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WEIGHT
OF
STEEL ROOF TRUSSES

BY

ROBERT GRANT HOLABIRD

THESIS

FOR DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
IN ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
PRESENTED JUNE 1900

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

June 1, 1900.

190

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

Robert Grant Holabird


ENTITLED Weight of Steel Roof Trusses

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering.

K. C. Pickett.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture.



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Weight of Steel Roof Trusses.

In investigating the weight of trusses for a thesis the subject has been divided into two parts, the first part being the per cent of details by weight and the weight per square foot of horizontal area covered, of trusses which have been designed and erected. The second part is devoted to a study of the Fink truss, assuming a certain load per sq. ft. for different spans, rise, and low chord, with the object of finding out which form would give the most economical weight per sq. ft. of horizontal area covered.

Data for part one was obtained from the shop drawings of about a dozen trusses of different styles and spans. The roof coverings were obtained but the wind and snow loads for which they were designed were not. The weight of the truss was worked and then this result

2.

was divided by the longitudinal area covered which gave the wt. per sq. ft. of truss. The results showed that the variation between the weights was very small. They were not close enough however to form any table which would be general but they showed that the designers evidently had tried to keep the weight as light as possible. The results are placed in tables given on page 6, and drawings showing the styles on page 7.

The per cent of details by weight in terms of the main members was also obtained and showed a variation of about 10 per cent but when one remembers that different designers vary widely in their methods of obtaining details this variation does not seem so very great. From an average of the results the conclusion drawn is that 15 per cent of the wt. of the main members should be added to make up the total weight of a truss. This is a fair and average value and will hold for almost any

3

style of roof truss with an average loading. The results are shown in Table I. By means of this value it enables me to quickly work out the weight and cost of a truss and thus saves many valuable moments to the designer.

In part two the analysis of the Fink type of truss was undertaken the object being to find out how the wt. per sq. ft. of horizontal area covered varied with the span and spacing between centres and also to determine the relative weights of 3 different forms of the truss for equal spans and spacings. Spans of 50, 75, 100, and 150 ft. were assumed with trusses spaced 16' centres, also 2 trusses of 50' and 75' spans with 18' centres, but it was found that such a small change of centre did not affect the wt. per sq. ft.

One set of trusses had a rise of $\frac{1}{5}$ the span and had a horizontal lower chord. Another set had a rise of 3 in 10' with an inclined lower chord which had a rise of $\frac{1}{5}$ the total rise of the

truss, this same set of trusses was designed for a horizontal lower chord. The trusses were designed to carry a permanent load of 15.5 lbs per sq. ft. of roof area and a snow load of 20 lbs. per sq. ft. of horizontal projection. The wind load and truss weights were taken from tables in Ricker's Trussed Roofs. Drawings showing the trusses and the data are shown on pages 8, 9.

From the results we find that the wt. per sq. ft. of horizontal area covered varies directly as the span. This is shown on page 2 when 3 lines are plotted having the span as abscissa and the wt. in lbs. as ordinates.

We also find that the truss with a rise of 3 in 10' and a horizontal lower chord gives the least wt. per sq. ft. of area covered and is therefore the most economical style of truss. A truss of the same rise with an inclined lower chord is found to be the most extravagant. There was not time enough to work out the most economical

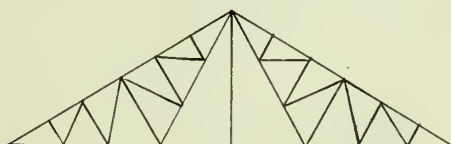
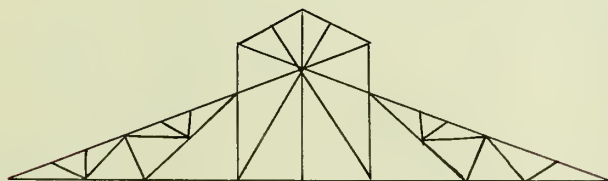
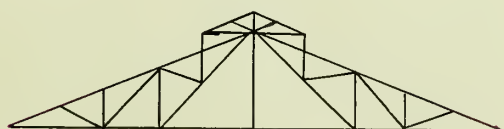
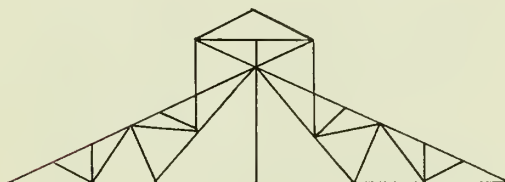
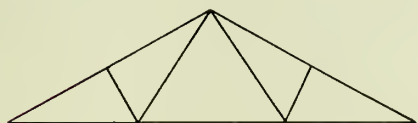
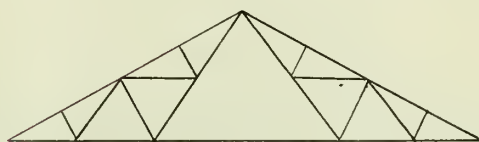
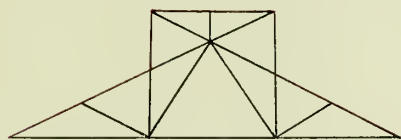
5.
rise though it is probable that the
truss assumed approximates it very
closely.

From the results of this work
it can be seen that the field offers
chances for many valuable results and
if a person had time the difference
between the Fink and some other
style of truss would be very interesting,
as would also the most economical
spacing of trusses which would involve
not only the weight of trusses but
also the shop work and erecting.

TABLE I

NO. OF TRUSS.	SPAN.	RISE.	WT. OF TRUSS PER. SQ. FT. AREA COVERED.	DETAILS % OF MAIN MEMBERS.	ROOF COVERING.
1.	32.	9.	2.4 [#]	19.	SLATE.
2.	44.	10.	2.5	20.	" .
3.	44.	14.	2.4	13.	" .
4.	45.	10.	2.0	15.	TILE.
5.	49.	13.	3.1	20.	SLATE.
6.	49.	13.	3.0	17.	" .
7.	49.	13.	2.4	18.	" .
8.	50.	12.	2.8	16.	TILE.
9.	55.	18.	2.7	19.	GAL. IRON.
10.	59.	14.	3.1	11.	TILE.
11.	70.	20.	3.0	18.	SLATE.
12.	75.	18.	3.0	13.	TILE.
13.	110.	28.	5.2	11.	SLATE.

STYLE OF TRUSS
FOR
TABLE I.



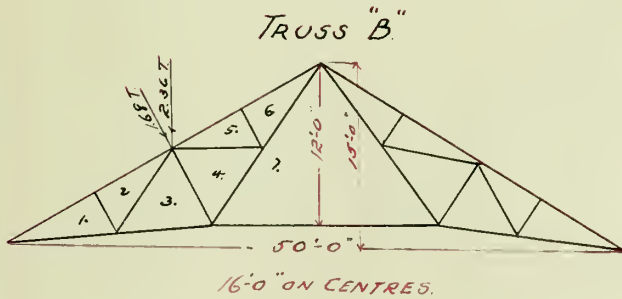
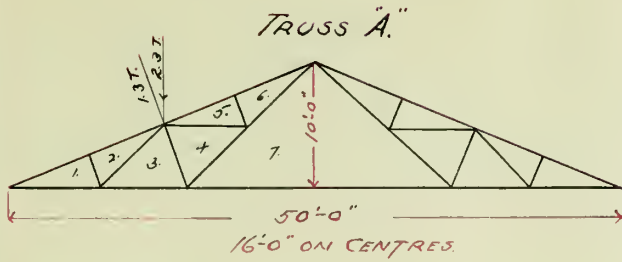
TRUSS "A"

MEMBER	LENGTH	STRESS	SECTION	WEIGHT
X1.	6.75	46800	4x3x1/16" L3	1058.0
Y1.	7.0	43900	3 1/2 x 3 x 3/8" L3	437.0
Y7.	22.0	24600	3 1/2 x 3 x 3/8" L3	185.0
1-2.	2.4	4600	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	20.0
2-3.	7.0	6800	"	56.0
3-4.	4.8	9200	"	34.0
4-5.	7.0	6800	"	56.0
5-6.	2.4	4600	"	20.0
6-7.	7.0	20400	3x3x3/8" L	205.0

2075.0
* 310.0

2385.0

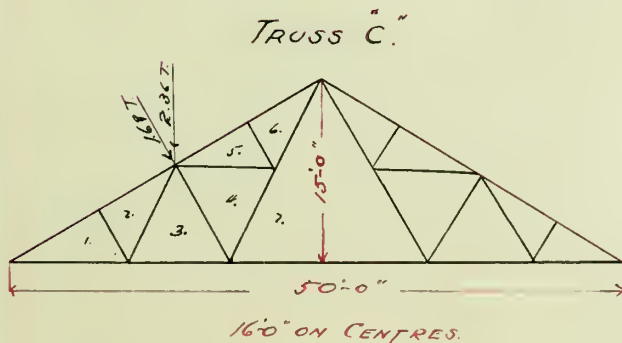
WT. PER. 59 FT. → 2.98 #



MEMBER	LENGTH	STRESS	SECTION	WEIGHT
X1.	7.3	46900	4x3x1/2" L3	1300.0
Y1.	7.8	44000	3 1/2 x 3 x 3/8" L3	450.0
Y7.	20.0	24700	3 1/2 x 3 x 3/8" L3	240.0
1-2.	2.6	5400	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	20.0
2-3.	7.7	8000	"	61.0
3-4.	5.2	11000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 3/8" L	60.0
4-5.	7.7	8000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	61.0
5-6.	2.6	5400	"	20.0
6-7.	7.8	24000	3x3x3/8" L	260.0

2472.0
370.0
2842.0

WT. PER. 59 FT. 3.38 #



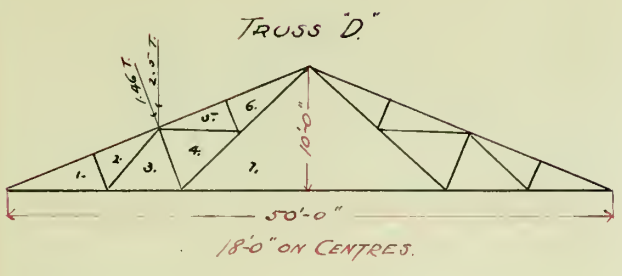
MEMBER	LENGTH	STRESS	SECTION	WEIGHT
X1.	7.3	31400	3 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 3/16" L3	700.0
Y1.	8.5	25000	3x3x1/4" L3	270.0
Y7.	16.0	15200	"	160.0
1-2.	4.5	5400	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	36.0
2-3.	8.5	5800	"	68.0
3-4.	9.0	11000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 3/8" L	104.0
4-5.	8.5	5000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	68.0
5-6.	4.5	5400	"	36.0
6-7.	8.5	16000	3x3x3/16" L	204.0

1646.0
246.0
1892.0

WT. PER. 59 FT. 2.37 #

NOTE → #
15% ADDED FOR DETAILS

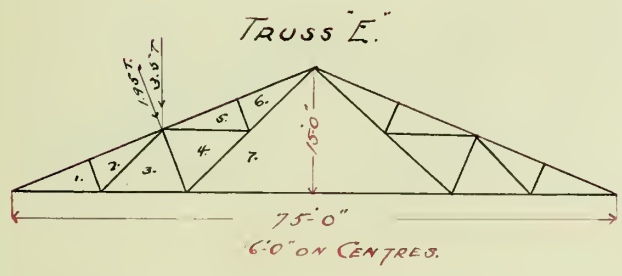
TRUSS D."



MEMBER.	LENGTH	STRESS.	SECTION	WEIGHT
X1.	6.75	50500	4x3x7/16" L ^s	1058.0
Y1.	7.0	46700	4x3x3/8" L ^s	476.0
Y7.	22.0	26000	4x3x5/16" L ^s	312.0
1-2.	2.4	6000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	20.0
2-3.	7.0	8000	"	56.0
3-4.	4.8	12000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 3/16" L	48.0
4-5.	7.0	8000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	56.0
5-6.	2.4	6000	"	20.0
6-7.	7.0	24000	3 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 3/8" L	235.0

2271.0
 → # 320.0
 2596.0
 WT. PER SQ. FT. 2.9 #

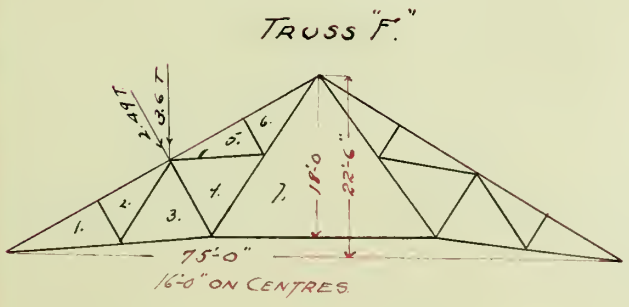
TRUSS E."



MEMBER.	LENGTH	STRESS	SECTION	WEIGHT
X1.	10.1	68000	6x3 1/2 x 1/2" L ^s	2473.
Y1.	11.0	62800	5x3 1/2 x 3/8" L ^s	915.
Y7.	31.0	36000	" L ^s	645.
1-2.	4.1	8000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	33.
2-3.	10.5	10600	"	84.
3-4.	8.2	16000	3x3x1/4" L	81.
4-5.	10.5	10600	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	84.
5-6.	4.1	8000	"	33.
6-7.	11.0	32000	3x3x5/16" L	264.

4612.
 # → 691.
 5303.
 WT. PER SQ. FT. 4.42 #

TRUSS F."



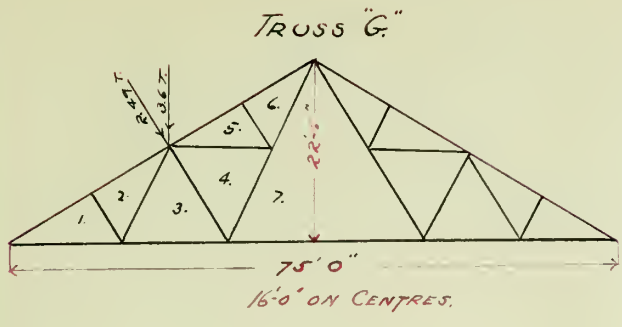
MEMBER	LENGTH	STRESS.	SECTION.	WEIGHT.
X1.	11.1	70000	6x4x7/16" L ^s	2550.
Y1.	12.0	63000	5x3 1/2 x 3/8" L ^s	1000.
Y7.	28.0	38000	"	582.
1-2.	4.5	8400	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	36.
2-3.	12.0	11600	"	96.
3-4.	9.0	16800	3x3x1/4" L	90.
4-5.	12.0	11600	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	96.
5-6.	4.5	8400	"	36.
6-7.	24.0	33000	3x3x5/16" L	288.

4774.0
 # → 716.0
 5490.0

NOTE → # 15% ADDED FOR DETAILS.

WT. PER SQ. FT. → 4.67 #

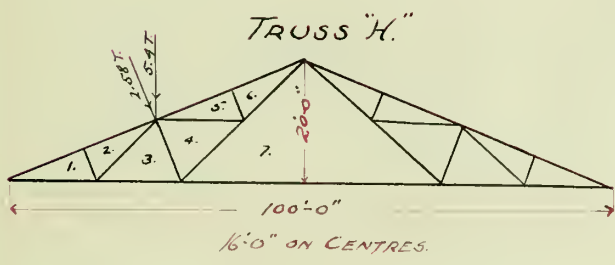
TRUSS "G."



MEMBER	LENGTH	STRESS	SECTION	WEIGHT
X1.	11.1	45000	5x3 1/2 x 3/8" L	1850.
Y1.	13.0	37000	4x3 x 3/8" L	840.
Y7.	23.0	22000	"	430.
1-2.	7.0	8400	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	56.
2-3.	13.5	8000	"	108.
3-4.	14.0	16000	3 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7/16" L	274.
4-5.	13.5	8000	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	108.
5-6.	7.0	8400	"	56.
6-7.	13.0	22500	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 3/8" L	260.

3982.0
 597.0
4579.0
 WT. PER 59. FT. 3.8 #

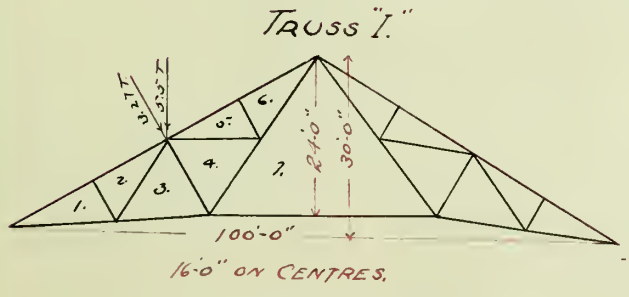
TRUSS "H."



MEMBER	LENGTH	STRESS	SECTION	WEIGHT
X1.	13.4	104000	6x4x7/16" L	3895.
Y1.	14.5	96000	6x4x1/2" L	1980.
Y7.	42.0	56000	6x4x7/16" L	1193.
1-2.	5.4	10400	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	43.
2-3.	14.5	21000	3x3x1/4" L	142.
3-4.	10.8	14000	"	212.
4-5.	14.5	14000	"	142.
5-6.	5.4	10400	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	43.
6-7.	14.5	41500	3 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 7/16" L	713.

8363.0
 + → 1254.0
9617.0
 WT. PER 59. FT → 6.0 #

TRUSS "I."

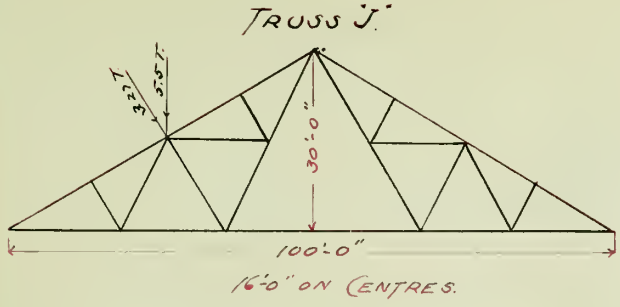


MEMBER	LENGTH	STRESS	SECTION	WEIGHT
X1.	14.6	105000	6x6x1/2" L	4570.
Y1.	15.5	98000	6x4x7/16" L	1760.
Y7.	40.0	59000	"	1130.
1-2.	5.2	11200	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	42.
2-3.	15.4	17000	3x3x1/4" L	150.
3-4.	10.4	23000	"	203.
4-5.	15.4	17000	"	150.
5-6.	6.2	11200	2 1/2 x 2 1/2 x 1/4" L	42.
6-7.	15.5	51000	3x3x7/16" L	1033.

9077.0
 + → 1260.0
10337
 WT. PER 59 FT → 6.4 #

Note: #
 15% ADDED FOR DETAILS.

TRUSS "J."



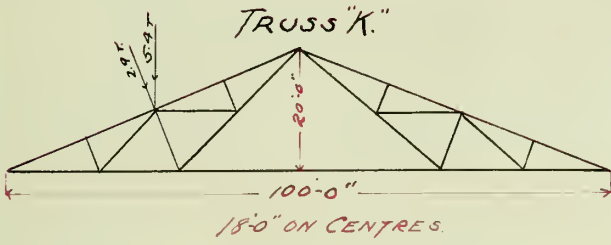
MEMBER.	LENGTH	STRESS.	SECTION.	WEIGHT.
X1.	14.6	65400	6x4x1/2" L	3910.
Y1.	17.0	5100	5x3 1/2 x 3/8" L	1415.
Y7.	32.0	33000	" L	670.
1-2.	9.0	11200	3x3x1/4" L	90.
2-3.	17.0	11000	" L	170.
3-4.	18.0	23000	" L	350.
4-5.	17.0	11000	" L	170.
5-6.	9.0	11200	" L	90.
6-7.	17.0	33000	3x3x3/8" L	490.

7355.0
1102.0

8457.0

WT. PER. SQ. FT. 5.3 #

TRUSS "K."



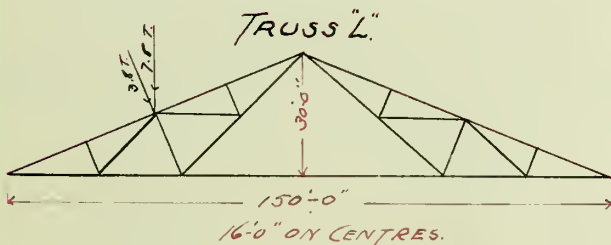
MEMBER.	LENGTH	STRESS.	SECTION.	WEIGHT.
X1.	13.4	106000	6x4x1/16" L	3895.
Y1.	14.5	97500	6x4x1/2" L	1980.
Y7.	42.0	56000	6x4x1/16" L	1193.
1-2.	5.4	15600	3x3x1/16" L	65.
2-3.	14.5	20200	3x3x3/8" L	208.
3-4.	10.8	31000	" L	311.
4-5.	14.5	20200	" L	208.
5-6.	5.4	15600	3x3x1/16" L	65.
6-7.	14.5	63000	3 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 1/2" L	643.

9364.0
→ # 1404.0

10768.0

WT. PER SQ. FT. 5.98 #

TRUSS "L."



MEMBER.	LENGTH	STRESS.	SECTION.	WEIGHT.
X1.	20.2	144800	6x6x1/8" L	10730.
Y1.	21.2	134000	6x4x1/16" L	3706.
Y7.	53.0	76000	6x4x3/8" L	1353.
1-2.	8.0	16000	3x3x3/8" L	115.
2-3.	22.0	21000	3x3x1/4" L	431.
3-4.	16.0	32000	4x4x3/8" L	621.
4-5.	22.0	21000	3x3x1/4" L	431.
5-6.	8.0	16000	3x3x3/8" L	115.
6-7.	21.2	64000	3 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 1/2" L	1887.

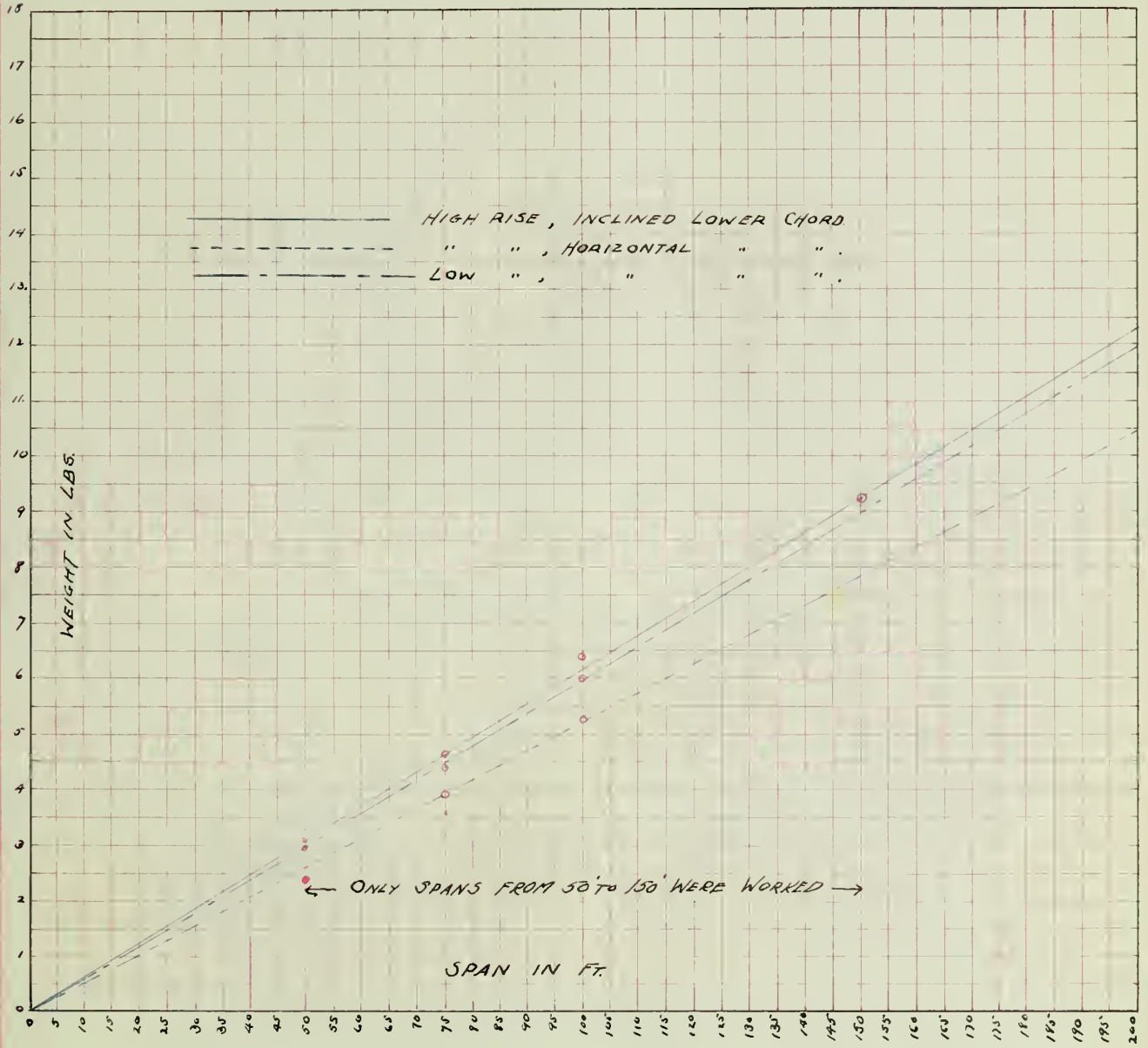
19389.0
2907.0

22296.0

WT. PER. SQ. FT. 9.27 #

NOTE → # 15% ADDED FOR DETAILS.

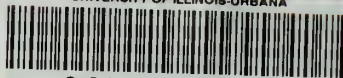
LINES
SHOWING
RELATIVE WEIGHT OF TRUSSES.







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