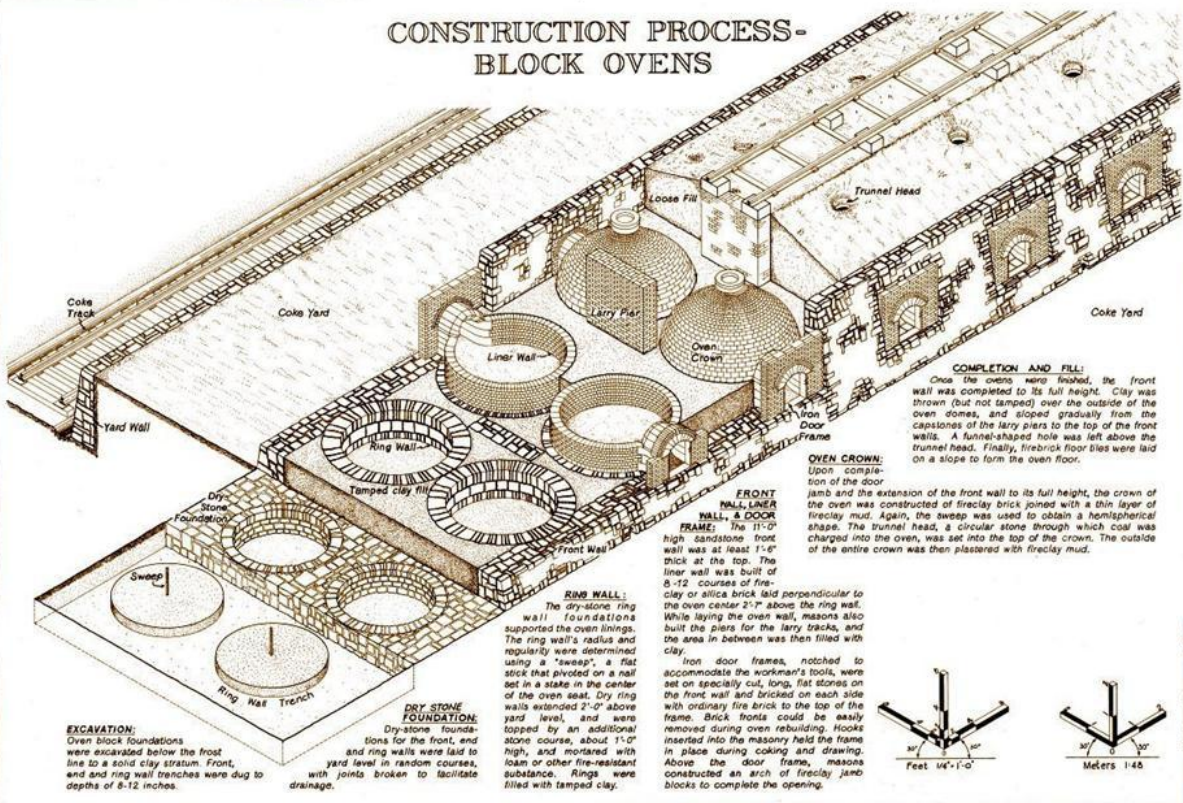
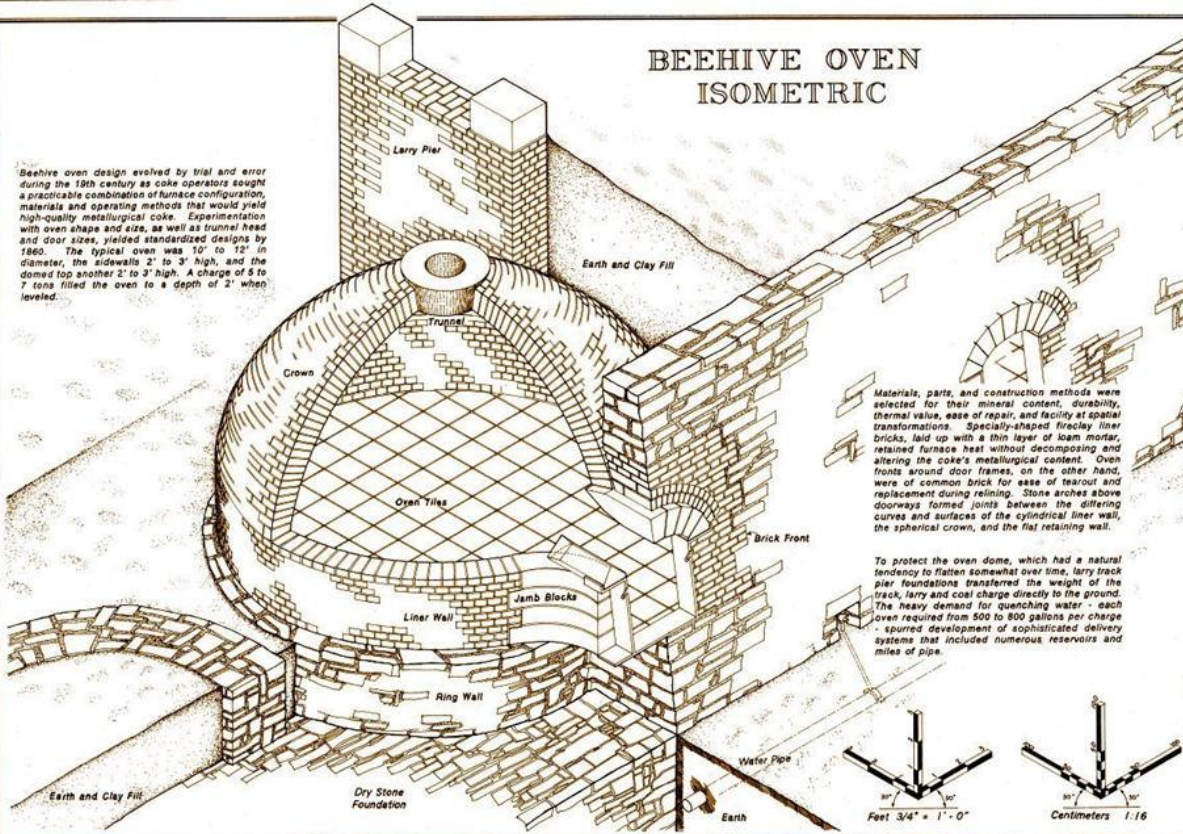


CONSTRUCTION PROCESS - BLOCK OVENS



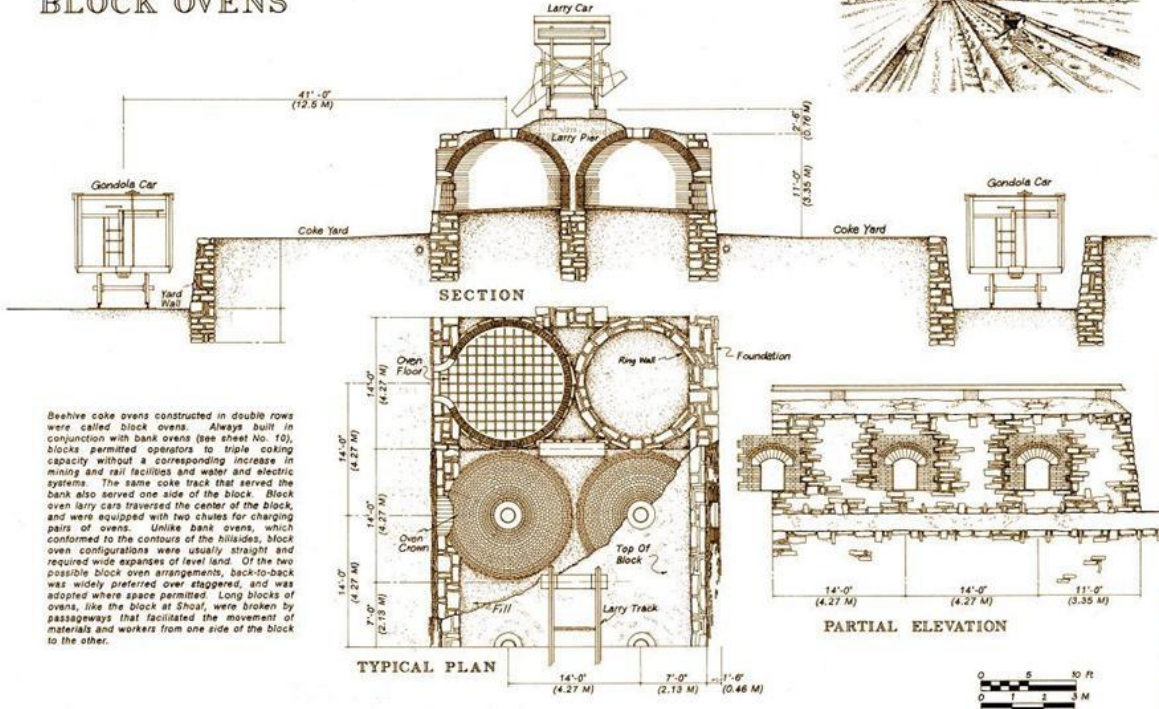
CONNELLSVILLE COAL & COKE REGION
 FALETTE B. WESTPHAL AND COMPANY
 CONNELLSVILLE, PA.
 1933
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BEEHIVE OVEN ISOMETRIC



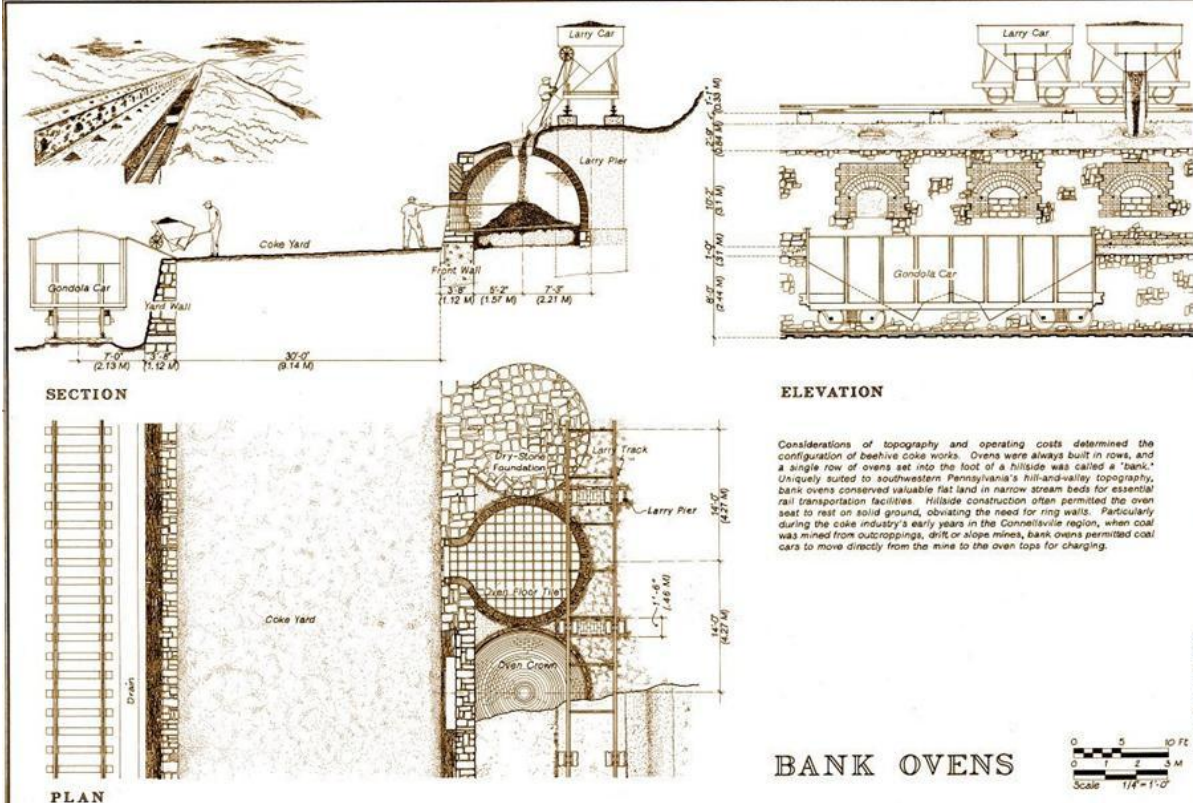
CONNELLSVILLE COAL & COKE REGION
 FALETTE B. WESTPHAL AND COMPANY
 CONNELLSVILLE, PA.
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BLOCK OVENS



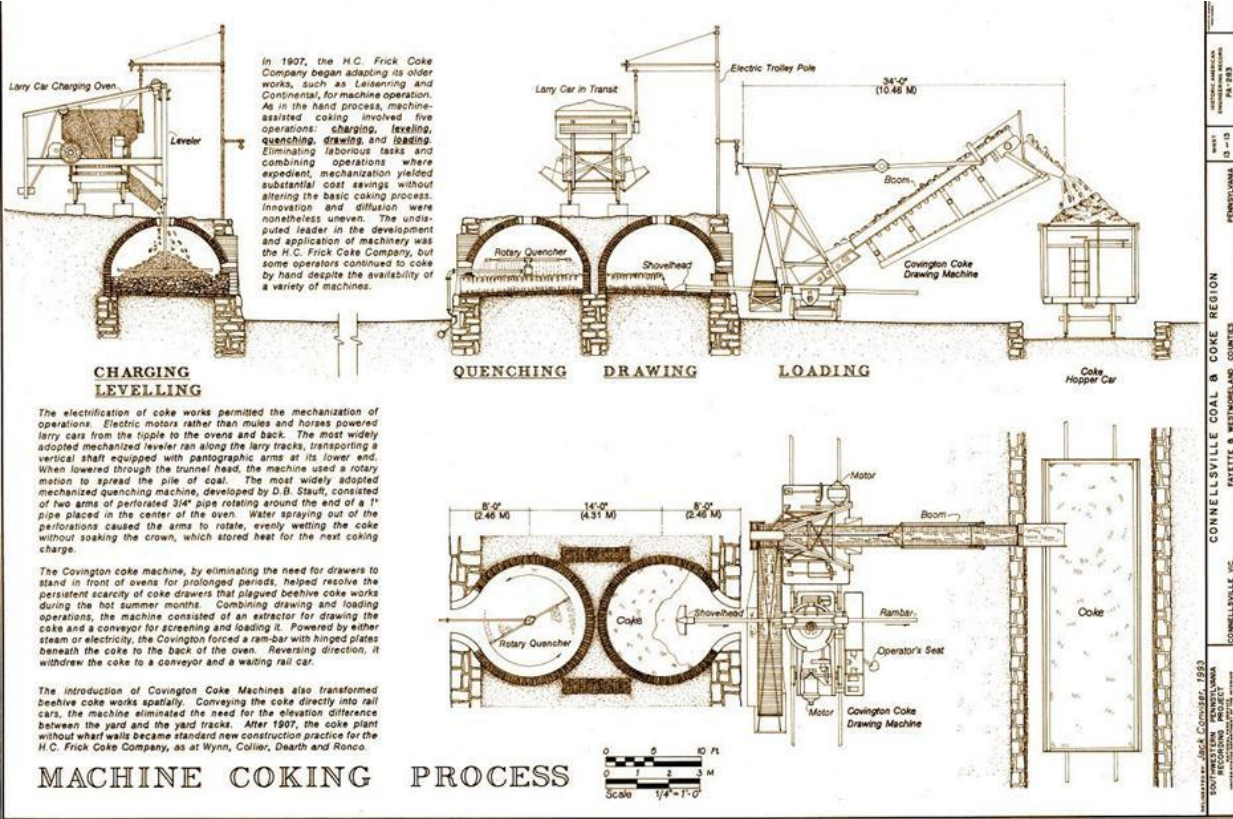
Beehive coke ovens constructed in double rows were called block ovens. Always built in conjunction with bank ovens (see sheet No. 10), blocks permitted operators to triple coking capacity without a corresponding increase in mining and rail facilities and water and electric systems. The same coke track that served the bank also served one side of the block. Block oven larry cars traversed the center of the block, and were equipped with two chutes for charging pairs of ovens. Unlike bank ovens, which conformed to the contours of the hillside, block oven configurations were usually straight and required wide expanses of level land. Of the two possible block oven arrangements, back-to-back was widely preferred over staggered, and was adopted where space permitted. Long blocks of ovens, like the block at Shofar, were broken by passageways that facilitated the movement of materials and workers from one side of the block to the other.

CONNELLSVILLE COAL & COKE REGION
 PARTITE & WESTPHALIA COUNTIES
 CONNELLSVILLE, IND.
 SHEET NO. 10-13
 SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



Considerations of topography and operating costs determined the configuration of beehive coke works. Ovens were always built in rows, and a single row of ovens set into the foot of a hillside was called a 'bank.' Uniquely suited to southwestern Pennsylvania's hill-and-valley topography, bank ovens conserved valuable flat land in narrow stream beds for essential rail transportation facilities. Hillside construction often permitted the oven seat to rest on solid ground, obviating the need for ring walls. Particularly during the coke industry's early years in the Connelsville region, when coal was mined from outcroppings, drift or slope mines, bank ovens permitted coal cars to move directly from the mine to the oven tops for charging.

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MACHINE COKING PROCESS

CONNELLSVILLE COAL & COKE REGION
 PATETTE & METROPOLITAN COUNTIES
 CONNELLSVILLE, OHIO
 PROJECT RECORDING
 JACK CRUMBER, 1993
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY JACK CRUMBER, 1993
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