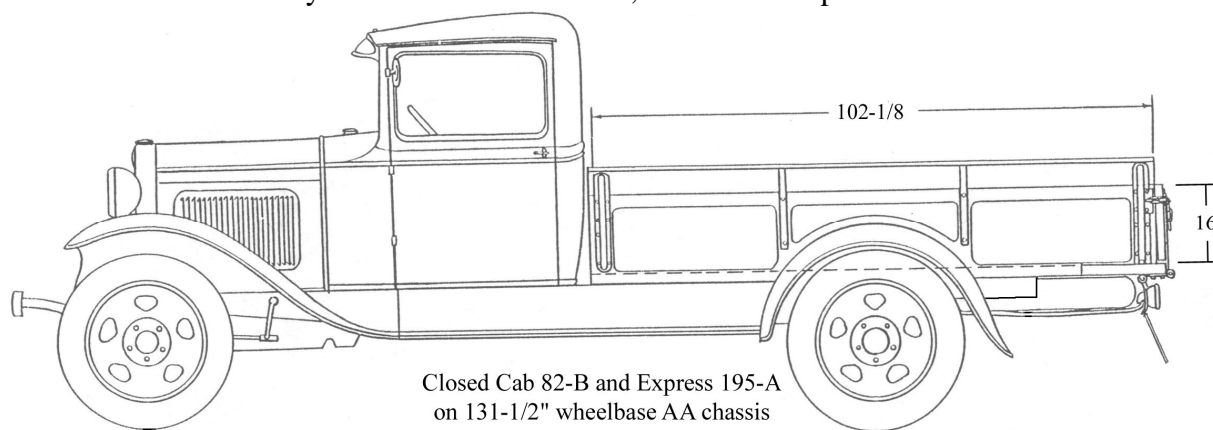


## AA TRUCK TALK – THE 195-A & 197-A EXPRESS BODIES

By Neil Wilson of Boulder, Colorado – April 2005



Closed Cab 82-B and Express 195-A  
on 131-1/2" wheelbase AA chassis

This article covers the 195-A and 197-A Express bodies which were introduced in January 1931. Information is based on the 195-A Express truck in my back yard, pictures and information provided by club members Craig Landon, Keith Ernst, Jordon Beller, and Rich Bell, plus the article "The Ford Truck 1930-1931" by Vernon W. Vogel ("The Restorer" volume 15 Issue 6 March/April 1971).

The three, full page photographs found on the following pages were provided from the collections of The Henry Ford. These archive photographs provide considerable detail of these two body types. Locating these photographs was the effort of club member Kenny Kintz who volunteered to go to the Benson Research Center to search for 1931 Express photographs.

Photo 8403 is dated 2-11-31 and is of a Closed Cab 82-B and Express body 195-A with 196-A Canopy Top and Screen Sides on a 131-1/2" WB AA chassis.

Photo 19957 is dated 1-7-31 and is of a Closed Cab 82-B and Express body 197-A with 198-A Canopy Top and Screen Sides on a 157" WB AA chassis.

Photo 8267 is dated 1-7-31 and is of the same Express truck shown in photo 19957.

Several observations may be made from these photographs:

- The wheel nuts (lug nuts), removable wheel rim flange, and hub caps are cadmium plated.
- The wheels are the '30/'31 style without the reinforcement bead around the wheel nuts. This is correct for early 1931.
- The radiator shell, head light buckets and cowl band are painted (a standard commercial vehicle feature).
- In the 19957 photo, the spare wheel carrier is installed to be lowered from the left side and the jam nut on the rear hinge bolt and nut assembly looks cadmium plated.
- In the 8267 photo the body interior shows the wheelhouse covers, floor skid strips, front panel brackets, and wood lined interior.

## OVERVIEW

The 195-A Express body replaced the 89-A Express in the Ford production line. It was designed for use on the 131-1/2" wheelbase chassis with the AA-5005-B 1930 to March 1931 chassis frame. The new AA-5005-D frame which was introduced in April 1931 is 10" longer than the old frame. However, the 195-A Express body cross sills were not relocated to utilize the additional frame support length.

The 197-A Express body was designed for the 157" wheelbase chassis with a parallel frame. It will not fit the 1930 157" wheelbase frame with tapered side rails.

The cargo area of the 195-A is 102-1/8" x 54" wide x 16" high. The 197-A cargo area is 132" long x 54" wide x 16" high.

These two body types were produced from January 1931 through February 1932. They continued in the Ford production line for the 1932 and 1933 truck line with modifications to fit the new frames.

The body floor structure is wood cross sills supporting wood floor boards with metal skid strips running lengthwise between each board. The front, sides, and tail gate are constructed of

exterior sheet metal stampings with wood lined interiors. The front and side panel assemblies cover the edges of the floor structure and are secured to the floor with brackets and carriage bolts. Each side has an exterior support bracket at the back-side. These brackets and additional side brackets support the 7-1/2" metal skinned body flares.

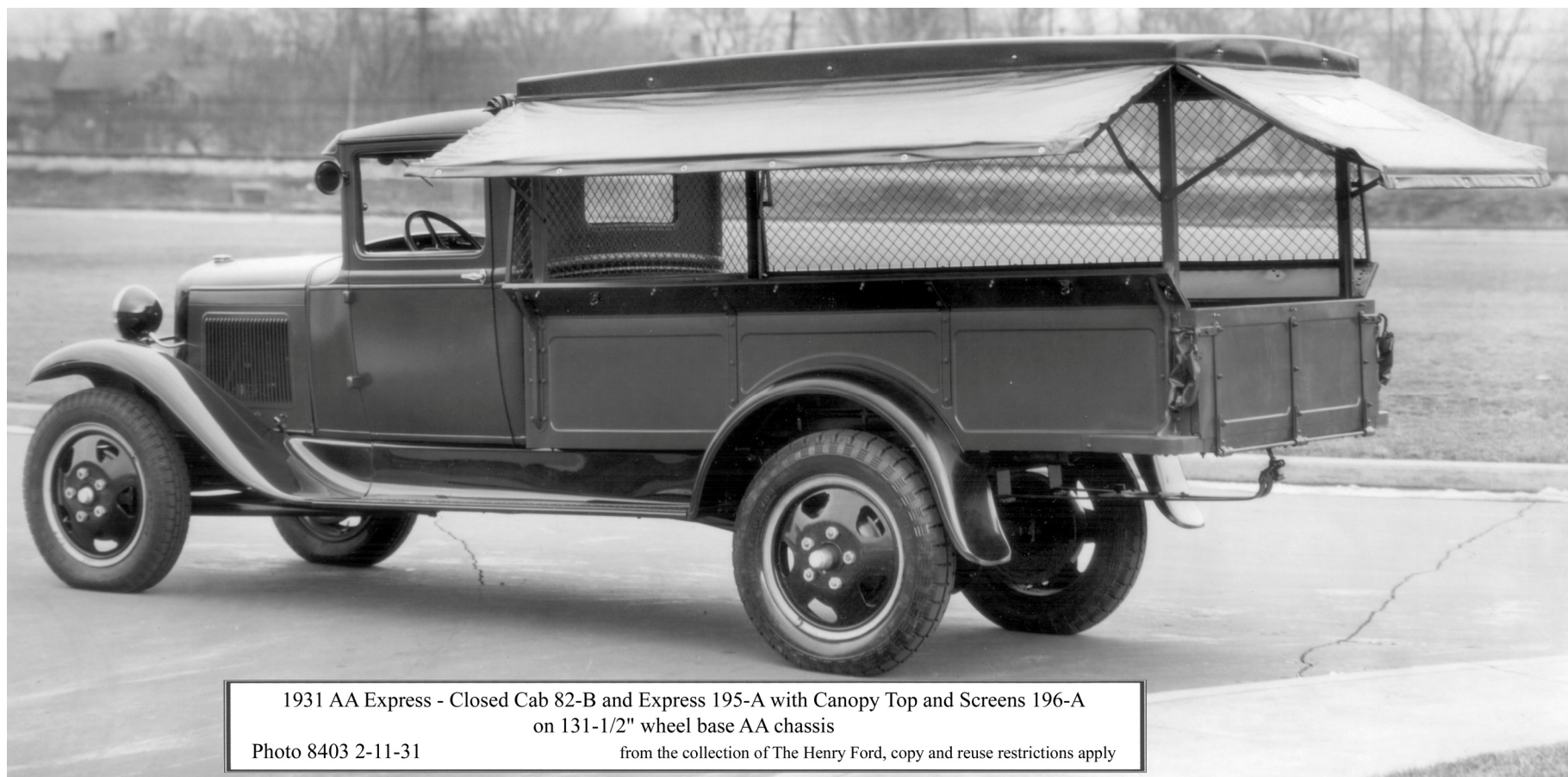
The tail gate hardware consisted of three strap hinges with a single rod through all three hinges. Chains with hooks are used to secure the tail gate in the up position or at a 90 degree position.

The bodies were assembled prior to being painted cab color. Based on the 8267 Ford archive photograph, the body interior is painted the same color as the body exterior.

The remainder of this article is a detailed description of the 195-A and 197-A Express bodies.

The 196-A and 198-A Canopy Top and Screen Sides were available as an option for the 195-A and 197-A Express bodies. Details of these will be a subject for a future article when an example can be found in my back yard!



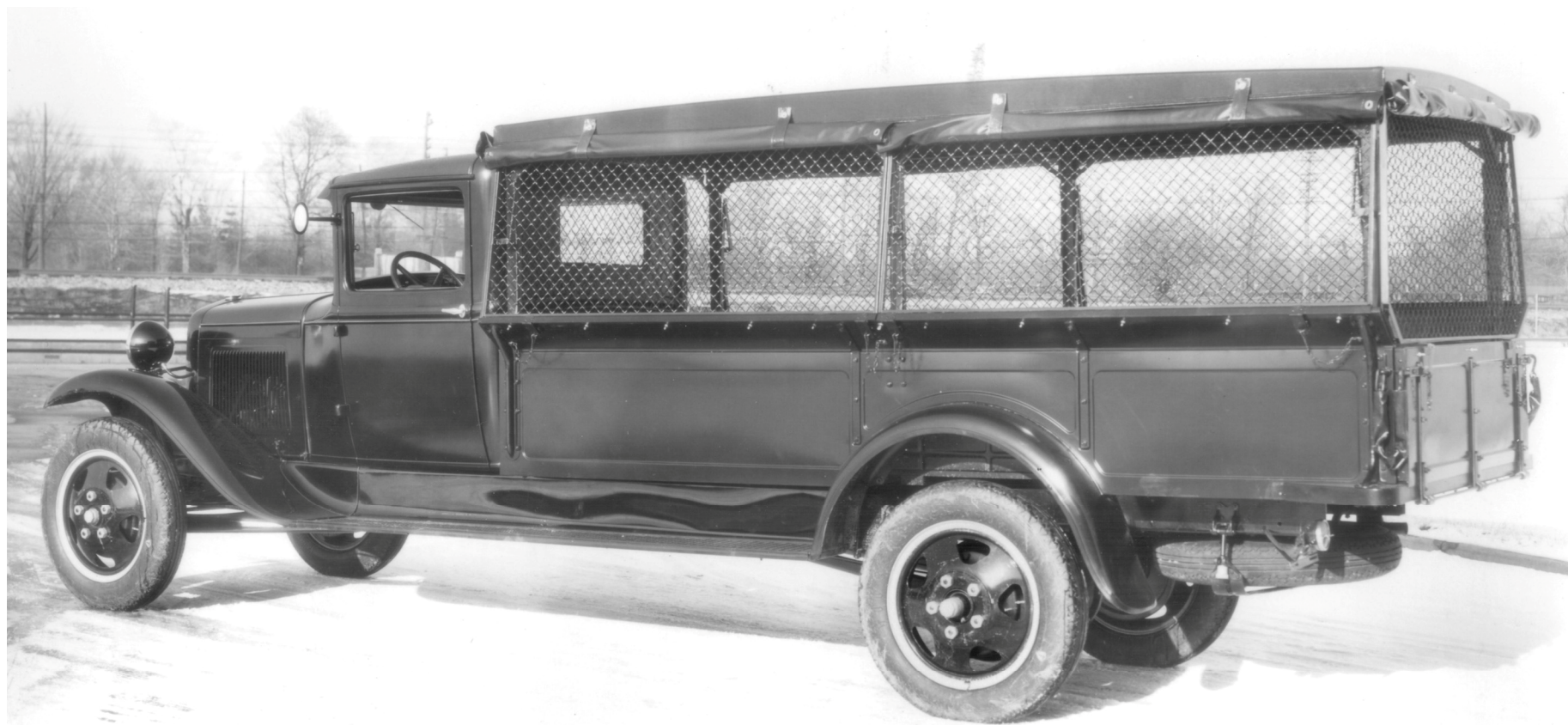


1931 AA Express - Closed Cab 82-B and Express 195-A with Canopy Top and Screens 196-A  
on 131-1/2" wheel base AA chassis

Photo 8403 2-11-31

from the collection of The Henry Ford, copy and reuse restrictions apply



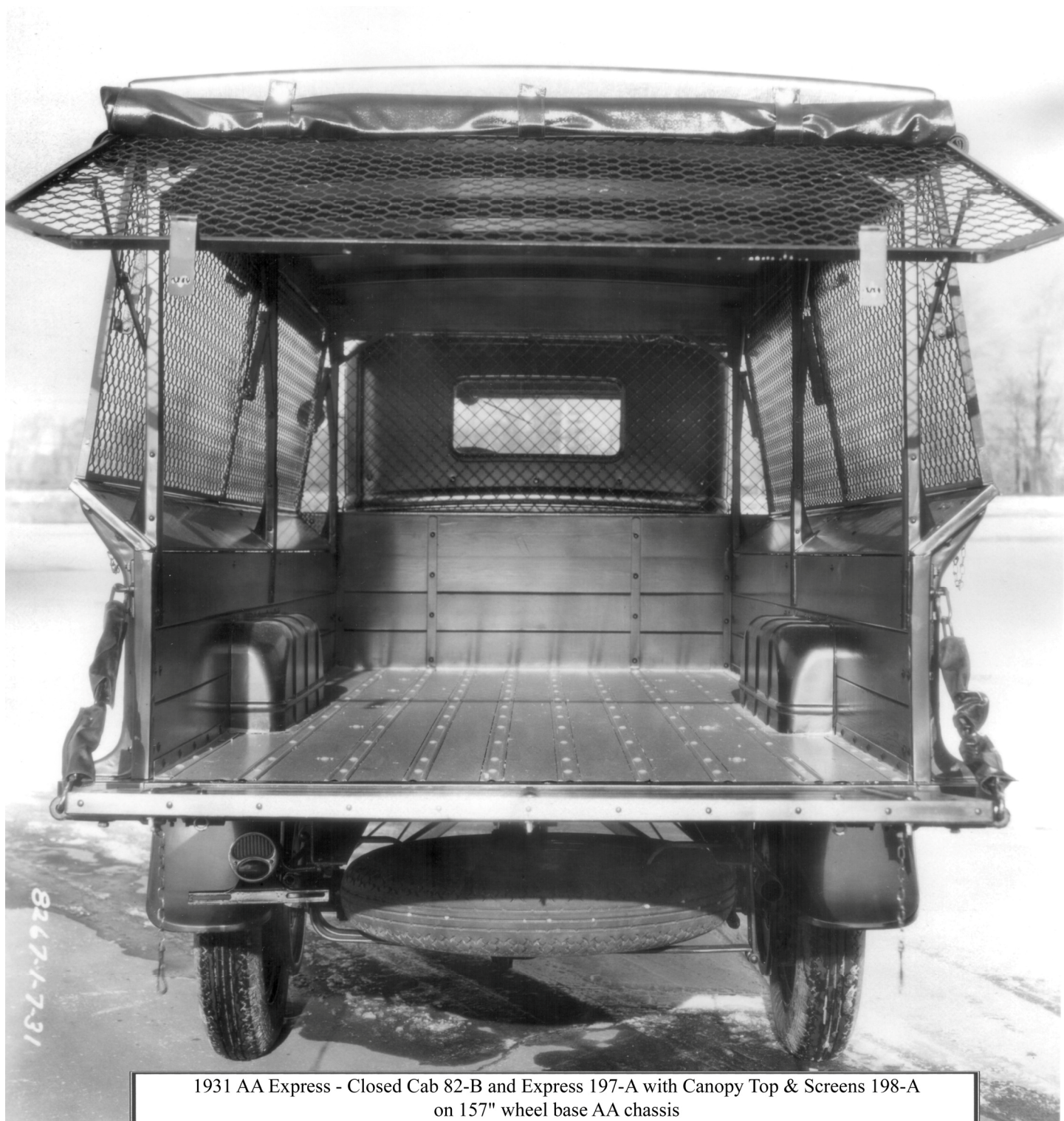


1931 AA Express - 82-B and 197-A Express with Canopy Top and Screens 198-A  
on 157" wheel base AA chassis

Photo 19957 1-7-31

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1931 AA Express - Closed Cab 82-B and Express 197-A with Canopy Top & Screens 198-A  
on 157" wheel base AA chassis

Photo 8267 1-7-31

from the collection of The Henry Ford, copy and reuse restrictions apply



## Details

The following table is a detailed parts list for the 195-A and the 197-A Express bodies. Front panel carriage bolts were found to have been sheered off to length after assembly.

Front Panel Assembly	
1	AA-195400 Front Panel assembly – 195-A, 197-A
2	AA-195xxx Strip (front assembly finish) – 195-A, 197-A
	Finish Strip to Front Panel – attachment
11	#10 x 1" oval head slotted wood screw
2	AA-195xxx Bracket (front assembly to floor) – 195-A, 197-A
	Front Assembly to floor Brackets – attachment (2 brackets)
8	5/16-18 x 1-3/8 (sheered off) carriage bolt (.72 head dia.) to panel
4	5/16-18 x 2-1/2 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) to floor
12	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
8	5/16-18 (1/16 x 3/4) flat washer – to floor
12	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
1	AA-195xxx Bracket (front assembly to side) RH – 195-A, 197-A
1	AA-195xxx Bracket (front assembly to side) LH – 195-A, 197-A
	Front Assembly to side Brackets – attachment (2 brackets)
12	5/16-18 x 1-3/8 (sheered off) carriage bolt (.72 head dia.) to front
	5/16-18 x 1-3/4 carriage bolt (.72 head dia.) to side (see side assemblies)
12	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
12	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
Tail Gate Assembly	
1	AA-195500 Gate (tail) assembly – 195-A, 197-A
2	AA-195518 Chain (tail gate) and cover assembly – 195-A, 197-A
2	AA-195532 Cover (tail gate chain) assembly – upper – 195-A, 197-A
2	AA-195538 Cover (tail gate chain) assembly – lower – 195-A, 197-A
2	AA-195536 Bracket (tail gate chain) on-gate – 195-A, 197-A
	Bracket to tail gate – attachment (2 bracket)
2	5/16-18 x 2 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.)
2	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
2	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
3	AA-195544 Hinge (tail gate) on-gate – 195-A, 197-A
3	AA-195570 Strip (tail gate skid) – 195-A, 197-A
	Tail Gate Skid Strips – attachment (3 strips)
3	#10 x 1" oval head slotted wood screw
	Tail Gate Hinges & Skid Strips on-gate – attachment (3 hinges)
4	5/16-18 x 2-1/4 oval head slotted machine screw
5	5/16-18 x 2-1/2 oval head slotted machine screw
9	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
9	5/16 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
2	AA-195558 Hinge (outer tail gate) on-body – 195-A, 197-A
1	AA-195558 Hinge (center tail gate) on-body – 197-A
	Tail Gate Hinges on-body - attachment
	3/8-16 x 3 step bolts (1.175" to 1.2" head dia.) – 2 per hinge
	3/8-16 (5/16 x 5/8) square nut (chamfered one side) – 2 per hinge
	3/8 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer – 2 per hinge
1	AA-1464 Wheel Carrier Rear Hinge/Bolt (center tail gate hinge) on-body – 195-A
	Center Tail Gate Hinge on-body – 195-A - attachment
4	A-20958-S2 3/8-16 x 3 step bolts (1.175" to 1.2" head dia.)
4	A-21749-S2 3/8-16 (3/8 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
4	A-22245-S2 3/8 (3/32 x 21/32) lock washer
1	AA-195560 Pin (tail gate hinge) 4" x 1/2" (1.2" flattened round head) – 195-A, 197-A
	Pin through hinges - attachment
1	1/8 x ? cotter pin
1	AA-195??? Strip (tail gate finish) (possibly 1 top and 2 side parts)
	Finish strip to tail gate - attachment
19	?? #12 x 1-1/2 round head, slotted wood screws
Side Assemblies	
1	AA-195010 Side (body) assembly RH – 195-A
1	AA-195011 Side (body) assembly LH – 195-A
1	AA-197010 Side (body) assembly RH – 197-A
1	AA-197011 Side (body) assembly LH – 197-A
1	AA-195302 Board (flare) assembly RH – 195-A
1	AA-195303 Board (flare) assembly LH – 195-A

1	AA-197302 Board (flare) assembly RH – 197-A
1	AA-197303 Board (flare) assembly LH – 197-A
2	AA-195314 Brace (flare board to side board) front – 195-A, 197-A
	Front flare board brace – attachment (2 braces)
8	5/16-18 x 1-1/4 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) to flare
16	5/16-18 x 1-3/4 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) to side
24	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
24	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
2	AA-195312 Brace (flare board to side board) rear – 195-A, 197-A
	Rear flare board brace – attachment (2 braces)
8	5/16-18 x 2-3/4 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) to guard
8	5/16-18 x 1-1/4 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) to flare
12	5/16-18 x 1-3/4 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) to side
4	5/16-18 x 2-1/4 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) through chain bracket
32	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
32	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
4	AA-195308 Brace (flare board to side board) center – 195-A, 197-A
	Center flare board brace – attachment (4 braces)
8	5/16-18 x 1-1/4" carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) to flare
12	5/16-18 x 1-3/4" carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) to side
20	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
20	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
4	AA-195356 Bracket (side board to floor) 30-1/4" long – 195-A
	Bracket to floor and side board – attachment (4 brackets) – 195-A
12	5/16-18 x 1-3/8" carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) through floor
8	5/16-18 x 2-3/4" carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) through floor & sill
20	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
20	5/16-18 (1/16 x 3/4) flat washer
20	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
20	5/16 x 1 rivet (.75 head dia.) to side board
2	AA-197xxx Bracket (side board to floor) front 55-1/2" long – 197-A
2	AA-197xxx Bracket (side board to floor) rear 36" long – 197-A
	Bracket to floor and side board – attachment (4 brackets) – 197-A
20	5/16-18 x 1-3/8" carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) through floor
10	5/16-18 x 2-3/4" carriage bolt (.68 head dia.) through floor & sill
30	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
30	5/16-18 (1/16 x 3/4) flat washer
30	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
28	5/16 x 1 rivet (.75 head dia.) to side board
2	AA-197340 Panel (side wheelhouse cover) assembly – 195-A, 197-A
	Wheelhouse cover to floor and side – attachment (2 covers)
22	#10 x 3/4 flat head slotted wood screw (to floor)
24	#10 x 3/4 flat head slotted wood screw (to side)
26	#10 x 1 flat head slotted wood screw (to side bottom)
1	AA-195346 Plate (side panel rear guard) RH – 195-A, 197-A
1	AA-195347 Plate (side panel rear guard) LH – 195-A, 197-A
	Guard to side – attachment (2 guards)
6	5/16-18 x 1-3/4" carriage bolt (.68 head dia.)
6	5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)
6	5/16-18 (1/16 x 3/4) flat washer
6	5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer
Cargo Floor Assembly	
1	AA-195081 Sill (floor) cross #1 – 195-A, 197-A (1-1/4" x 3-1/2" x 54")
1	AA-195082 Sill (floor) cross #2 – 195-A, 197-A (1-1/4" x 3-1/2" x 54")
2	AA-195083 Sill (floor) cross #3 & #4 – 195-A (1-1/4" x 3-1/2" x 44-1/4")
1	AA-195085 Sill (floor) cross #5 – 195-A (1-1/4" x 3-1/2" x 54")
1	AA-195088 Sill (floor cross) assembly – rear – 195-A, 197-A (1-1/4" x 5-1/2" x 65-1/4")
1	AA-197083 Sill (floor) cross #3 – 197-A (1-1/4" x 3-1/2" x 54")
1	AA-197084 Sill (floor) cross #4 & #5 – 197-A (1-1/4" x 3-1/2" x 44-1/4")
1	AA-197086 Sill (floor) cross #6 – 197-A (1-1/4" x 3-1/2" x 54")
5	AA-195xxx Board (floor) center (3/4" x 5-1/4" x 103-1/4") – 195-A <span style="color: red;">????103-??</span>
2	AA-195xxx Board (floor) intermediate (3/4" x 6-1/8" x 103-1/4") – 195-A <span style="color: red;">????103-</span>
1	AA-195xxx Board (floor) side RH (3/4" x 6-1/2" x 103-1/4") – 195-A <span style="color: red;">????103-??</span>
1	AA-195xxx Board (floor) side LH (3/4" x 6-1/2" x 103-1/4") – 195-A <span style="color: red;">????103-??</span>
5	AA-197xxx Board (floor) center (3/4" x 5-1/4" x 133-1/8") – 197-A <span style="color: red;">????133-??</span>
2	AA-197xxx Board (floor) intermediate (3/4" x 6-1/8" x 133-1/8") – 197-A <span style="color: red;">????133-</span>



1	AA-197xxx	Board (floor) side RH (3/4" x 6-1/2" x 133-1/8") – 197-A	133-1/8"
1	AA-197xxx	Board (floor) side LH (3/4" x 6-1/2" x 133-1/8") – 197-A	133-1/8"
6	AA-195048	Strip (floor board skid) center and side – 195-A	
2	AA-195050	Strip (floor board skid) intermediate – 195-A	
		Skid strips to floor – attachment (8 strips) – 195-A	
30		5/16-18 x 2-1/2 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.)	
8		5/16-18 x 2 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.)	
38		5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)	
38		5/16-18 (1/16 x 3/4) flat washer	
38		5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer	
6	AA-197048	Strip (floor board skid) center and side – 197-A	
2	AA-197050	Strip (floor board skid) intermediate – 197-A	
		Skid strips to floor – attachment (8 strips) – 197-A	
30		5/16-18 x 2-1/2 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.)	
16		5/16-18 x 2 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.)	
46		5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)	
46		5/16-18 (1/16 x 3/4) flat washer	
46		5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer	
?	AA-195390	Strip (side wheelhouse cover panel weather) – 195-A, 197-A	
1	AA-195060	Angle (rear floor protection) – 195-A, 197-A	
		Protection angle to floor – attachment	
8		5/16-18 x 2-1/2 carriage bolt (.68 head dia.)	
8		5/16-18 (1/4 x 9/16) square nut (chamfered one side)	
8		5/16-18 (1/16 x 3/4) flat washer	
8		5/16-18 (1/16 x 9/16) lock washer	

#### Mounting Hardware

195-A (8 mounting locations)

197-A (10 mounting locations)

Each mounting location uses one set of the following parts:

1	Pad (body to frame) 3-1/2 x 2-3/4 x 1/8
1	7/16-20 x 3-1/4 carriage bolt
1	A-21793-S1 7/16-20 (3/8 x 11/16) hex nuts (chamfered one side)
1	7/16 (1/8 x 49/64) lock washer
1	7/16 (1/8 x 1-23/32) carriage body washer
2	25/32 x 1/8 spiral shank screw

### Front Panel Assembly

The front panel assembly is comprised of a metal skin with a wood lined interior. The assembly covers the front edge of floor cross sill #1 and extends to the top of the side flares. The top edge is flat (not arched). Ford archive photographs shown in prior publications are dated in late 1930 and are believed to be examples of prototype body versions with an arched front panel assembly. The few surviving express trucks, known about today, all have flat topped front panels. The Ford Body Parts List only lists one AA-195400 front assembly available for service. The sides of the front panel are overlapped by the side panel assemblies and flares.

Two brackets hold the front panel to the floor. These can be seen in Ford archive photo 8267. Figure 1a shows the foot of the right bracket mounted to the floor on top of a skid strip.

Angle iron brackets are used to connect the front panel assembly to the side panel assemblies. Figure 1b shows the connection of these assemblies at the right corner.

The front panel assembly interior wood is three, 3/4" thick, ship lap fit boards. The edges of the metal skin have 3/4" flanges which fit over the parameter of the boards. The bottom and side flanges are attached with flat head nails. Across the top flange is a series of oblong holes. A 1/8" thick x 3/4" wide metal finish strip is attached through these oblong holes with #10 x 1" oval head, slotted wood screws. Figure 1c is a mockup showing the finish strip.

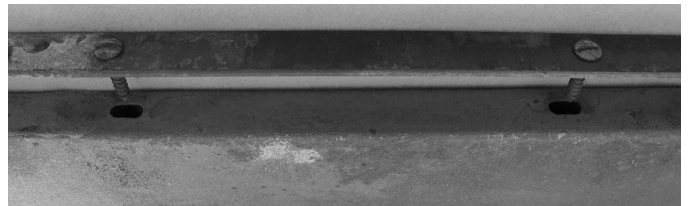
**Figure 1a – Front Panel Assembly to Floor Connection**  
front panel at top of picture; view from above the floor – right front corner



**Figure 1b – Front Panel Assembly to Side Connection**  
front panel on left; view from above the floor – right front corner



**Figure 1c – Front Panel Finish Strip and Metal Skin**  
mockup - finish strip, attachment screw, and oval hole in the metal skin



### Tail Gate Assembly

The tail gate assembly can be seen in the three Ford archive photographs. It is constructed of a metal skin with wood lining like the body front panel. The metal skin is stamped with two embossments. The three AA-195558 tail gate, strap style, hinges are attached to the raised portion of the metal skin. On the inside of the tail gate assembly, each hinge is backed with an AA-195570 skid strip. An AA-195536 forged steel, chain bracket is



attached to the top bolt of each outside gate hinge. A second bolt attaches this bracket directly to the tail gate.

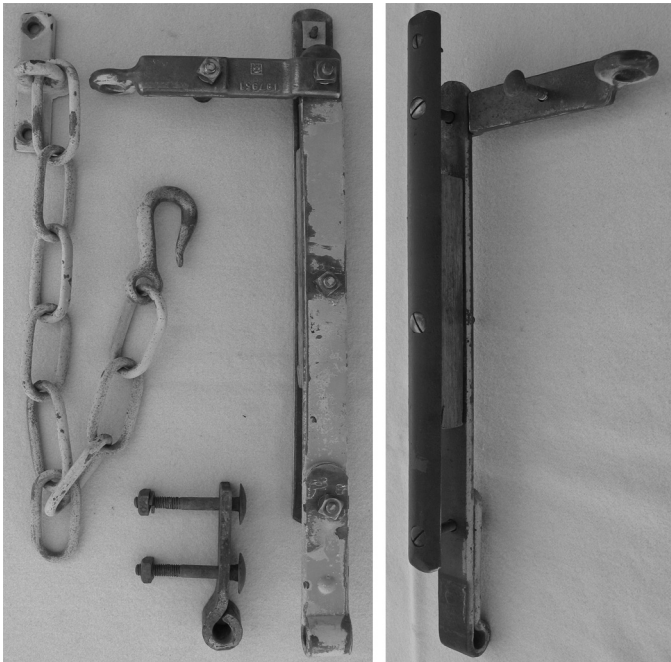
Figure 2a provides two views of parts for the tail gate side. The left picture is as viewed from the back of the tail gate and shows the following:

- Chain assembly - consists of a bracket which attaches to the AA-195312 rear flare board to side board brace, a nine loop chain, and a forged steel chain hook
- Chain bracket (on-gate) – when the gate is closed, the first chain loop is slip over the bracket eye and the chain hook is inserted through the bracket eye
- Tail gate hinge (on-body) – with its two mounting step bolts
- Tail gate hinge (on-gate)

The right picture shows a front (inside) view of the tail gate hinge parts and assembly hardware. Parts shown are a skid strip, chain bracket (on-gate) and tail gate hinge.

**Figure 2a – Tail Gate Left Side Hinge Parts**

rear view (left); front view (right)



Note that the AA-195536 chain bracket has a casting part number of 197951 (see Figure 2b).

**Figure 2b – Chain Bracket Casting Part Number**



The 195-A and 197-A tail gates use the same *on-gate* hinge in the center as are used on the left and right. The 197-A *on-body* center hinge is also the same as the outer hinges. However, the 195-A center, *on-body* hinge is a part of the spare wheel carrier

rear hinge and bolt assembly (part AA-1464). This part is shown in Figure 2b with the four step bolt used for mounting it to the bottom of the rear cross member.

**Figure 2b – 195-A Tail Gate Center On-body Hinge**

AA-1464 - Spare Wheel Carrier Rear Hinge and Bolt Assembly and tail gate center on-body hinge



The tail gate wood lining has two layers of wood. The inside layer consists of strips of 1/2" thick wood which fill the raised portion of the metal skin. These strips are attached with 1" flat head wood screws to the back side of the outside layer of wood. The outside layer is made up of three, 3/4" thick, ship lap fit boards.

The metal skin has 27/64" flanges which are nailed around the parameter of the wood assembly with 1" long, flat head nails.

There is a metal finish strip used on the edges of the tail gate. This can be seen in the Ford archive photographs. However, an original has not been found to examine for exact details. From the pictures, this strip may be one piece across the top and down the sides or it may be three separate pieces. It is most likely 1-1/4" wide and 1/4" thick. It covers the tail gate edges which would otherwise look unfinished. This strip is attached to the top edge with 11 fasteners and at each side edge with 4 fasteners. These fasteners appear to be round headed and are probably wood screws. It is also possible that there is a finish strip across the bottom edge. However, original tail gate wood samples do not show any fastener holes along the bottom edge.

Note that each tail gate chain used two covers rather than one. The two part cover can be seen in Ford archive photograph 8267. With the tail gate closed, water will drain from the covers.

Gasket material was found between the tail gate skid strips and the wood interior on my Express body. This is not the case for the tail gate on Craig Landon's Express. Both tail gates appear not to have been disassembled before. This part is not listed. Maybe some day more information will be found.

### Side Assemblies

Like the front panel and tail gate assemblies, the side assemblies are metal skins with wood lining. The three Ford archive photographs show this construction. The metal skins are stamped with three embossments (above, forward, and after the rear fender). Ford archive photographs dated in late 1930 show four embossments for the 197-A Express. These are most likely prototypes. The two 1931 long wheel base 197-A Express trucks known to exist today have the three embossment style sides.

The side assembly wood lining is in two layers like the tail gate wood. The wood layer next to the metal skin is strips of 1/2"



thick wood which fill the raised areas of the metal skin. These strips are nailed to the inside layer of three, 3/4", ship lap fit boards. The wood structure is set into the panel and the metal skin flanges on the top and bottom edges are nailed to the wood with flat head nails. The two ends of the metal skin are wrapped around the wood structure ends and extends onto the inside face of the board 5/8".

A side panel rear guard plate is shown in Figure 3a. The stamped steel guards are attached to the side panels and cap the ends of the floor rear cross sill. The rear flare support braces are bolted to the top of the guards and through the rear cross sill providing support for the side as well as a support for the flare.

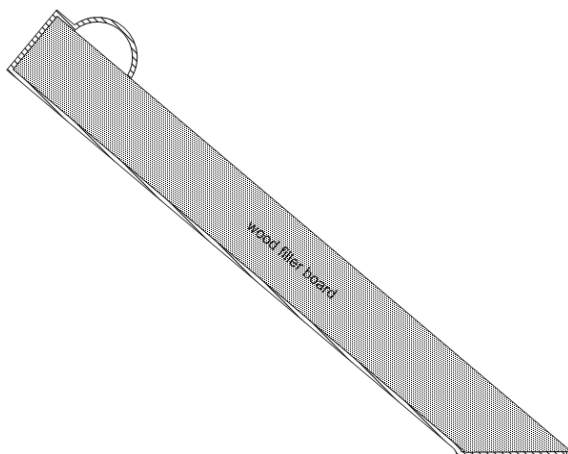
The flare board assemblies are metal skinned boards as illustrated in Figure 3b. The filler board is 3/4" thick. The metal skin wraps to the face of the flares along the upper edge and each end. These assemblies run the length of the side panels, are 7-1/2" in wide, and are attached to four braces at about 40 degrees to vertical.

The two center flare board braces are simple 1/4" thick by 1-1/4" wide strap steel. The front and rear braces are shown in Figure 3c and can be seen in the three Ford archive photographs. They are stamped steel in design.

**Figure 3a – Right Side Panel Rear Guard Plate & Rear Floor Protection Angle**



**Figure 3b – Flare Board Assembly**



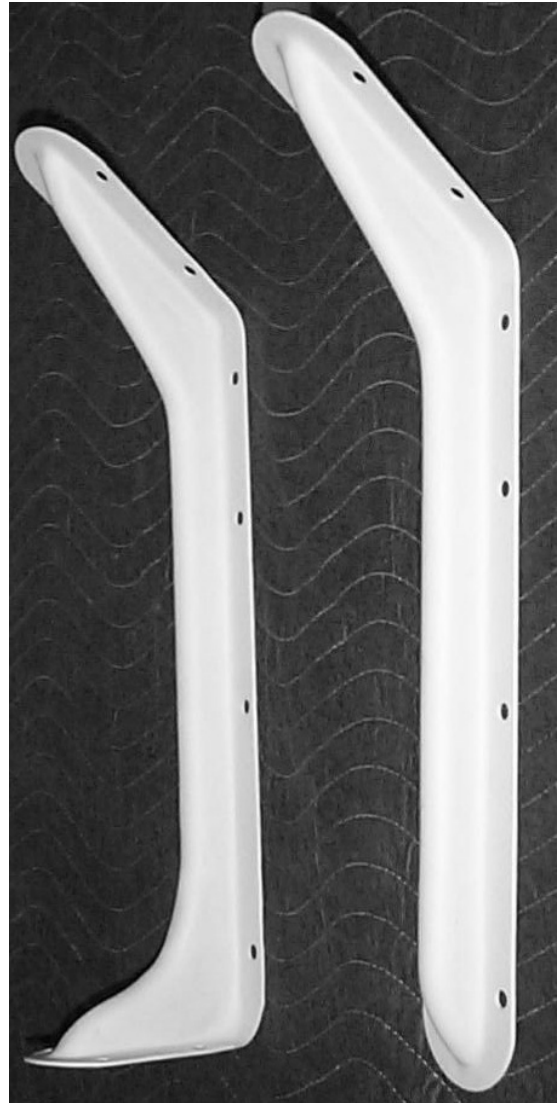
Angle iron style brackets are attached to the inside lower board of the sides. Figure 1b shows the front right bracket

attached to the side and floor. These brackets can be seen in Ford archive photograph 8267.

The brackets are attached to the side with large headed rivets before installation of the boards into the metal skins. The side assemblies extend down the outside of the cargo floor to cover the edges of the floor boards and floor cross sills. The brackets are attached to the cargo floor with carriage bolts.

**Figure 3c – Flare Support Braces**

Rear brace (left); front brace (right)



The wheelhouse covers are two piece stamped steel assemblies as shown in Figure 3d. The curved inner panel is spot welded to the outer cover. There are six "D" nuts in the arch of the inner panel for fender mounting. There are two additional "D" nuts at the bottom corners of the inner panel. When installed on the right or left side, only the rear "D" nut is used to attach the fender.

The wheelhouse outer covers are shown in Ford archive photograph 8267. Each cover has thirteen #10 x 1" flat head, slotted wood screws used to attach the inner panel to the bottom edge of the side panels. There are twelve #10 x 3/4" flat head, slotted wood screws are used to attach the outer cover to the side panel and twelve to the cargo floor.



The Ford Body Parts List has an AA-195390 side wheelhouse cover panel weather strip. I am guessing that this weather strip

fits under the floor and side flanges of the outer covers to keep water from entering the cargo area.

**Figure 3d – Side Wheelhouse Cover**  
view from outside with fender removed



### **Cargo Floor Assembly**

The cargo floor is made up of wood cross sills (six for the 195-A and seven for the 197-A), nine floor boards, eight skid strips, and one rear floor protection angle.

There are two styles of skid strips. The two intermediate strips are flat at the front and run under the front panel to floor bracket as shown in Figure 1a. The other style of skid strips have square cut ends at the front. Figure 4a shows views of these two types of skid strips.

Floor boards are grooved for the skid strip legs to rest in. These skid strips have the same cross section as the strips used on the 1931 platform bodies except the legs are shorter for the 1931 express strips. Consequently, the groves in the 3/4" floor boards are not as deep as the groves in the 5/4" platform boards.

The carriage bolts used to secure the skid strips go between floor boards and through floor cross sills. The cross sills are recessed for the use of shorter carriage bolts in locations where the cross sills are above the running board splash aprons or frame.

A rear floor protection angle fits over the ends of the skid strips as well as the end of the floor boards and rear cross sill. This protection angle has a flange at the bottom which is nailed to the under side the rear cross sill. This part extends to the side panel rear guards. The right side of the protection angle can be seen in Figure 3a.

Figure 4b is a layout of the cross sills and floor boards for the 195-A Express body. The 197-A has the same layout but has seven cross sills and is 29-7/8" longer.

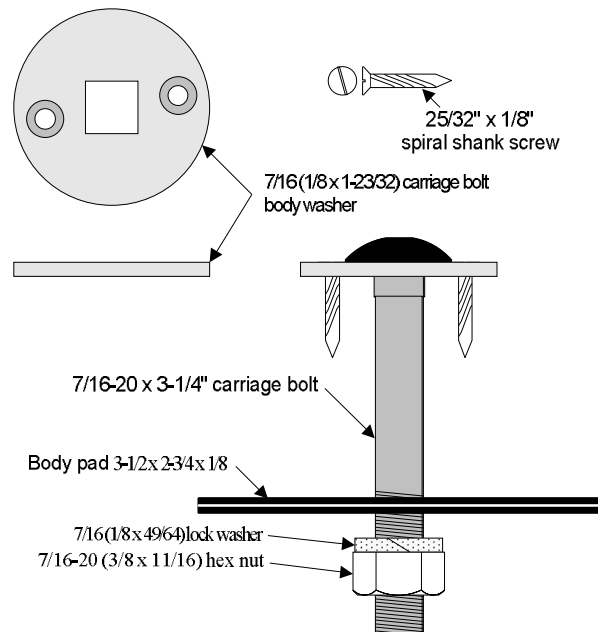
### **Body Mounting Hardware**

There are eight body mounting locations for the 195-A and ten for the 197-A. Each location uses the same set of parts as shown in Figure 5a. Most bolts used by Ford end up with a couple of extra threads extending through the tightened nut.

However, the 3-1/2" carriage bolts used with the 1931 Express bodies end up with about 5/16" of extra length. The carriage bolt body washers are counter sunk flush with the floor board surface and secured with two spiral shank screws. This set up prevents the carriage bolt from turning. This installation can be seen in Figure 1a which shows the #1, right body bolt.

Figure 5a shows details of this hardware. Each body bolt is centered over a floor cross sill. The body pad is located between the body cross sill and the chassis frame. The size of the pad is a guess based on the width of the frame and the width of the floor cross sill.

**Figure 5a – Body Mounting Hardware Detail**





**Figure 4a –Skid Strips**

Front view  
two intermediate strips



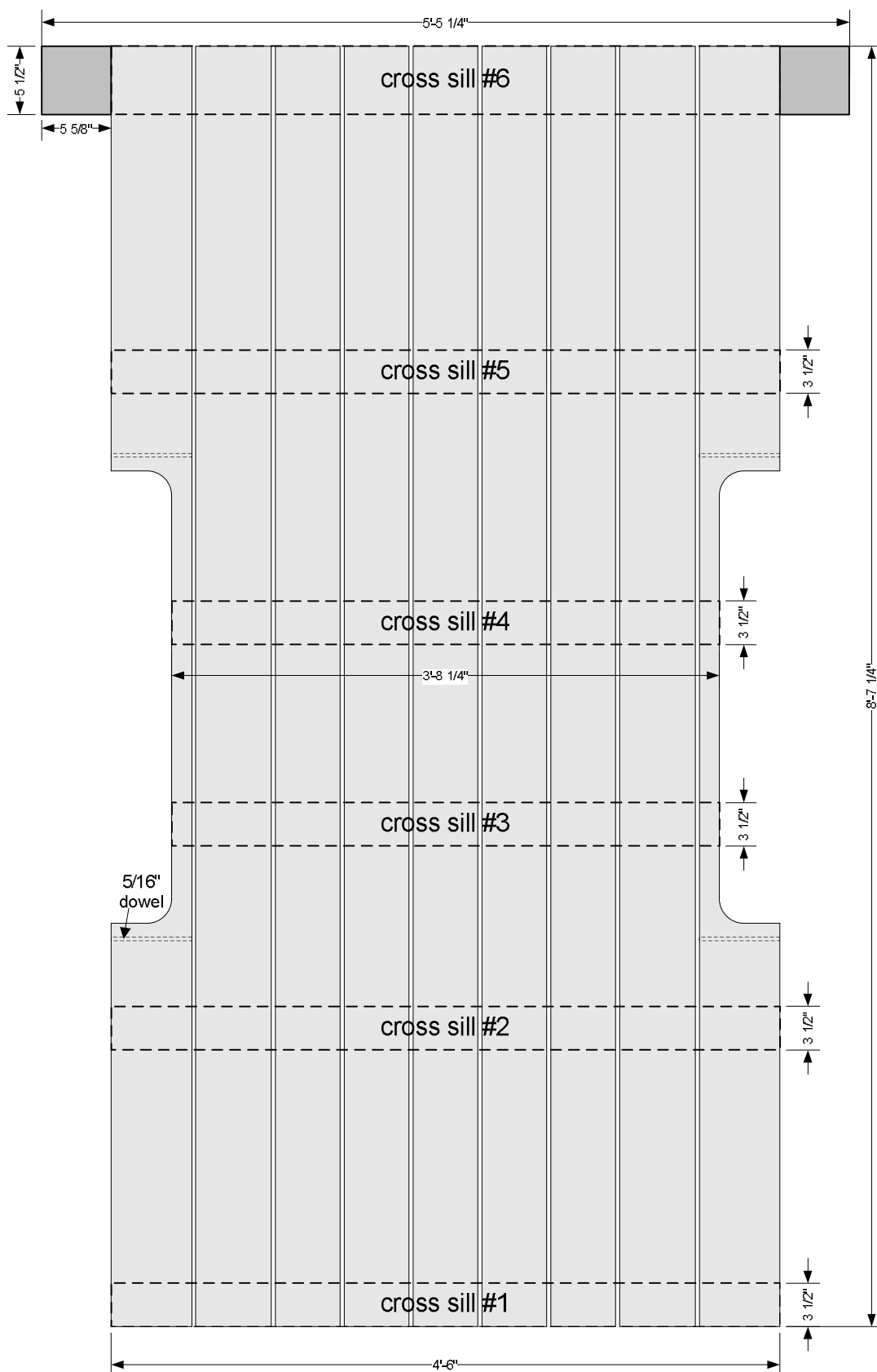
Front view  
two center, four side strips



Rear view (all skid strips)



**Figure 4b – 195-A Floor Cross Sills & Floor Boards**





## SPARE WHEEL CARRIERS

The spare wheel carrier used with the 197-A Express body is an under frame carrier mounted crosswise below the AA chassis. The assigned part number was AA-1451. It is the same carrier used for the 1931, 157" wheelbase, 185-B Platform and 330-A School Bus.

The carrier is mounted for access to the spare on the left side of the truck. Figure 6a illustrates this wheel carrier as it is mounted to the frame.

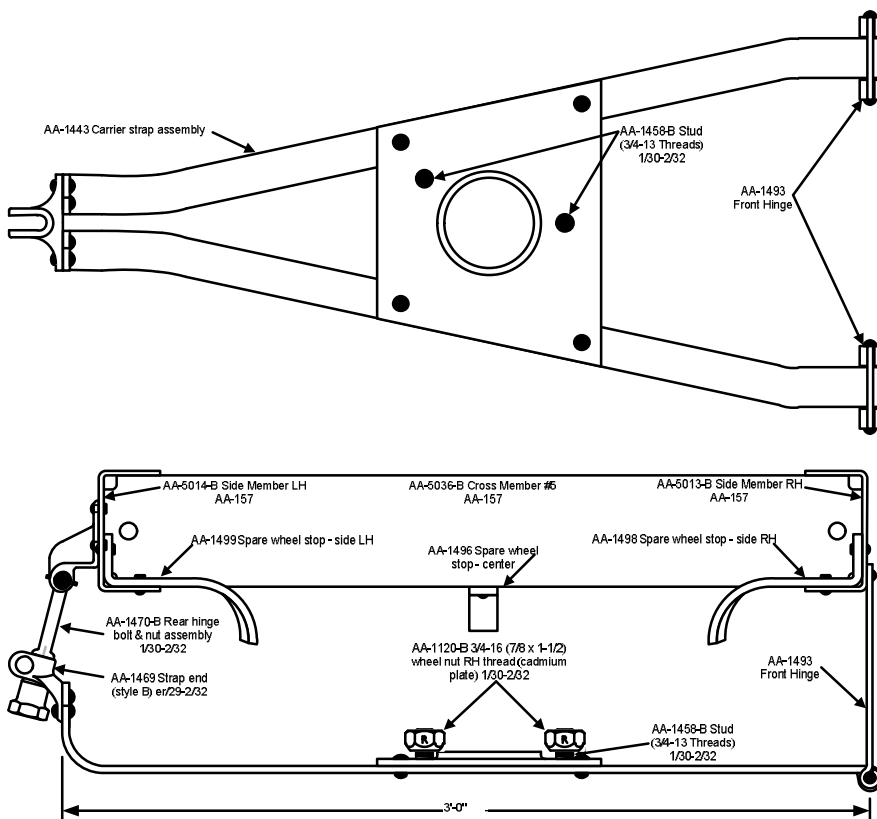
The spare wheel carrier used with the 195-A Express body is an under body carrier and was assigned part number AA-1452. The carrier strap assembly is the same AA-1443 assembly used for the under frame carrier. Figure 6b shows a front hinge and the

rear hinge bolt & nut assembly. These parts are unique to the 195-A Express body carrier. The front hinges are not listed in the Ford Parts Price Lists. They are riveted to the chassis #5 cross member. The hinge design lowers the carrier strap assembly to provide enough clearance for the tire under the body. The AA-1464 rear hinge bolt & nut assembly is also the on-body, center tail gate hinge.

These spare wheel carriers can be seen in the Ford archive photographs at the start of this article. They are opened by loosening the jam nut and swinging out the swivel bolt while lifting up slightly on the carrier strap assembly. The carrier strap assembly can then be lowered to the ground.

**Figure 6a - Wheel Carrier AA-1451 for 197-A Express (1/31-2/32)**

(scale 1" = 1/2')



**Figure 6b - Wheel Carrier AA-1452 Parts for 195-A Express (1/31-2/32)**

Front Hinge (top); Rear Hinge Bolt & Nut AA-1464 (bottom)



## RELATED PARTS

### Rear Fenders

Initially the 195-A and 197-A were offered with single rear wheels. The rear fenders have a very different mounting design. Assigned part numbers were AA-16413 (RH), AA-16414 (LH). No rear fender bracket was used. The oblong mounting holes across the top of the fender are reinforced by a 1-1/2" wide metal strip on the under side of the fender. These fenders look like other AA rear fenders when mounted and can be seen in the Ford

archive photographs. Figure 7a shows the unique mounting design.

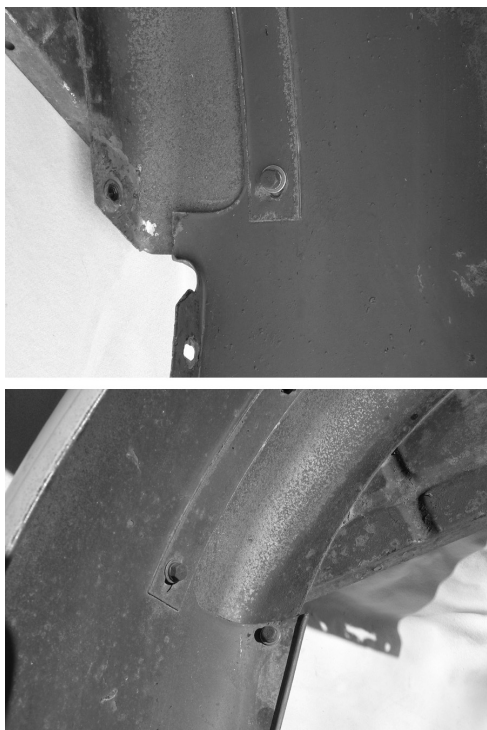
Dual rear fenders and running boards were announced in the 5-26-31 Indianapolis Service Letter. These fenders are AA-16312 (RH) and AA-16312 (LH). Sorry, no example picture is available. Per the July 1, 1931 Ford Parts Price List, the following spacers are listed for used with these dual wheel fenders - AA-16337-AR (1-1/4" long) and replaced by AA-16337-B (1/4" thick). If anyone knows what these parts are, please let me know. Pictures would be great.



Body types using these single/dual wheel fenders are:

195-A – Express 131-1/2" wheelbase  
197-A – Express 157" wheelbase  
270-A – Funeral Service (no duals)  
275-A – Funeral Coach (no duals)  
280-A – Ambulance  
285-A – Police Patrol DeLuxe  
300-A – DeLuxe Delivery

**Figure 7a –Rear Fender AA-16413 (RH)**  
under side front (top), under side rear (bottom)



### **Running Boards**

All of the running boards are the commercial style with diamond tread.

The long running boards for the 195-A, single rear wheel truck are AA-16458-B (RH) and AA-16459 (LH). Measurements are 64-7/8" outside edge, 65" inside edge, 11-3/8" front, and 9-1/2" rear.

For the 195-A with dual wheels, the long running boards are AA-16508 (RH) and AA-16509 (LH). Measurements are 65-5/8" outside edge, 65" inside edge, 11-3/8" front, and 16-1/4" rear.

The body types using these running boards are:

85-A – \*Panel Delivery  
195-A – Express  
229-A – \*Service Car  
270-A – Funeral Service (no duals)  
285-A – \*Police Patrol DeLuxe  
290-A – \*Police Patrol Standard  
300-A – \*DeLuxe Delivery

\*Boards for duals are not in the parts list. They should be the same as 195-A.

The long running boards for the 197-A, single rear wheel trucks are AA-16468 (RH) and AA-16469 (LH). Measurements are 90-3/8" outside edge, 90-5/8" inside edge, 11-3/8" front, and 9-1/2" front.

For the 197-A with dual wheels, the long running boards are AA-16500 (RH) and AA-16501 (LH). These boards were also used on the 210-A Panel Delivery which only came with dual wheels. Measurements are 90-3/4" outside edge, 90-5/8" inside edge, 11-3/8" front, and 16-1/4" rear.

### **Running Board Shields**

Running board shields AA-16535-B (RH) and AA-16536-B (LH) are for the 195-A Express. These shields are for the following 131-1/2" wheelbase body types:

85-A – Panel Delivery  
195-A – Express  
229-A – Service Car  
270-A – Funeral Service  
275-A – Funeral Coach  
280-A – Ambulance  
285-A – Police Patrol DeLuxe  
290-A – Police Patrol Standard  
300-A – DeLuxe Delivery

Running board shields AA-16585-B (RH) and AA-16586 (LH) are for the 197-A Express. These shields are also for the 210-A Panel Delivery.

### **Tail Lamp Support**

The 197-A uses the standard on-frame tail lamp support. However, the 195-A tail lamp support is mounted under the floor rear cross sill. Figure 7b shows this setup with a grounding plate nailed to the rear cross sill and running from the support to the left tail gate on-body hinge. There must be a body to frame ground somewhere to complete a ground back to the battery.

The A-13472-B support is specified for use on six body types.

79-B – A Panel Delivery  
85-B – AA Panel Delivery  
150-B – Station Wagon  
130-B – DeLuxe Delivery  
195-A – Express  
229-A – Service Car

**Figure 7b – Tail Lamp Setup – 195-A Express**

A-13472-B Tail Lamp and License Bracket Support with ground plate  
view under floor rear cross sill on left

