

Masonry Wall Collapse



2

Professional Development Hours (PDH) or Continuing Education Hours (CE) Online PDH or CE course

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REPORT

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health of the State of Tennessee requested the Directorate of Construction, OSHA National Office, to provide assistance in the investigation and causal determination of the April 18, 2013 collapse of a masonry wall during construction of the Goodwill Retail Store in Hendersonville, TN. As a result of the wall collapse, two employees were killed and one was injured. Our investigation and evaluation were based on the information provided by the Division of Occupational Safety and Health of the State of Tennessee. Please note that we did not visit the incident site.

Discussion

The project consisted of construction of a one-story Goodwill Retail Store, approximately 170' wide x 180' long (see figure 1).

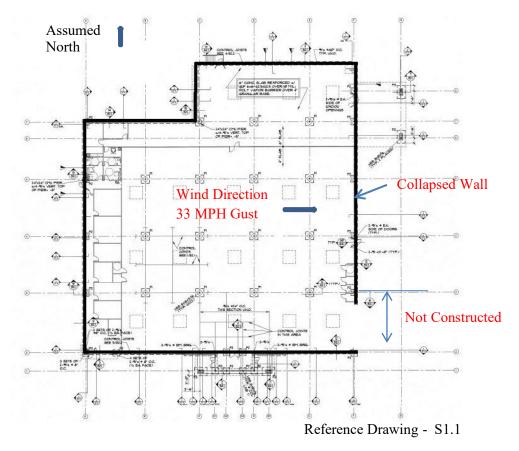
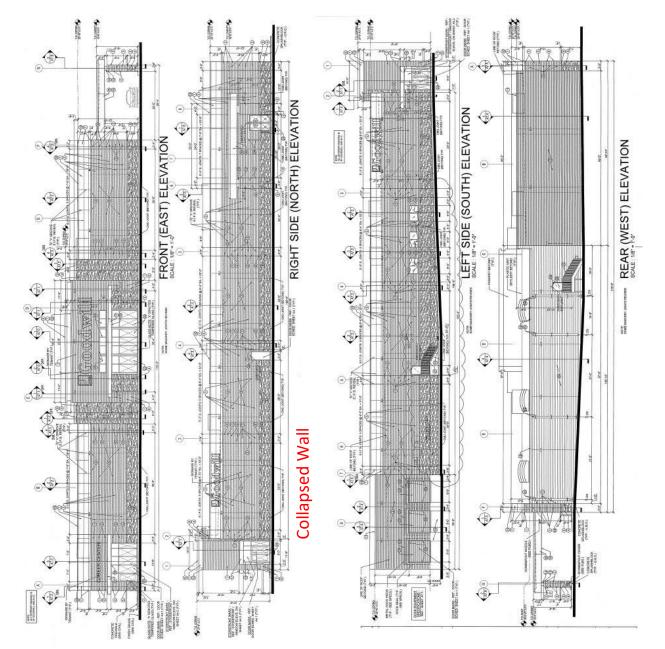


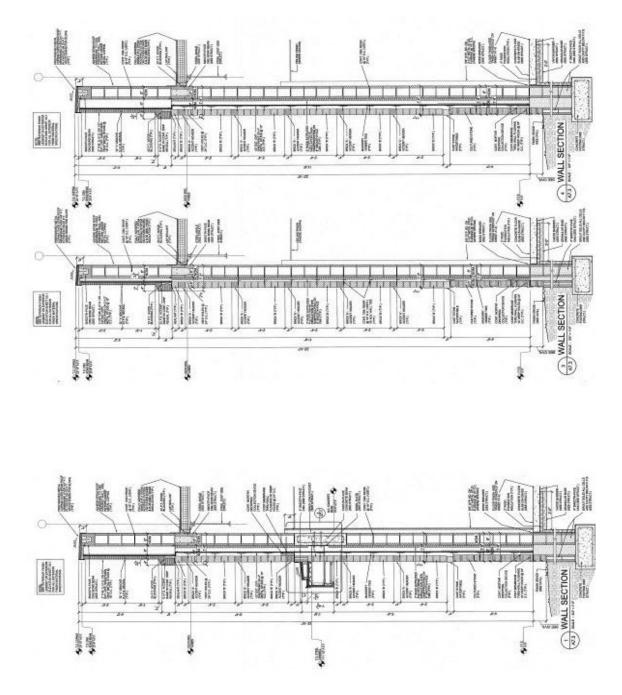
Figure 1 – CMU wall Plan

For the purpose of this report, the wall that fell is identified as the east wall by the field personnel, although contract drawings identify it as the north wall. The exterior non-load bearing walls consisted of 8" thick partially grouted Concrete Masonry Units (CMU) supported on 2' wide x 1' deep concrete footing (see Figures 1 to 3).



Reference drawing – A5.0





Reference Drawing - A7.3

Figure 3 – CMU wall section

The exterior walls were part of the lateral load-resisting system and would have acted as shear walls when the building was completed. The ground floor consisted of 4"/6" thick concrete slab on grade.

The roof was to consist of metal deck 1 ¹/₂" deep x 22 gage supported on 24"/26" deep steel joists spanning approximately 35' in the north-south direction. The steel joists were designed to be resting on 32" deep steel joists girders spanning in the east-west direction for a span of approximately 34 feet. The steel joists were to be supported on square hollow steel section columns spaced approximately at 34' on center.

The one-story building is owned by Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc. The following were key participants of the project:

| Owner: | Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc. | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Architect: | H. Michael Hindman Architects (HMHA), P.C. of Brentwood, TN | |
| Structural Engineer: | EMC Structural Engineers (EMC), P.C. of Nashville, TN | |
| General Contractor: | Solomon Builders, Inc. of Nashville, TN | |
| Masonry Contractor: | Shannon Tayes dba Tayes Masonry of Smithville, TN | |
| Structural testing & insp.: | Beaver Engineering, Inc., of Nashville, TN | |

The construction for the project began in early March 2013. The concrete footing 2' wide x 1' deep for the CMU wall was poured approximately one week before the CMU wall construction began. For the beginning and completion dates of the CMU wall construction see table below.

| TABLE 1 Beginning and completion dates for CMU wall construction | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| | | | | |
| West wall | March 18, 2013 | March 26, 2013 | | |
| East wall (architect referred as north wall) | March 27, 2013 | April 3, 2013 | | |
| North wall | April 2, 2013 | April 5, 2013 | | |
| South wall | April 4, 2013 | April 12, 2013 | | |
| Loading dock wall | April 16, 2013 | April 22, 2013 | | |

The CMU walls consisted of hollow concrete blocks and were partially grouted using a low lift grouting method. The wall was reinforced with #5 rebars at 40" on center (see Figure 4).

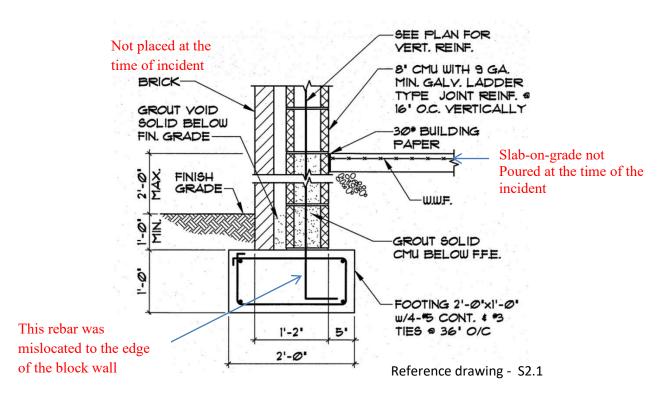


Figure 4 – Exterior Wall Section

The architect specified the maximum spacing of the control joints to be at 25' on center in the horizontal direction (see Figure 5).

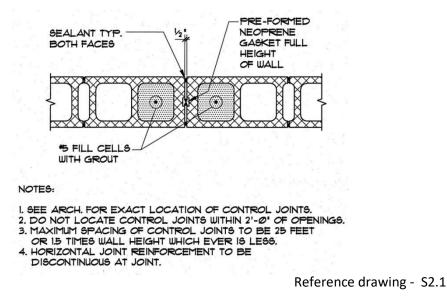


Figure 5 – Control Joint detail

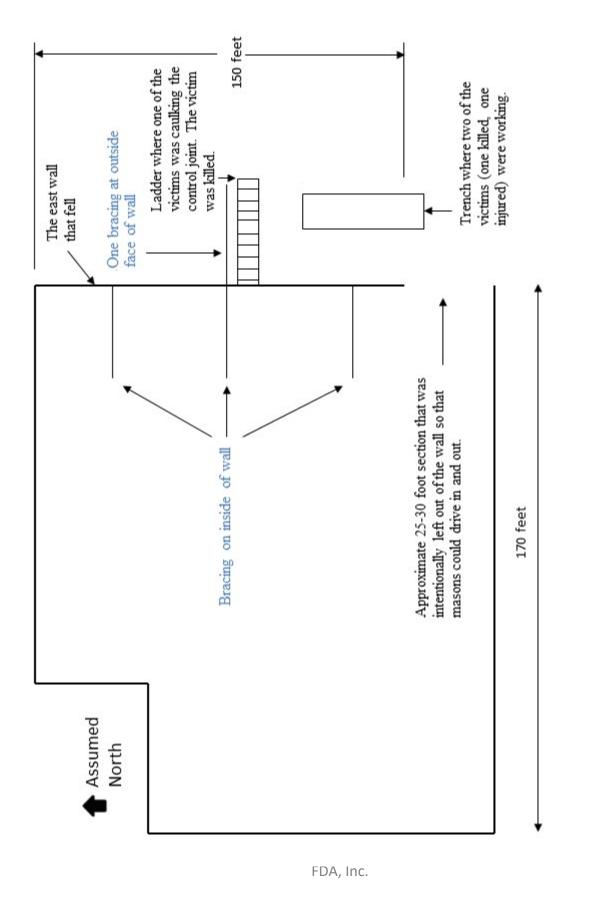
All cells of the masonry blocks from the top of the footing to the first floor level were fully grouted.

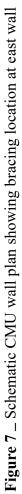
Bond beams were used at window openings, roof level and at the top of the parapet. The bond beams at the top of the masonry wall were reported to be discontinuous at the control joints. The ground floor slab, also known as the first floor slab, was not poured at the time of the incident. During construction, the masonry contractor had provided six bracings against wind for the entire length of each wall. Three braces were located at the interior (similar to Figure 6) and three on the exterior faces of each wall.



Figure 6 – Typical interior bracing detail

A few days prior to the collapse, all three exterior braces on the north, south and west walls were removed but on the east wall only two exterior braces were removed. The middle exterior brace was left intact on the east wall that fell (see figure 7).





For the installation of the bracing, the contractor installed 2x10 vertical members abutting to the face of the walls (see Figure 8).

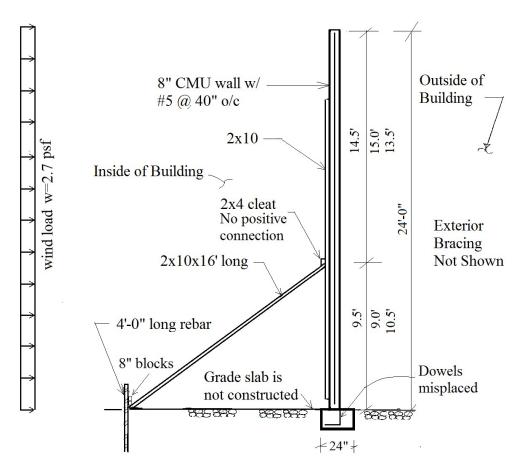


Figure 8 – Section showing interior as-built bracing at east wall

At mid-height of the vertical member, approximately 10' above, 2x4 horizontal cleats were provided. The 2x4 cleats were nailed to vertical members (see Figure 9). The diagonal bracing member consisted of 2x10 Southern Yellow Pine (SYP) OSHA scaffold plank, the top end of which was held underneath the cleats while the opposite end was held against 4' (\pm) long rebar. The rebar was embedded into the soil for a depth of approximately 2'-6" and projecting out around 1'-6". On top of the plank near the rebar, two CMU blocks were placed (see Figure 10).



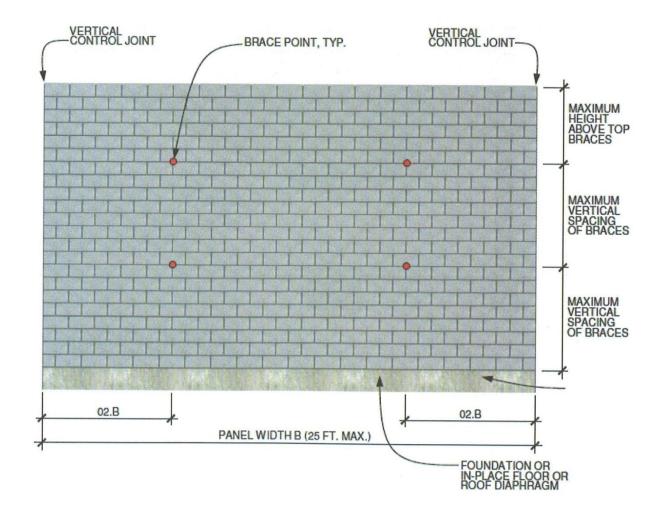
Figure 9 - Top end of brace without positive connection



FDA, Inc.

Figure 10 - Two CMU blocks on top of plank near rebar

The design of the bracing members was not performed by any contractor or by an engineer. Bracings were installed randomly based on the contractor's judgment. "Standard practice for Bracing Masonry Walls under construction," developed by the Council for Masonry Wall Bracing, was not followed (see Figure 11).



References:

- 1. Copyright by the Mason Contractors Association of America
- "Standard practice for Bracing Masonry Walls Under Construction" developed by Council for Masonry Wall Bracing

Note: Industry practice required two braces between control joints

Figure 11 - Brace spacing requirement for masonry wall between control joints

The top of the wall remained as a free end, as roof framing and roof diaphragm were yet to be constructed.

The contract documents required that the owner employ an independent testing company to perform site inspections and testing in accord with the quality assurance plan. The testing company was to retain a licensed structural engineer or an architect to perform periodic visual observations of the structure during construction for general conformance to the design drawings. The inspector was required to be an individual certified or experienced to perform such inspections (see Figures 12 to 15).

DESIGN AND CODE INFORMATION

- ALL CONTRECTION SHALL CORPORE TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, 28566 EDITOR.
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- 5. DO NOT SCALE STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS, AND FOR LOCATION OF HISCELLANEO ITENS (OFENINGS, BENT PLATES, INSERTS, ETC.) AFFECTING STRUCTURAL WORK, SEE ARCHITECTURAL, MECHANICAL, FLUMENIG AND ELECTRICAL
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 20 P8F

 1. ROCF6:
 20 P8F

 GROUND SHOW LOAD:
 10 P8F

 SHOW IPPORTANCE I:
 10

 THERMAL FACTOR Ct.
 10

 FLAT ROCF SHOW LOAD:
 12 P8F
- 8. WIND LOADS. BASIC WIND SPEED: 90 WIND IMPORTANCE I: L0 WIND EXPOSURE FACTOR: B INTERNAL PRESSURE COEFFICIENT: J8
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 6 d/dd PG0 POUNDS
 So PLF
- VEHICLE BARRIERS: 6,000 POUNDS SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTING
- THE CONTRACTOR/QUNER SHALL EMPLOY AN NOEPENDENT TESTING COMPANY TO PERFORM SITE INSPECTICUS AND TESTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN SHEET 56.2.
- STRUCTURAL OBSERVATIONS
- THE CONTRACTOR/OUNER SHALL EMPLOY A LICENSED STRUCTURAL ENGINEER OF ARCHITECT TO PERFORM PERIODIC VIOLAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE STRUCTURE DURING CONSTRUCTION FOR GENERAL CONFORMATION FOR MEMORY

FOUNDATION NOTES 1. FOUNDATION DESIGN IS BASED ON A REPORT MADE BY BEAVER ENGINEERING, INC. DATED MAY 17, 200 (REPORT NO. 12-6407).

- INDIVIDUAL POOTINGS ARE DESIGNED TO BEAR ON UNIFORM SOIL CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING 3000 PSF. CONTINUOUS FOOTINGS ARE DESIGNED TO BEAR ON SOIL CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING 3000 PSF. DESIGN ASSUMES DIFFERENTIAL AND TOTAL SETTLEMENT ARE UTTINA COLEPTED TO LERANCES FOR THE TYPE OF
- Construction versions capacity and consistency shall be verified for the bull before a regarding the straight of the straight
- 4. WHERE FOOTING EXCAVATIONS ARE TO REMAIN OPEN AND MAY BE EXPOSED RAINFALL, THE EXCAVATIONS SHALL BE UNDERCLIT AND A 3 INCH THICK MUD MAIT OF 10000 PGI CONCRETE SHALL BE PLACED IN THE BOTTOM TO PROTECT THE BEARING SOLID.
- WHERE FOOTING STEPS ARE NECESSARY, THEY SHALL BE NO STEEPER THAN I VERTICAL TO 2 HORIZONTAL, UNLESS SHOUN OTHERWISE ON PLANS.
 REINFORCED CONCRETE
- I, ALL CONCRETE WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE 'BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS' FOR REINFORCED CONCRETE,' (ACI 3/8-05).
- REINFORCING STEEL SHALL BE DEFORMED BARS ASTM A+6/5 (GRADE 60).
 THE COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH AT 28 DAYS OF ALL CAST IN PLACE CONCRETE SHALL BE:
- MALL DEL 4000 PBI - BLABS-ON-GRADE 4000 PBI - BLAMS 3000 PBI - ALL OTHER CONCRETE (SEE CIVIL DRAWINGS FOR SITE CONCRETE STRENGTH REGUIREMENTS)
- LAP SPLICES FOR REINFORCING BARS SHALL BE CLASS B IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACI 318-05, UNLESS NOTED CTHERWISE.
- ACI 38-05, INALEDO KULEU CURCINICATION S. CLEAR CONCRETE COMER OR DERIVORCINA STELL UALLS 2: EXTERIOR FACES 34' NUTREIOR FACES MAGONET UALLS LOCATE IN CENTER OF UALL (UNO) BEAYG JANG CULENIA LI-YT FORTED EXCESS FOOTINGS 2' FORTED EXCESS 3' FORTED EXCESS
- 6. THE LONGITUDINAL REINFORCING STEEL IN BOND BEAMS, WALLS, AND FOOTINGS SHALL BE CONTINUOUS AROUND CORVERS, SEE TYPICAL DETAILS.
- MECHANICAL VIBRATORS SHALL VIBRATE ALL CONCRETE.
 INLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED BY THE OUNER, CONCRETE SLABS SHALL BE FNISHED TO THE FOLLOWING FLATNESS CRITERIA:
 - SPECIFIED OVERALL F NUM FLATNESS FF = 35
- LEVEL FL = 25
- FLATNESS FF = 24 LEVEL FL = IT
- COORDINATE ALL VAROR RETARDERS, VAROR BARRIERS, AND WATERPROFING CONCRETE BLABS-ON-GRADE AND CONCRETE WALLS WITH FINISH MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS AND ARCHITECTURAL SPECIFICATIONS.
- IN THE CONCRETE FILL ON COMPOSITE DECK SHALL BE LIGHTWEIGHT STRUCTURAL CONCRETE (107-113 PCF) WITH 4% TO 1% ENTRAINED AIR AND DEVELOP A
- CONCRETE MASONRY
- I, MASONRY WALL CONTROL JOINTS SHALL BE LOCATED AS SHOWN ON THE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS.
- CONCRETE MASCHEY SHALL CONFORM TO THE NATIONAL CONCRETE MASCHRY ASSOCIATION SPECIFICATIONS, AND HAVE A DENSITY OF ISS PCF AND SHALL HAVE A HINIFIAM PRISH STRENGTH (PT) OF ISSO PSI.
- 3. GROUT ROR TILLING CONCRETE MASCHRY CELLS BULLL CORPORE TO STACADE SERCIFICATIONS FOR YORK AND AGOLT TOR SERVICED MACONY. ASM C-416, AND BALL, HAYE A COMPRESSIVE FINISH STRENGT (PT) CO 3000 FIR 17 JB DATS. THE SLIPP SHALL BE RETURES IN SURFACE ADD INCOMES. WRITE THE INNUM DIPENSION OF ANY CONTINUOUS VERTICAL, CELL IS 3 NOVERS ON LES FINIS GROUT, CHERNISE USE CARSES (FEA GRAVEL)
- 4. MORTAR FOR CONCRETE MASONRY SHALL BE TYPE 'S' AND SHALL CONFORM TO ASTM C-210.
- 5. MASCHRY CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE BUILT IN LIFTS NOT TO EXCEED 4 FEET PRIOR TO GROUTING CORES, KEY NEXT GROUT LIFT INTO PRIOR LIFT BY STOPPING FIRST LIFT 2" BELOW TOP OF BLOCK.
- 5. ALL RENFORCING BARS IN FILLED CELLS SHALL BE DOUELED INTO FOOTINGS WITH STANDARD 30-DEGREE HOCKS AND DOUELED I INCHES INTO BOND BEAMS AT TOP OF WALLS.
- 7. MASONRY LAP SPLICES SHALL BE 48 BAR DIAMETERS (UN.O.)
- 8. REINFORCEMENT IN WALLS SHALL BE PLACED IN THE CENTER OF THE WALL UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

ALL ATRUCTURAL ATERL WORK SHALL OF

- ALL STRUCTURAL STEEL WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE AISC "HANUAL OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION ALLOUABLE STRESS DESIGN" THIRTEENTH EDITION.
- STRUCTURAL STEEL ROLLED SHAPES SHALL BE ASTM A-932 GRADE 50 UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE. STRUCTURAL STEEL PLATES AND ANGLES SHALL BE ASTM A-36.
- STRUCTURAL PIPE COLUMNS SHALL BE ASTM A-53, TYPE E OR 5, GRADE B. STRUCTURAL TUBES SHALL BE ASTM A500, GRADE B.
- STEEL FRAMING CONNECTIONS SHALL BE BOLTED OR UELDED. BOLTS SHALL BE 3/4 NCH DIAMETER MINIMUM AND SHALL BE ASTM A-325-N, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
- USE DIRECT TENSION INDICATORS AND HARDENED WASHERS WITH ALL HIGH STRENGTH BOLTS OR USE LOAD INDICATOR BOLTS.
- 6. STEEL JOISTS SHALL BE DESKAED, FABRICATED AND ERECTED N ACCORDANCE UITH THE STANDARD SPECIFICATION OF THE STEEL JOIST NOTITUTE, LATEST EDITION. STEEL JOISTS SHALL BE GRADE 50 STEEL.
- METAL DECK SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STEEL DECK INSTITUTE SPECIFICATIONS, LATEST EDITION.
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- ANCHOR BOLTS SHALL BE ASTM A-367 HEADED BOLTS. MINIMUM ANCHOR BOLT EYBEDMENT SHALL BE 12 BOLT DIAMETERS UNLESS NOTED OTHERUISE. CLEAN ANCHOR BOLTS OF ALL GREASE DIRT, ETC. BEFORE INSTALLATION.
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- 12. HARDENED WASHERS SHALL BE INSTALLED OVER SHORT SLOTTED OR OVERSIZE HOLES OCCURRING IN AN OUTER PLY OF A CONNECTION.
- HOLES COLINERING IN AN OWING THE STATE THE ROOF JOINTS FOR A INST UPLIET FORCE OF IS PARE SHALL INVESTIGATE THE ROOF JOINTS FOR A NET UPLIET FORCE OF IS PARE NO FURNISH THE NECESSARY REAMING TO ENAURE PROPER JOINT FERRORYACE UNDER UPLIET DUE TO UND AS UELL AS GRAVITY LOADING CONDITIONS.
- 4. PROVIDE SPECIAL JOIST SEATS WHERE REQUIRED BY NARROW BEARING CONDITIONS.
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Reference drawing S4.1

Figure 12 – General Notes (S4.1)

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|--|--|--|--|
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| IS STATEMENT OF STRUCTURAL SPECIAL INSPECTIONS PLAN DENTRIES THE SPONSIBLIFIES OF THE CONTRACTOR AND THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR IN SPORTING THE STRUCTURAL TESTING AND INSPECTION OF THE LOOK REQUIRED CALIFORT IN OF THE SULPHING CODE THAT IS UTHIN THE SCOPE OF THE | ESTABLISH CONCRETE MIX DESIGN PROPORTIONS FER ACI 38, CHAPTER 5, SURTI THERE CONSERVE THE CONCRETE MIX CREATER 5. | 1. PROVIDE CONTINUOUS INSPECTION TO VENIFT COTFLUENCE OF THE FOLLOWING | A PROPORTIONS OF SITE PREPARED MORTAR 8. CONSTRUCTION OF NORTAR JOINTS C. LOCATION OF REINFORCEMENT AND CONNECTORS |
| RICTURAL, ENGINEERING BERVICES FOR THIS PROJECT, REFER TO CTHER RICHS OF THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR TESTING AND INSPECTIONS | ROLLOUNS | A COMPLETE AND PARTIAL PENETRATION GROOVE LELDS. ILTRASONICALLY | 2. THE INSPECTION PRODUKAN SHALL VENIPTI |
| SURED OF ARCHITECTURAL, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, OR OTHER BULDING Inforents. | A TYPE AND QUARTER OF MATERIALS B. GUIPP C. AIR CONTROL D. FREEH UNT DEGAT | NAMEDT 1000 OF THE COTFLETE MEMORYANCE ABLOS 8. HLL 19426 FLLET VELDS AND SINGLE-PASS FLLET LELDS GREATER 1444 5/02 6. BLIP ORTICAL BOLTED CONSCIONS. | A. SIZE AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS. 5. TYPE, NIZ, AND LOCATION OF ANCHORS, NOLUDING OTHER DETAILS OF ANCHORAGE OF MISSIONT TO STRUCTURAL PERSENS, PRAMES ON OTHER |
| NTRACTOR RESPONDILITES | | | CONSTRUCTION |
| ECONTRACTOR SHALL SUBTIT TO THE BULDING OFFICIAL AND THE ARCHITECT INITIEN STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY THAT CONTAINS THE FOLLOUING. | CERSON CONTINUERION ENTERNOTION LOCATION OF PLACEMENT IN STRUCTURE HOTHOD OF PLACEMENT LOCATION OF PLACEMENT | PROVIDE PERIODIC NEPECTION TO VEREY COMPLUNCE OF THE FOLLOWING. A MATERIAL VERTICATION OF HOM-STRENGTH BOLTS NUTS, AND WASHERS. | C. BRECHED BUIL GRADE, WO THE OF REINFORCEMENT. D. PLACEMENT OF MACKINY OWING COLD LEATHER HETHERATURE BELOW 40 DESIRES FAMILIES OF HOT VEATHER (TEMPERATURE 480/YE NO DESIRES EXAMPLE) |
| ACKNOLLEDGEPENT OF ALAMENESS OF THE SPECIAL REGULARETENTS CONTAINED - LITHIN THIS STATEMENT OF STRUCTURAL SPECIAL INSPECTIONS | A SEVEN-DAY AND 28-DAY COTTINESSIVE STRENDTHS | B. NATERIA, VERECATOR OF USED FILLER NATERIA. C. VERECATION OF MODOR ROD SES, CONFERENTION, AND ENSEDTENT PRICE TO FLUCEMENT OF CONCETTE. D. VELALLY INVECTAL EXCITED CONNECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE LITH AND D. VELALLY INVECTAL EXCITED CONNECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE LITH AND | 3. PRIOR TO GROUTING THE FOLLOUING SHALL BE VERIFIED TO ENSURE |
| ADNOULEDGEMENT THAT CONTROL SHALL BE EXERCISED TO OBTAIN CONFORMANCE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS ANYHOUSE BY THE BULDING OWNCH. | BUSHT & CERTRICATION FROM EACH MANUFACTURER OR SUPPLIER STATING THAT MATERIALS PEET THE REGULARITENTS OF THE SPECHED ASTM AND AGI STANDARDS. | SPECIFICATIONS FOR STRUCTURAL JOINTS USING ASTITIANUS OR AVED BOLTS PRICE TO VISUAL AND PHYSICAL TESTING, TENSION TESTING | COTHILIANCE: A. CLEANINESS OF GROUT SPACE B. R. ACHIMIN OF REMOVEMENT AND CONNECTORS. |
| I PROZEDURES FOR EXERCISING CONTROL UITHIN THE CONTRACTORS ORGANIZATION THE METHOD AND PRECISION OF REPORTING, AND THE DISTINUITION OF REPORTS. | 4. SUBMIT CERTIFICATION THAT THE READY-MIXED CONCRETE FLANT COMPLES UNIT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL READY MIX CONCRETE ASSOCIATION. | TENDING AT LEAST 34 N EXCESS OF NE ARC INNEXT STRUCTURAL STEEL SECTOR SHALL SUPPLY THE TENDING CALIBRATION DEVICE. TEN' A HINML OF IMA OF THE BOLTED CONSECTIONS IN VISUALLY NOMED FALL FILLD-BLED CONSECTIONS VISUAL | G. PROPORTIONS OF SITE-PREPARED SROUT. D. CONSTRUCTION OF HORTAR JOINTS |
| DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS. | SPECIAL INSPECTOR SHALL PERFORM THE POLLOUNG | E. VIDUALLY NOMECT ALL FIELD-UELDED CONNECTIONS, VIDUAL NOMECTION OF VELDED JOINTS INCLUDES PERIODIC EXAMINATION OF FILE | 4. COMPLIANCE WITH REGURED INSPECTION PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS AND THE APPROVED SUBMITTALS SHALL BE UNDERTOOPTION |
| CONTROL, AND THEIR POSITION(6) IN THE ORDANIZATION | VERET GRACE, GLANTIT, LOCATION AND THE PLACEMENT OF REINFORCING STEEL AND POST TENSION CABLES PRICE TO CONCRETE PLACEMENT. | F. VERFY STUD SHEAR CONNECTORS SPACING AND LOCATION. VISUALLY INSPECT LELDING OF STUD SHEAR CONNECTORS. | |
| E STRUCTURAL TESTING INSPECTION AGENCY THAT IS TO ACT AS THE SPECIAL PECTOR WILL BE HIRED BY THE GUNER BUT CONTRACTOR SHALL PAY FOR ANY | 2. EXAMPLE CONCRETE IN TRUCK TO VERIEY THAT CONCRETE APPEARS PROPERLY | 4. UELD INSPECTIONS TO INCLUDE THE POLLOWING | SPECIAL INSPECTION SHALL PERFORM CONTINUOUS INSPECTIONS TO VERIFY THE ROLLOWING. |
| DITIONAL, ATRUCTURAL, TRATING VIEWEGTION REQUIRED FOR UDING OR TATENIALS T COMPLYING UTH THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS DUE TO NERLIGNEED OR ICONORMANCE AND SHALL PAY FOR ANY ADDITIONAL STRUCTURAL STRUCTURED REQUIRED FOR HIS CONVENENCE. | TIXED. 3. PERFORM A SUMMITEST AS DESIGN RECEIVENT FOR EACH CONCRETE LOAD. RECORD PLATER OR ADMIXTURES ARE ADDED TO THE CONCRETE LOAD. STE. PERFORM ADDITIONAL SUMMITESTS AFTER JOB STE ADJSTICTS. | A LELD NOTECTIONS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE UTH AUS DILL B. REVEN AND VENET COTTLIANCE OF INITTEN VELDING PROCEDURES UTH AUS DECONSIDERTS COTTLIANCE OF INITTEN VELDING PROCEDURES UTH | 1. GROUT PLACEMENT SHALL BE VERIFED TO ENSURE COTPLIANCE WITH EXCEL AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT PROVINCING. |
| TRACTOR IS REPORTED FOR HIS CONVENENCE. | SITE. PERFORM ADDITIONAL SLUPP TESTS AFTER JOB SITE ADJUST-BUTS. | 449 REQUIREMENTS C. VERY THAT LELDING PROCEDURES ARE BEING AD-ERED TO DURING FELD URLING. | FREPARATION OF ANY REGURED GROUT SPECIFIENS, AND/OR PRIOTS SHALL BE OBSERVED. |
| ESENT FOR ALL WORK RESURING SPECIAL INSPECTION, ANY WORK THAT CURRES SPECIAL INSPECTION AND IS PERFORMED WITHOUT THE SPECIAL PECTOR SERVICE STRUCT TO BEING DEPOSITIES AND DECORS REVISE PRESENT IS ADJUST TO BEING DEPOSITIES AND | NAMEGT SIZE POSITIONING AND EMBEDITION OF ANCHOR ROOM. NAMEGT CONCRETE PLACEMENT AND CONSCLUDITION AND ANCHORS. | D. VENPY SELDER GIAL PICATIONS E. USB ALL FEASING REGISTRATIO DETERMINE THE GUALITY OF USLDS. THE INSECTOR HAVE USE GUARNER DAY INCOME UP TERMINED ADJUGT OF DETERMINED ADJUGT AND ANY INCOME UP TERMINED ADJUGT OF DETERMINED. | BARE DE OBSENTED |
| CONSTRUCTED. | NAMECT PLACEMENT OF CONCRETE. VERYT THAT CONCRETE CONVEYANCE AND DEPOSITING ANODO SEGMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATION, VERYT THAT CONCRETE IN FROMEN, CONSCILLATED. | ANY OTHER AD TO VIBLAL INSPECTION THAT THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR THAT DEPTI INSCREMENT TO BE ASSURED OF THE ADEQUACY OF THE LELONG. | |
| REACTOR HAS THE FOLLOWING RESPONDED. THE TO THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR. | 6. NOMECT CURING, COLD LEATHER PROTECTION AND NOT LEATHER | F. KEEP A SYSTEMATIC RECORD OF ALL LELDS THAT INCLUDES, IN ADDITION TO OTHER REQUIRED RECORDS, THE IDENTIFICATION MARKS OF VELDORS, A LIGHT OF DEPENTING RELOKES, AND THE WANKING OF CORRECTING RELECTING ALL DET OF DEPENTING RELOKATION AND THE CORRECTING DEPENTING. | |
| NOTET THE SPECIAL INFECTION REFLICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF OPERATIONS TO ALLOW ASSISTENT OF PERSONNEL AND SCHEDULING OF TESTS. | PROTECTION PROCEDURES. | STEEL JOIDTS | |
| TO ALLOW ASSISTENT OF PERSONNEL AND SCHEDULING OF TESTS. COOPERATE LITH REPORT. INVESTOR AND PROVIDE ACCESS TO LONG. | MOLD TWE BRECHENS PER SET FOR COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH TESTING: ONE BET FOR EACH TO CLERC YARDS OF EACH MIX DESIGN FLACED IN ANY ONE DAT, NOT EACH HE! MOLDED, NEICORD. | CONTRACTOR BHALL PERFORT THE FOLLOWING | |
| PROVIDE SAMPLES OF HATERIALS TO BE TESTED IN REQUIRED QUARTITIES. | A SUPP | SUBHIT CERTIFICATION THAT THE FABRICATOR IS REGISTERED AND APPROVED BY THE BULDING OFFICIAL TO PERFORM REGURED WORK WITHOUT | |
| PROVIDE STORAGE SPACE FOR THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR'S EXCLUSIVE USE. SUCH AS FOR STORING AND CLIMING CONCRETE TEXTING SAMPLES. | B. AR CONTENT | SPECIAL NEPECTIONS | |
| BUCH AS FOR STORING AND CURING CONCRETE TESTING SAMPLES. PROVIDE LABOR TO ASSIST THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR IN PERFORTING INSPECTATIONS | D. TEMPERATURE, AND EXT, AND CONCRETE E. LOCATION OF #LADEPENT F. ANY MEMORY INCOMPATION, SUCH AS ADDITION OF WATER, ADDITION OF ANY MEMORY AND AND AND AND ADDITION OF WATER, ADDITION | If Adexication is not repositized and Ammovidi, Smooth, Independent of the Adexication Instein Hull, les Repositions and the Marketone Hull, Versey That The Report and Report and Report and Report and Additional Ty contract, Report Department of Report and Report Report Additional Ty contract, Report Department of Report and Report Report Report of Report Report of Repor | |
| CIAL NOTECTORS RESTONSELLITES | PERFORM CHE 1-DAT AND TUD 28-DAT COMPRESSIVE STRENDTH TESTS. USE TUD 49 A SPARE TO BE BROCKN AS CIRCUED BY THE STRENDRAL, INGRESS IF COMPRESIVE STRENDTH DO NOT APPEAR ADDULATE! | CONTROL OF THE MORPHWANT AND THE MARKATORY ADULT TO CONTRAL TO APPROVED CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS, MARKATORY ADULTS TO CONTRAL PRECIAL INFECTOR SHALL REVIEW THE PROCEDURES FOR COMPLETENESS AND ADEQUACY RELIATES TO THE COST REQUISITEMENTS FOR THE MARKATORYS | |
| ICUL INPECTORS SHALL BE A LICENSED ENGINEER IN THE STATE OF TENESSEE | | SCOPE OF LORK | |
| ICUL NOPELTONS BALL DE A L'ENGED BREILEN N'HE D'AIE O' INNEDER 15 PERTORNA APPROPRIATE L'UTES DESCLIVILUER HE GUITENNEON OF A L'E PERSTANDES OF THE MERIAL, NAPELTICE MEGNERMENTS OF THE BOOD AND | ENERGY OF CONTRESSIVE STRENGTH TESTS SHALL CONTAIN THE PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NAME AND NUMBER DATE OF CONCRETE PLACEMENT, NAME | SPECIAL INSPECTOR SHALL PERFORM PERIODIC INSPECTIONS OF THE FOLLOUNG | |
| IS IBC. THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR SHALL BE AN INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS TIFED OR EXPERIENCED TO PERFORM SUCH INSPECTIONS IN A PARTICULAR | OF CONCRETE TEATING AGENCE, CONCRETE DEBIGN COMPRESEIVE STRENGTH, LOCATION OF CONCRETE PLACEMENT IN STRUCTURE, CONCRETE PIX PROPORTIONS AND MATERIALS, CONTRESSIVE DREAKING STRENGTH AND | VISUAL INSPECTION OF BOLTED AND UELDED CONNECTIONS. VIENPT INSTALLATION OF BRIDGING AND BRACES. | |
| P. | NON-OHRINK GROUT UNDER OTEEL DAGE FLATES | 3. VERFY CONNECTIONS FOR TOP AND BOTTOM CHORDS. | |
| SPECIAL INSPECTOR SHALL KEEP RECORDS OF ALL INSPECTIONS AND TURNED OWNS TO THE BULDING OWNCAL AND TO THE RESISTENCE DEMONIN PESSIONAL IN RESPONSIBLE CALANDE. PENICOIC REPORTS SHALL BE PROVIDED SHALL INSOLATE THAT LOOK INSPECTED LIAS DONE IN CONFORMANCE TO | BFECIAL NERECTOR BIALL PERFORT THE FOLLOWING | VERIFY RENFORCEMENT OF HEMBERS FOR CONCENTRATED LOADS. VERIFY RENFORCEMENT OF HEMBERS FOR CONCENTRATED LOADS. | |
| ROVED CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS. DISCREPANCES SHALL BE BROUGHT TO THE | | N VEREY PROPER BEARING | |
| EDIATE ATTENTION OF THE CONTRACTOR FOR CORRECTION. IF THE CREETANCES ARE NOT CORRECTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE SPECIAL PECTOR, THE DECORPORTED FOR THE DECORPT TO THE THERDICAL | NUMBER OF TEST- ONE TEST FOR EACH TEN BAGS OF GROUT USED OR HINMUM OF ONE TEST FOR EACH DAY OF GROUTING. | STEEL DECK | |
| THE BULDING OFFICIAL AND TO THE REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL IN | HNMM OF ONE TEST FOR EACH DAY OF GROUTING. | CONTRACTOR BHALL PERFORM THE POLLOUING | |
| PONSIBLE CHARGE HERLY REPORT OF INSPECTIONS DOCUMENTING REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS CONFERENCE OF MY DESCRIPTION ACTION IN THE INSPECTION AND INFORMATION IN THE INSPECTION AND INFORMATION A | CUBE NEE 2 HIGH X 2 HIGH X 2 HIGH TEST SCHEDULE: ONE CUBE AT 3 DAYS, Tao CUBES AT 1 DAYS, 3 CUBES AT 12 AYS. | I BURNIT HLL CERTIFICATION THAT THE SUPPLIED STEEL COMPLIES WITH THE SPECIFICATIONS. | |
| O CORRECTION OF ANY DISCREPANCIES NOTED IN THE INSPECTIONS SHALL BE MITTED. AT THE COMPLETION OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTIONS THE LICENSED DISTRICTURE INCOMENTION OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTIONS THE LICENSED | ATRICTURAL ATRIL. | SPECIAL NOPECTOR SHALL PERFORM PERIODIC NOPECTONS OF THE FOLLOWING | |
| PERSONAL EVANCES IN GLANCE OF PERSONNA NE SPECIAL INFECTION AL ORTEN THE FINAL SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT AND AFTIX HAVES ISLA THE SPECIAL INSPECTORS IN AL REPORT. REVOID INVERT (3) COMES OF | CONTRACTOR SHALL PERFORM THE FOLLOWING | L VERIFY DECK PROFILE, THORNESS, GENERAL ALIGNMENT AND DECK LAP. | |
| REPORT: THO TO THE ARCHITECT AND ONE TO THE STRUCTURAL ENGINEER | MENT CERTECATION THAT THE EXPERICATOR IS RECEIPTED, AND | 3. VENIFY LELDS ON SCHELS FOR SIZE AND PATTERN. | |
| SPECIAL INSPECTOR FOR THIS PROJECT IS AS FOLLOUS | APPROVED BY THE BULDING OFFICIAL TO PERFORM REQUIRED LORK UTHOUT SPECIAL INSPECTIONS. | YERRY SPACING AND TYPE OF SIDELAF ATTACHENTS. YERRY INSTALLATION OF DECK CLORINES. | |
| LA AND FOUNDATION& | F PASHICATOR IS NOT REGISTERED AND APPROVED, SPECIAL INSPECTION OF THE PASHICATED ITEMS SHALL BE REGURED. SPECIAL INSPECTOR | | |
| SIAL NAMESTOR SHALL PERFORM PERIODIC NAMESTIONS TO VERIFY THE | SHALL VERFY THAT THE PARENCATOR MAINTAINS DETAILED PARENCATION AND QUALITY CONTROL PROCEDURES THAT PROVIDE A BASIS FOR INFECTION CONTROL OF THE EXOPERIMENT AND THE PARENCES ABILITY TO CONFORM | STRUCTURAL MASCHRT (LEVEL D) CONTRACTOR SHALL PERFORM THE FOLLOWING | |
| LOURGE STRUCTURAL FLL COMPLES WITH SPECIFICATIONS AND THE | TO APPROVED CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCED STANDARDS. | L SUBNIT NANUPACTURENS DATA FOR TENSILE AND COTTINESSIVE SPLICENIS | |
| FROJECT DEDTECHNICAL | ADEGLACY RELATIVE TO THE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR COTTLETENESS AND ADEGLACY RELATIVE TO THE CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FABRICATOR'S SCOPE OF LONK | 2. SUBHIT & CERTIFICATION FROM EACH HAN/FACTURER OR SUFFLIER STATING | |
| DBSERVE PROOFROLLING. | 3. NUMMI CERTIFIED MILL TEST REPORTS FOR STRUCTURAL STEEL | THAT MATERIALS MEET THE REQUREMENTS OF THE SMECIFIED ASTM AND ACI STANDARDS. | |
| PERFORMENTIALD DEVICENT TEAT TO VERIFI COMPLICED OF OF INDICALELL PLL_AS A WINTER FERIORE COM TEAT FIRE LIFT FOR EVERT SHOP SOLARE FILET OF FILL PLACED. | 4. SUBHT HAVEACTURENS CERTFICATE OF COMPLIANCE FOR HEM-STRENGTH BOLTING AND VELO FULLER MATERIALS. | BUBHIT CERTIFICATION THAT THE READY HURD CONCRETE PLANT COMPLIES UTH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL READY MIX CONCRETE ASSOCIATION. | Reference drawing S4.2 |
| | | | |

Figure 13 – Quality assurance Plan as required by construction documents

SPECIAL INSPECTIONS AND TESTING

1. THE CONTRACTOR/OWNER SHALL EMPLOY AN INDEPENDENT TESTING COMPANY TO PERFORM SITE INSPECTIONS AND TESTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PLAN SHEET S62.

STRUCTURAL OBSERVATIONS

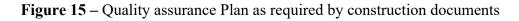
1. THE CONTRACTOR/OWNER SHALL EMFLOY A LICENSED STRUCTURAL ENGINEER OR ARCHITECT TO PERFORM PERIODIC VISUAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE STRUCTURE DURING CONSTRUCTION FOR GENERAL CONFORMANCE TO THE DESIGN DRAWINGS.

From drawing S4.1, see figure 12

Figure 14 - General Notes

| 1. | AS MASONRY CONSTRUCTION BEGINS, THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE VERIFIED TO |
|---------|--|
| | ENSURE COMPLIANCE, |
| | A. PROPORTIONS OF SITE-PREPARED MORTAR. |
| | B. CONSTRUCTION OF MORTAR JOINTS. |
| | C. LOCATION OF REINFORCEMENT AND CONNECTORS. |
| 2. | THE INSPECTION PROGRAM SHALL VERIFY: |
| | A. SIZE AND LOCATION OF STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS. |
| | B. TYPE, SIZE, AND LOCATION OF ANCHORS, INCLUDING OTHER DETAILS OF |
| | ANCHORAGE OF MASONRY TO STRUCTURAL MEMBERS, FRAMES OR OTHER |
| | CONSTRUCTION. |
| | C. SPECIFIED SIZE, GRADE, AND TYPE OF REINFORCEMENT. |
| | D. PLACEMENT OF MASONRY DURING COLD WEATHER (TEMPERATURE BELOW 40 |
| | DEGREES FAHRENHEIT) OR HOT WEATHER (TEMPERATURE ABOVE 90 DEGREES |
| | FAHRENHEIT). |
| 3. | PRIOR TO GROUTING, THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE VERIFIED TO ENSURE |
| | COMPLIANCE, |
| | A. CLEANLINESS OF GROUT SPACE. |
| | B. PLACEMENT OF REINFORCEMENT AND CONNECTORS. |
| | C. PROPORTIONS OF SITE-PREPARED GROUT. |
| | D. CONSTRUCTION OF MORTAR JOINTS. |
| 4. | COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIRED INSPECTION PROVISIONS OF THE |
| | CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS AND THE APPROVED SUBMITTALS SHALL BE |
| | VERIFIED. |
| SPECIAL | L INSPECTION SHALL PERFORM CONTINUOUS INSPECTIONS TO VERIFY |
| THE FOI | LOWING: |
| 1. | GROUT PLACEMENT SHALL BE VERIFIED TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH |
| | CODE AND CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT PROVISIONS. |
| 2. | PREPARATION OF ANY REQUIRED GROUT SPECIMENS, AND/OR PRISMS |
| | SHALL BE OBSERVED. |

From drawing S4.2, see figure 13



Periodic inspections to be performed by the inspector included the following items which were to be verified to ensure compliance.

- Location of reinforcement and connection
- Size, grade and type of reinforcement
- Placement of reinforcement and connections

The inspector was required to keep records of all inspections, including test results, and was required to furnish reports to the Building Official and to the design professionals.

Based on the above requirements, the owner retained Beaver Engineering, Inc. (Beaver) to perform testing and inspection of structural components during construction of the project but with a somewhat reduced scope of work. During an interview with OSHA personnel, Beaver acknowledged that verification of rebars regarding their size and location was part of their responsibilities as reflected in Beaver's inspection reports. The signed contract between the owner and Beaver contained the following scope of work.

- Sample and test proposed soil or rock to be used as controlled fill.
- Observe proof rolling of exposed subgrade and recommend acceptance or further undercutting.
- Test and observe foundation bearing capacity.
- Perform QA/QC concrete tests according to project specifications.
- Perform QA/QC masonry tests according to project specifications.
- Report all test results to interested parties.

The inspector visited the site prior to the placement of concrete. The Code Inspector from the City of Hendersonville, TN visited the site only infrequently during construction.

<u>Collapse</u>

On April 18, 2013 at approximately 9:45 A.M. under a west wind with gusts of 33 mph, the east wall collapsed outwards towards the east. The remaining three walls at the perimeter of the building did not collapse. At the time of the east wall collapse, three employees were installing a backflow preventer in a trench that ran parallel to the east wall (see Figure 6). One of those employees was killed and another employee in the trench was injured when the wall fell outwards. Also, an employee on a ladder caulking the masonry control joints on the east wall (near the middle of the wall at the 2nd control joint, see Figure 6) was killed when the wall fell over him. During the review of the collapsed east wall photos (see Figure 16 to 21), the following items were noticed.

• Three interior braces and one exterior brace on the east wall fell along with the wall.

- The base of the entire east wall overturned outward and was completely separated from the top of the footing with no bent rebar dowels either coming out from the footing or from the wall.
- Some of the wall dowels from the footing to the wall were observed to have fractured at the base of the wall.
- Parts of the masonry blocks were disintegrated and turned into rubble.
- At certain areas of the fallen wall, cracks were visible.
- Parts of the bond beams were completely disintegrated and rebars from the bond beams were exposed, visible and were bent.
- At certain locations, the marks of the fractured rebars were visible either at the center of the CMU wall or at the edge of the CMU wall.

Inspection

The structural testing and inspection was performed by Beaver's representative. Beaver made observations of the structural components on March 18, 19, 20, and 21, 2013 and prepared a summary report for the week ending March 23, 2013. The inspection report for March 19, 2013 stated "*I was on site to observe reinforcing steel and concrete placement for the east, west, and south exterior wall footings and the entrance canopy pier footings. I observed reinforcing steel construction noting bar placement, bar sizes, proper ties, and required clearances. The reinforcing steel appeared to meet project specifications.*"

The above statement indicated that the contractor had placed wall dowels at the required locations (i.e., at the center of the CMU wall) but that is not supported by the photographs taken after the incident, and in statements made by the masonry contractor. When the masonry contractor began to build the wall, he noticed that the wall dowels (rebars) of the east wall at many locations (at north and south of the 6'-0" wide door opening) were offset from the correct location. He notified the general contractor of the misplacement of the dowels. Rather than stopping the work and getting guidance from the structural engineer of record, the general contractor advised the masonry contractor to bend the rebars and maneuver them in the block cells. Since the rebars were bent and placed near the inside edge of the CMU wall rather than being at the center of the CMU wall, rebars were not effective in resisting lateral loads arising out of the westerly wind. If the general contractor or inspector had

promptly reported the misplacement of the rebars to the structural engineer of record, the structural engineer would have recommended corrective measures and the incident could have been prevented. One of the corrective measures was to drill new holes for the rebars in the footing at the center of the masonry wall and epoxy grout to meet the design intent.



Figure 16 - Collapsed wall



Figure 17 - Collapsed wall



Figure 18 - Collapsed wall



Figure 19 - Collapsed wall





Figure 20 - Collapsed wall Structural Analysis and Discussion

Figure 21 - Collapsed wall

The purpose of the structural analysis was to:

- 1. determine whether the as-built masonry wall was adequate to resist the wind speed of 33 mph at the time of the collapse.
- 2. determine whether the temporary bracings in the manner they were installed could have supported the wall against wind loads imposed upon it at the time of the collapse.
- 3. determine whether the installation of the temporary bracings was properly done in accord with the applicable industry standards.

The following documents were reviewed.

- 1. HMHA architectural drawings dated November 1, 2012.
- 2. EMC structural drawings dated August 14, 2012.
- Information including photographs related to the CMU wall received from the Division of Occupational Safety and Health of the State of Tennessee.

The structural analysis was limited to the collapsed east wall. The following assumptions were made for the analysis.

- 1. The density of the 8" thick hollow CMU wall was considered to be 101 pounds per cubic foot based on the contractor's average testing results of the blocks.
- 2. The height of the CMU wall was considered to be 24'-0" from the top of the wall footing.

- 3. The CMU wall was reinforced with # 5 at 40" on center and was considered grouted where rebar occurred.
- 4. The average dead weight of the CMU wall was considered as the wall was partially grouted to calculate the resisting moment under self-weight against overturning.
- Based on architectural drawings, vertical control joint at the east wall was considered at 25'-0" on center (see Figure 5).
- 6. Three interior bracings and one exterior bracing at the east wall were considered to resist the wind loads. For calculation purposes, the top of the brace was considered to be 9'-0" above the top of the footing, and the bottom of the brace was assumed to be supported at the ground level. The CMU wall's upper height of 15' above the top of the brace was considered as a free-standing wall (see Figure 8).
- The length of the brace was considered to be 16'. Bracing member used was 2x10 SYP OSHA plank.
- 8. The brace was considered to be pinned at both ends. The top of the brace was snugly fitted underneath the cleats (see Figure 9) while the bottom of the brace was held against the rebar embedded into the ground (see Figure 10). There was no positive connection between bracing members.
- 9. According to the Hendersonville Fire Department, the west wind speed including gust was considered to be 33 mph at the time of the incident.
- 10. The bracing of the CMU wall was analyzed for lateral loads between control joints at 25 feet on center.
- 11. The axial capacity in compression of the bracing member was checked using the strength design method. Load factors or strength reduction factors were not used in deriving the failure load of the bracing in compression.
- 12. Bracings were considered ineffective in resisting the tension loads, since no positive connections were placed between the brace and the wall.

The analysis indicated that if the contractor had placed the rebar dowels correctly in the footing at the center of the CMU wall, the incident would not have occurred because the masonry had gained adequate strength in 15 days, and the grouted rebar would have provided adequate flexural strength to resist the lateral loads. A significant number of the dowel reinforcements of the east wall that fell

were misplaced to the outside edge of the masonry wall instead of being at the center of the wall. This compromised the flexural capacity of the free-standing wall under the lateral load coming from the west at the time of the incident. In addition, overturning moment due to lateral wind load was much higher than the resisting moment induced by the self-weight of the CMU wall.

The masonry contractor provided too few braces between the control joints of the 150'-long masonry wall that fell. In this project, the control joints in the masonry wall were designed and detailed as a complete separation (see Figure 5) similar to an expansion joint which necessitated a minimum of two braces for the masonry walls between the control joints (see Figure 11). Only three interior and three exterior braces for the entire wall were provided instead of the twelve specified in the industry standard, "Standard practice for Bracing Masonry Walls under construction" developed by the Council for Masonry Wall Bracing. Two exterior braces of the east wall were removed a few days prior to the collapse. All required braces should have been left in place until permanent supporting elements were constructed, e.g., the roof deck and its attachments to the bond beam at the top of the wall. If the masonry contractor had provided an adequate number of braces as per the industry standard, this incident could have been avoided.

Even the few braces that were provided did not meet the industry standards because they were not anchored to the wall either by bolts or screws. They were susceptible to sliding and falling off the walls. The wall could maintain its capability to prevent overturning either by the presence of an adequate number of braces properly fastened to the wall or by the internal strength derived from the flexural capacity due to rebars. In this case, neither was provided.

It is interesting to note that the west wall, opposite to the one that failed, did not collapse. The west wall had three interior braces to resist the west wind. In addition, the west wall was laterally restrained by the intersecting walls at the north and the south ends. We also believe that the dowels for the west wall were not misplaced and had developed adequate flexural strength as sufficient time of three weeks had elapsed for the grout to gain strength. In contrast, the east wall had only one exterior brace, no intersecting walls at the ends, and a significant number of misplaced dowels which were ineffective in resisting flexural bending under the west wind.

Conclusion

Based upon the above, we conclude that:

- 1. The masonry contractor provided too few braces between the control joints of the 150'-long masonry wall that fell. Only three interior and three exterior braces for the entire wall were provided instead of the twelve specified in the industry standards. Two exterior braces were prematurely removed a few days before the incident. All required braces should have been left in place until permanent supporting elements were constructed, e.g., roof deck and its attachments to the bond beams at the top of the wall. If the masonry contractor had provided an adequate number of braces as per the industry standard, this incident could have been avoided.
- 2. The inspector retained by the owner performed poorly by stating in his inspection report for the week ending March 23, 2013 that the *"reinforcing steel appeared to meet the project specifications"*. In fact, a significant number of the dowel reinforcements of the east wall that fell were misplaced to the outside edge of the masonry wall instead of being at the center of the wall. This compromised the flexural capacity of the free-standing wall under the lateral load coming from the west at the time of the incident. If the inspector had promptly reported this misplacement, this incident could have been prevented despite the insufficient number of braces provided by the masonry contractor.
- 3. The general contractor, when made aware of the misplacement of the dowel bars by the masonry contractor, imprudently advised the masonry contractor to bend the bars and place them in the block cells. The general contractor should have stopped the work and asked for guidance from the engineer of record. New rebars at the center of the wall could have been drilled and epoxy grouted to meet the intent of the design. Bending the bars and placing them in the wall cells did little to improve the flexural capacity of the wall when the wind came from the west. It would have helped if the wind came from the east.
- 4. This wall collapse was waiting to happen since the free-standing masonry wall approximately 24' high was anchored to the footing at the edge of the wall instead of at the center of the wall, and due to the solitary exterior bracing leaning against the wall without any positive connection. The masonry at the time of the incident was approximately 20 days old and

should have been able to resist a wind speed of 33 mph if the wall was dowelled at its center into the footing as called for in the structural drawings.

- 5. The few braces that were provided did not meet the industry standards because they were not anchored to the wall either by bolts or screws. The braces were susceptible to sliding and falling off the wall.
- 6. The contractor violated OSHA standard 1926.706(b) which states that "all masonry walls over eight feet in height shall be adequately braced to prevent overturning and to prevent collapse unless the wall is adequately supported so that it will not overturn or collapse. The bracing shall remain in place until permanent supporting elements of the structure are in place."