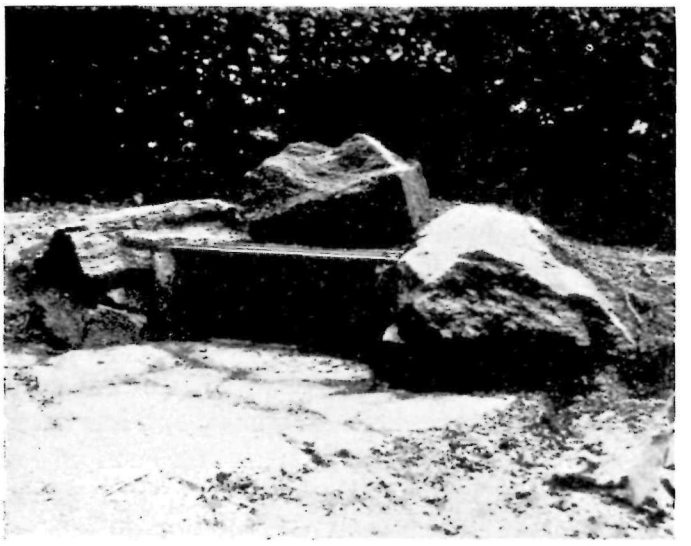
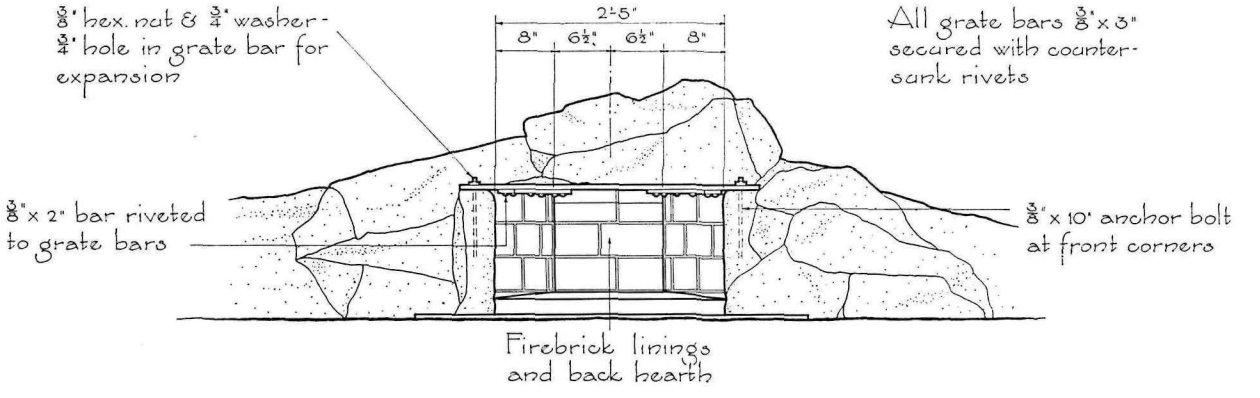
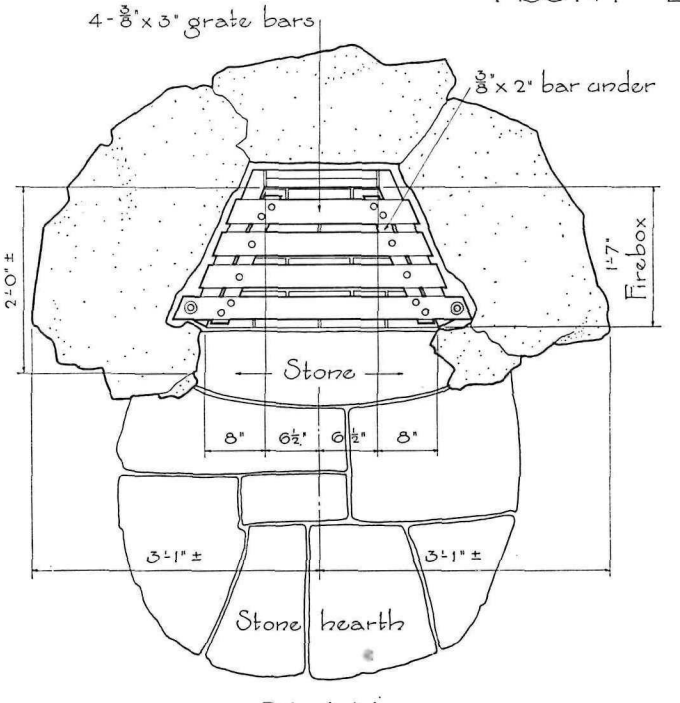


Picnic Fireplace – – – National Parks

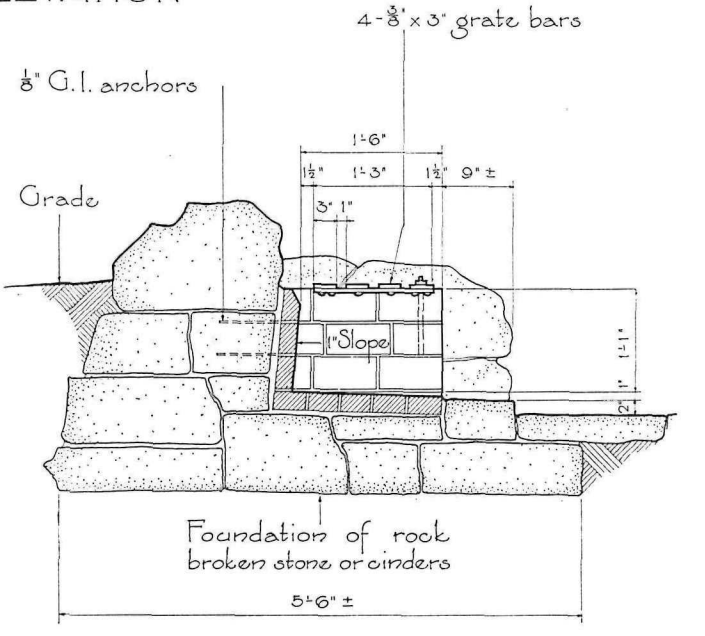
The splayed fire box and style of grate here shown are typical of the picnic fireplaces favored in many of the Western National Parks. When these fireplaces are constructed (or appear to be constructed as in this instance) of but three stones or boulders, they are most happily naturalized in their settings. Salient features of the construction are the dimensions of the fire box, the fire brick lining and base, the stone hearth curb, the paving of the area immediately in front of the fire box (in presuppression of grass fires) and the mounding up of earth against the side and back enframing rocks. The grate is preferably of genuine wrought iron, but may be of open hearth cold-rolled milled steel in stock size bars.



FRONT ELEVATION

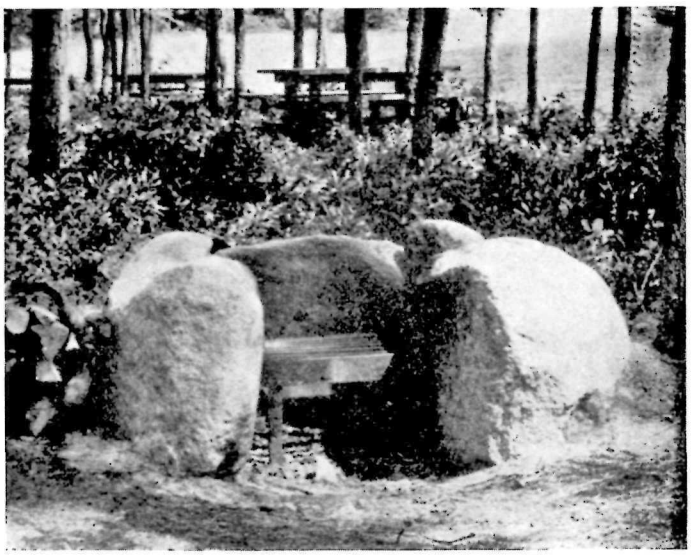


PLAN



SECTION

Scale ½" = 1'-0"



Myles Standish State Forest Park, Massachusetts

Boyle Metropolitan Park, Little Rock, Arkansas

VARIANTS OF THE WESTERN FIREPLACE

Single trait in common of the fireplaces here pictured is a basic informality. Several appear to employ three stones of large size; others are formed of more and smaller stones. A considerable range of grate construction is represented. Some are lined with firebrick, others are not. Note the hinged grill of the Texas example—an aid to the ready removal of ashes. Note also the raised hearths of the two subjects at the bottom of the page—a feature making for more convenient use.

Bastrop State Park, Texas

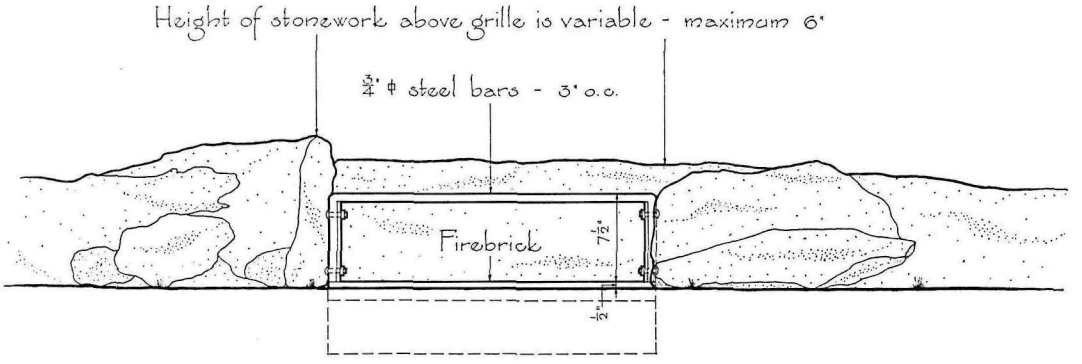
Sequoia National Park

Foster County Park, California

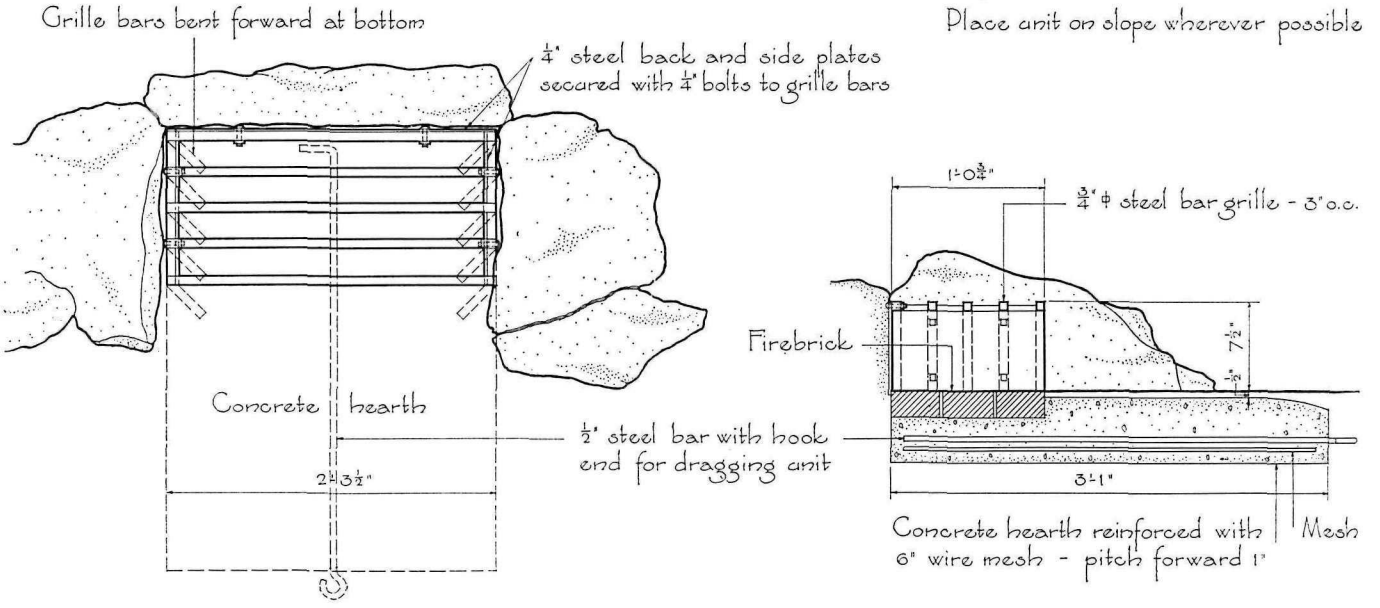
Picnic Fireplace

Denver Mountain Metropolitan Parks Colorado

Distinguishing features of the unit, developed in Colorado and here detailed, are the unusual, wide, shallow grate and the fact that mass production methods are brought to picnic fireplace construction. The reinforced concrete hearth, fire brick base, grate bars and back and side plates constitute a unit fabricated and cast at a production point and distributed over wide areas for placement and naturalizing by use of local stone. Few large stone, rather than many small ones are preferable for this function. This type of fireplace is ideally situated on a gentle slope. The very integration and weight of this unit should curb vandalism and theft. Though the grille is set close to the hearth, ashes are easily raked out by reason of the grille being wide and shallow.



FRONT ELEVATION



PLAN SECTION

Scale ¾" = 1'-0"

Mount Penn Metropolitan Reservation, Reading, Pennsylvania

Ponca Lake Metropolitan Park, Ponca City, Oklahoma

PICNIC FIREPLACES ON SLOPES

None of the subjects pictured on this page reproduces the hearth, prefabricated with related parts, which features the fireplace detailed on the facing page. All, however, are similarly located on slopes. Such placement, because it goes far to make the fireplace less conspicuous in the picnic area, is recommended. The adobe unit in Arizona evidences utilization of a regionally appropriate material where a suitable local stone is probably not available. The different kinds of stone employed in the other examples and the various grill constructions are of interest.

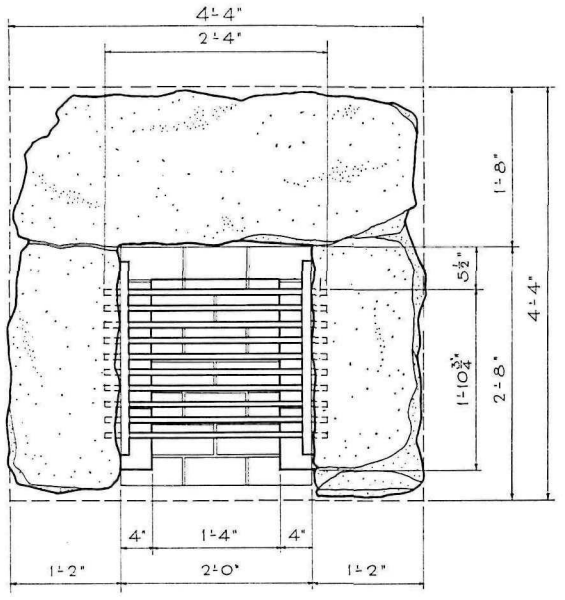
Pickwick Dam Reservation, Tennessee

Randolph Metropolitan Park, Tucson, Arizona

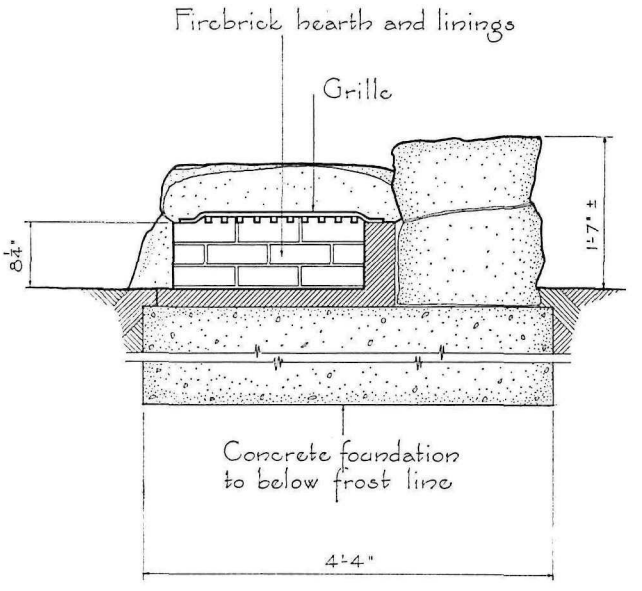
Lake Guernsey State Park, Wyoming

Picnic Fireplace – Parvin State Park – New Jersey

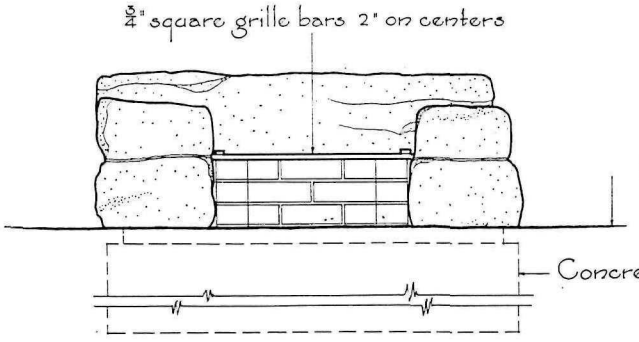
In modified and less rugged areas, the stones surrounding the fire box of the picnic fireplace are rarely the casual placing of half buried rocks we have just observed but tend rather to take on the characteristics of a conscious masonry. The more successful examples of the type evidence an effort to use large stones and hold to a minimum the number of stones in a degree consistent with characteristics of the available local stone. Because the stone is laid in mortar need not mean that the results must be rigidly and unpleasantly mechanical. On the opposite page are pictured in wide range variants of the fireplace here detailed.



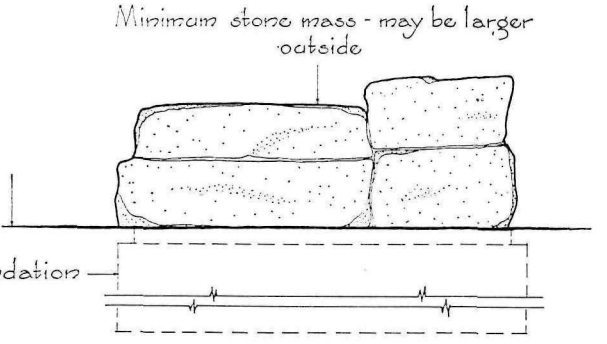
PLAN



SECTION



FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

Scale ½" = 1'-0"

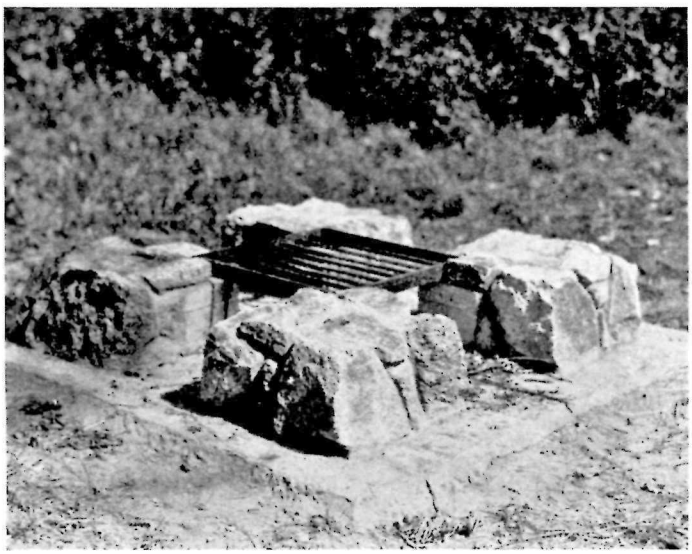
Sequoia National Park

Levi Carter Metropolitan Park, Omaha, Nebra ka

PICNIC FIREPLACES OF MORTAR-LAID MASONRY

The stone picnic fireplace laid up in mortar is ordinarily U-shaped but by no means always so. Variants include a type open at both ends so that a through draft is possible, and another type, much used in Minnesota and adjacent States, which consists of four stone piers supporting the corners of the grill. Masonry fireplaces have been built in every degree of rusticity. The Sibley State Park subject is very like the all-steel firebox, detailed on a succeeding page, glorified by the addition of masonry side walls.

Sibley State Park, Minnesota



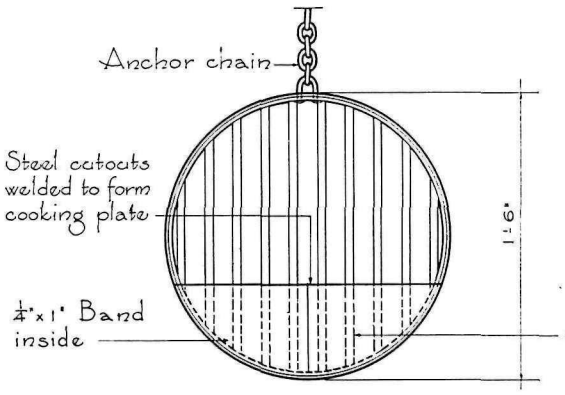
Minnesota State Parks

Fargo Metropolitan Park, North Dakota

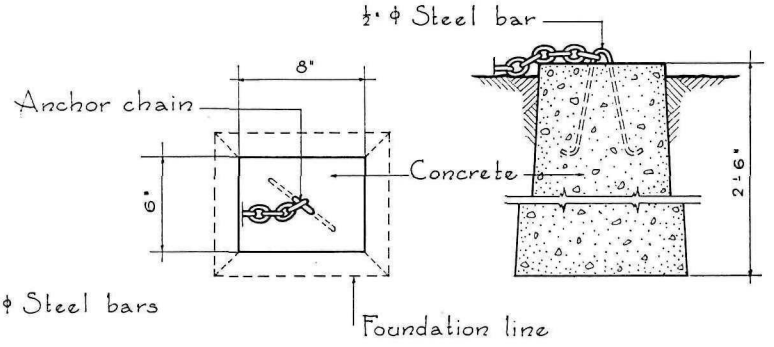
Picnic Fireplace

Cook County Forest Preserve – – Illinois

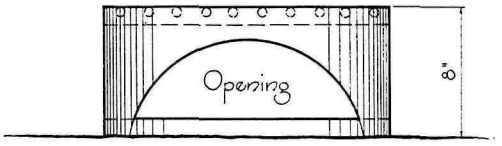
A forthright answer to the need for picnic fireplaces in vast numbers in the heavily picnicked parks of the Chicago Metropolitan area. Surely here an endless duplication of "sculptured" rock fireplaces so fitting, for example, in the mountain parks surrounding Denver, would seem reasonable only to those who would limit current traffic on Michigan Avenue to the pioneer's covered wagon and the Indian's travois. Among the advantages of this "cheese box" type are low cost, suitability for quantity production, simplicity of installation, and range of orientation in adaption to prevailing winds. Possibly further development will make possible the unit revolving on its anchorage, which will give it more fixed location without sacrifice of orientation range and further provide it with a smooth hearth.



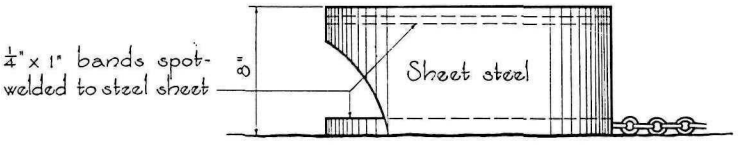
PLAN



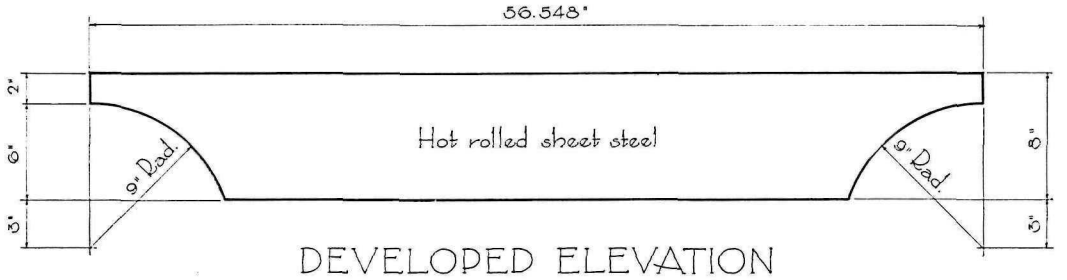
DETAIL OF ANCHOR



FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

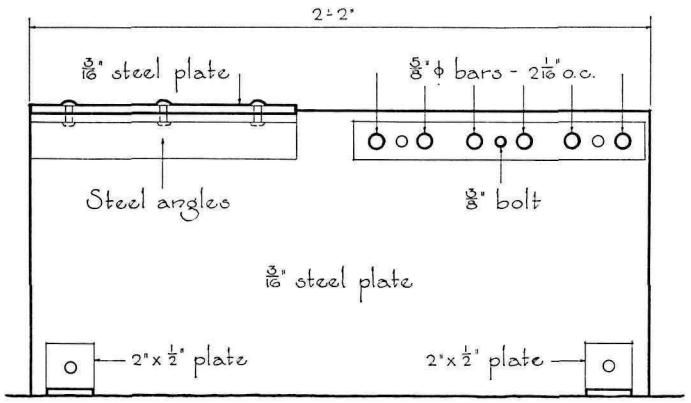


DEVELOPED ELEVATION

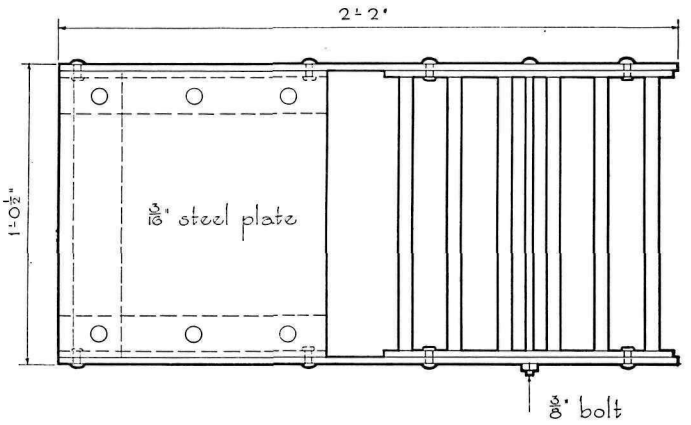
Scale 1" = 1'-0"

Picnic Fireplace – Sibley State Park – Minnesota

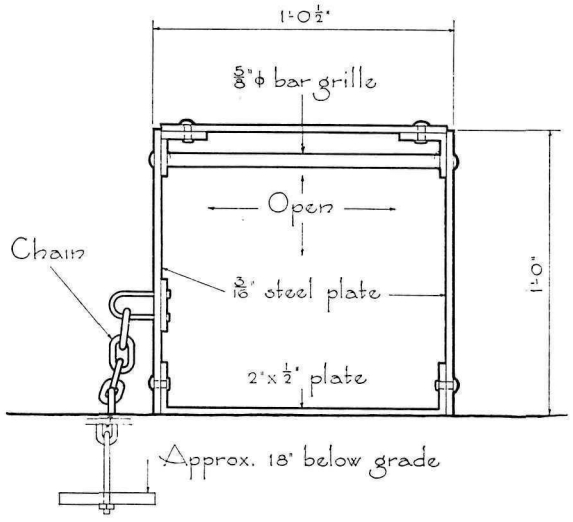
Another rendering of an all steel fire box, quantity produced for wide distribution. Although of very different form, its points of advantage closely parallel those of the circular unit developed for the Cook County Forest Preserve. Chief disadvantage of all units of this basic type in heavily wooded areas would seem to be a greater hazard for spread of ground fire than exists in connection with the usual picnic fireplace of stone. Noteworthy are the combination of bar and plate grilles, and the chain and bar lanchorage.



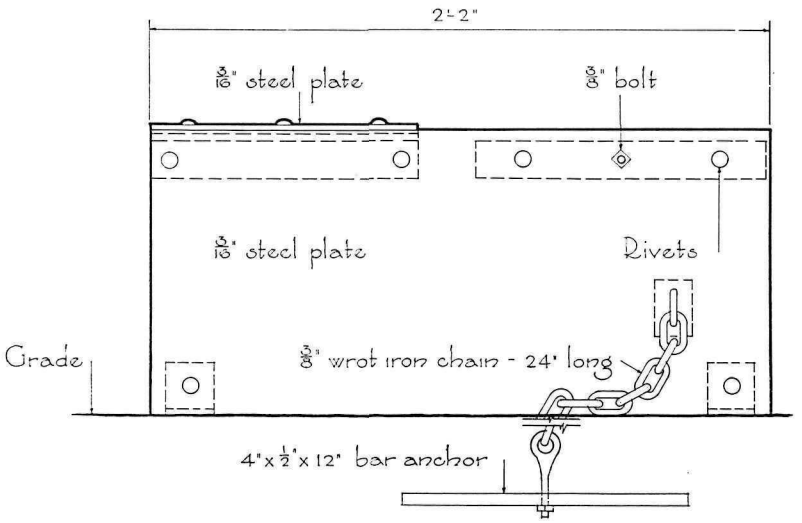
SECTION



PLAN

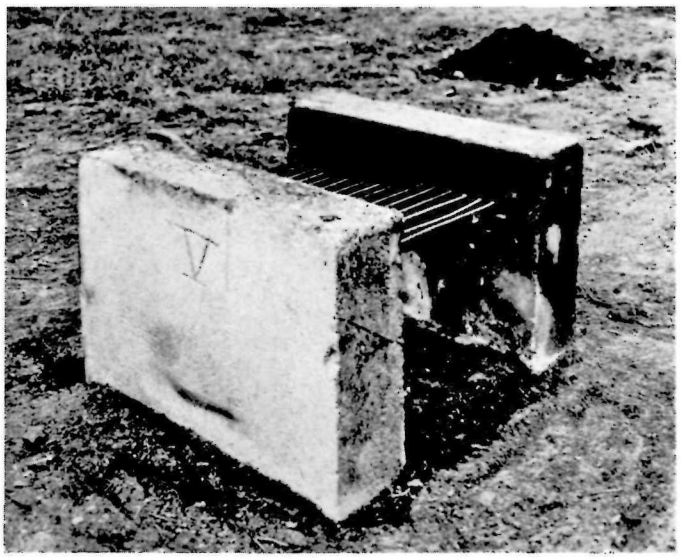


FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

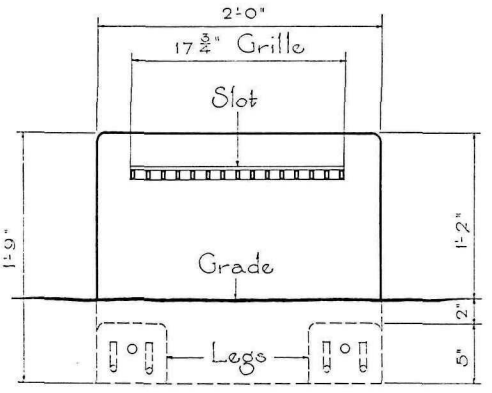
Scale 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



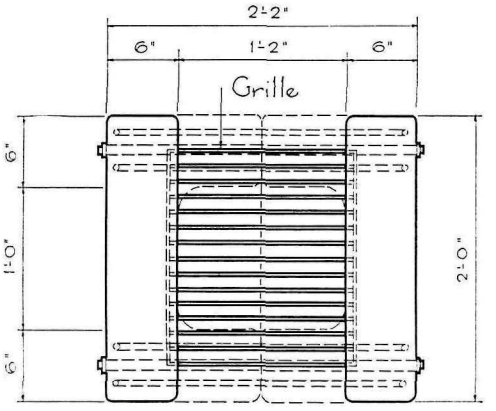
Picnic Fireplace

Cook County Forest Preserve District - - - Illinois

This latest model of concrete fireplace in this District is known as the "modified Akron type" because it is based upon a fireplace developed in the Akron Metropolitan Park District. Basic features are a monolithic casting using as aggregate a commercial, non-patented material closely resembling ground-up firebrick, and a grate not built into the concrete but held in a slot when the two otherwise unjoined concrete parts are drawn together with bolts through pipe sleeves in the base. Despite extensive experiment and every preventive measure, the type, after a year's use, shows signs of progressive disintegration to indicate that it is good for two or three seasons at the most.

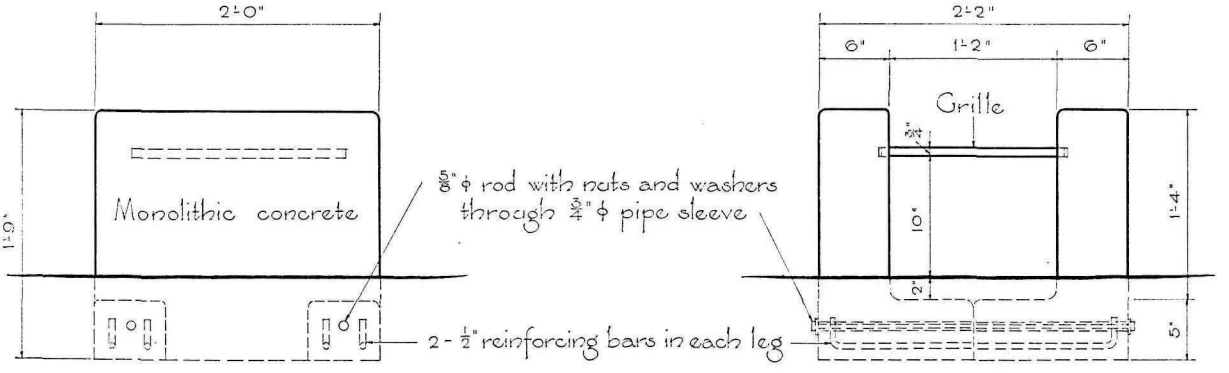


SECTION



PLAN

Grille is made of 15 bars, $\frac{1}{4}$" x $\frac{3}{4}$" x 15" long, spaced 1" apart, welded to frame, 15$\frac{1}{2}$" x 17$\frac{3}{4}$", also $\frac{1}{4}$" x $\frac{3}{4}$" bars



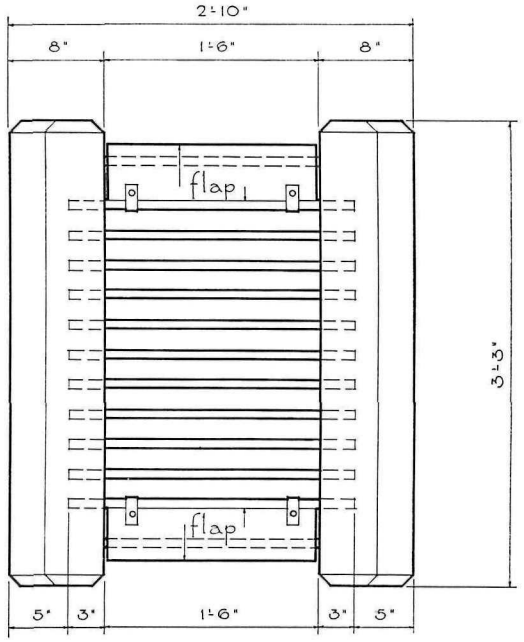
SIDE ELEVATION

FRONT ELEVATION

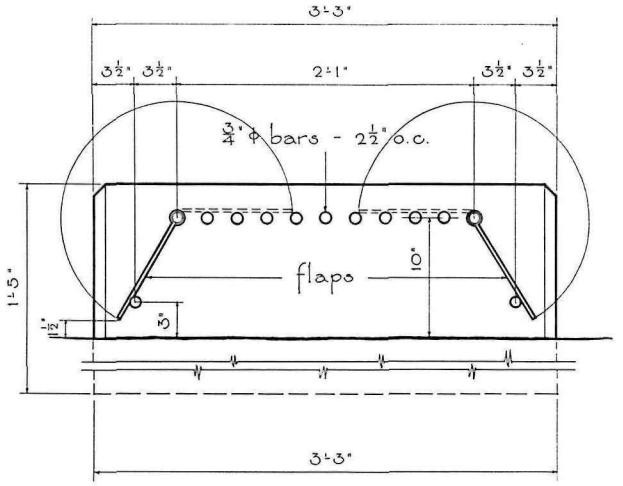
Scale $\frac{3}{4}$" = 1'-0"

Picnic Fireplace - - Pickett Forest - - Tennessee

For intensively used picnic grounds, here is a concrete unit, adaptable to off-the-area mass production and straightforward in its method of approach to present day needs. It is commodious in size and simple in design. The hinged steel flaps have twofold purpose. They function as windbreaks in control of draft and, folded over the grille, provide flat surfaces for cooking. The problem of a materials mix immune to deterioration under use conditions is the point of vulnerability of the unit.

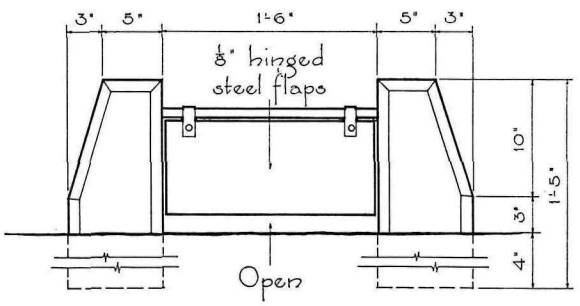


PLAN

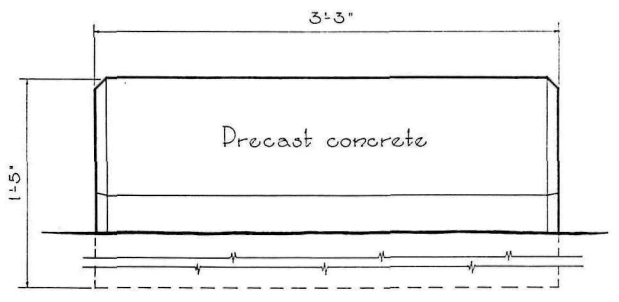


SECTION

Note - steel flaps act as windbreak and also cooking surface over grille



FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

Scale ¾" = 1'-0"

Swan Lake State Park, Iowa

Mount Penn Metropolitan Reservation, Reading, Pennsylvania

Riverside State Park, Washington

HEARTH RINGS AND VOTIVE FIREPLACES

The outer column pictures the hearth ring, reborn in its present recreation usage, if not actually originated, in Iowa. A length of axle, reclaimed from a junk yard, with hub and wheel buried for a very positive anchorage, attests the ingenuity and skill of a mechanic at Riverside Park. The Wyoming example affords large cooking capacity, and its high curb supplies a convenient working space for the chef. The illustrations directly above and below show the votive fireplace with flanking seats which, designed and built with a decent restraint, offers an opportunity to create a memorial appropriate in a truly natural park.

Young Mens Literary Society Park, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Spring Mill State Park, Indiana