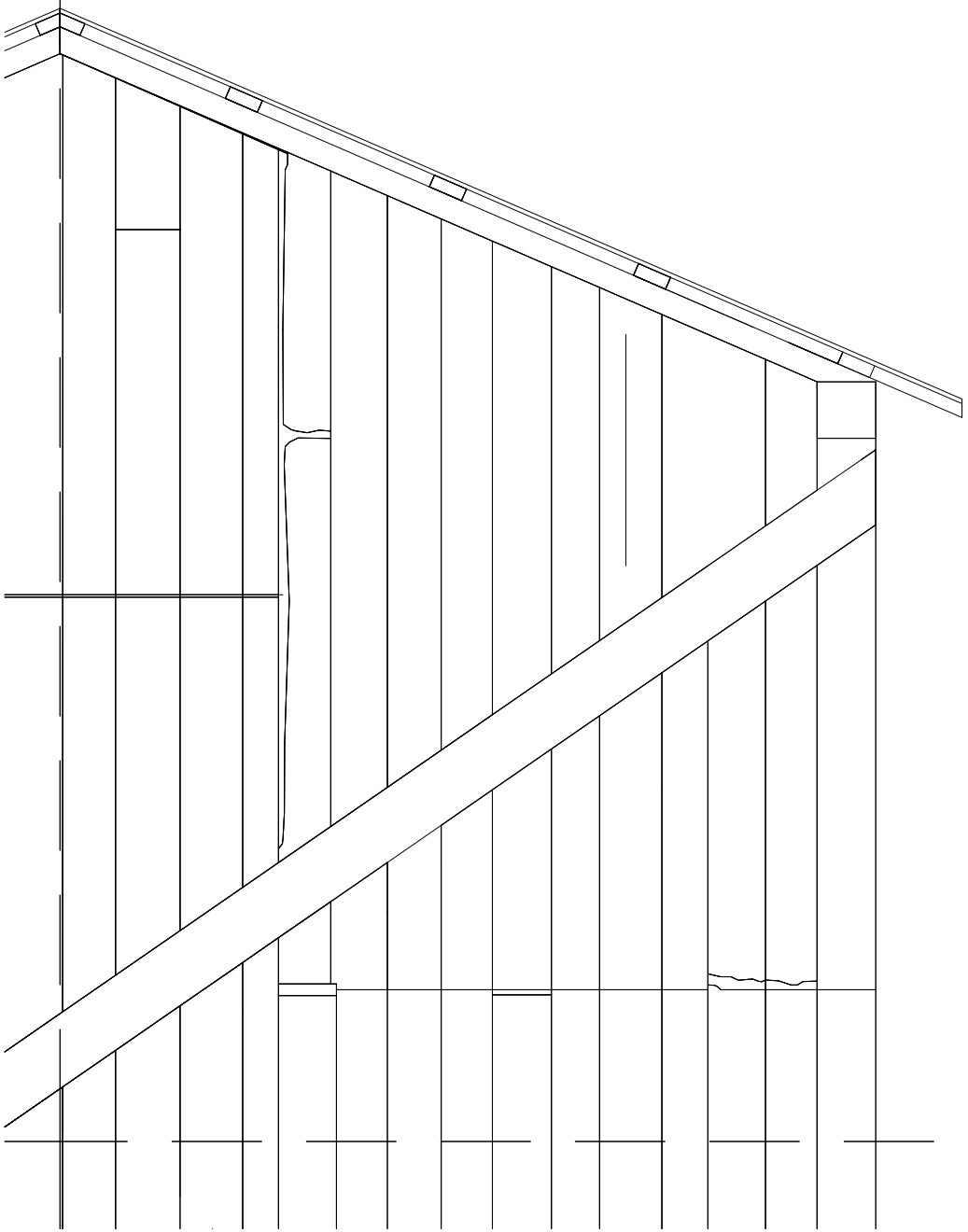


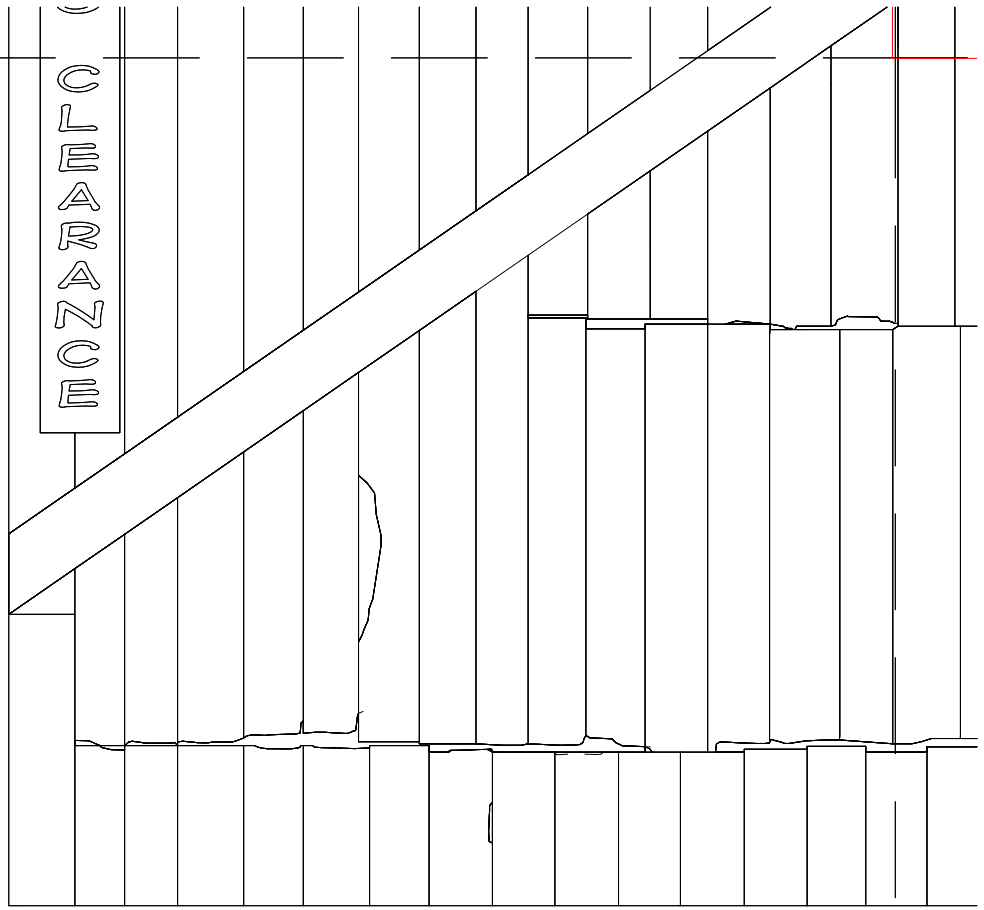
FINISHED LEFT ELEVATION - FLE-4

FINISHED RIGHT ELEVATION - FRE-1

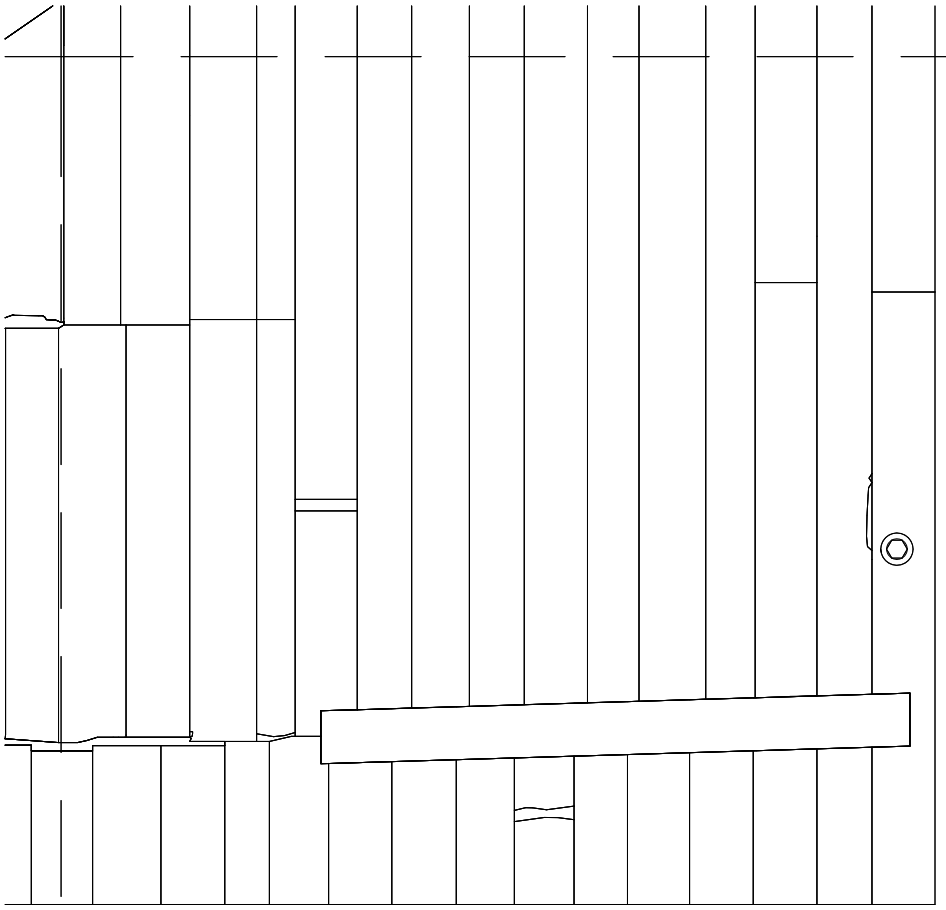


FINISHED RIGHT ELEVATION - FRE-2

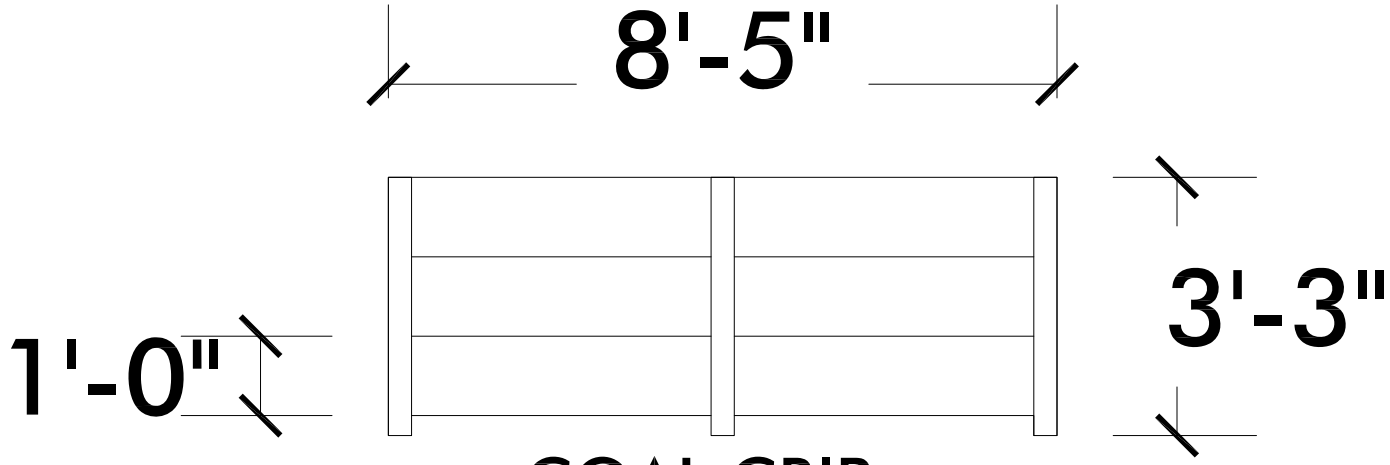




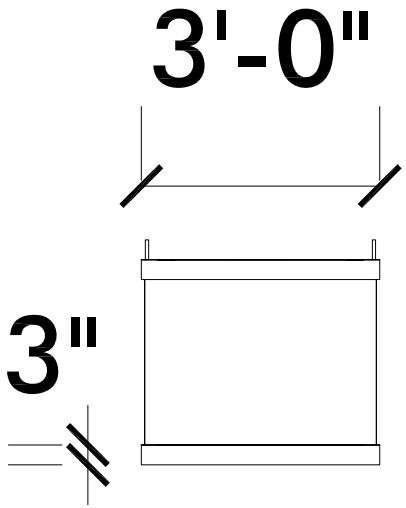
FINISHED RIGHT ELEVATION - FRE-3



FINISHED RIGHT ELEVATION - FRE-4



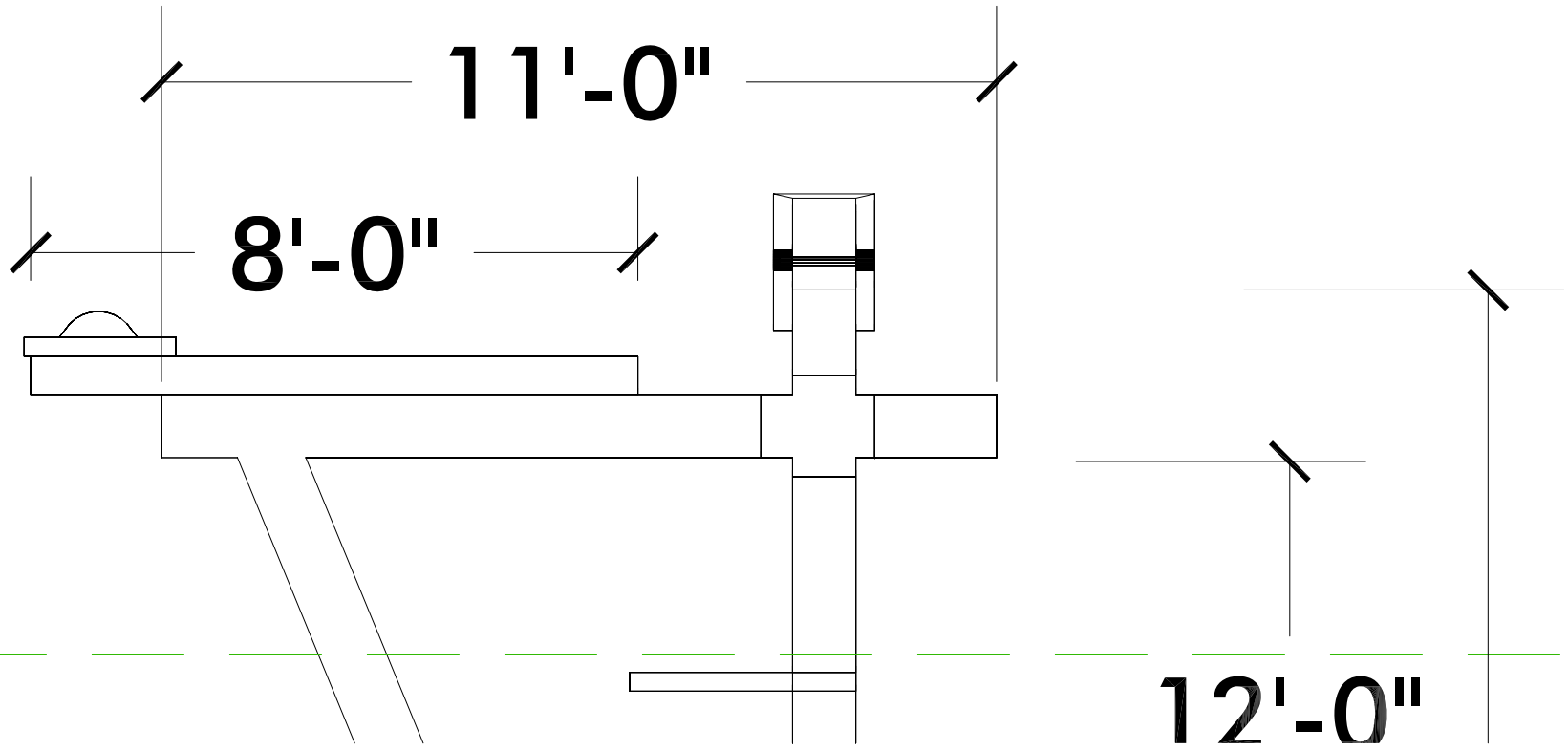
COAL CRIB



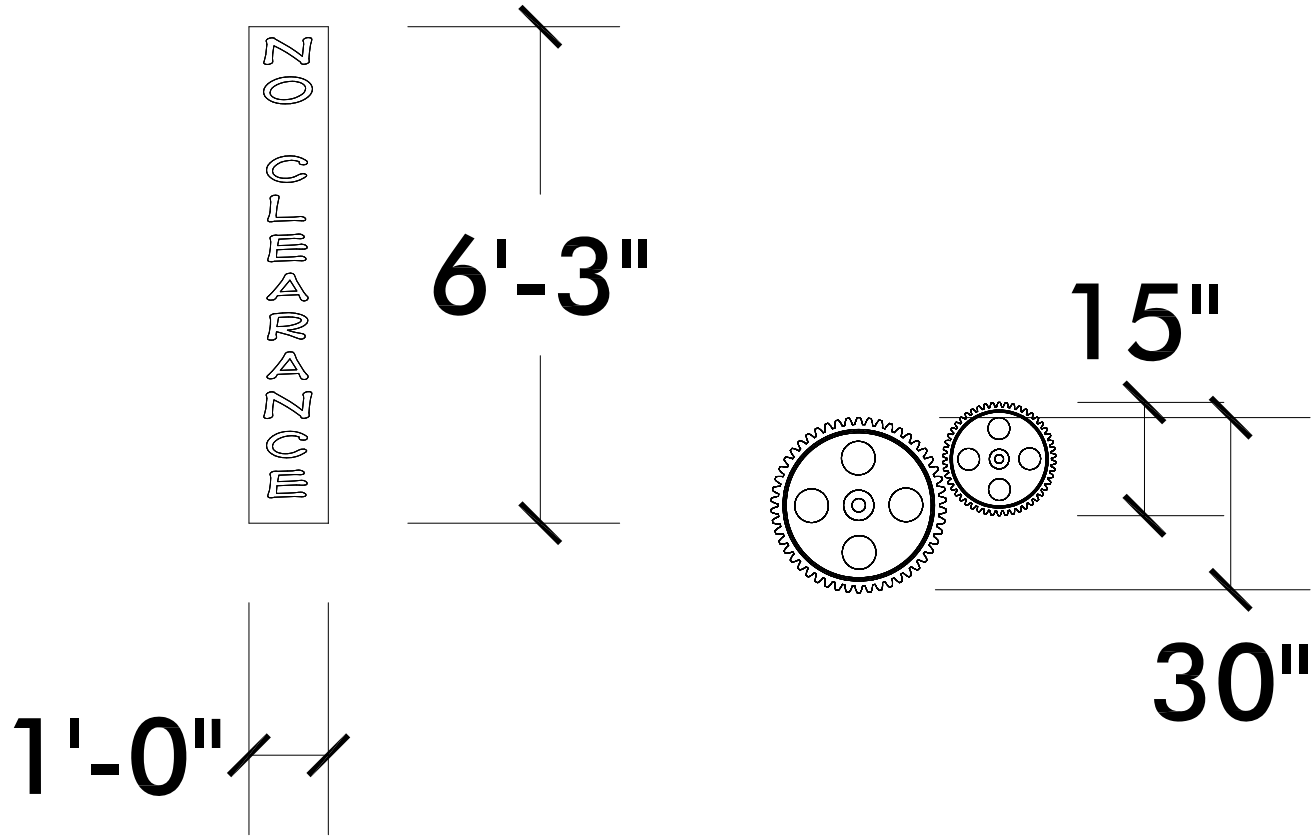
COAL BUCKET

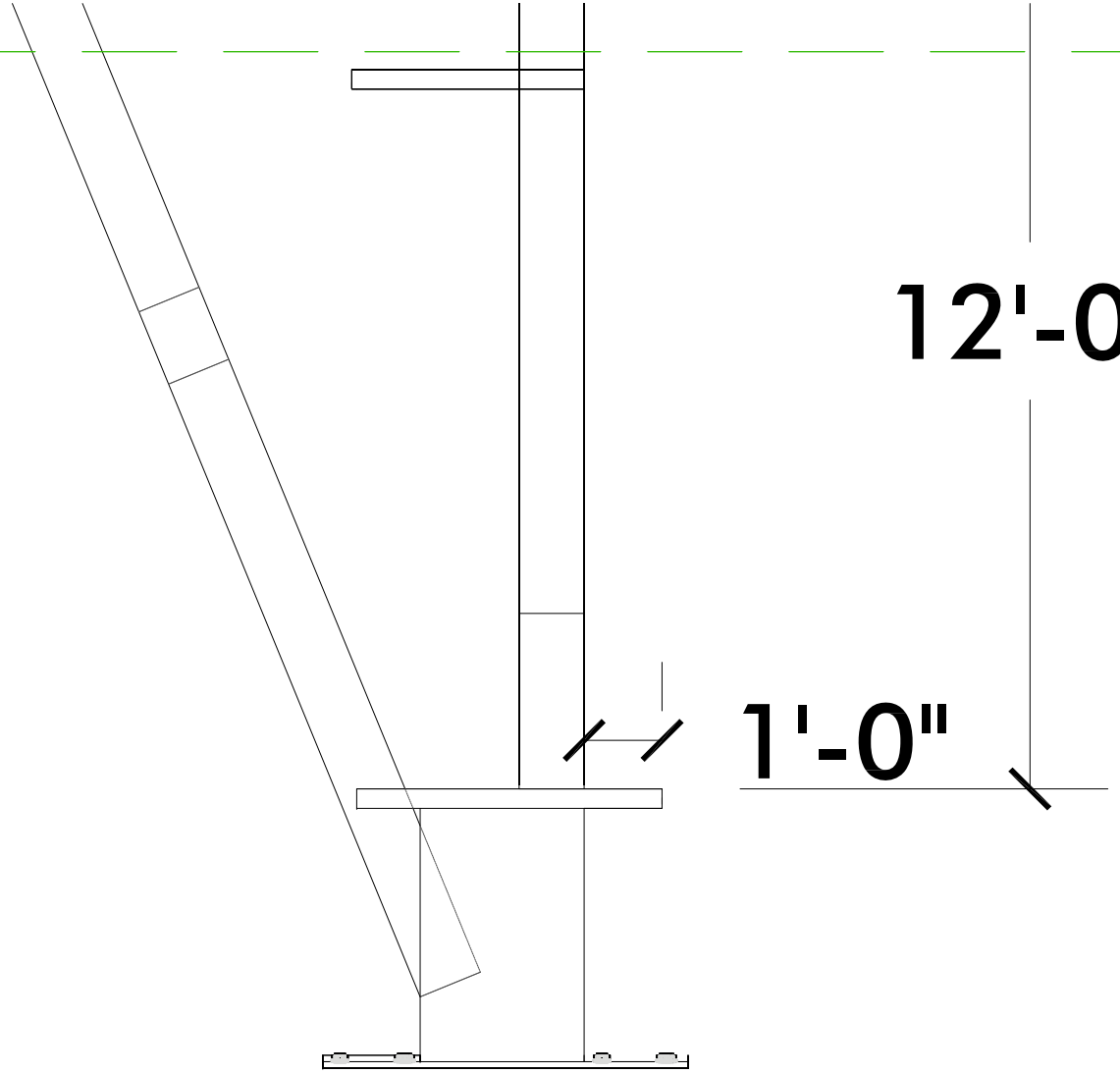
ACCESSORIES ELEVATION - AE-1

ACCESSORIES ELEVATION - AE-2



ACCESSORIES ELEVATION - AE-3

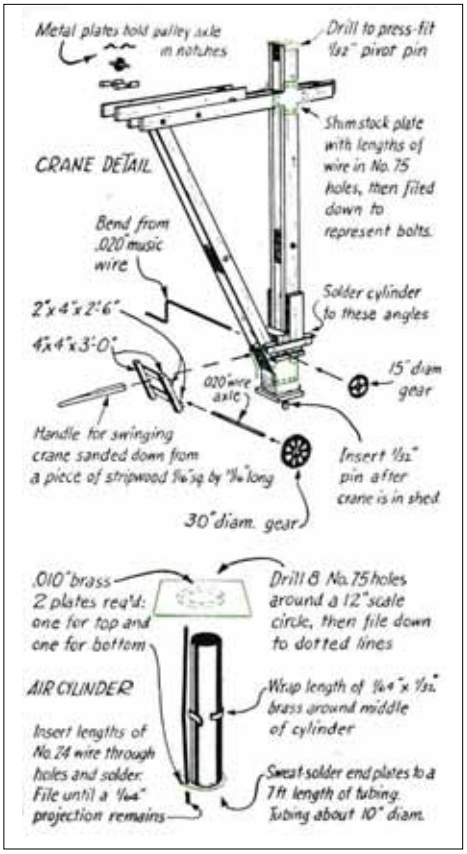


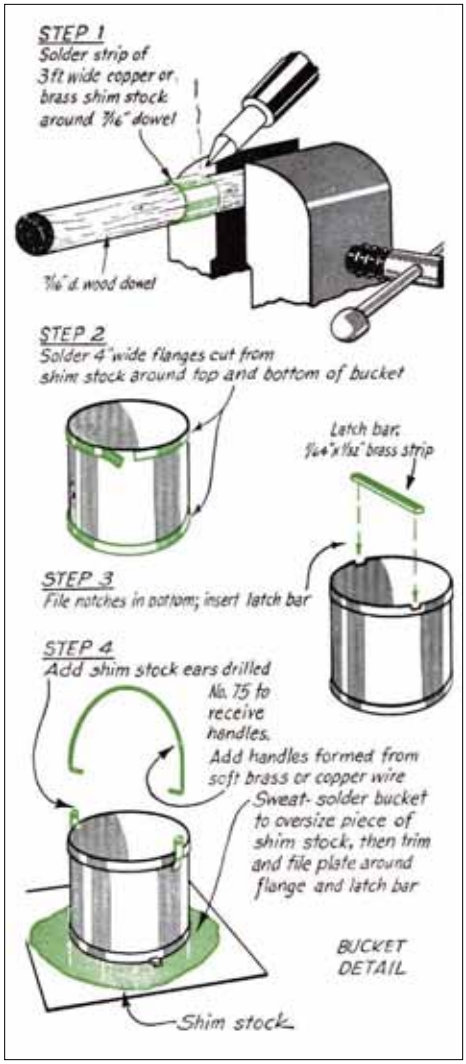


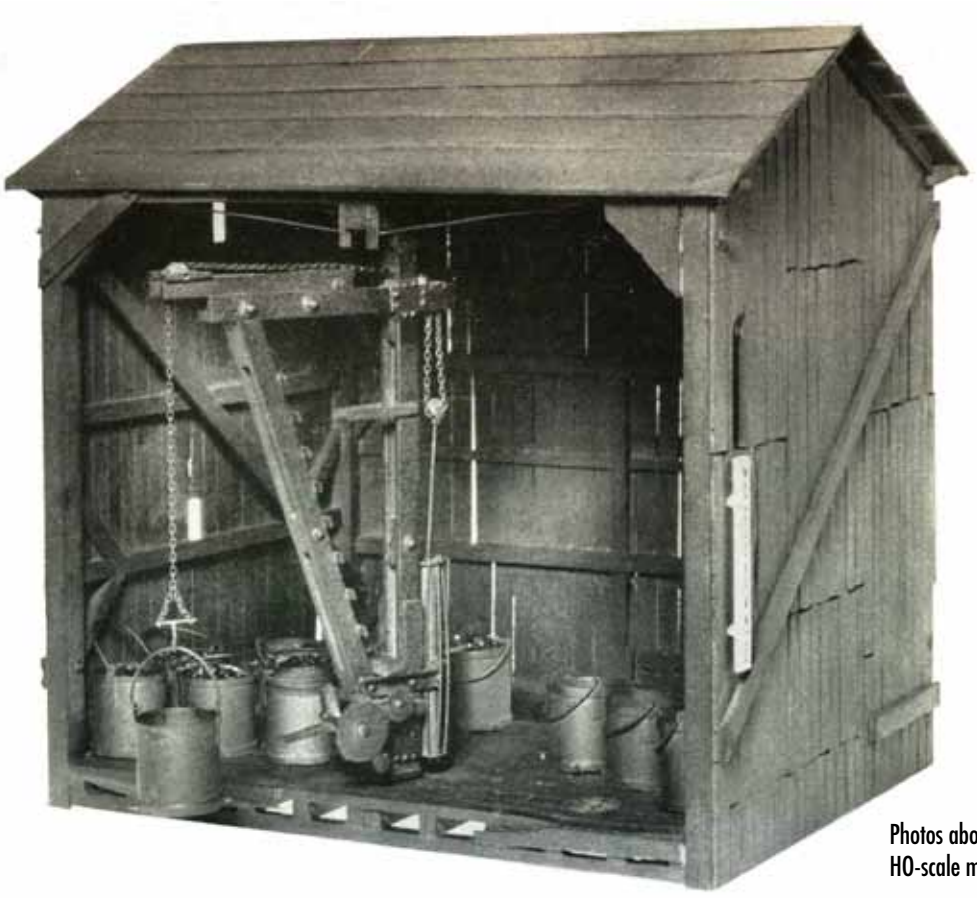
ACCESSORIES ELEVATION - AE-4

BONUS: How to build the crane and buckets

These two diagrams from the original article offer suggestions on how to build the crane and buckets. If you want to make buckets using the same technique shown, you'll need a dowel 1¼" in diameter for 1:29 scale, or 1¾" for 1:20.3 scale.







Photos above show HO-scale models.