

Fire Loss Control

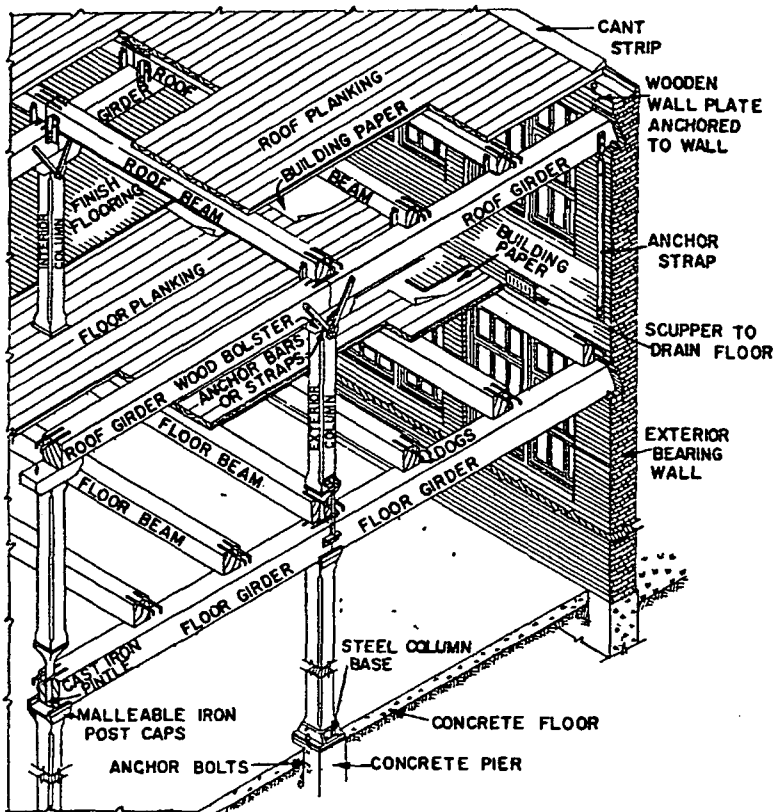


FIG 35-3 — Components of heavy timber building showing floor framing and identifying components of semimill-type framing

Courtesy National Fire Protection Association

of the wooden members slows the rate of combustion. Moreover, the char which forms on wooden surfaces serves as an insulator for the wood within.

Noncombustible construction includes all types of structures in which the structure itself (exclusive of trim, interior finish, and contents) is noncombustible but *not* fire resistant. Exposed steel beams and columns, and masonry, metal, or asbestos panel walls, are the most common forms (Fig 35-4).

Because of the tendency of steel to warp, buckle, and collapse under moderate fire exposure, noncombustible construction is relatively vulnerable to fire damage. It is, therefore, most suitable for low-hazard occu-

pancies. If quantities of combustibles are present, the structure should be protected with automatic sprinklers.

Ordinary construction consists of masonry exterior bearing walls, or bearing portions of exterior walls, that are of noncombustible construction. Interior framing, floors, and roofs are made of wood or other combustible material whose "bulk" is less than that required for heavy timber construction.

If floor and roof construction and their supports have a one-hour fire-resistance rating, and all openings through floors (including stairways) are enclosed with partitions having a one-hour fire-resistance rating, then it is known as "protected ordinary construction."