

TRANSFER (II), 1888

The first steel hull among the Great Lakes car ferries

Phase 4 of the Build: The Main Deck Housing and outer railing- walkway.

Here is the “surround” that will support the walkway and outer railing.

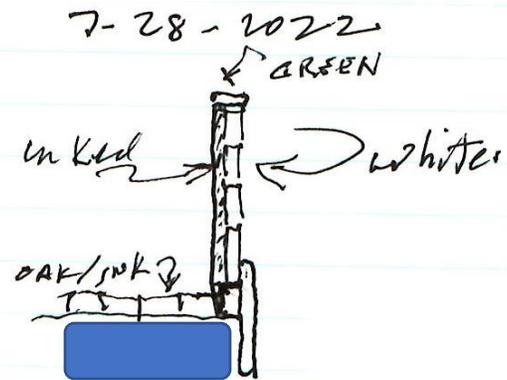


No. 4: 1

to start the foundation floors of the deck housing, leaving the iron floors ready for the Boiler stacks and fore and aft companion ways to their respective engine rooms.

NOTE: The floor planking extends to the outside edge of the framing. The walkway planks sit atop them. These planks are 1/16" square and are set in place after soaking in cold water for about one hour. The steel outer rail will be painted iron after soaking (1/32" basswood). It extends from the bottom of the outrigger to 3/16" above the hull floor. The cloth pins were cut flat on the ends.

My drawing above shows the need for 4 1/16" sq. planks and 1 3/32" x 1/16" plank. This plank will seat the railing structure, not only to the walkway, but to the iron rail.



I call it the “surround” but is in reality the walkway planking in the effortless way.

Above, the **blue** represents the end of the outrigger.

No. 4: 1, At this point the Rail Road bed was finished. From the plans, the planking area (Basswood) from the R.R. bed has been finished creating the floor plan ready

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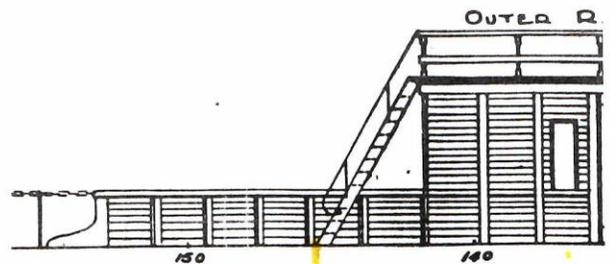
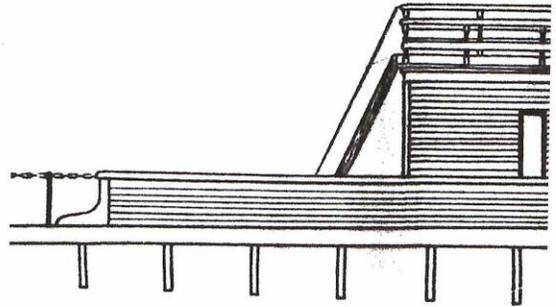
The walkway/railing was constructed in small sections of 10" to 12" in length.

Soak the planking.

Remove the planks and place the 3/32 and 1/16 sq. planks in place with the cloth pins, adding a scrap piece of railing to help with secure drying in place.

When dry, repeat the procedure by gluing in place to the outriggers. The steel rail will be attached after all the surrounding walkway planking is completed.

NOTE: The area crossing the run across of the **WHEEL BOX** is not done until the sternwheels are completed and in place.



No. 4: 2 The stanchions and stanchion spacing come next, followed the the outer planking (from the bottom up, one at a time, and then the cap).



No. 4: 3 The caps were two 1/16" square planks to accommodate the curves. The walkway planking in place running across the Wheel Box is fitted and lifted off and set aside until the completion of the Box.

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I painted and weathered the walkway/railings once they were all set in place. The walkway planking was stained with Minwax Golden Oak stain. The inner planking/stanchions were a wash of water and india ink which, when brushed on, just happened to mix with the stain. I liked it so I left it as is. The out planking got some \$ 99-cent Flat White acrylic. To give a little “aging” and character, I gave it a small amount of a light gray brushing off. The cap rails were Floquel light green.

The Deck Housing:

I show you this picture again because I started up the deck housing off the boat while my glue dried with the walkway/railing.

1. The foundation base for each deck house was 3/32 basswood. Using the building’s plan to transfer the seating: The inner wall location was scribed onto the bases. Because the inside walls would support the upper deck planking, I went with 3/32” basswood.
2. The outer walls were made in a similar manner to take off the location of windows and doors to assure they were properly laid out. The side walls were 1/16” basswood scribed sheets.
3. Cut out the windows and the doors, and I used an assortment of X-Acto blades. I have wooden handles that I use to “free” the corners first. The sills are then made of small strips of basswood.
4. The four walls were then assembled (after making sure everything matched up with what was on the plan.)



No. 4: 4 The open windows completed. The sidewalls will be cut to length.

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No. 4: 5

The window trim is outside, but the window pane “crosses” are fine basswood trim applied to the inside. A strip of transparent plastic “glass” will be applied after the painting of the housing,

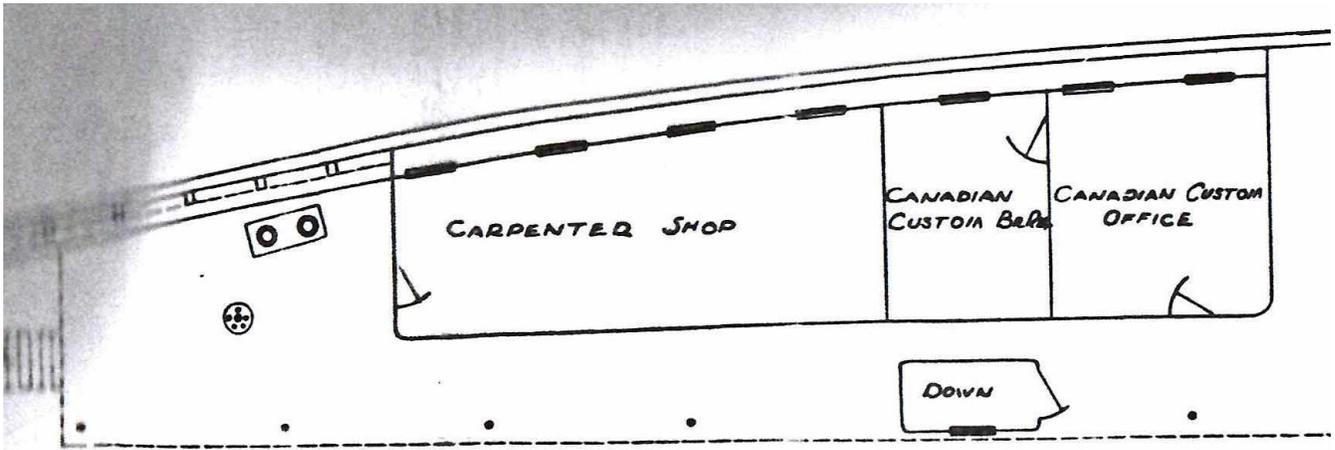


No. 4: 6 The doors were painted with a light gray acrylic and set in various positions. The swing of the doors is to the inside.

You can see the identification of who is the tenant and what do they do. They are not shown on the plans. But I took the liberty to run them on white paper through my printer and create a paper sign.

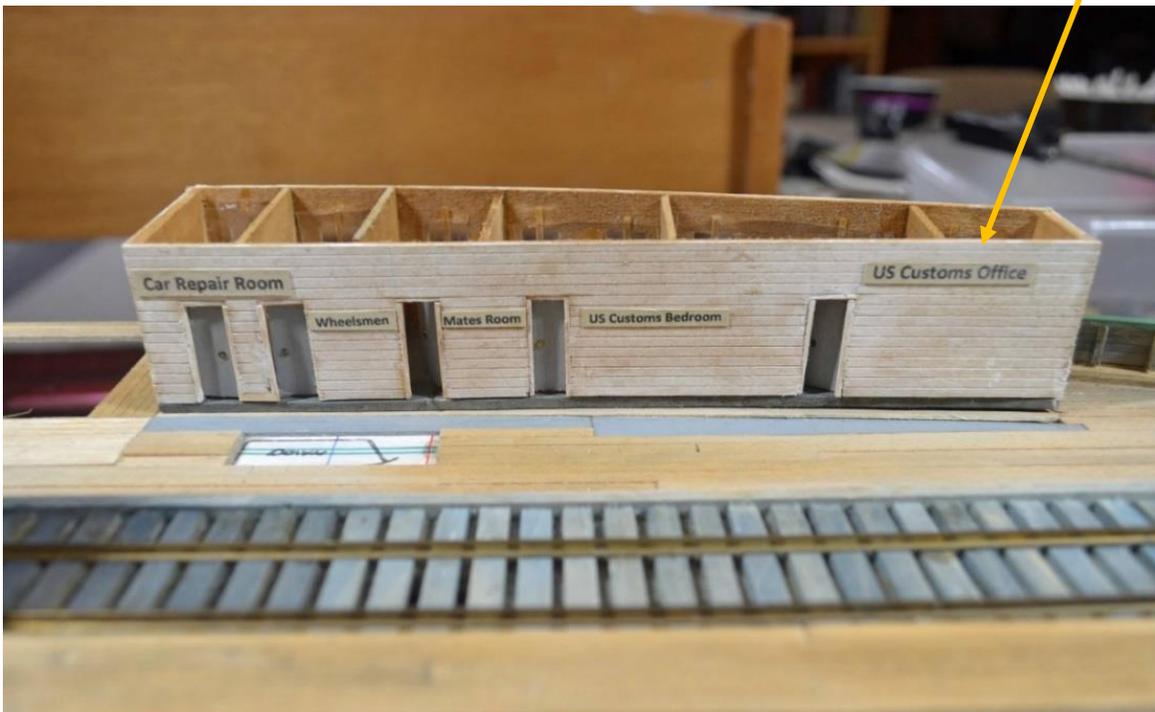
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In Addition to: Carpenter Shop, Canadian Custom Bed Room, and Canadian Custom Office:

The Other Tenants: Chief Engineer (2), Chief Engineer's Office, Chief Engineer's Bedroom, Chief Engineer's Closet, Captain's Bedroom, Captain's Closet, Captain's Office, Clerk's Office, Clerk's Store Room, Car Repair Room, Wheelmen, Mates Room, US Customs Bedroom, **US Customs Office**, Wheel Box (2), Gear House, Water Closets



No. 4: 7 Here is a completed deck house. The weathering is done using gray and brown chalk spread over the white paint. I used small black head pins to create the door knobs.

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Next - Phase 5 The Wheel House Assembly:

This is the prelude to the upper deck planking.

Bill Strachan, CMMS Beakhead: The Build of the Transfer II, 1888, December 31, 2022