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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

HYDRAULIC MODEL EXPERIMENTS FOR THE DESIGN OF THE HORSE MESA DAM SPILLWAYS--SALT RIVER PROJECT, ARIZONA

Hydraulic Laboratory Report No. Hyd.-249

RESEARCH AND GEOLOGY DIVISION



BRANCH OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
DENVER, COLORADO

NOVEMBER 30, 1948

FOREWARD

Hydraulic model studies for the design of the Horse Mesa Dam spillways were made by H. W. Brewer and H. G. Dewey during the late part of 1935 and the early part of 1936. Because of the pressure of work, the final report was not published until 1948.

DATA FILE 121

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Branch of Design and Construction
Research and Geology Division
Denver, Colorado

Date: November 30, 1948

Laboratory Report No. 249
Hydraulic Laboratory
Tests by: H. G. Dewey, Jr.
H. W. Brewer
Compiled by: J. E. Warnock
H. M. Martin

Subject: Hydraulic model experiments for the design of the Horse Mesa
Dam spillways--Salt River Project, Arizona..

SUMMARY

A model of Horse Mesa Dam was tested to obtain an economical method of increasing the capacity of the existing spillway. It was also desirable that some means be devised to decrease the spray from the spillways, which is detrimental to the electrical installation on the powerhouse and canyon walls, as the water carries an appreciable amount of salts in solution.

Horse Mesa spillway capacity was increased to 147,000 second-feet with a reservoir elevation of 1920.0 by the addition of a tunnel spillway, which proved the most economical method. The flow conditions in the tunnel were satisfactory for all discharges and no negative pressures were observed.

As the spray cannot be simulated in a model, it was difficult to determine a method of reducing the spray from the spillways. Buckets at the downstream end of the spillways indicated that the spray might be less than in the original design. The models were used for comparison and it was assumed that the plan producing the best results in the model would also produce the best results in the prototype.

These investigations were conducted by the personnel of the Hydraulic Laboratory of the Bureau of Reclamation. Descriptions of tests and the results obtained are reported herein as the final report.

INTRODUCTION

Horse Mesa Dam is located on the Salt River about 37 miles east of Phoenix, Arizona (Figure 1). It was built by the Salt River Valley Water Users Association and was completed in 1927. The dam is of the concrete arch type, 311 feet in height (Figure 2), with a spillway (crest elevation 1891.0) at either abutment (Figures 3, 4, and 5) having a total capacity of 100,000 second-feet. A spillway tunnel was incorporated in the final design (Figures 6 and 7) adjacent to the northwest or right spillway increasing the total capacity to 147,000 second-feet. The maximum designed reservoir elevation is 1920.0 which is also the elevation of the parapets on the dam.

THE MODEL

A model of the Horse Mesa Dam was built in the Denver Hydraulic Laboratory on a scale of 1:90. The model was constructed in a tank of wooden construction and lined with light galvanized sheet metal (Figure 8). The arch of the dam was constructed of 10-gage, black iron, and the parapet and bridge were of redwood. The powerhouse was built of wood and painted to represent the prototype powerhouse. The spillways consisted of concrete placed between metal. Templates and the wooden bridge over the spillway were supported on redwood piers (Figures 9, 10A and 10B). The sloping topography upstream from the crest was constructed of galvanized sheet metal and the topography below the dam was of concrete and gravel.

Water was supplied to the forebay of the model through a 6-inch pipe from a constant-head tank. As the water from the forebay flowed at right angles to the spillways, curved vanes, of 20-gage galvanized iron, were placed in the forebay to guide the water in the direction it would approach the spillway in the prototype. Floating boards were employed in the forebay to decrease the surface waves present due to the short distance from the inlet to the spillways. The tailwater below the dam was controlled by a hinged gate (Figure 8). The water passed over the spillway, over the tailwater control gate, and then flowed into a return flume which led to the box of a 90-degree V-notch weir. Here the discharge was measured and pumped into the constant-head tank for recirculation.

The reservoir elevation in the model was observed by a hookgage located in a stilling-well as shown on Figure 8. The tailwater elevation was observed from a manometer tube connected to an outlet in the bottom of the tank downstream from the dam. The head on the 90-degree V-notch measuring weir was observed from two hookgages which operated in stilling-wells mounted on the side of the weir tank.

Discharge Capacity of Original Design

The capacity of the spillway with crest at elevation 1891.0 and a reservoir elevation of 1920.0 was 100,000 second-feet. Figure 11 shows the head discharge relation for the spillway as originally built, and Figure 10C shows these spillways discharging 100,000 second-feet. Figure 11 indicates that a reservoir elevation of 1926.2 would have been necessary to discharge 150,000 second-feet. At this elevation, the water would have flowed over the parapets, resulting in destruction of the powerhouse. Figure 10D shows the model discharging 157,000 second-feet with a reservoir elevation of 1926.75. The above observations indicated that, to increase the capacity of the spillways, it would be necessary to lower the crests or to construct an auxiliary spillway.

Echelon Spillways

The model spillways were altered to represent the echelon type (Figure 12). The overflow section of the spillways were constructed of concrete placed between metal templates and redwood piers were installed on the crest on echelon to the flow. The spillway crests were lowered 2 feet (elevation 1889.0), and a bucket downstream from the crest was added in an attempt to decrease the spray (Figure 13).

The combined capacity of the echelon spillways was 148,000 second-feet with reservoir elevation at 1920.0. Figure 14 shows the discharge of each spillway and the combined discharges for various reservoir elevations. Figure 13 shows the spillways discharging 148,000 second-feet. There appeared to be less spray with the added bucket downstream from the spillway crests than in the original model.

As this design was costly due to the necessity of rebuilding the piers and resetting the gates, to allow for lowering the crest, a design requiring the construction of an auxiliary spillway tunnel was investigated.

Semifinal Design

In the plan, the original spillways were altered and an auxiliary spillway tunnel constructed (Figure 15). The piers on the spillway were modified (Figure 16), and a bucket downstream from the crest was added. The model spillway crests and buckets were constructed of concrete placed between metal templates. Piers and bridge structures were of redwood and the training-walls consisted of metal. A spillway tunnel was also incorporated in this design (Figure 17), with crest at elevation 1869.50. Figures 18, 19A, and 19C show the model constructed to this design.

For the semifinal design, the left spillway had a capacity of 36,500 second-feet and the right spillway had a capacity of 65,200 second-feet with the reservoir elevation at 1920.0 (Figure 20) which made the combined capacity 101,700 second-feet. Figure 20 gives the discharge of the right and left spillways for various reservoir elevations. Figures 19B and 19D show the two spillways discharging with maximum pond elevation (1920.0).

The relation of the discharge through the tunnel to the reservoir elevation is shown on Figure 20. The discharge for maximum reservoir elevation was 47,600 second-feet. Figure 22 shows the flow conditions for the maximum reservoir elevation and Figure 21 shows the water surface and pressures in the inclined tunnel for maximum discharge. Negative pressures did not exist and flow in the tunnel was satisfactory for all discharges. A pier nose was evolved (Figure 15), which produced satisfactory entrance conditions to the tunnels.

For geological reasons, it was necessary to relocate the centerline of the tunnel in the field.

Final Design

The necessity for the tunnel relocation was discovered some time after the first model was dismantled and it was therefore requisite to construct another model as the entrance conditions to the two were quite different. In the second model, it was necessary to construct only the right spillway and the tunnel (Figure 23). The centerline of the tunnel was moved 30 feet (prototype) to the right but remained parallel to the former centerline. It was only necessary to study the flow conditions to the tunnel and right spillway as the remainder of the structure was the same as the original.

A tank was constructed of wood and lined with light galvanized sheet metal. The downstream end of the tunnel was connected to a separate weir box which was used to calibrate the flow through the spillway tunnel. The right spillway was constructed as in the semifinal design and the arch of the dam consisted of 16-gage black iron. Rock baffles were used to produce uniform velocity upstream from the model and upstream from the small 90-degree V-notch measuring weir.

Discharge capacity and flow conditions. A satisfactory approach was developed (Figures 23 and 24A) and the discharge relation for the various reservoir elevations for this tunnel is shown plotted on Figure 20. Figure 24B shows the entrance conditions with the tunnel discharging 25,000 second-feet, and Figure 24C shows the tunnel and the spillway discharging 47,000 and 65,200 second-feet, respectively, with a reservoir elevation of 1920.0. Figure 25 shows the water surface in the approach to the tunnel for maximum discharge.

The model of the final design indicated a capacity of 150,000 second-feet with all spillways operating for a reservoir elevation of 1920.0.

Spray below powerhouse. Spray cannot be tested in a model due to the inability to obtain a liquid with the proper viscosity and surface tension. The models were therefore compared on the basis that the layout producing the smoothest flow in the model would create the least spray in the prototype. The quantity of spray produced could not be determined in the model and the use of buckets at the downstream end of the spillways only indicated that the spray at the powerhouse may be less than in the original design.

FIGURE 1

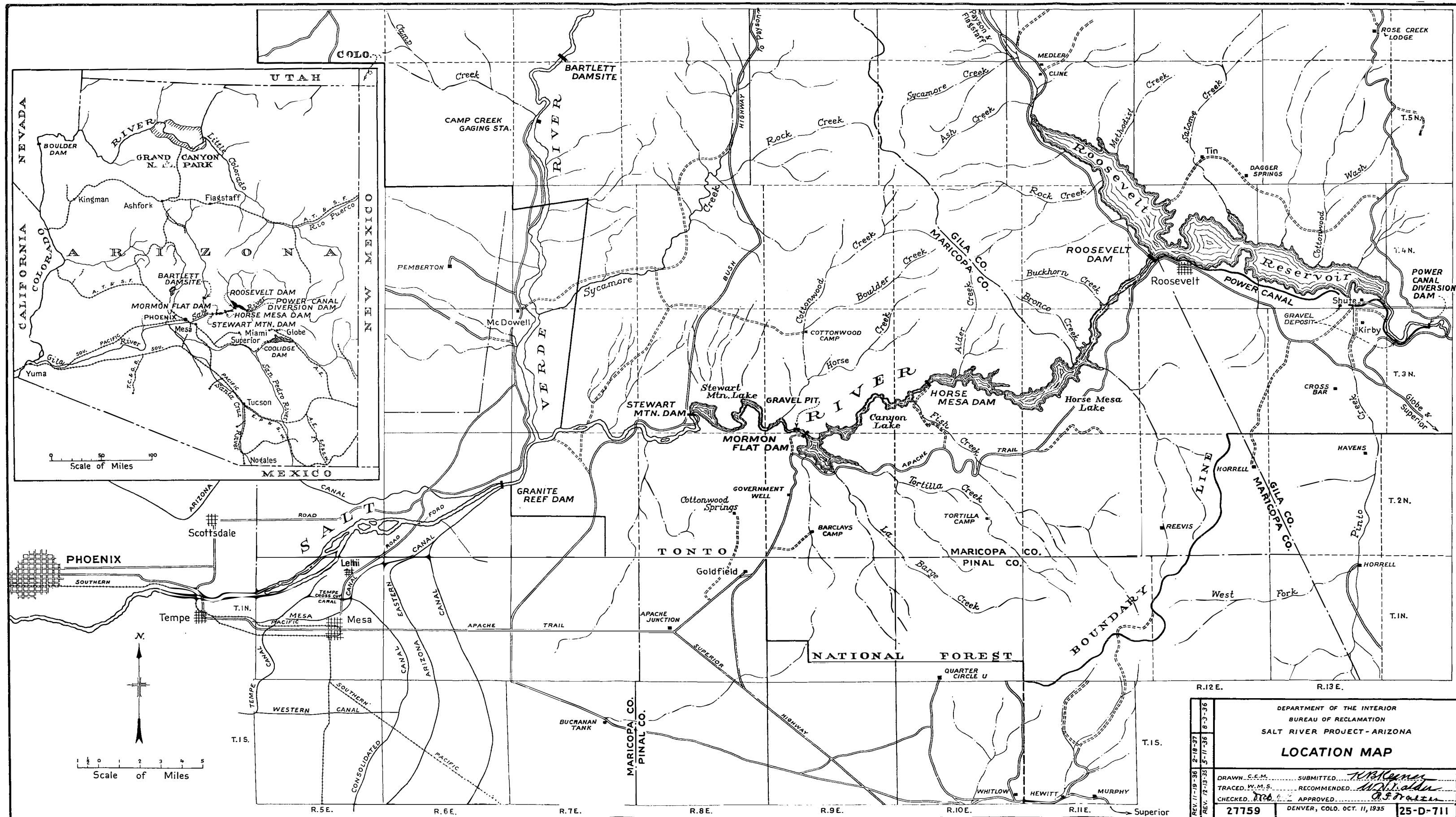
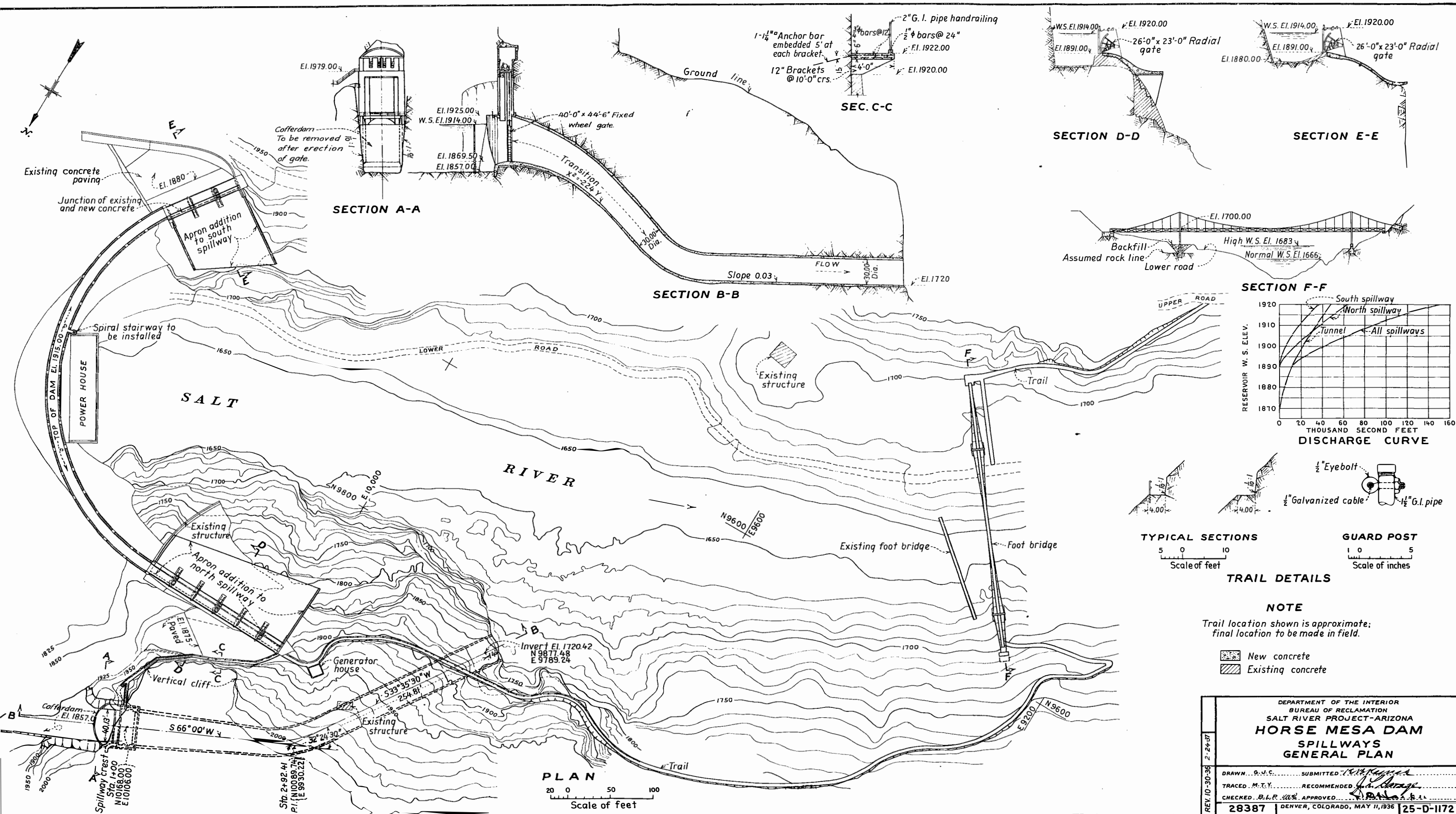
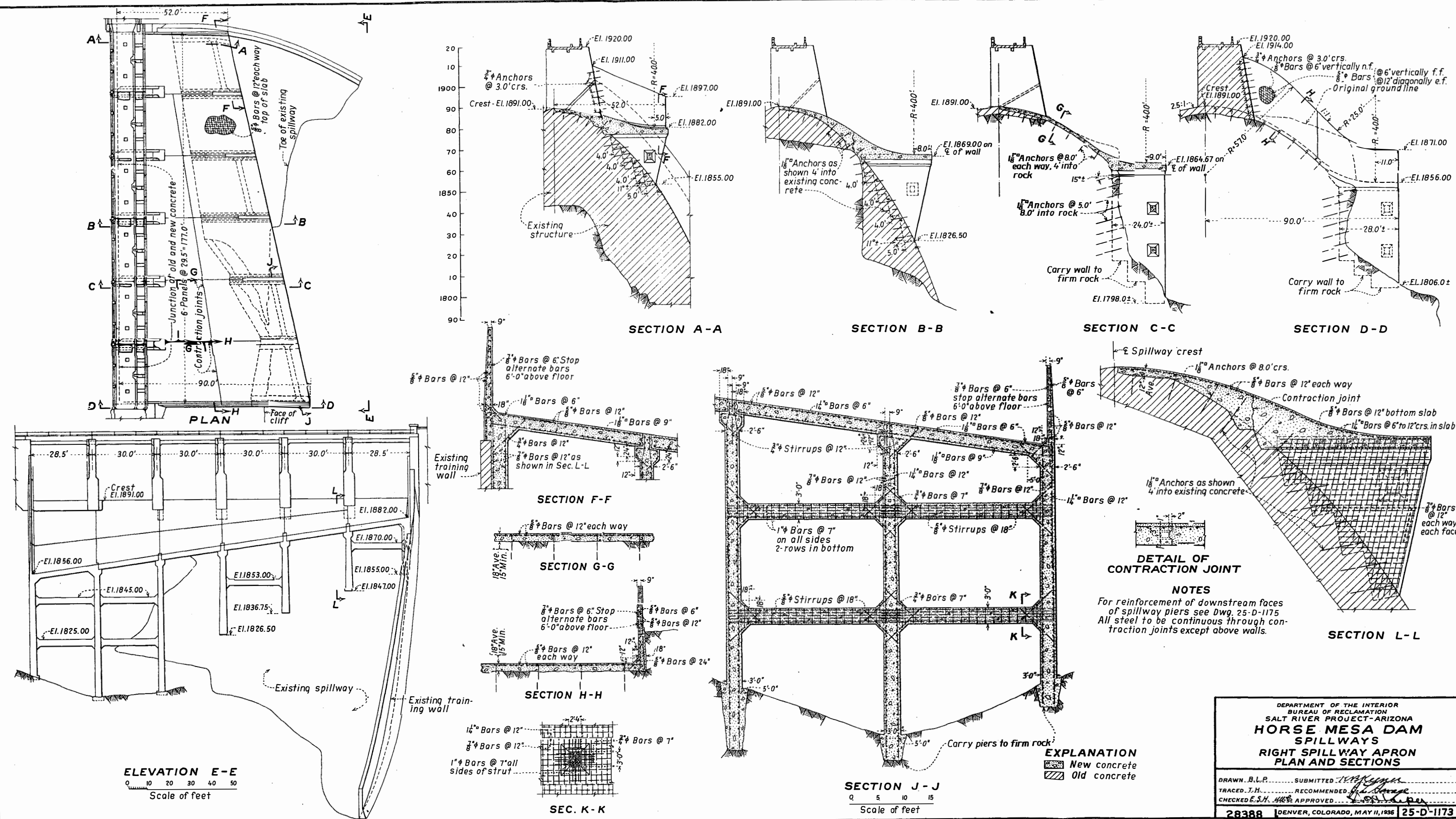


FIGURE 2

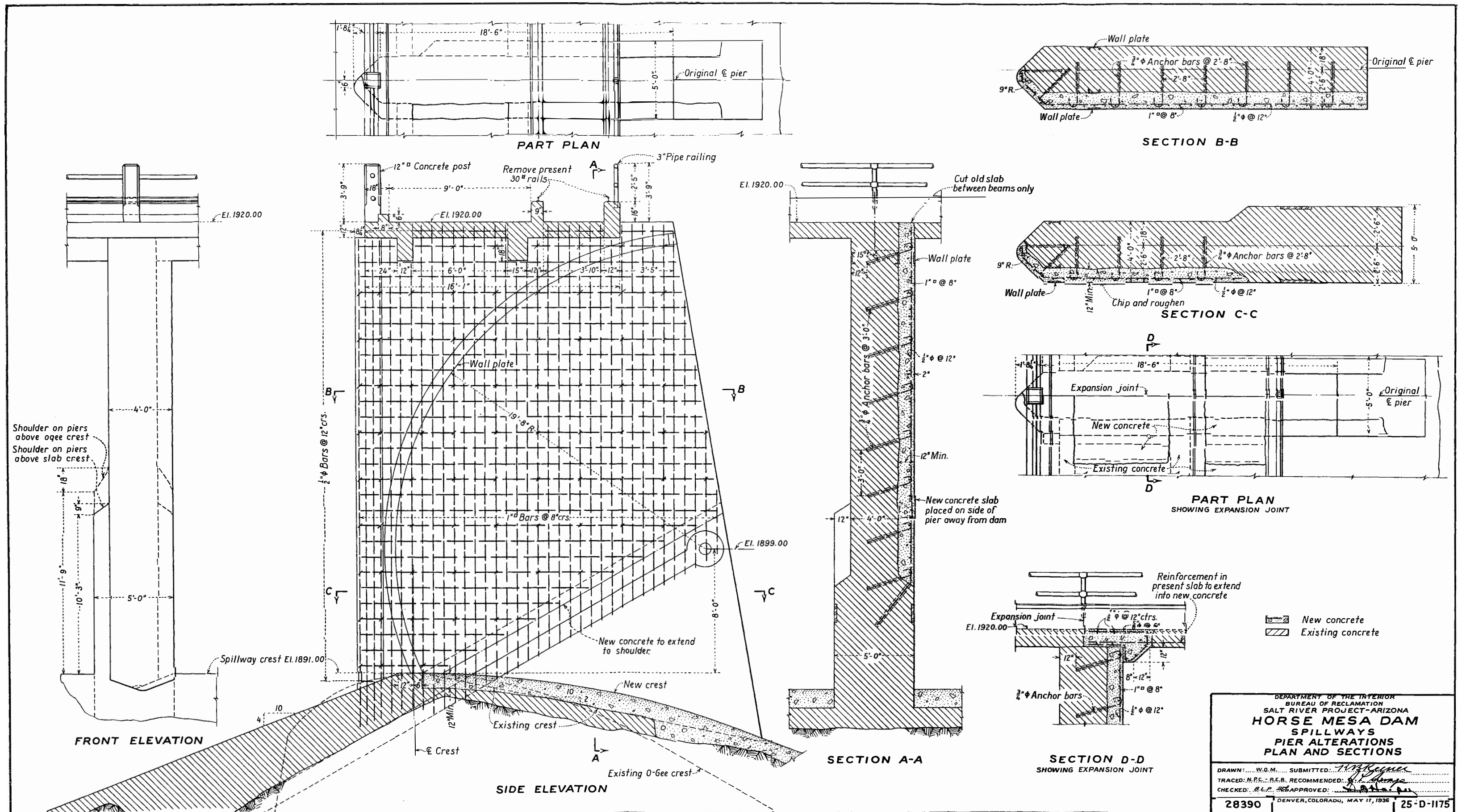


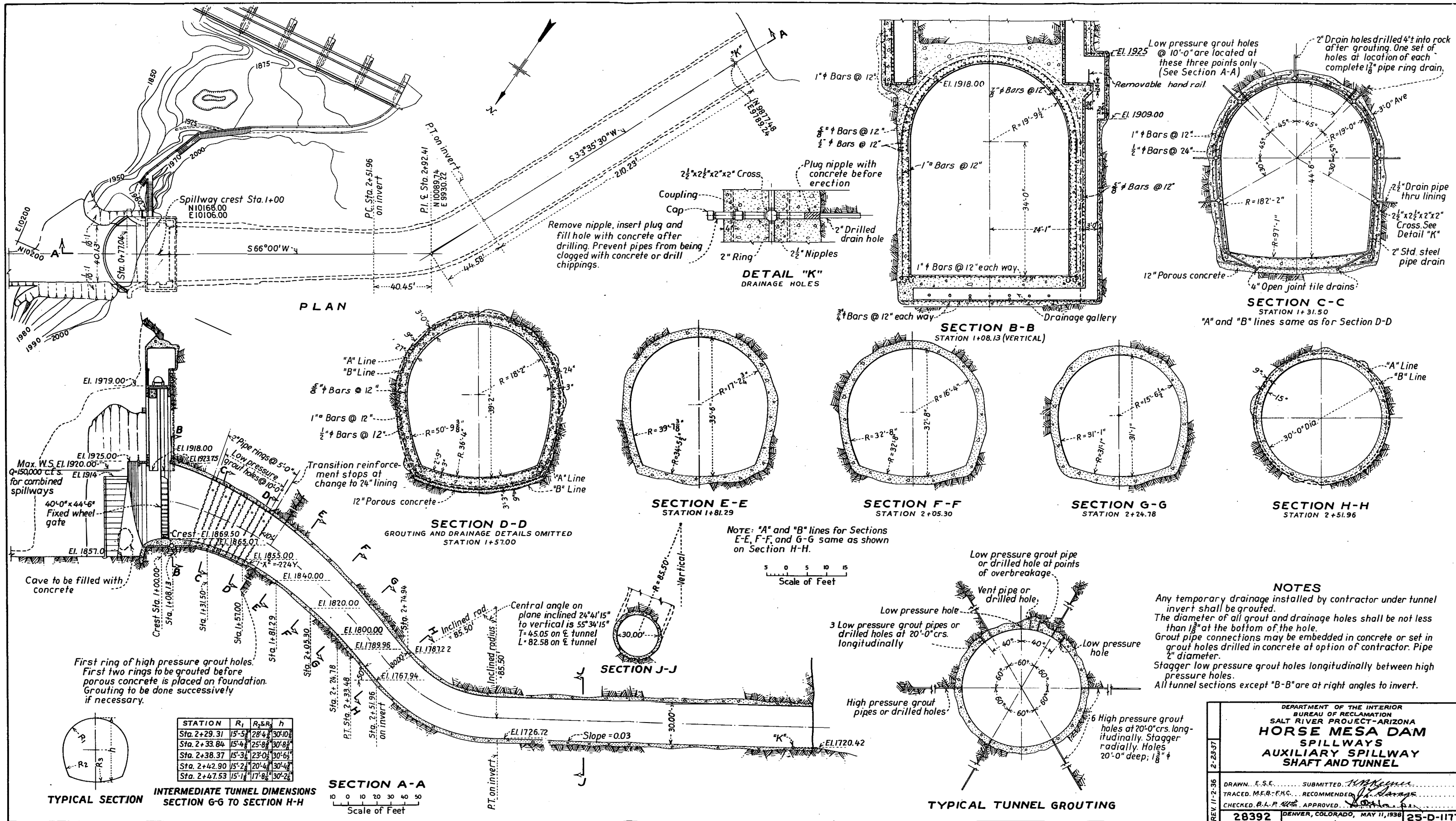


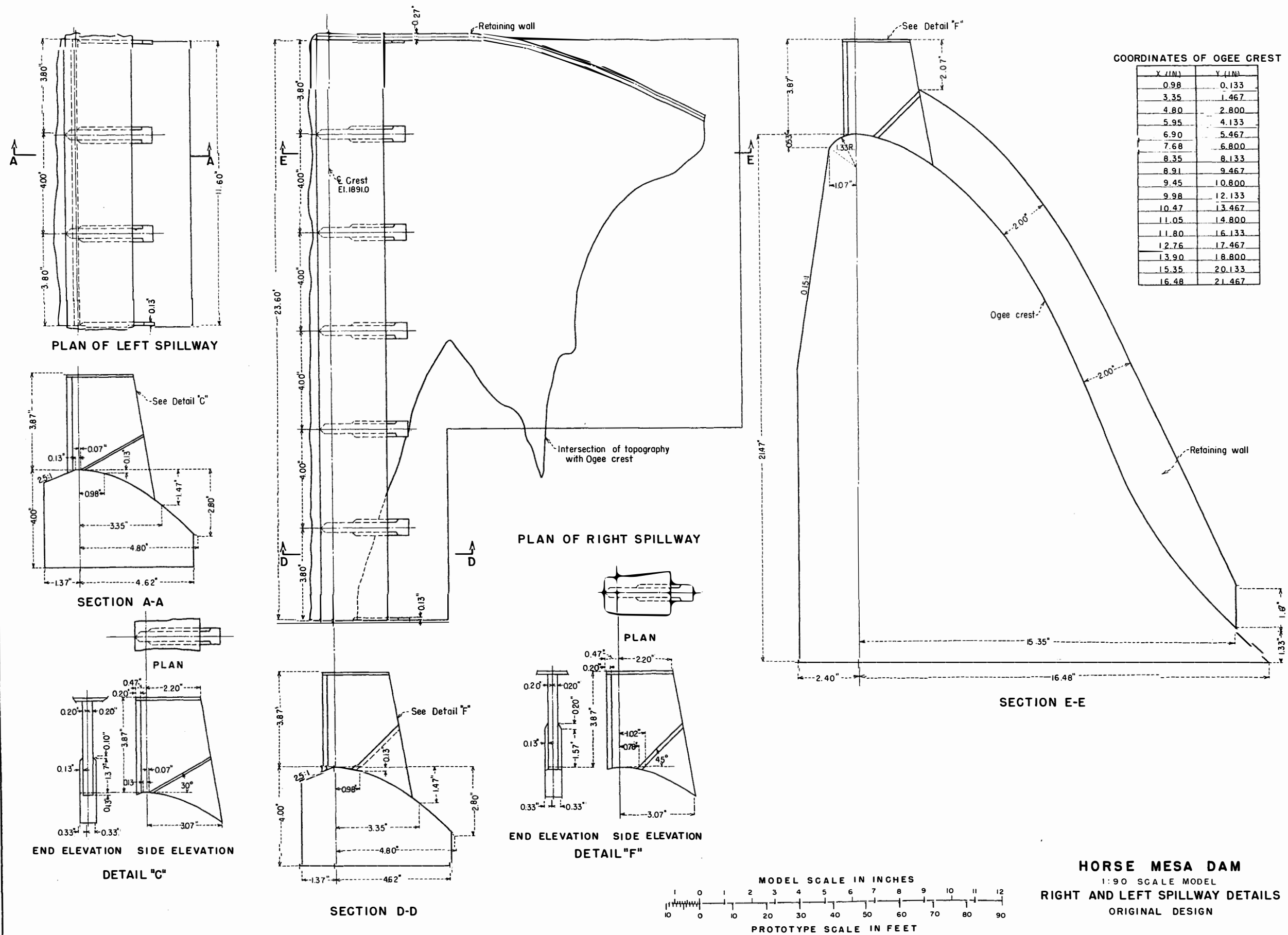
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
SALT RIVER PROJECT-ARIZONA
**HORSE MESA DAM
SPILLWAYS
RIGHT SPILLWAY APRON
PLAN AND SECTIONS**

DRAWN B.L.P. SUBMITTED J.B. [Signature]
TRACED J.H. RECOMMENDED [Signature]
CHECKED E.S.H. APPROVED [Signature]

28388 DENVER, COLORADO, MAY 11, 1936 25-D-1173









A. Right Spillway



B. Left Spillway

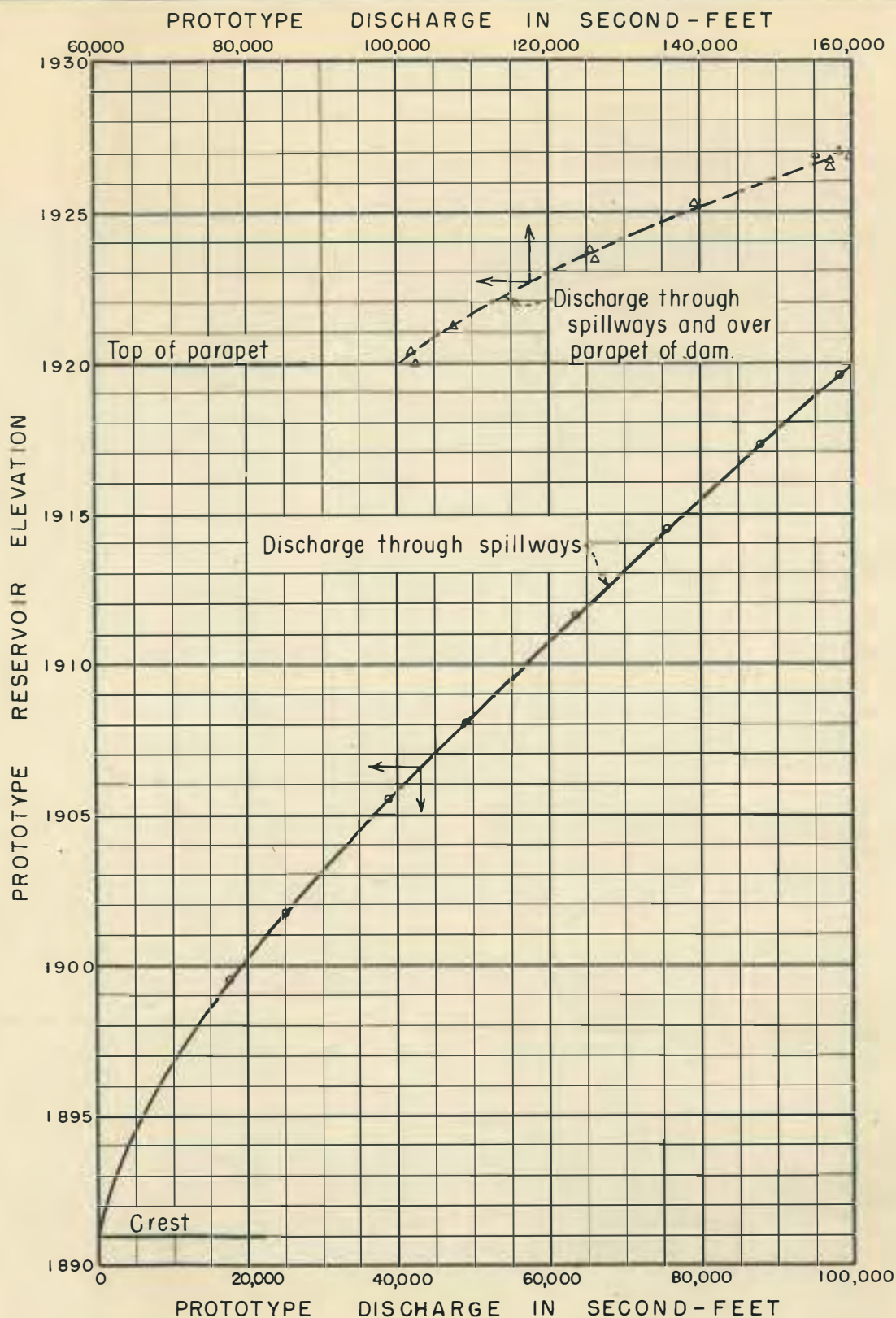


C. Reservoir Elevation 1920.0
Discharge 100,000 Second-feet

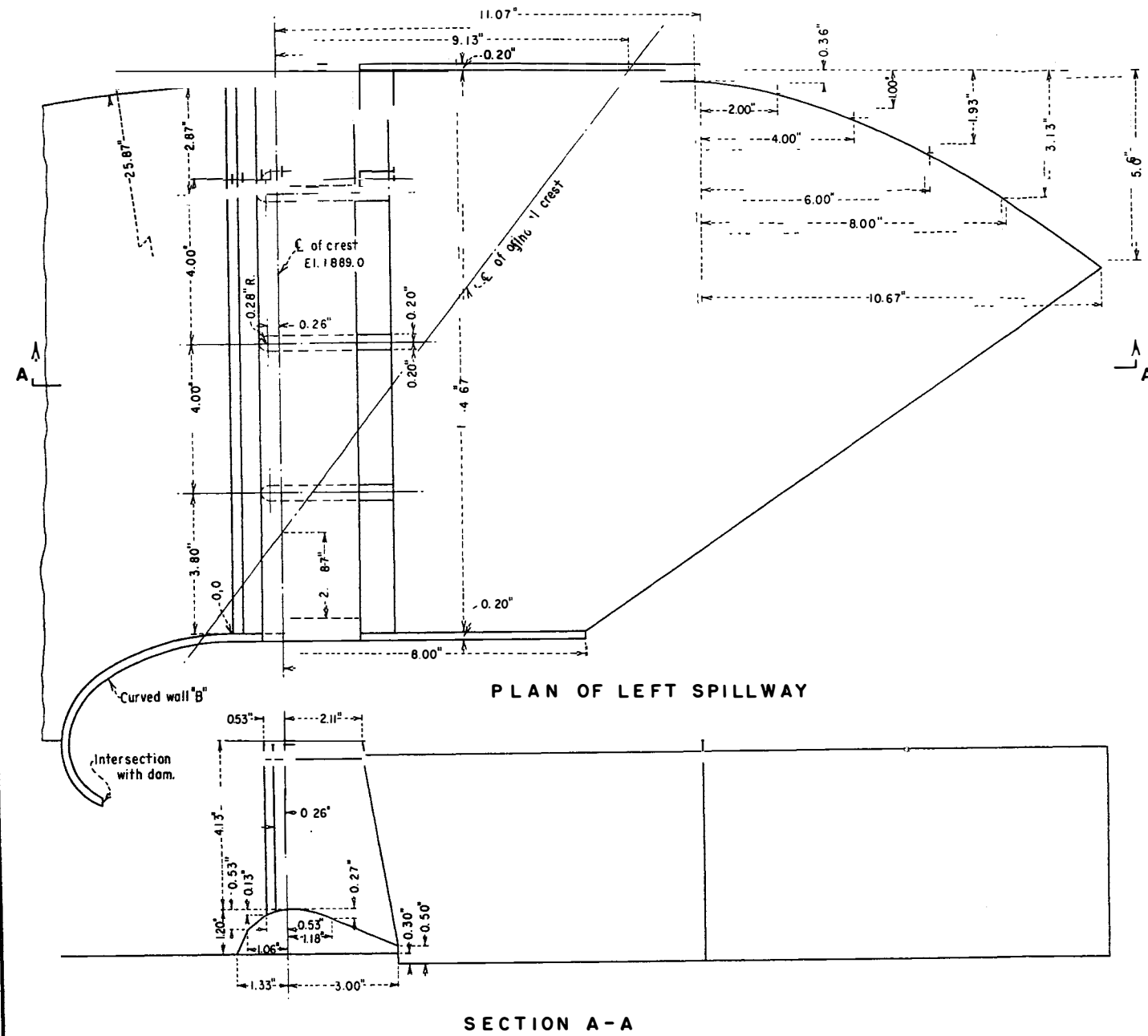


D. Reservoir Elevation 1926.46
Discharge 157,000 Second-feet

FLOW CONDITION WITH ORIGINAL SPILLWAY
HORSE MESA DAM
Scale Ratio 1:90

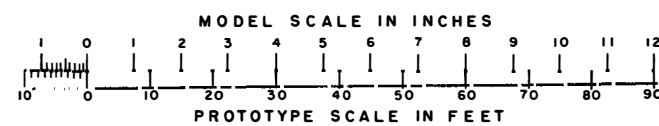


HORSE MESA DAM
 1:90 SCALE MODEL
SPILLWAY DISCHARGE CURVES
 ORIGINAL DESIGN



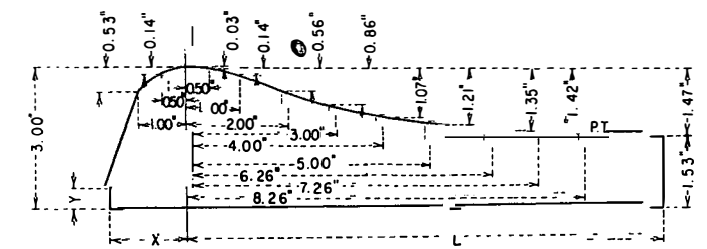
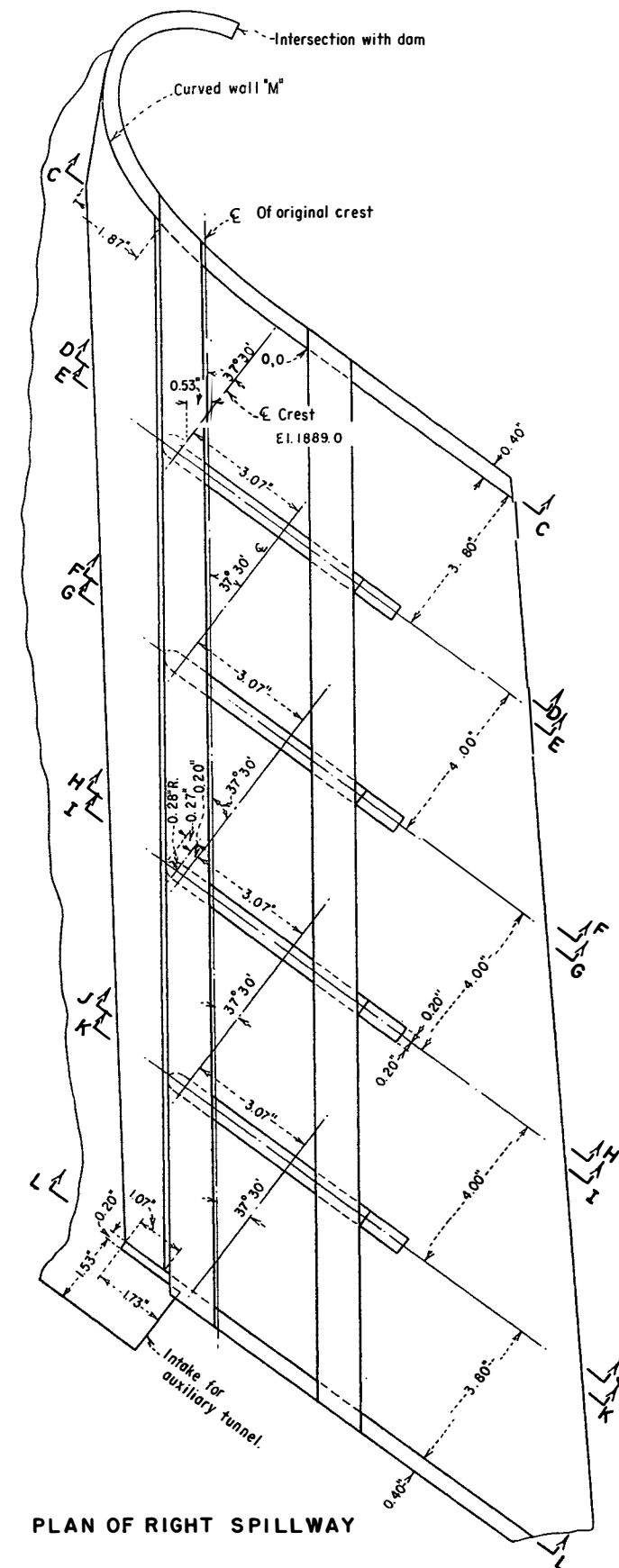
COORDINATES FOR CURVED WALL "B"

X (IN.)	Y (IN.)	
1.30	0.15	
2.00	0.30	
2.70	0.47	
3.00	0.69	
3.35	1.02	4.58
3.70	1.28	4.44
4.00	1.54	4.25
4.20	1.87	3.95
4.45	2.80	



COORDINATES FOR CURVED WALL "M"

X (IN.)	Y (IN.)	
2.0	0.07	
2.5	0.13	
3.0	0.20	
3.5	0.27	
4.0	0.40	
4.5	0.53	
5.0	0.73	5.20
5.5	1.00	5.07
6.0	1.33	4.80
6.5	1.87	4.40
7.0	3.20	

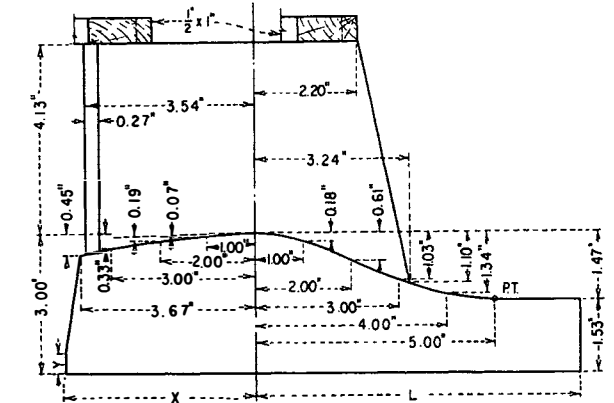


SECTIONS D-D, F-F, H-H, J-J AND L-L

DIMENSIONS FOR ABOVE SECTIONS

SECTION	X (IN.)	Y (IN.)	L (IN.)
D - D	1.76	0.00	10.06
F - F	2.73	0.21	10.53
H - H	2.60	0.72	11.00
J - J	2.33	1.09	11.46
* L - L	2.07	0.87	11.92

*Section L-L has a retaining wall with level top
4.13 inches above crest.



SECTIONS C-C, E-E, G-G, I-I AND K-K

DIMENSIONS FOR ABOVE SECTIONS

SECTION	X (IN.)	Y (IN.)	L (IN.)
C - C	4.02	0.00	6.87
E - E	4.55	0.00	7.34
G - G	5.34	0.27	7.80
I - I	5.14	0.78	8.27
K - K	4.87	1.07	8.74

* Section C-C has a retaining wall with level top 4.13 inches above crest and no pier.

HORSE MESA DAM
1:90 SCALE MODEL
ECHELON SPILLWAYS-DETAILS

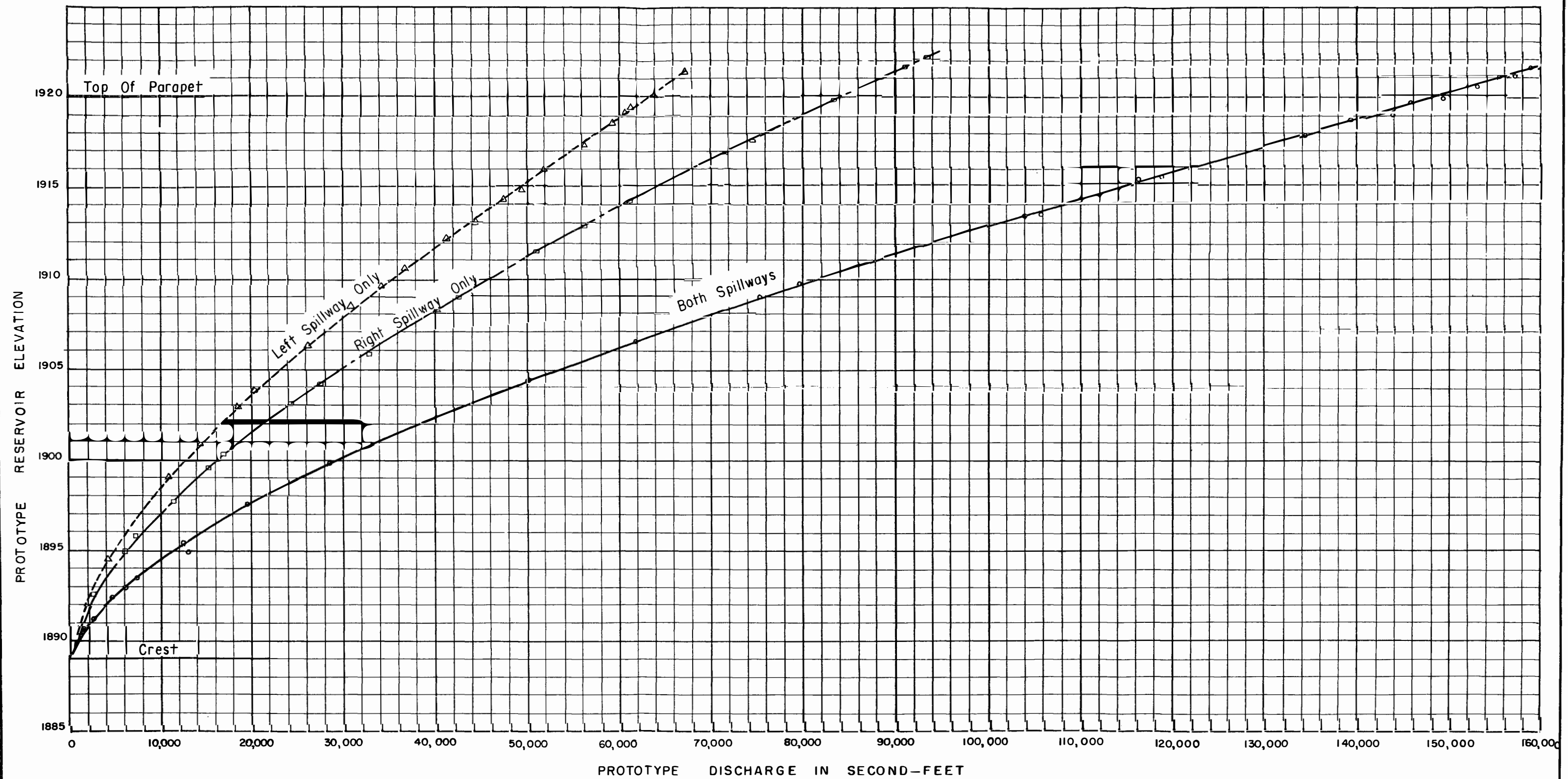


A. No Flow Crest Elevation 1889.0

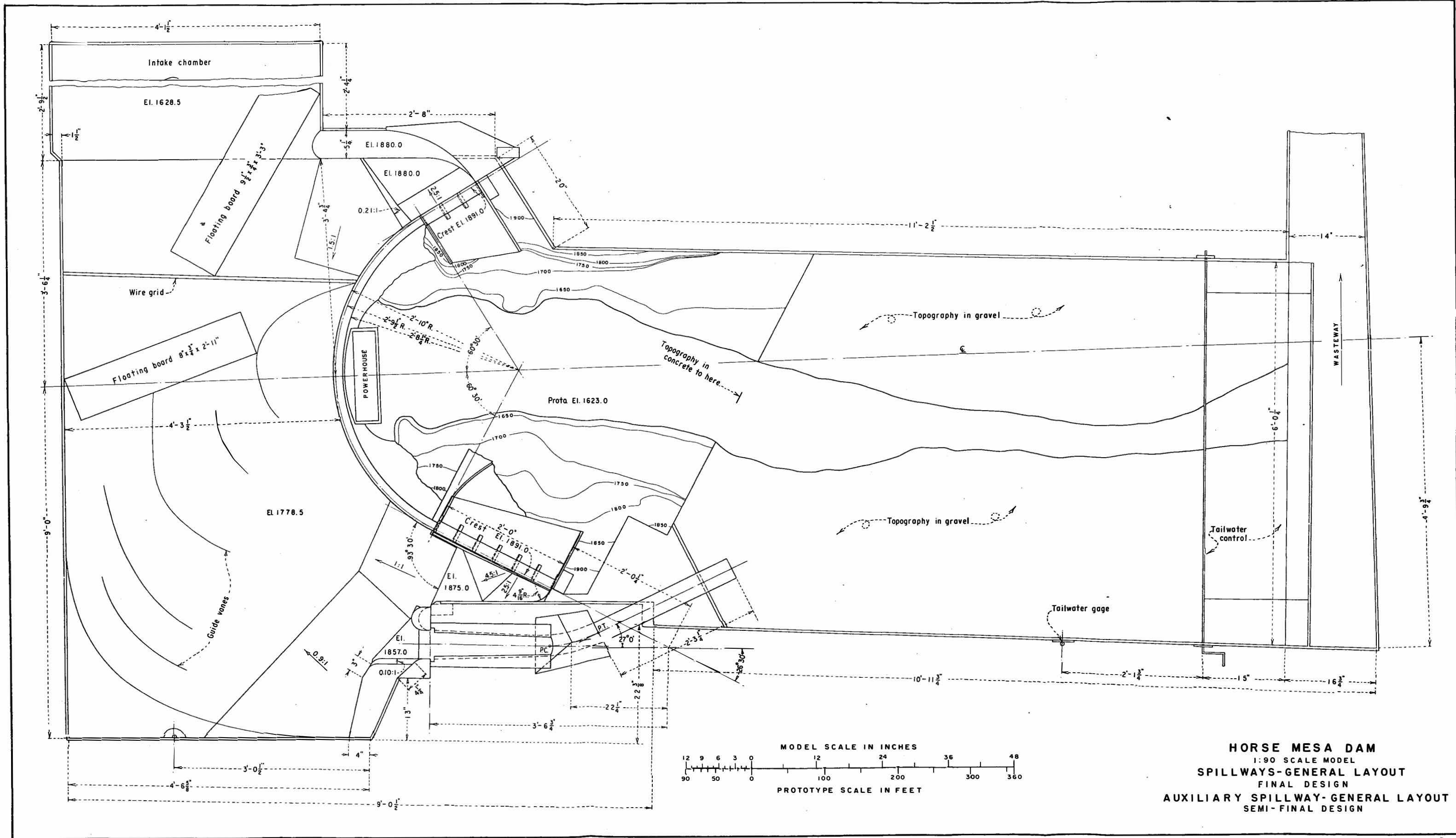


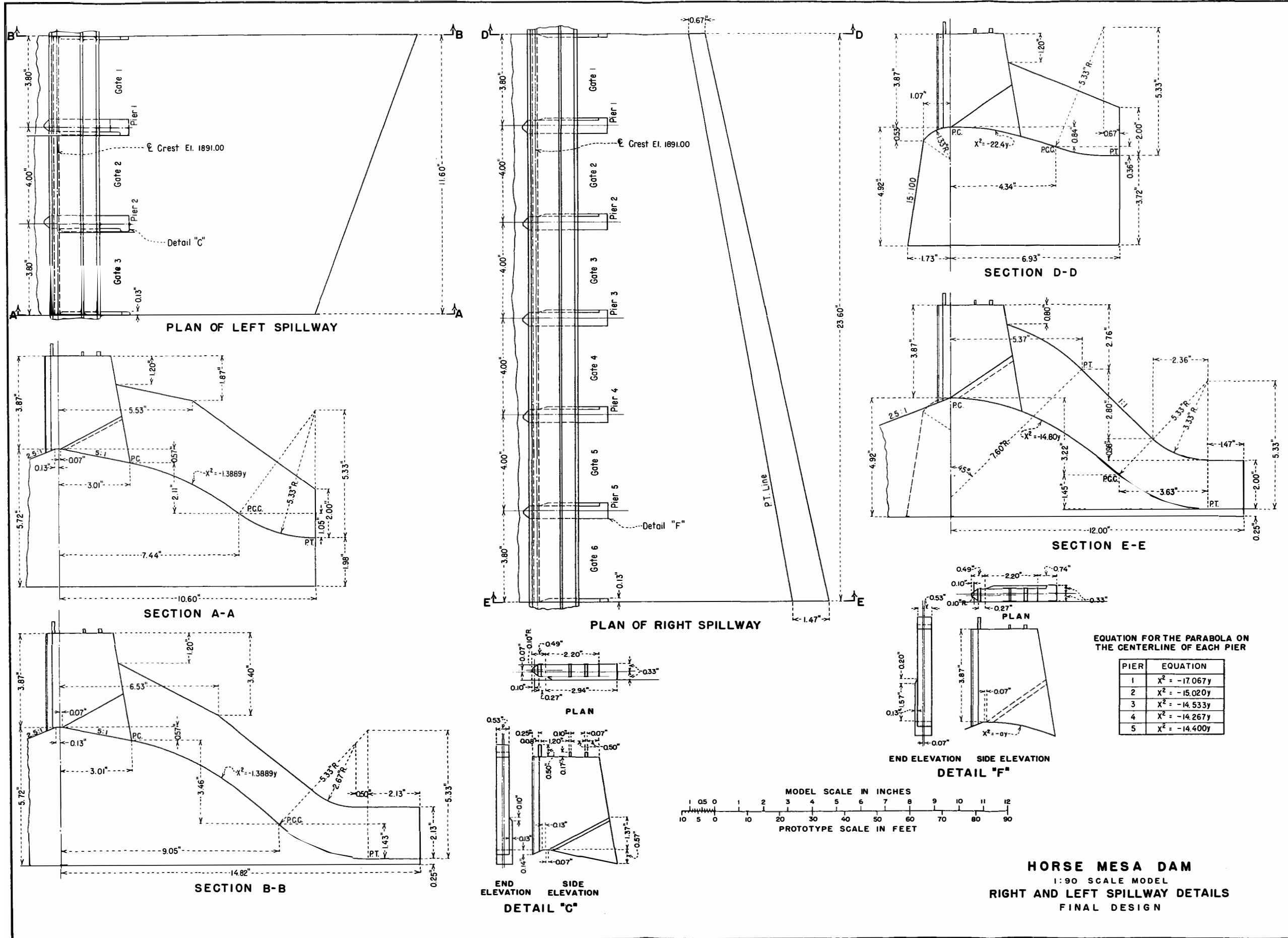
B. Reservoir Elevation 1920.0
Discharge 148,000 Second-feet

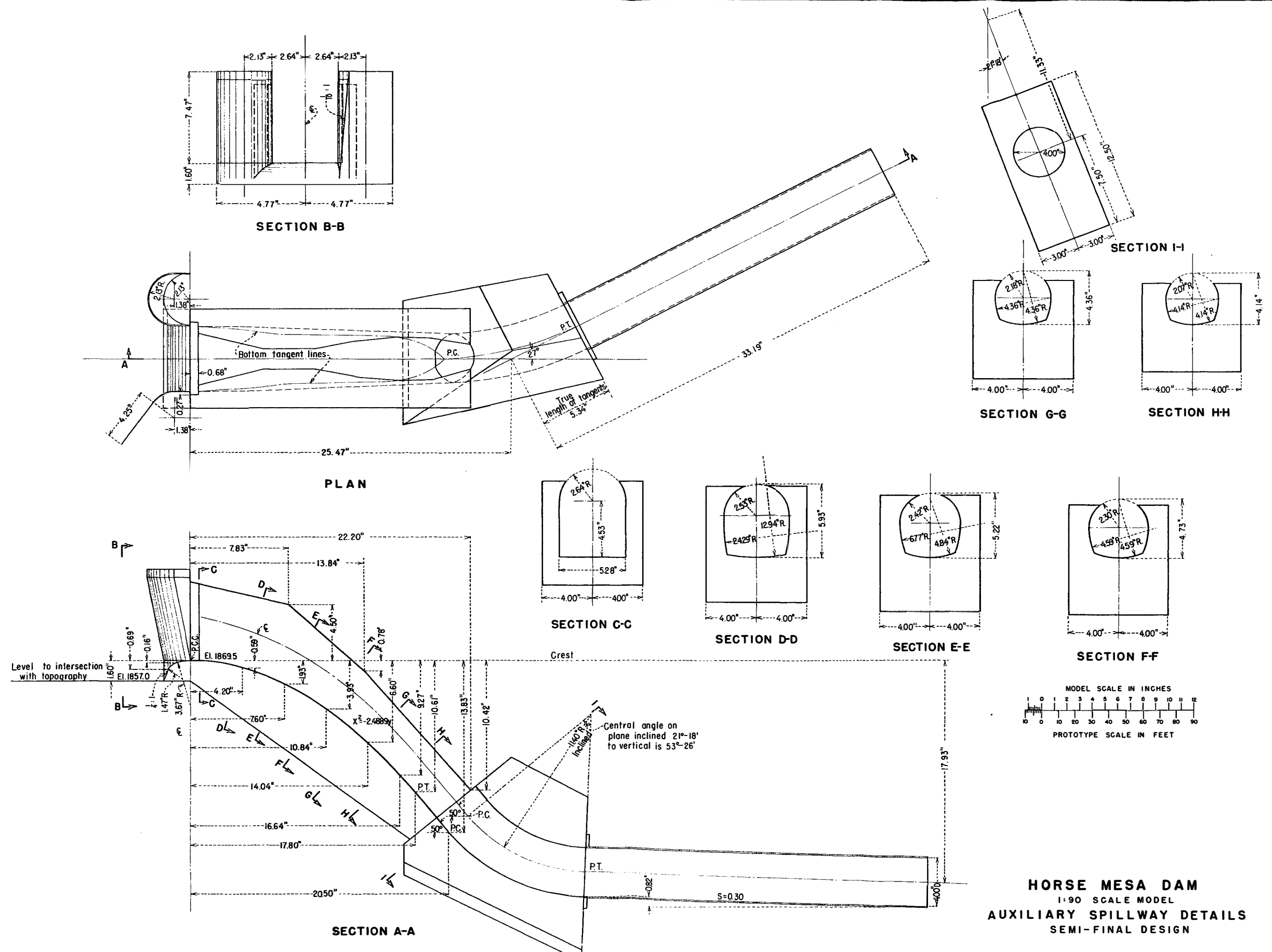
FLOW CONDITION WITH ECHELON SPILLWAYS
HORSE MESA DAM
Scale Ratio 1:90



HORSE MESA DAM
 1:90 SCALE MODEL
SPILLWAY DISCHARGE CURVES
ECHELON SPILLWAYS









A. No Flow



B. Reservoir Elevation 1920.0
Discharge 150,000 Second-feet

FINAL DESIGN OF SPILLWAYS AND SEMI-FINAL DESIGN OF TUNNEL
HORSE MESA DAM
Scale Ratio 1:90

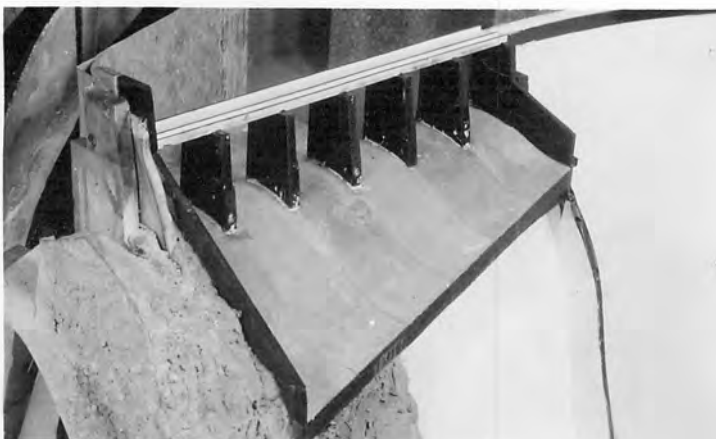


A. No Flow



B. Reservoir Elevation 1920.0
Discharge 36,500 Second-feet

LEFT SPILLWAY



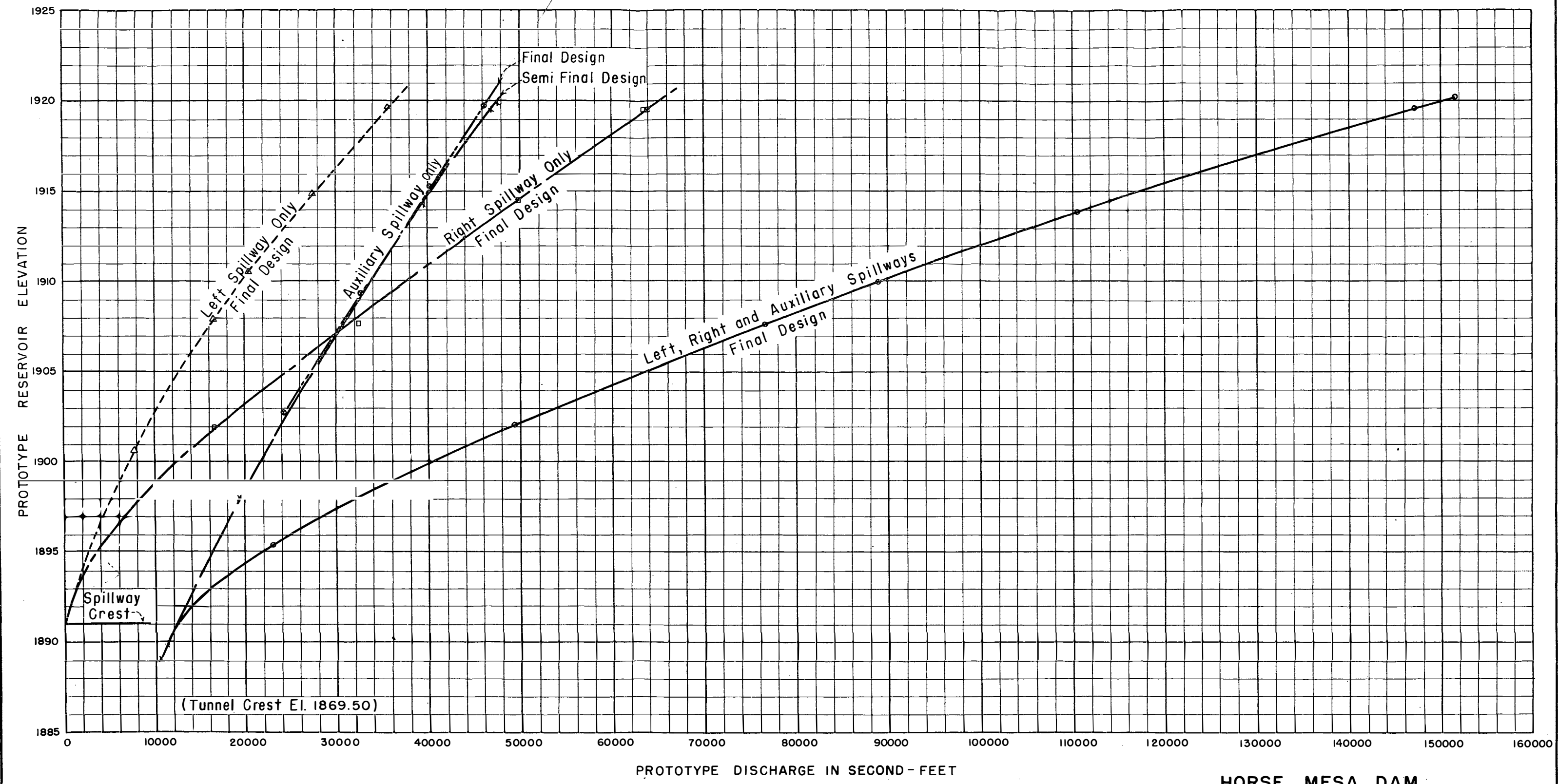
C. No Flow



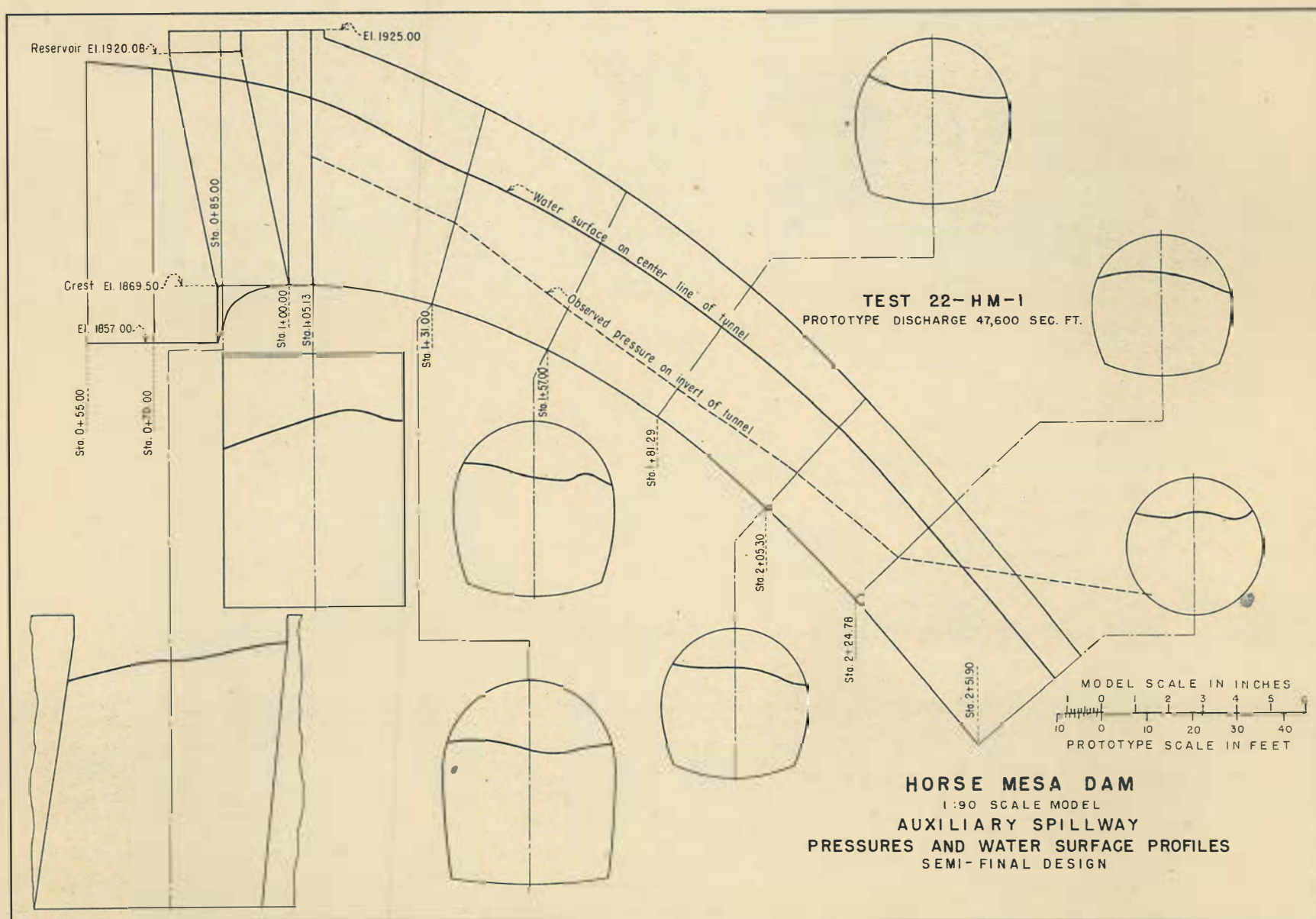
D. Reservoir Elevation 1920.0
Discharge 65,200 Second-feet

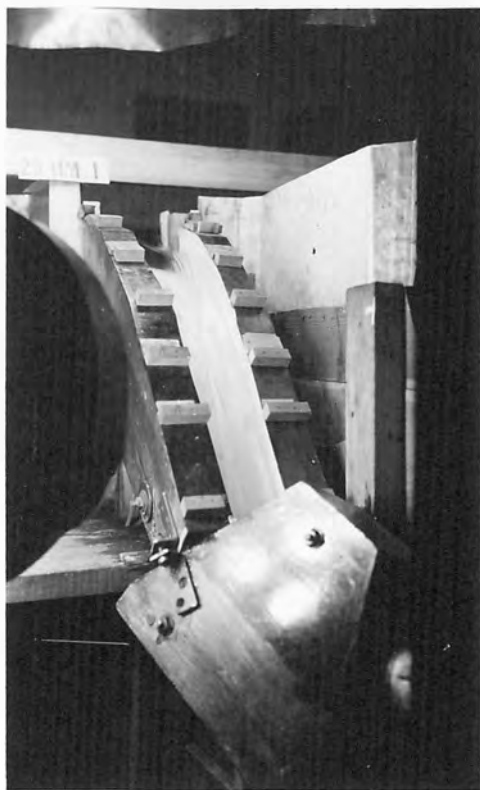
RIGHT SPILLWAY

FINAL DESIGN OF SPILLWAYS
HORSE MESA DAM
Scale Ratio 1:90

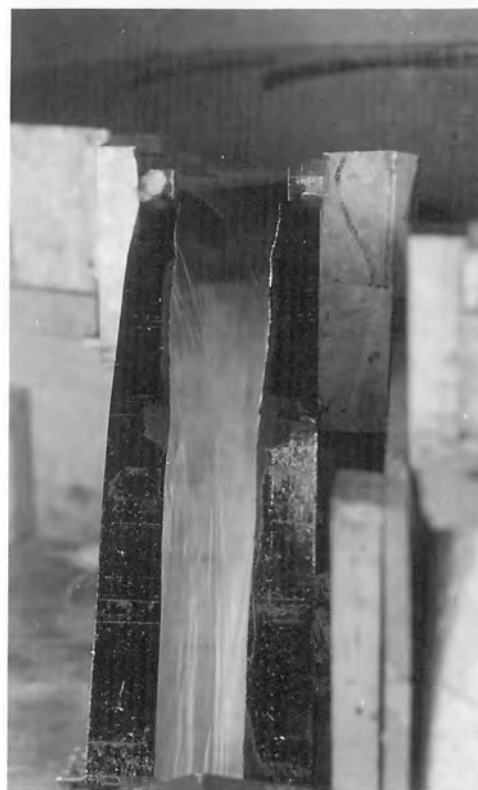


HORSE MESA DAM
1:90 SCALE MODEL
SPILLWAY DISCHARGE CURVES
SEMI-FINAL AND FINAL DESIGN





A. Looking Upstream



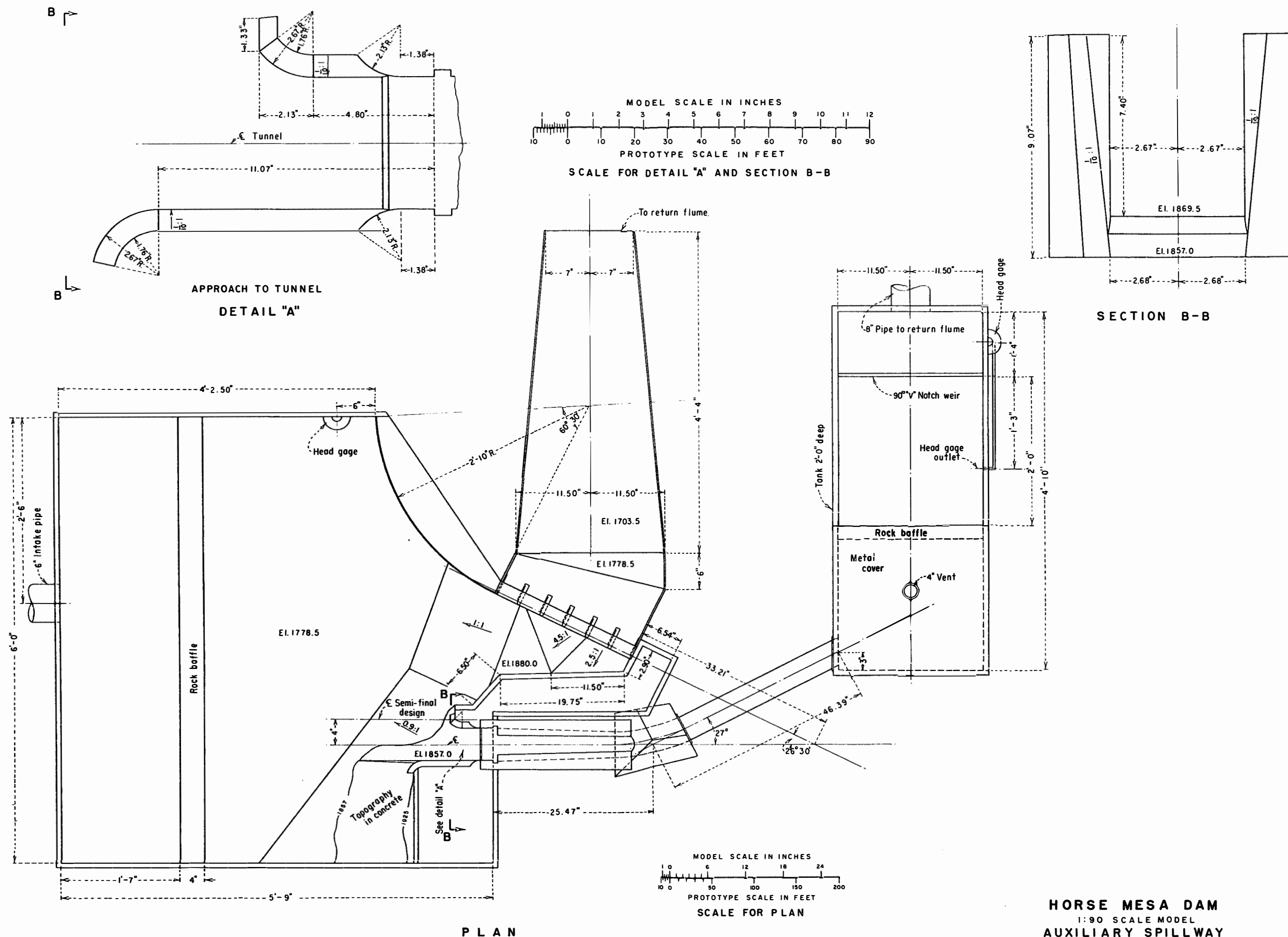
B. Close-up



C. Looking Downstream

Reservoir Elevation 1920.0 - Discharge 47,000 Second-feet

SEMI-FINAL DESIGN OF TUNNEL
HORSE MESA DAM
Scale Ratio 1:90





A. Looking Downstream
No Flow



B. Discharge 25,000 Second-feet



C. Discharge 47,000 Second-feet

FINAL DESIGN OF TUNNEL
HORSE MESA DAM
Scale Ratio 1:90

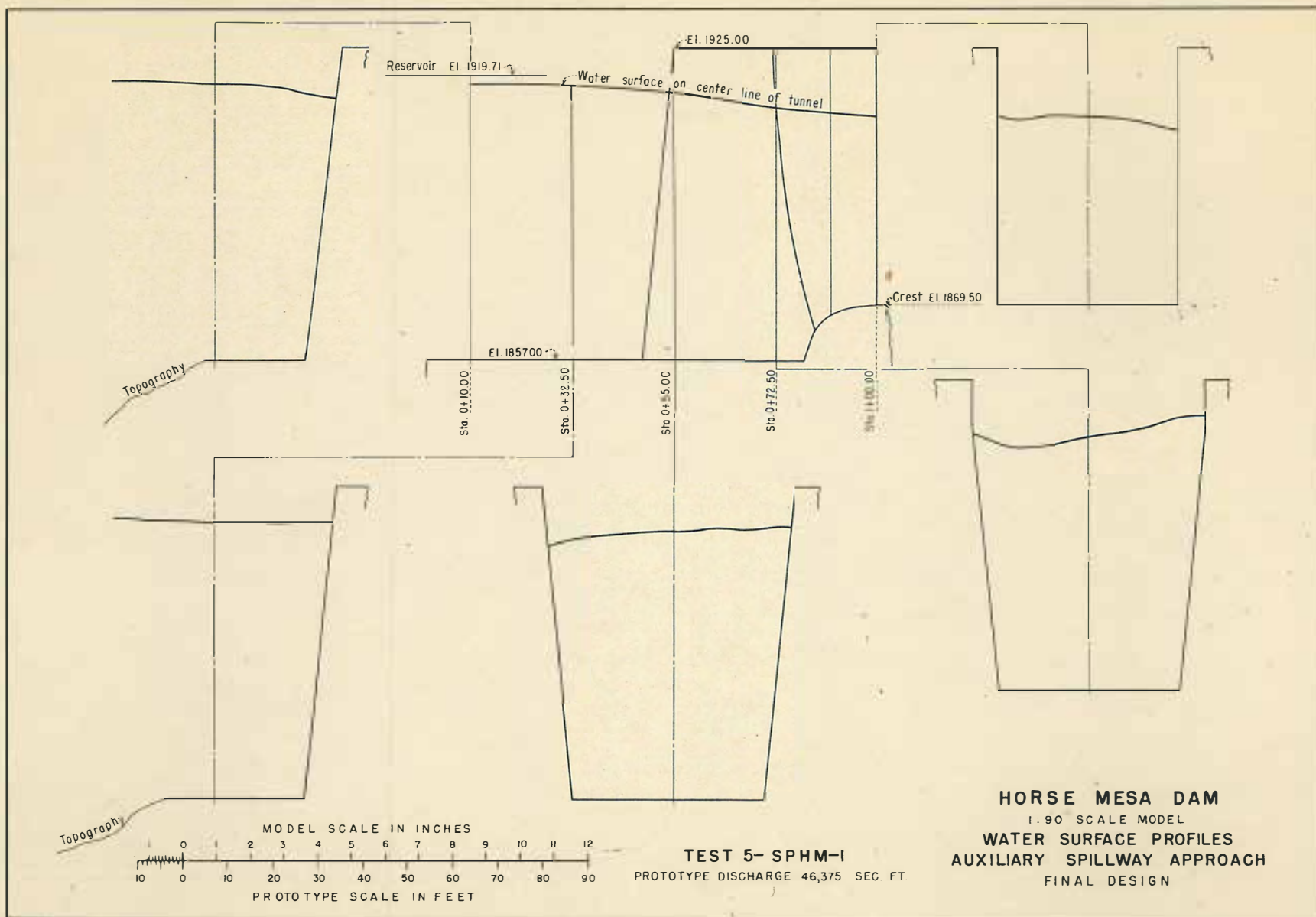


FIGURE 25

