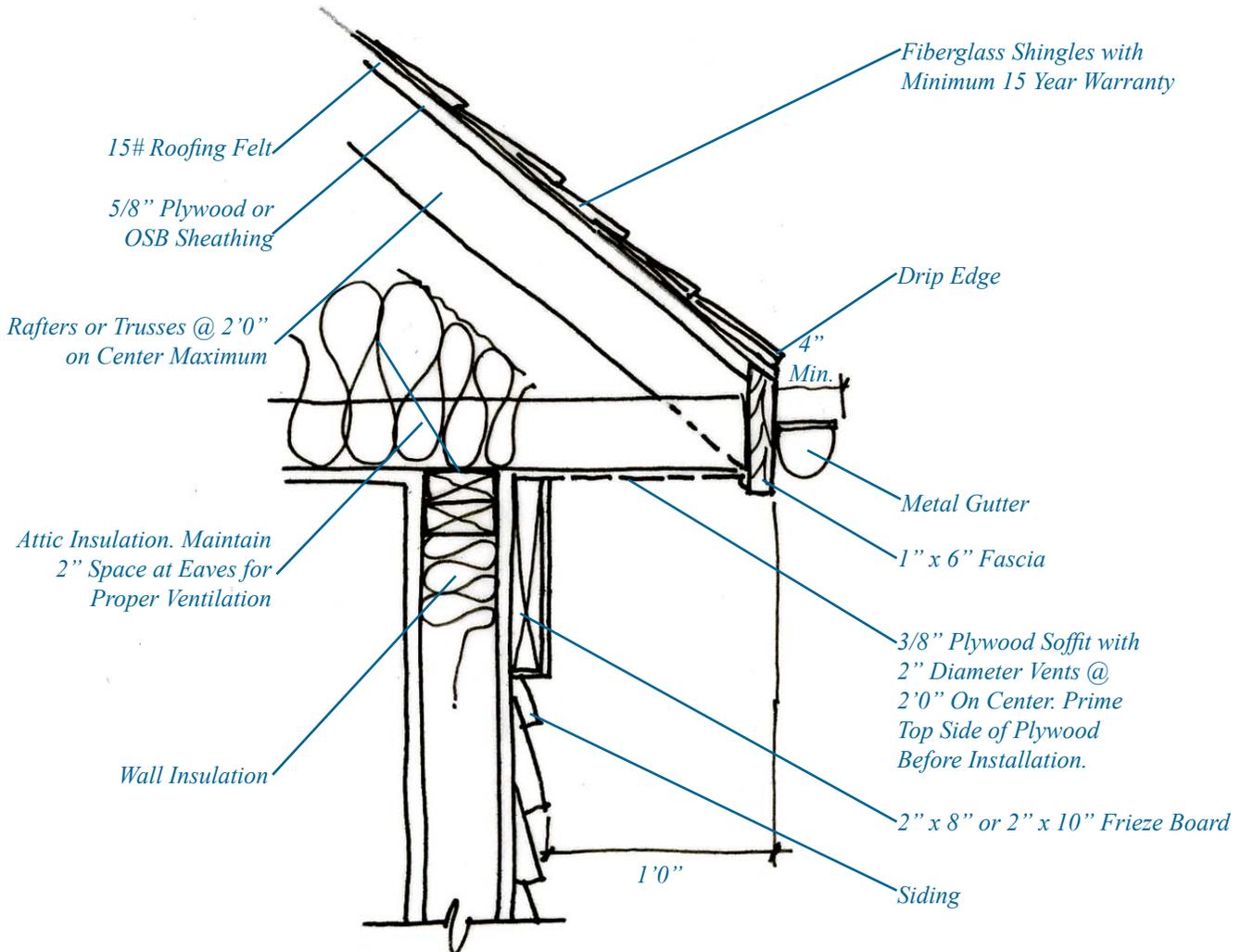


Gutter Installation

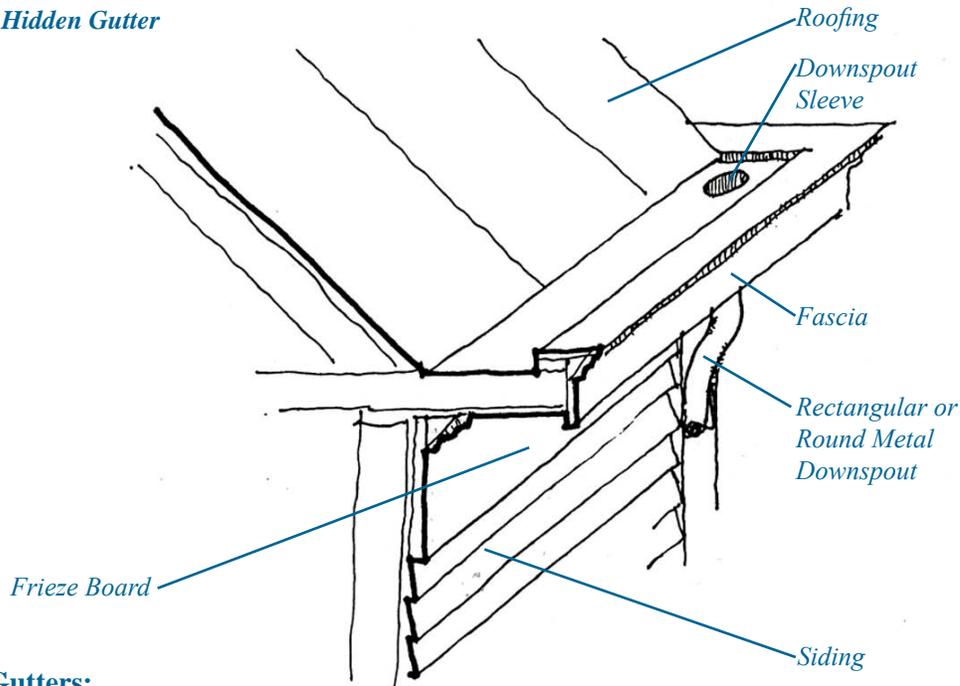
Figure 1: Gutter and Roof Detail



Hidden Gutter:

The hidden gutter is just as it sounds, a gutter built into the roof system in such a manner that it is concealed from view from the ground. It is found in many slate or metal roofs in the Roanoke area. The downspouts, most always round, pass through the roof's *soffit* through a metal sleeve, with a conventional downspout attached to the bottom of the sleeve where it passes through the *eave's* soffit. Most all hidden gutters were framed in wood and clad in metal. A variation of the hidden gutter was a raised panel anchored to the roof that formed a 'V' with the roof's slope and therefore a gutter form. Unfortunately, as an integral component of the roofing system, hidden gutters are out-of-sight and out-of-mind and therefore rarely well maintained (removing leaves and debris, checking for leaks, etc.) and therefore were prone to failure. A leak in a hidden gutter usually means the roof is now leaking making the problem even worse. The well maintained hidden gutter is an architectural 'gem' and should be retained and maintained whenever possible. 'Decking over' hidden gutters and adding conventional gutters was once commonplace, but owners more often restore hidden gutters to their original function.

Figure 2: Hidden Gutter



Surface Gutters:

Most gutters today, and many of the gutters in Roanoke's older homes, are surface gutters. Again, just as the name implies, these gutters are attached to the edge of the roof's *eave*, by way of spikes or *brackets* anchored to the eave's fascia or by hangers or straps that are anchored to the roofing surfaces. Most of Roanoke's early gutters were made of galvanized metal with some copper exceptions found in the area. The joints of the galvanized gutters were soldered although a mechanical joinery, with metal screws and sealant, is used in more current installations. The most common material used for gutters and downspouts today is aluminum. Vinyl guttering is also found as an alternate material. There are two basic configurations found in the area; the half round gutter which usually has a round downspout, and a more decorative 'ogee' gutter usually found with a rectangular downspout.

Figure 3: Surface Gutter

