This line indicates the extent of the cut plane of the elevation view. An elevation view is very similar to a section cut at this line. Objects crossing this line will show as cut in the corresponding view. We have seen this above with the Toposurface. Objects behind this line will not be shown in the elevation view. Objects in front of the line appear in projection. The extents of the elevation line can actually crop the view. To do this, you must enable the crop view parameter in the associated view properties. Let's explore a few of these parameters.

3. Type **ZF** on the keyboard, or choose **Zoom to Fit** from the Zoom pop-up on the Navigation Bar.

4. Select both parts of the south elevation Tag (the Tag and the arrow for the bottom-most one pointing up).

- Drag it to up into the building just above the front façade (see the left side of Figure 4.34).

If you tile both the plan and elevation views side by side on the screen at once while performing these steps, you can see the elevation view change instantly as you move the tag around.
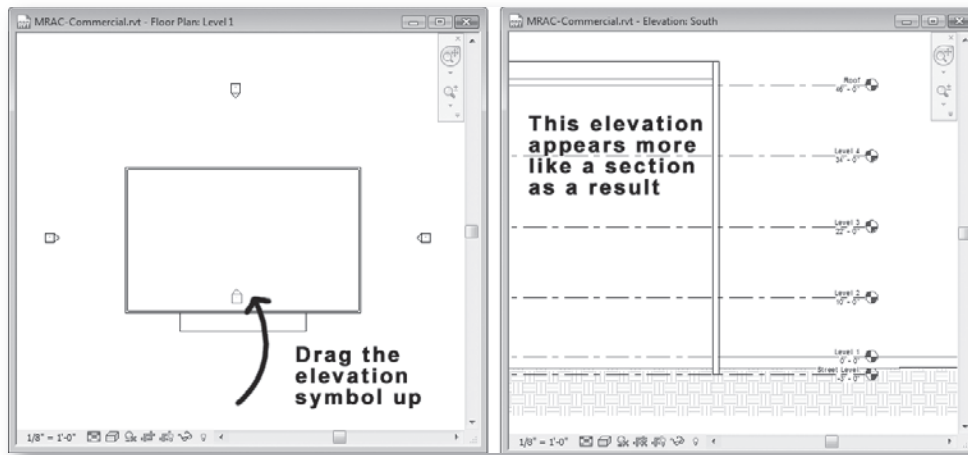

FIGURE 4.34 *Moving the South elevation tag and arrow inside the building results in a section*

- Undo the change or simply move the symbol back to its original location.
- Nudge each elevation view tag closer to the building on all four sides. (Select the elevation tag, and then use the arrow keys on the keyboard to nudge).
- Click the *Modify* tool or press the ESC key.

Loading Custom Elevation Tags

You may find that the elevation tag used in the out-of-the-box template does not match your office standard. New in Revit 2011, we can customize the elevation tag to match virtually anything we like. To do so, we have to build two custom Annotation Families: one for the arrow and the other for the tag itself, called the "body." Once we have both pieces, we combine them to create the final elevation tag. The Family Editor is the environment in Revit where such customizations occur. Since use of the Family Editor can be complicated and sometimes intimidating, in this lesson, we will dispense with the steps to create the custom elevation tag and simply load

one that has been provided for you. If you wish to try your hand at creating it yourself, refer to the "Creating Custom Elevation Tags" topic in Chapter 10 for the complete process.

> 5. On the Insert tab, on the Load from Library panel, click the Load Family button.
>
> • In the "Load Family" dialog, browse to the *Chapter04* folder.
> • Select the *NCS Elevation Tag.rfa* file and then click Open.
>
> 6. On the Manage tab, on the Settings panel, click the Additional Settings drop-down button and then choose Elevation Tags.

The "Type Properties" dialog will open. At the top of the dialog the Family and Type are shown. Next to the Type are some buttons.

> 7. Click the Duplicate button.
>
> • For the name, type: **MRAC** and then click OK.
> • Beneath Type Parameters, change the Elevation Mark to: **NCS Elevation Tag**.
> • Click OK to dismiss the dialog.

Following this process, we have loaded an external Revit Family file (RFA) into our current project. This file is an elevation tag drawn to the specifications outlined in the US National CAD Standard (NCS). The final step is to swap out the existing elevation tags in our project with the new one we have just created.

> 8. Select any one of the existing elevation tags onscreen.
>
> Remember the tag is actually the square [round] part in the middle. The triangular part is the elevation view itself. Be sure to select the tag. On the Type Selector, it will say: Elevation: Building Elevation.
>
> • On the Properties palette, click the Edit Type button.
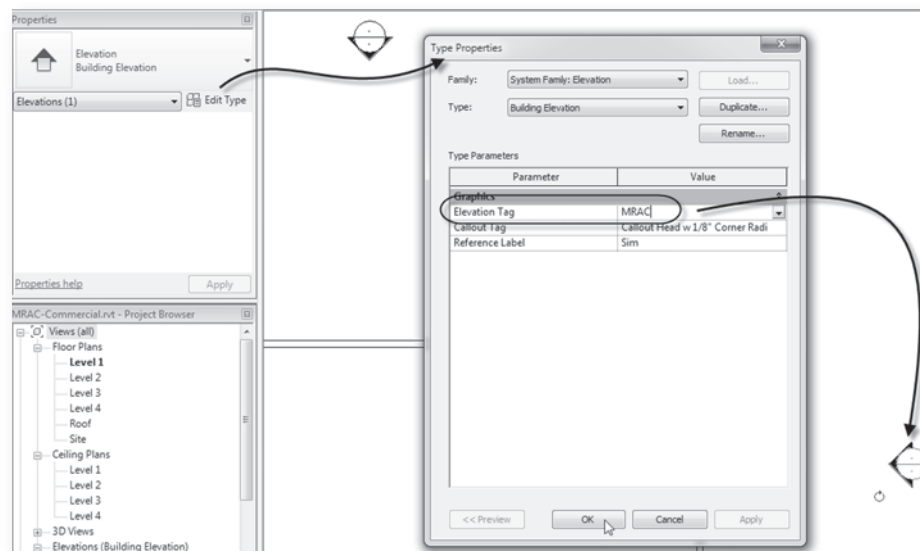> • In the "Type Parameters" area, choose **MRAC** for the Elevation Tag and then click OK (see Figure 4.35).

FIGURE 4.35 *Assign the MRAC Elevation Tag Type to the Exterior Elevations*

> If you wish to use a custom elevation tag in all your projects, simply perform the previous steps in your office standard template file. You can also customize other view tags as well, such as the section and callout tags. Notice that in the figure, it is possible to assign both an elevation tag and a callout tag to the elevation type. The callout tag is used if you create a callout in your elevation view to create another enlarged elevation view.

Adjusting Elevation Cropping

The elevation views by default do not use or show the crop regions. This means that the view continues to dynamically resize itself as the building geometry grows and shrinks. If you wish to limit the size of the elevation, you can display the crop region and then resize it to crop away the unwanted portion of the view.

9. Open the *South* elevation view.

Take note of the odd way the edges of the Toposurface display. They are displaying accurately relative to the position of the elevation, but do not give a nice clean edge that would be more desirable in a finished elevation drawing. Adjusting the Crop Region can help.

- On the View Control Bar, click the Show Crop Region view icon.
- The Crop Region will appear as a long rectangle surrounding the elevation.
- Select the Crop Region.
- Drag the handles to crop away the unwanted portion of the view (see Figure 4.36).
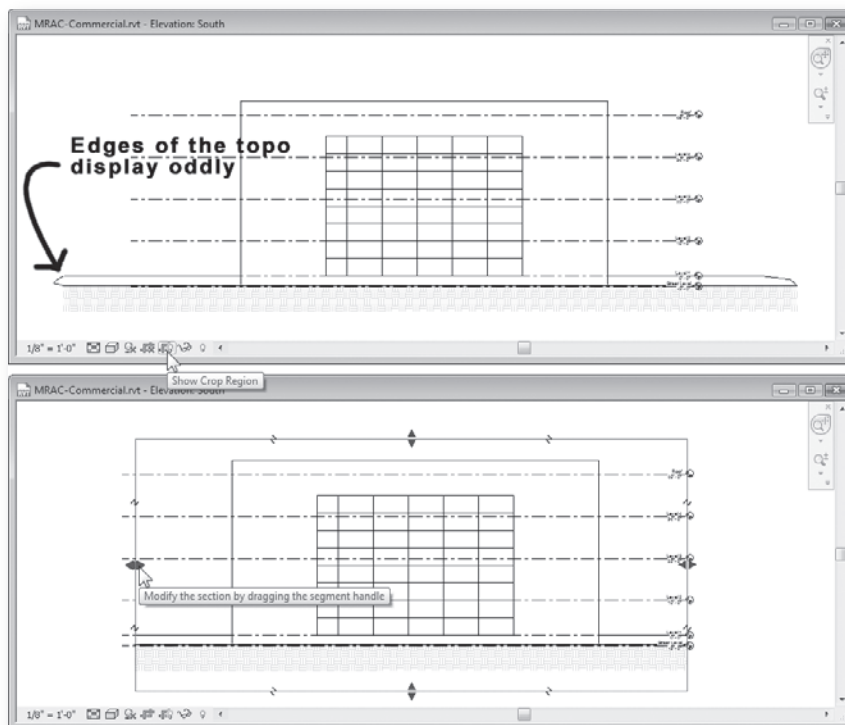

FIGURE 4.36 *Showing and adjusting the Crop Region*

- Click the Hide Crop Region icon.