Chapter 24: Residential Overhead Door Openings

Most Common Mistakes:

1. Column(s) next to door turned wrong direction.
2. Header placed at incorrect height.
3. Wall not square prior to framing opening.
4. Failure to install dog ears.

Overhead door columns: Usually 4x6 pressure treated, if required, will typically be oriented 6" toward the wind, unless wall columns are 6x6 or larger. Correct orientation will be shown on building plans. Space *between* columns, for residential doors, will be approximately door width plus 1".

As overhead door posts have been set from dimensions called out for on building plans, all which is required is to create a "picture frame" to place overhead door behind.

Vertical jambs will be cut and installed first. If a choice is available, use straightest possible boards for these.

If posts on each side of overhead door opening are 6x4 (with 6-inch face towards wind) jambs will be 2x6 (with sidings other than steel or vinyl 2x8).

If posts on each side of door opening are 4x6 (with 4-inch face towards wind), 6x6 or 3-ply 2x6 glu-laminated, jambs will be 2x8 (with sidings other than steel or vinyl 2x10).

If posts on each side of door opening are 4x8, 6x8 or 3-ply 2x8 glu-laminated, jambs will be 2x10 (with sidings other than steel or vinyl 2x12).

In steel sided applications, jambs maybe composed of multiple members (e.g. two 2x4 or a 2x6 plus a ripped 2x4, instead of a 2x8), as they cover with steel trim.

Cut vertical jambs to length first. They will be 1-1/2 inch less in length than overhead door vertical height (e.g. 9'10-1/2" long for a 10' tall door). When installed vertical jamb bottom edge will begin 4 inches above skirt board *bottom*.

See Figure 24-1.

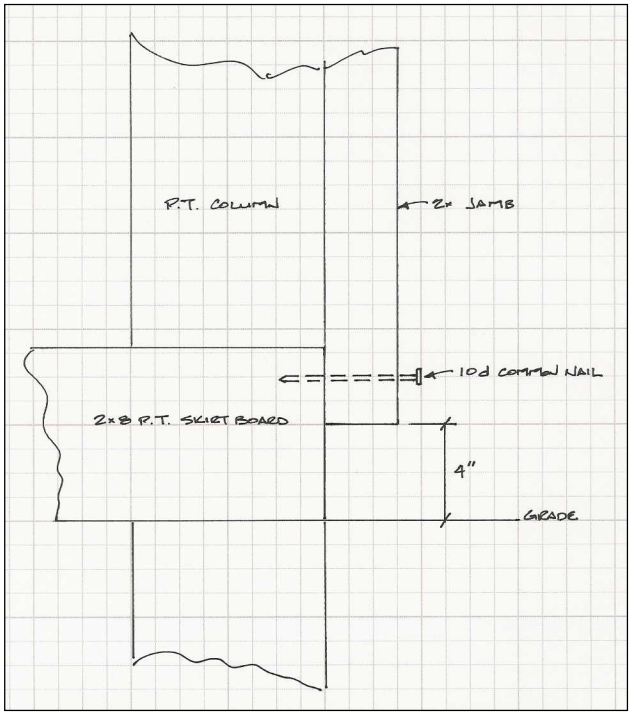

Figure 24-1

Hold vertical jamb in place with any "crown" out and vertical jamb edge top and bottom 1-1/2" outside column edge. **See Figure 24-2.**

For vinyl siding hold vertical jamb 1-15/16" outside column edge. For other (non-steel) sidings, hold inside edge of jambs flush with inside face of columns.

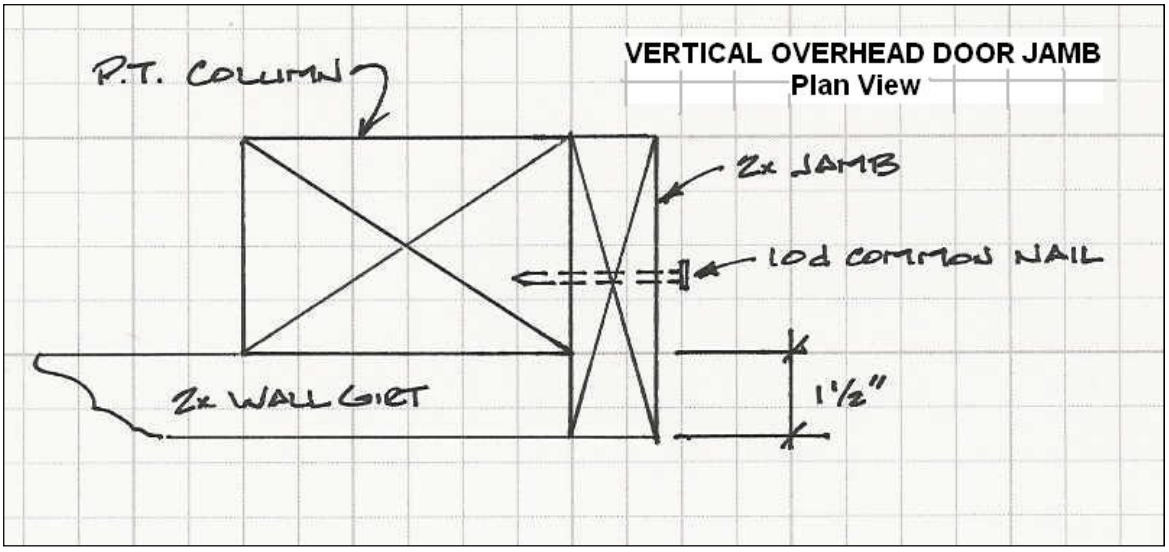

Figure 24-2

Tack into place with one 10d nail at each jamb top and bottom.

DANGER **Important:** Do **NOT** drive door jamb nails in all the way yet!

Place shims between vertical jambs and overhead door columns so jambs are plumb in both directions.

Ideally, space between vertical jambs for residential doors are approximately equal to overhead door width, less 2".

For example: For a 10' width residential door, space between jambs will be about 9'10". If this varies slightly, do not fret, doors will still seal.

OK, now nail jambs securely into place! 

Cut horizontal jamb to length: at width between jambs plus 3". Place horizontal jamb flat, on vertical jamb tops, flush with vertical jamb outside edges and with any crown out. Nail downward through horizontal jamb ends into vertical jamb top butt ends to secure in place.

Dog Ears

Dog ears are only used on residential overhead door openings. Dog ears are for appearance only and, while not recommended, may be omitted.

From lumber cutoffs, cut two 17" long "dog ears" for each overhead door opening. It is possible to get three dog ears from one board 48" in length. **See Figure 24-3.**

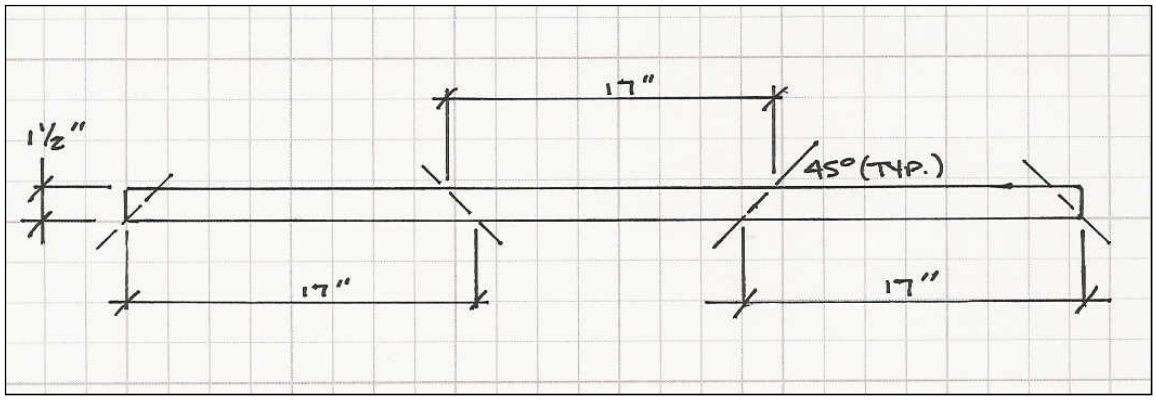

Figure 24-3

If windows are in overhead door top section, dog ears can be cut slightly shorter to prevent window trim from rubbing as door is raised and lowered.

Install dog ears in framed opening upper corners.

See Figure 24-4.

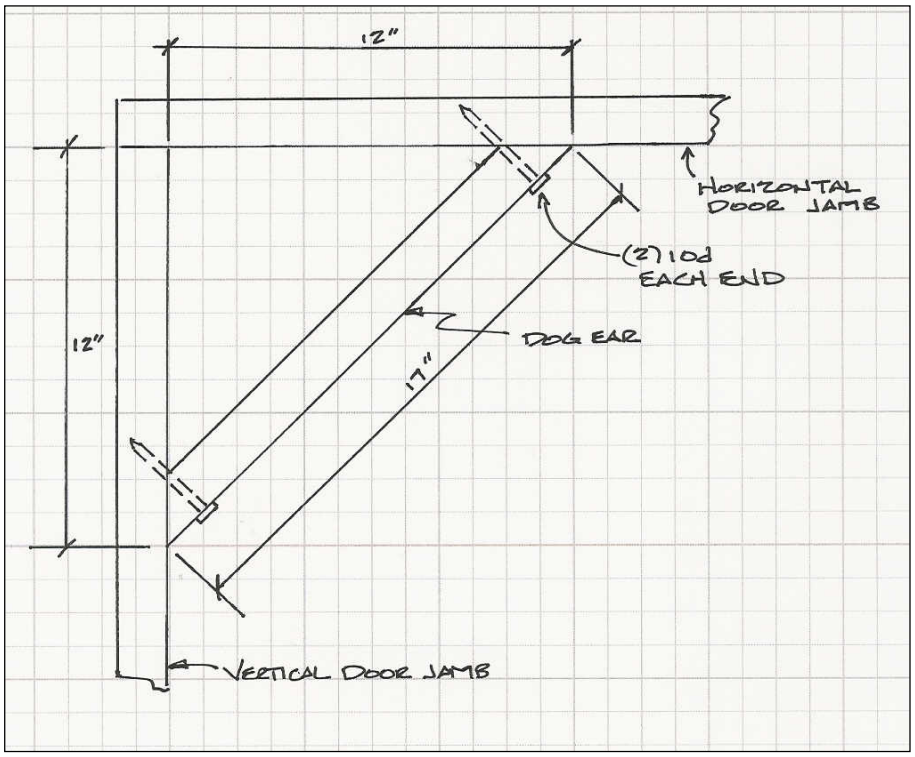

Figure 24-4

▶ Important! If dog ears are longer than 17" wall steel may not fit! ◀

Jumping way ahead, to create an awareness when steel is placed, if the steel sheet at dog ear is on an endwall, cut angle to follow roof slope on top. Hold the steel sheet in place on building. From building inside, draw a pencil line on steel panel inside (white side) follow jambs. **See Figure 24-5**. Remove the steel panel from building. Using a tin snips, cut ½" above pencil line drawn earlier. This will keep the bottom panel edge from resting in standing water in jamb trim.

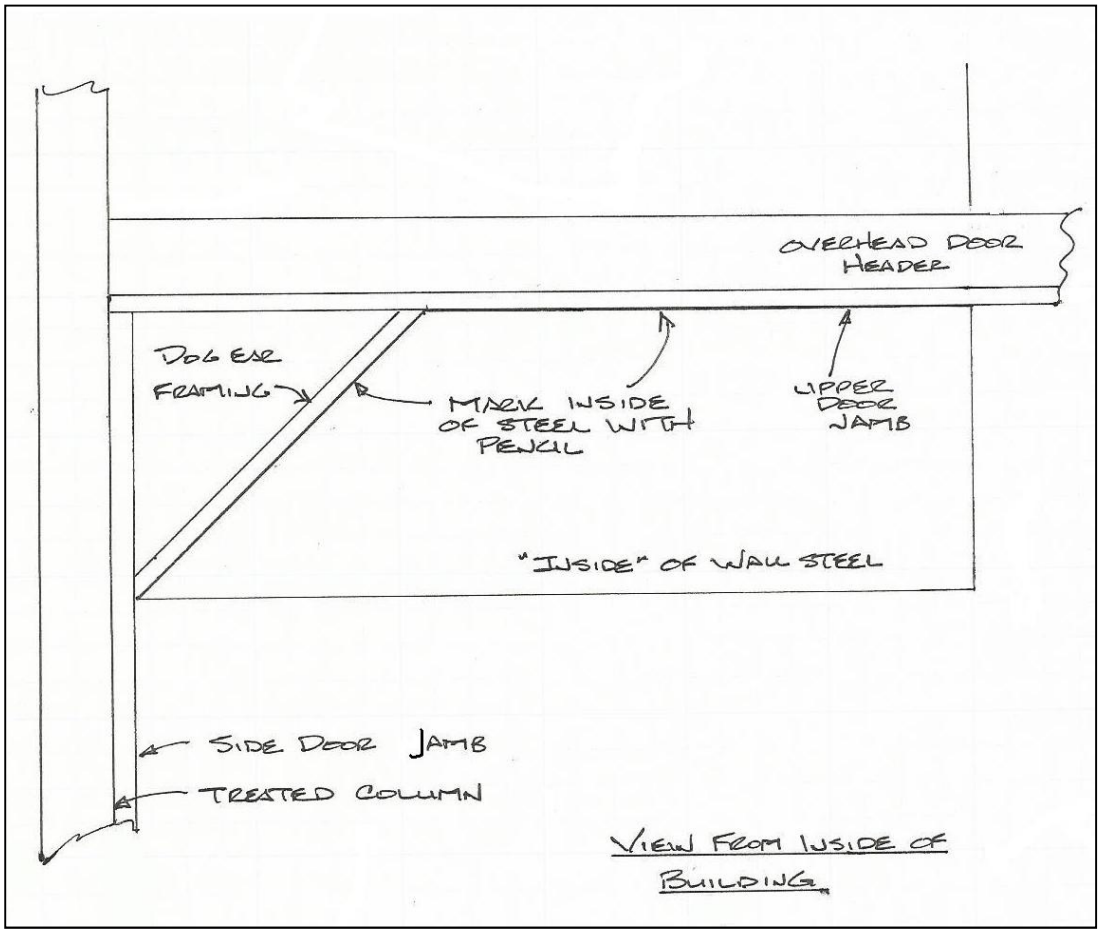

Figure 24-5

Overhead Door Header

For doors 12’ and less in width, install 2x6 overhead door header, above horizontal jamb, with “crown” up. Doors over 12’ wide, header will be 2x8. Header extends to at least column middles on each side of opening.

There is only a header on column outside faces. **See Figure 24-6.**

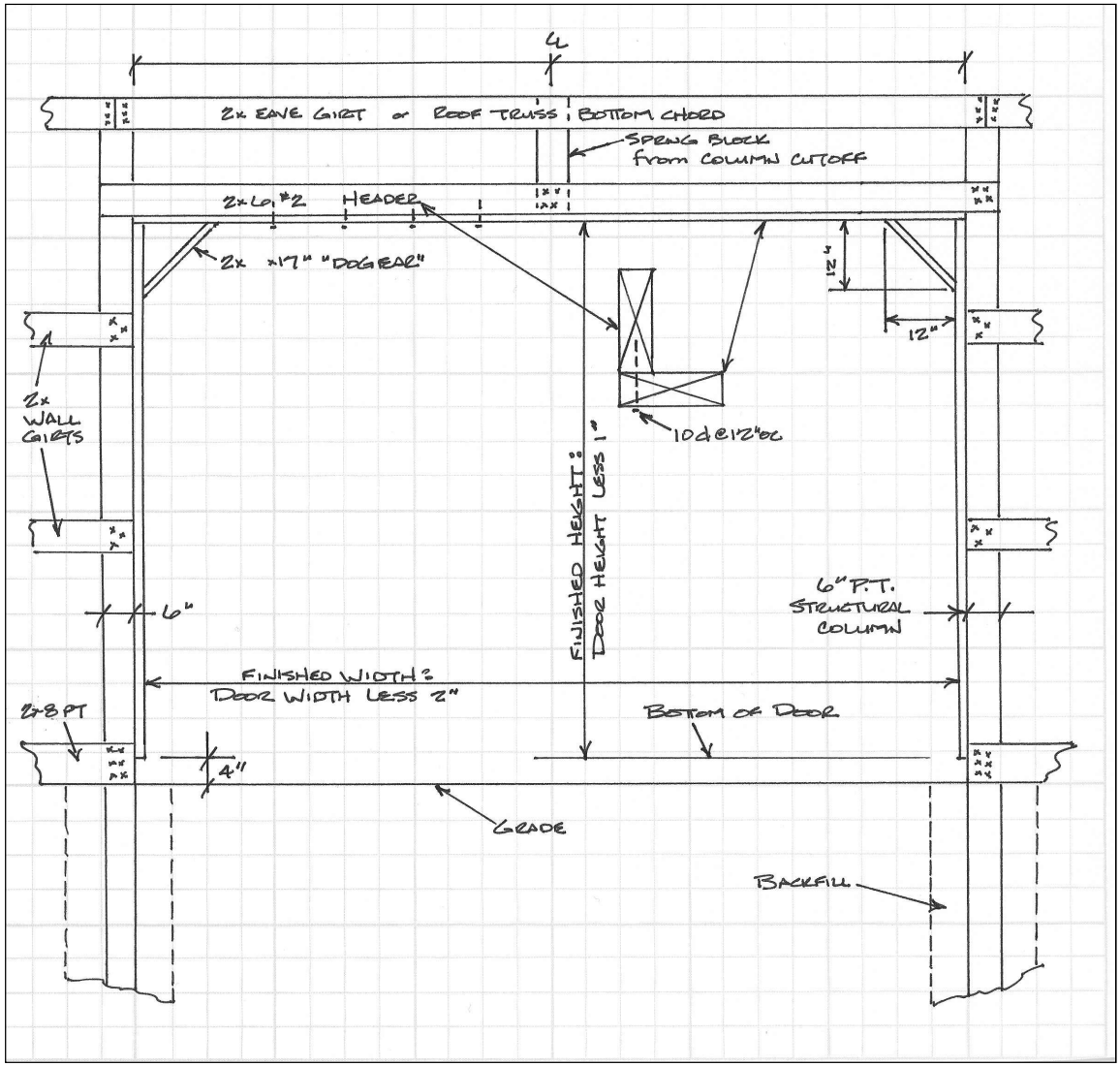

Figure 24-6

Nail upward, through horizontal overhead door jamb, into door header bottom 1-1/2" edge with 10d nails, 12" o.c.

Using a cutoff piece from a building column, install a spring block at header center on horizontal jamb top.

For later reference, during installation of overhead door vertical tracks. In cases where headroom appears "tight", up to 2" may be safely trimmed from bottom of each vertical door rail.

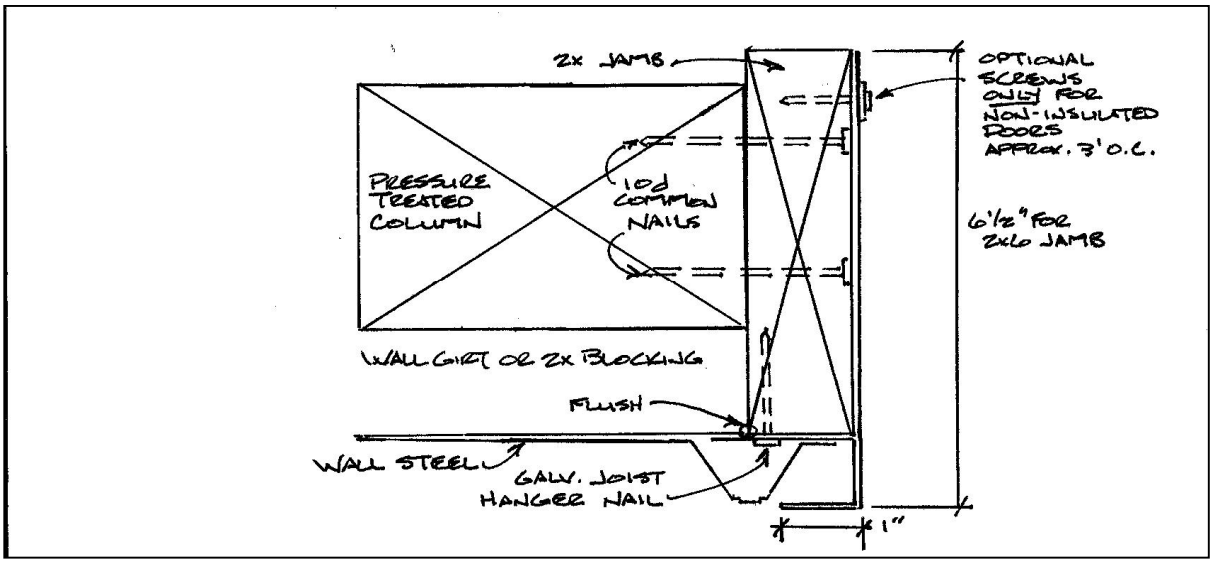

Figure 24-7 **P-JFB or Overhead Door Flashing**

ABC : SP-29
Central States : OHDJ
Fabral/McElroy: P-JFB Overhead Door Flashing
Integrity: Overhead Door (F has 2-1/2" leg against wall; ¾" face)
Union Corrugating : OVDR
(Metal Sales does not produce this trim. An alternate 2-piece trim will be provided.)

Jamb Trim for Dog Eared Overhead Door Openings

All drawings for this depict door opening **LEFT** side. Mirror image for right side. Drawings are based upon McElroy Metals' parts.

Step #1:

Square cut two P-JFB trim pieces to the measure from 1/4" above top of concrete slab to 45 degree dog leg bottom and ADD 1-3/8". See **Figure 24-8**

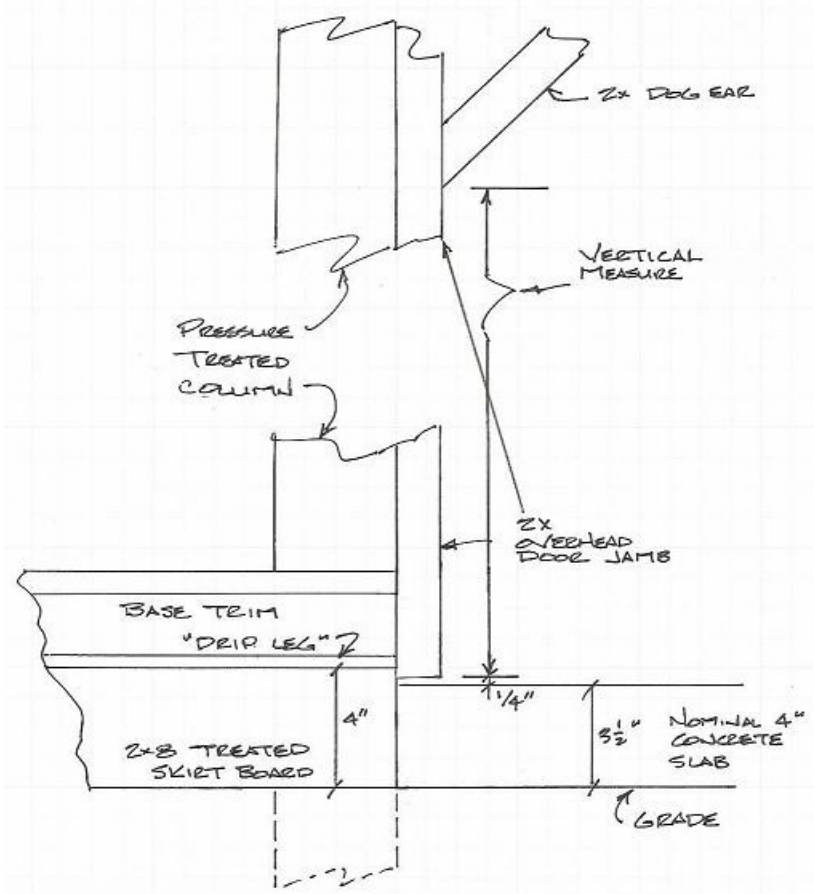

Figure 24-8

Cut top end as indicated in **Figure 24-9** and **Figure 24-10 .** This becomes Piece C.

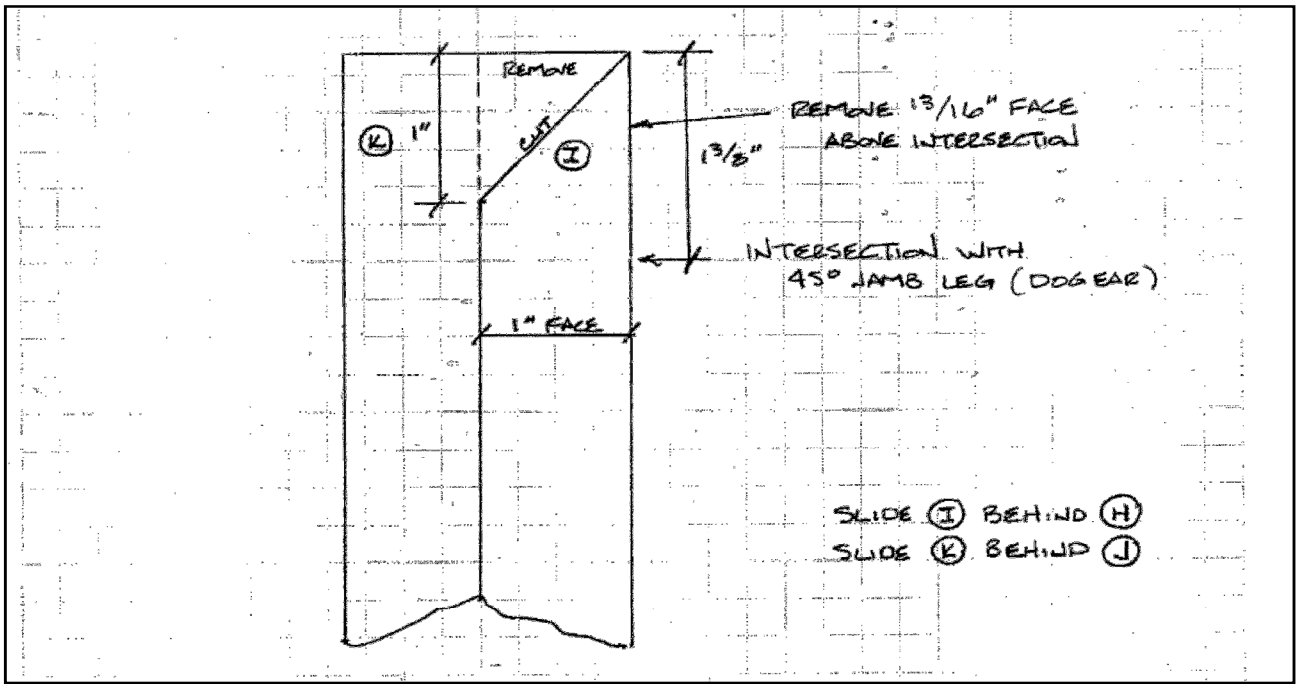

Figure 24-9

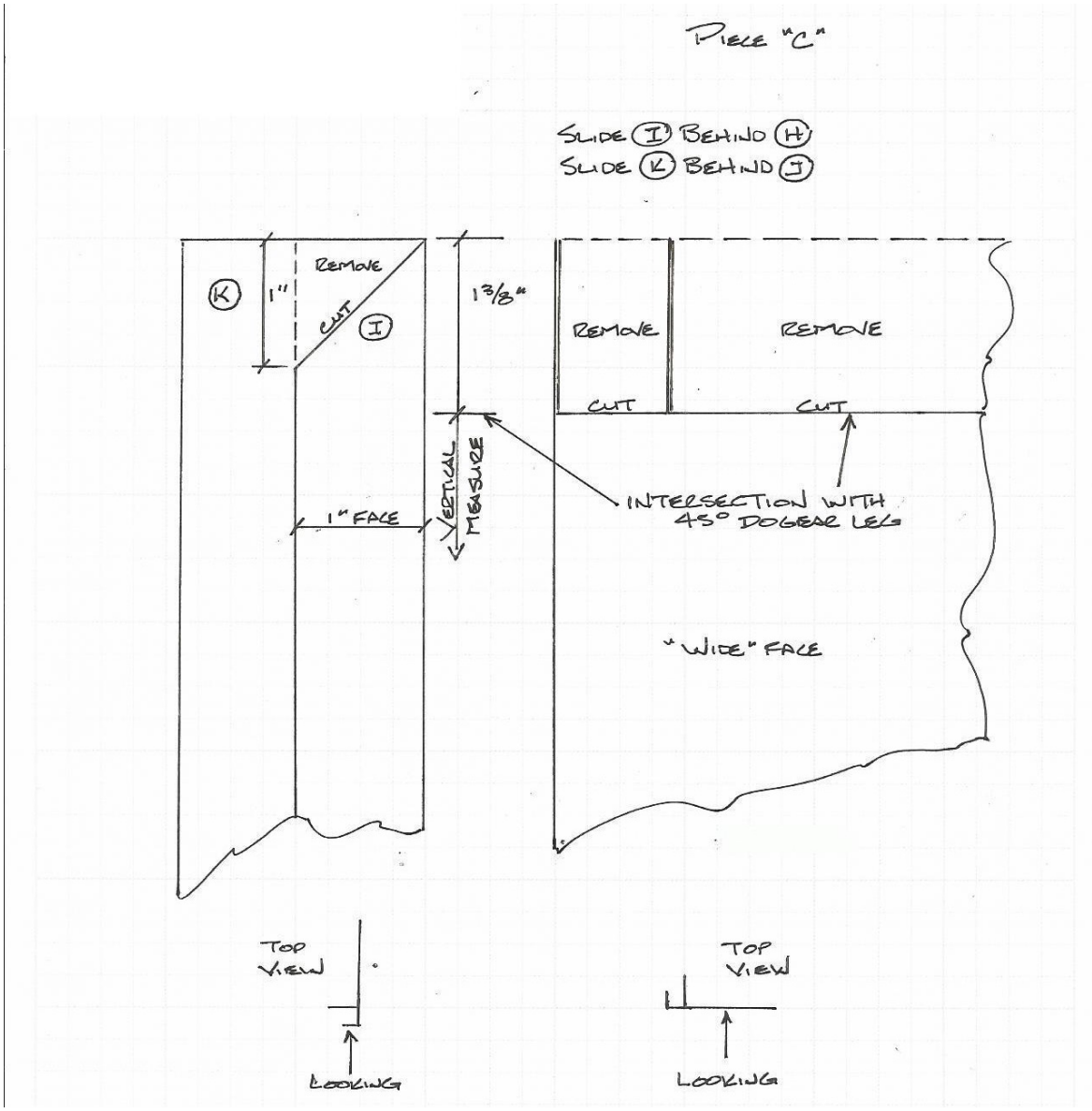

Figure 24-10

Install piece C, using joist hanger nails through the approximately 2” back face of the “J” portion into the 1-1/2” edge of the jamb. Nails should be close to each end and approximately every 2’ to 3’.

On the wide inside face of the overhead door jamb the trim will fasten when you are ready to install your overhead door weatherseal to the inside face. Nail your weatherseal on with nails every 3' on center along the entire jamb. If you do not have weatherseal for your application nail every 3' around the jamb through the steel trim.

Step #2:

Square cut two P-JFB pieces to 19-3/4".

Cut one end as shown in **Figure 24-11.**

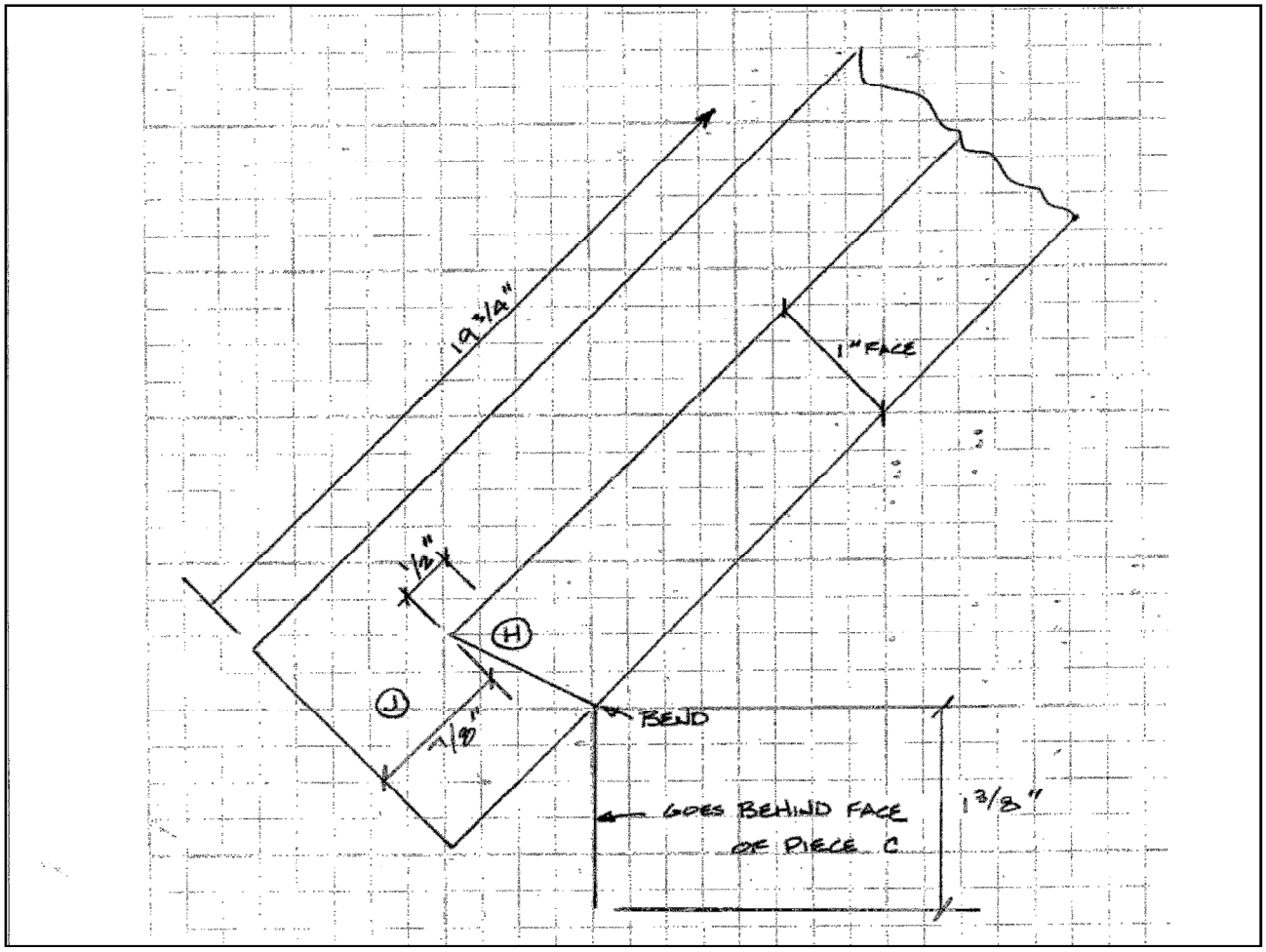

Figure 24-11

Piece B "Low End"

Cut opposite end as shown in **Figure 24-12**.

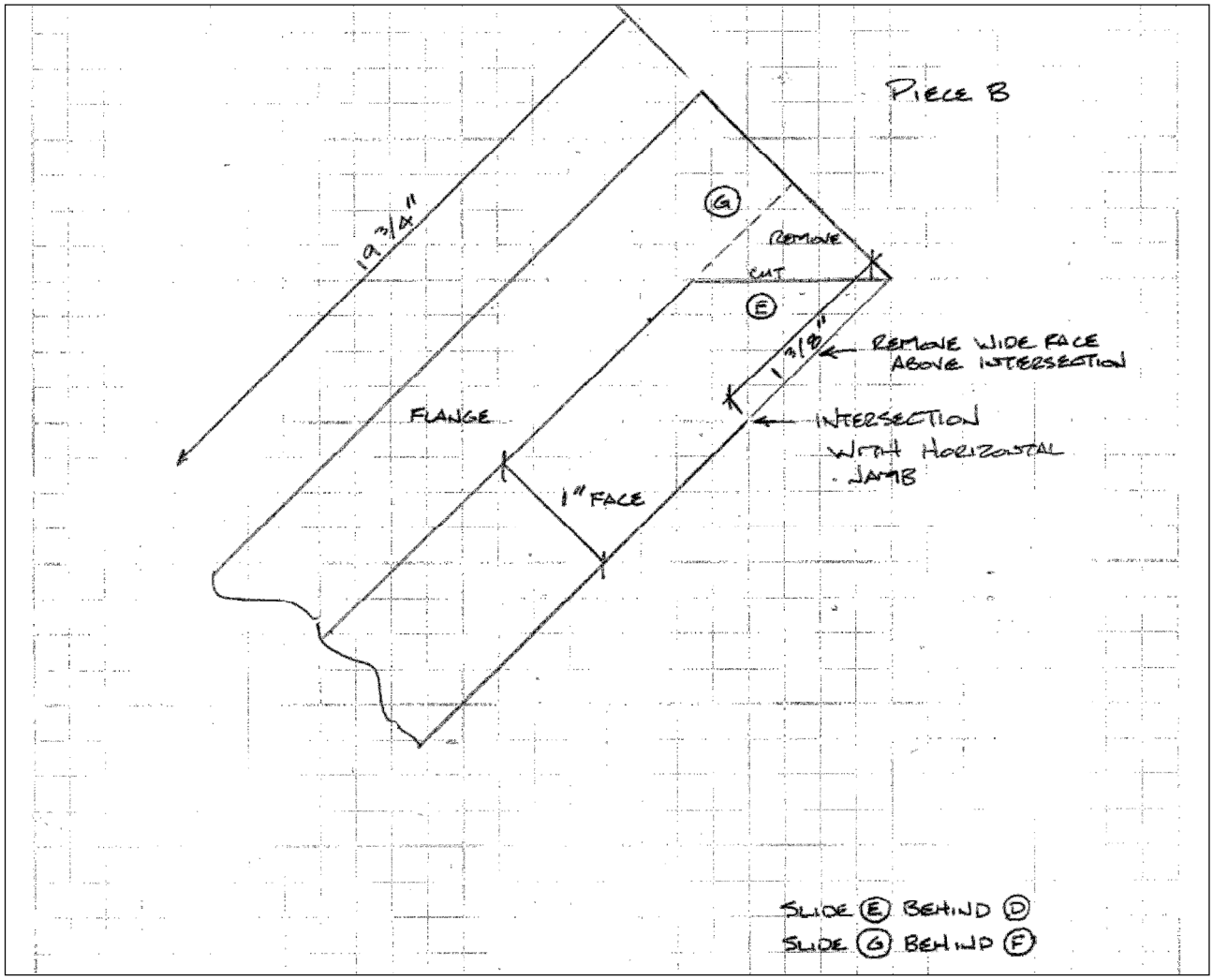

Figure 24-12
Piece B

Install Piece B

Step #3:

(Depending upon door width, this step may require 2 P-JFB pieces.)

Cut each end as shown in **Figure 24-13**.

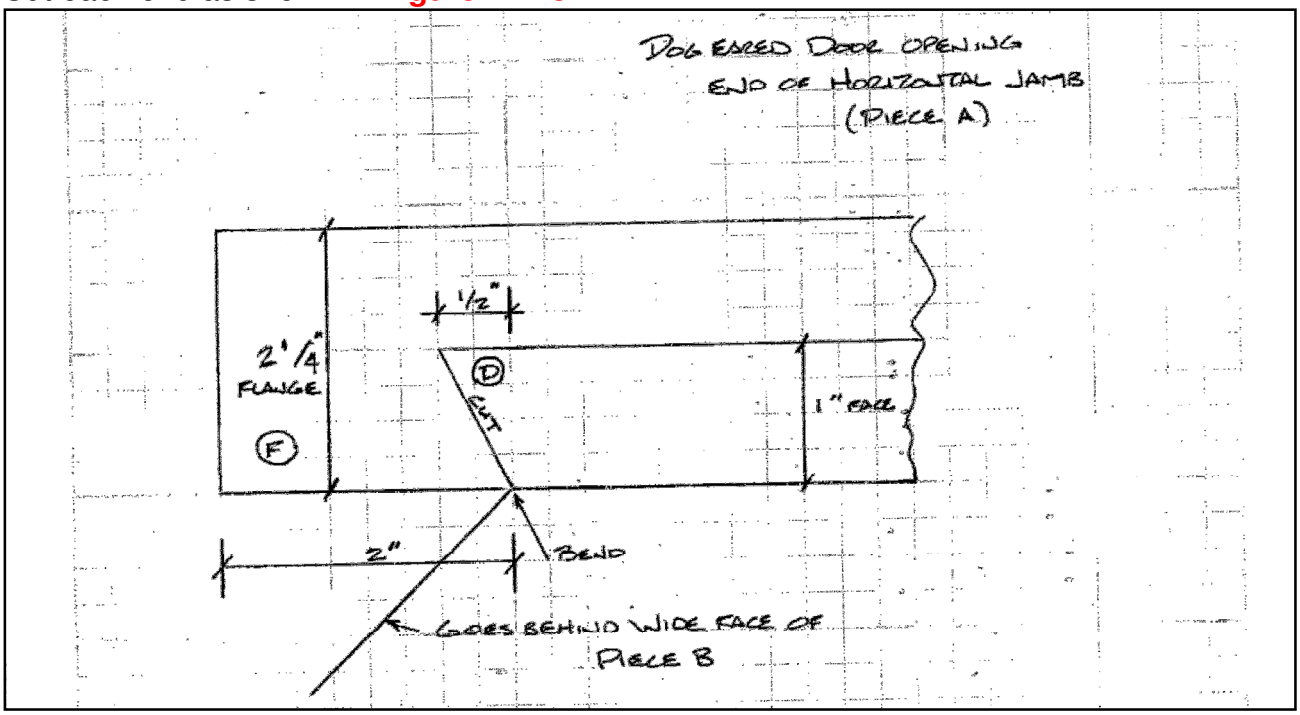

Figure 24-13