

## SECTION VII A

### AESTHETICS

Did you ever ask yourself why all gas equipment is the same color? Who picked "battleship gray" anyway?

Unless you are installing the equipment on a battleship, it just doesn't match anything.

Did you ever complete a meter installation and wish there was a way to make it less visible?

You know the utility company's specifications are drawn for ease of installation, removal, maintenance, meter reading and safety considerations. Wouldn't it be great if, with a little planning, the equipment could also be hidden from view?

The good news is, gas meters and gas regulators can easily be made less visible. More "aesthetically pleasing" installations are possible. Here are some remedies you can use.

#### **PAINTING**

Let's consider the simple gas service.

A shiny silver galvanized pipe extends up from the ground, and a battleship gray gas meter and regulator are placed at the side or directly in front of the house.

Just think how much better this installation would look if it were painted to match the color of the siding. Yes, the meter and regulator can be painted!

You may want to paint the piping and equipment before you install them, to keep the paint off the siding. Of course the dial glass of the meter should not be painted.

A simple coat of paint would allow the equipment to blend into the overall look of the house.

Painting is only one of the many ways that gas equipment can be made to look better, without spending much money.

Here are some other examples of the difference a little care and planning can make.

## **SCREENING**

Screen the equipment with shrubbery, a fence or a trellis.

Our specifications for outdoor gas meter and regulator installations are very liberal in their requirements. Meter equipment can be as low as 2' to the meter bar and 18" to the bottom of the regulator. Chose a height that can be easily screened on each house. Although for our meter installers and meter readers' sake we prefer the meter equipment at eye level, if aesthetics and/or field conditions warrant it, the lower height limit can be used.

In many cases you may have a situation where both gas and electric metering equipment are required. Yes, electric meters are also "battleship" gray". These combination installations can also be screened.

## **GROUPING**

Our requirements for spacing between gas and electric meters is 1' over, under or to the side when the installation is outdoor and it's residential. This allows you to group the meters in one location so that screening can be done easily. See our spacing requirements on page 33a.

## **ENCLOSING**

You may want to enclose the meter and regulator equipment in a meter closet or a cabinet on the side of the house. Some grouping clearance information is provided on pages 33 and 33a and there are sketches on page 40 C & D. Putting gas meters or gas equipment in an enclosure is possible as long as it's properly ventilated and the spacing requirements of the particular installation are met. See pages 32 through 34, and be sure to consult us before installing an enclosure.

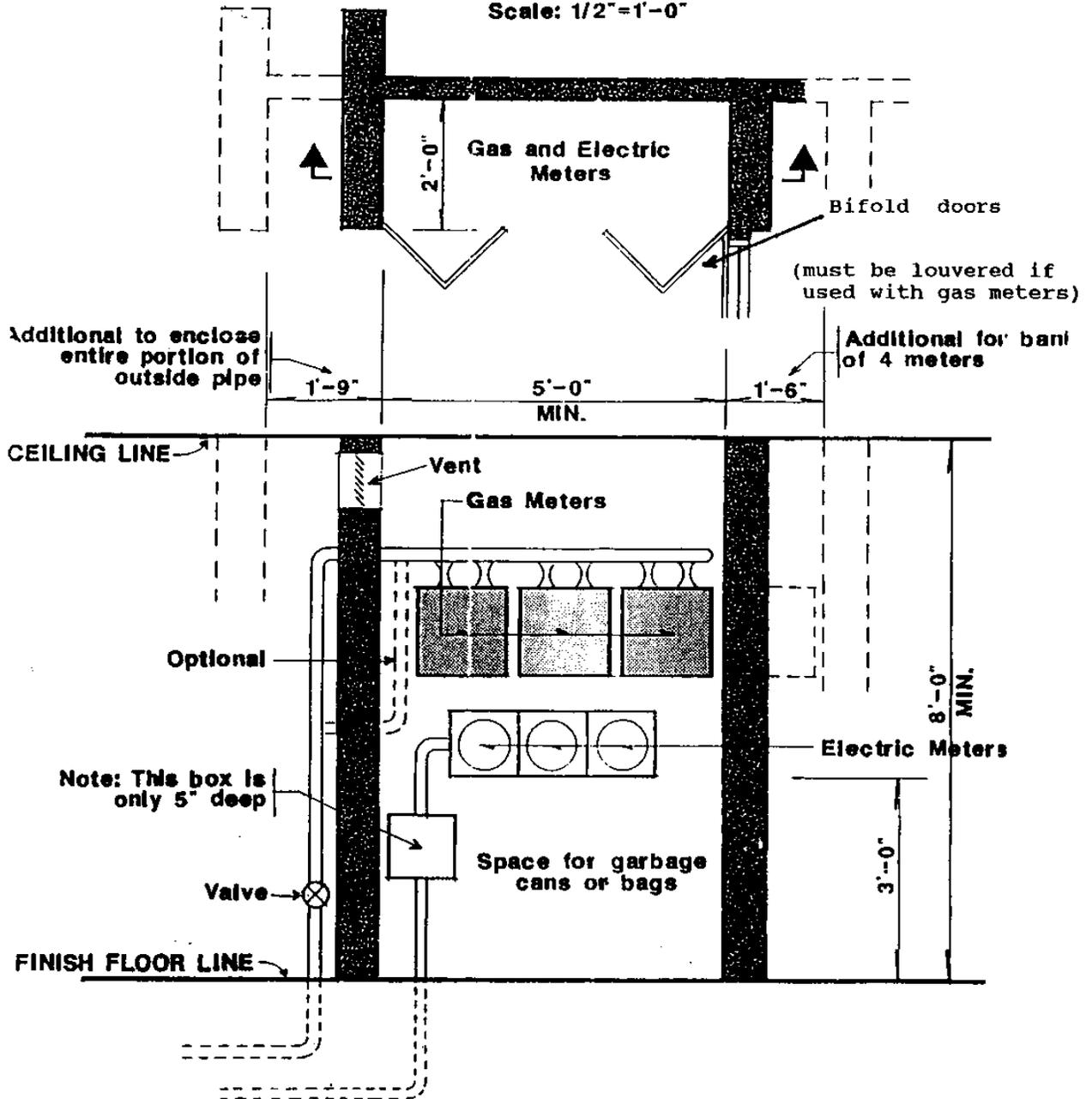
We all have an obligation to our customers to design gas installations, that are less conspicuous. It's not just up to the builders and homeowners. We should be providing them with guidance to accomplish aesthetically pleasing and unobtrusive installations.

Outdoor metering is a requirement on 1, 2 and 3 family residential buildings, with a little effort, that requirement can coexist with a pleasing installation.

The following pages provide you with actual examples of creative methods used by customers to meet our specifications in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

# FLOOR PLAN

Scale: 1/2"=1'-0"

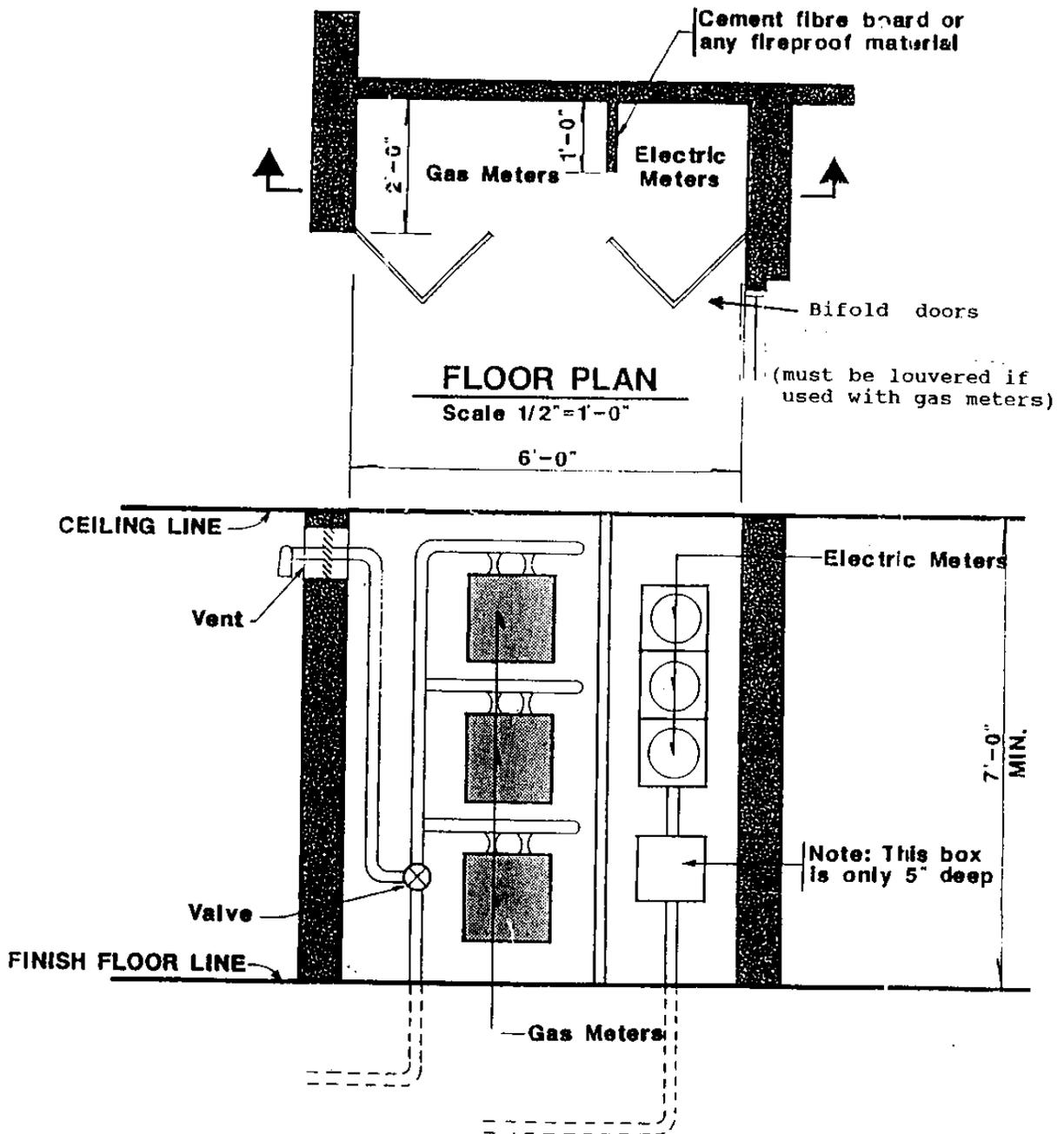


# SECTION ELEVATION

Scale: 1/2"=1'-0"

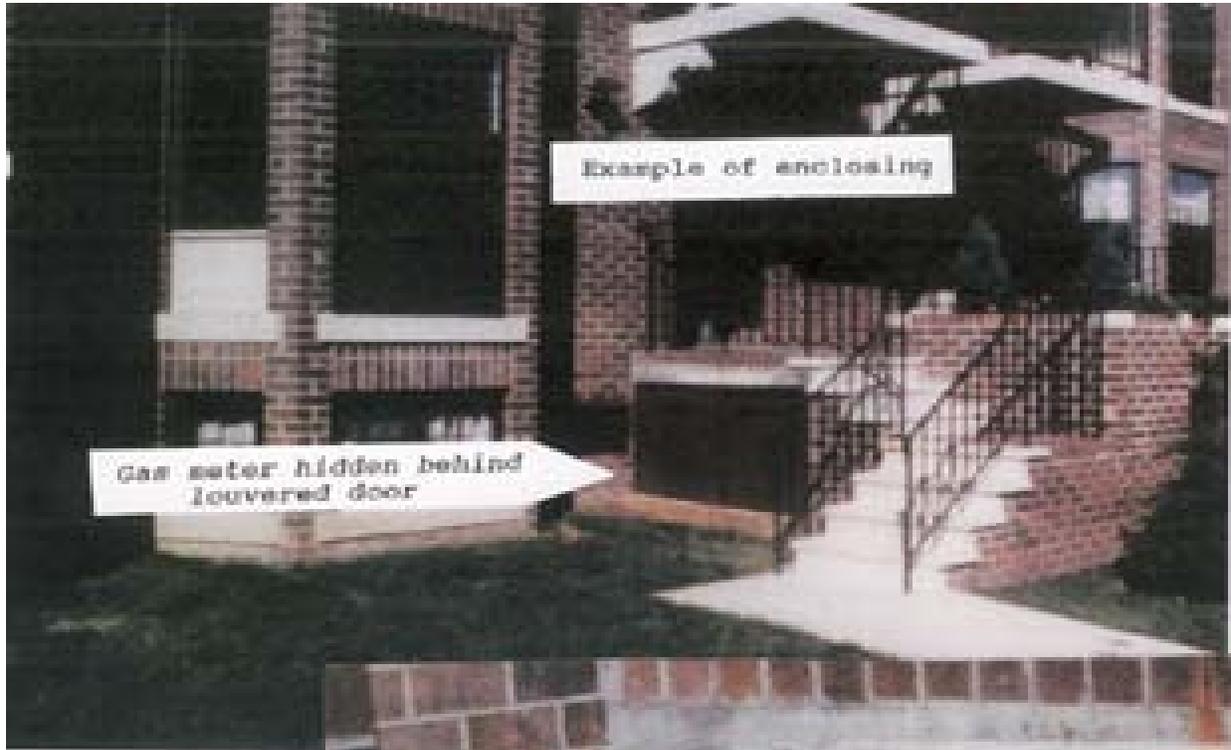
METER ENCLOSURE CLEARANCES

# GAS METER OVER ELECTRIC METER INSTALLATION



**SECTION ELEVATION**  
 Scale 1/2"=1'-0"  
**METER ENCLOSURE CLEARANCES**  
**SIDE BY SIDE INSTALLATION**





Example of enclosing

Gas meter hidden behind louvered door



Door opens to reveal meters



Example of painting

Gas meter