

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 22 1985**

date entered **NOV 21 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Mabton High School

and/or common N.A.

**2. Location**

street & number End of East B St. on High School Rd. not for publication

city, town Mabton vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Yakima code 077

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mabton Historical Society

street & number P.O. Box 6

city, town Mabton vicinity of state Washington 98935

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Yakima County Courthouse

street & number 128 North Second Street

city, town Yakima state Washington 98902

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1985  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

city, town 111 W. 21st Ave., KL-11, Olympia state Washington 98504-5411

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Mabton High School is situated on a two acre lot on the eastern edge of Mabton, Washington. The property is surrounded by farmland on the northeast and southeast, by a new high school on the west, and residential neighborhoods on the northwest and southwest.

The high school building is a two and one-half story, tan brick structure with basement (partly above grade) and attic. The rectangular structure measures approximately 80 by 62 feet, with exterior brick walls and a hip roof. The roof, which was covered with asphalt shingles in 1977, has projecting eaves underscored by wood block modillions. Hip roof dormers project from all four slopes of the roof.

The north facade of the building is dominated by a two and one-half story projecting pavilion which culminates in a shaped, curvilinear parapet. The pavilion houses the double door entry with fan light (now boarded), set within a round-arched stone entryway with entablature. Above the arch, a concrete panel is inscribed "Mabton High School." The second story of the pavilion is lighted by three flat headed windows; the top story has three windows arranged in a Palladian motif beneath the parapet. Fenestration is regularly disposed across all four sides of the building arranged in groups of three or four windows with stone lintels and sills. (Window openings have been boarded up and sash removed in recent years.) A stone water table separates the basement and upper stories. The frieze is ornamented with modillions beneath the eaves (with deterioration evident in the modillions, soffit, and fascia). Three brick chimneys rise above the roof.

Classroom space on the first and second floors is organized symmetrically around large central halls, with the main staircase in the north pavilion. The first classroom floor houses four classrooms and the principal's office. The second classroom floor has three classrooms and a small auditorium. Interior partition walls are faced in plaster. Interior wood trim includes door frames, window surrounds, and chair and picture rails. The original hardwood floors and bannister survive in part. However, deterioration is evident throughout the interior, including the removal of many window panes and damage to classroom space due to a recent small fire.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	..... community planning	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic	..... conservation	..... law	..... science
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture	..... economics	..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600-1699	..... architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ..... education	..... military	..... social/
..... 1700-1799	..... art	..... engineering	..... music	..... humanitarian
..... 1800-1899	..... commerce	..... exploration/settlement	..... philosophy	..... theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ..... 1900-	..... communications	..... industry	..... politics:government	..... transportation
		..... invention		..... other (specify)

Specific dates	1911- 1935	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1911 during a period of local growth and prosperity, Mabton High School is historically significant as the city's first and, for more than fifty years, only high school building. The scale and cost of the school reflect the civic optimism of Mabton's early years and, although community fortunes declined after the 1920s, the school remains an imposing symbol from an era when Mabton was a leading trade center in the Yakima Valley.

Mabton was established as "Mabelton Station" in 1892, a stop along the route of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The site was located in a rich agricultural region, and stores, warehouses, hotels, and a depot were constructed almost immediately in anticipation of coming trade. Reflecting this initial growth, the town's first frame schoolhouse opened in the fall of 1895 under the tutelage of Miss Lima Platt. After the start of large-scale irrigation projects in the early twentieth century, farm production in the valley boomed and Mabton was an important rail shipping point for the region's wheat, hay, fruit, and stock products. In 1905, Mabton was incorporated as a city, and its commercial role was reflected in a business district that boasted several substantial brick blocks. But perhaps the most colorful event from the period was the annual Hay Palace Fair, an agricultural exposition held each summer in Mabton from 1915 to 1926, during which an elaborate "palace" was constructed of hay bales, a fitting symbol of Mabton's fortunes.

Mabton High School was built in the midst of the boom as local population increased to nearly 1,000 people. Land for the school was purchased from the Mabton Orchards Company for \$900 (paid for in gold coin). The new structure was a substantial brick ediface costing \$30,000, with large classrooms, an arched entryway, and a shaped parapet reminiscent of the Mission Revival style of the period. By 1913, the school offered a fully accredited four year course of study and maintained a staff of nine teachers. For the next half century, Mabton High School served the educational needs of the community. Fifty-two classes graduated from the school before it was replaced by a new facility in the mid-1906s and used as a grade school.

Built during a boom period, the High School served long after the boom had ended. By the 1920s, improved rail connections and irrigation made Sunnyside and Grandview more important trade centers for the lower Yakima Valley. In 1926, a devastating fire levelled several buildings in Mabton, and further weakened the city's economic position. With its rail advantage gone, and its business district damaged, Mabton became a quiet, small service center for the immediate area. The high school remains among the few surviving buildings that still reflect the community's early prosperity. In an attempt to preserve the structure, the Mabton Historical Society purchased the high school building from the Mabton School District in 1977 for \$7,800, and is responsible for the building's maintenance and future use.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2.07

Quadrangle name Mabton East, WA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UTM References**

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2	6	9	3	5	0
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5	1	2	1	7	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

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D 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** That portion of Government Lot 4 in Section 6, Township 8 North, Range 23, East, W.M., described as follows: Beginning at a point 60 feet east of the point of intersection of the south line of B Street in the Town of Mabton, Washington, and the west line of Section 6, Township 8 North, Range 23 East, W.M.,

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	n/a	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Hazel L. Gannon, Treasurer		Edited by Leonard Garfield Archaeology & Hist. Pres.
organization	Mabton Historical Society	date	June 1, 1985
street & number	P.O. Box 6	telephone	(509) 894-4763
city or town	Mabton	state	Washington 98935

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Paul E. Shaw*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 8, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for Allene Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the    date 11-21-85  
National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration \_\_\_\_\_

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Ardis, Emery. "Farmers Change Mabton From Rip-Roaring Town," Tri-City Herald, March 14, 1971.

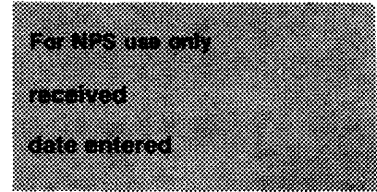
Lyman, William. History of Yakima Valley, Washington, Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1919.

"Mabton," Yakima Herald, March 1, 19853, p. G-12.

O'Callahan, Patrick. "Old West Thrived and Died in Mabton," Tri-City Herald, February 24, 1984.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

10

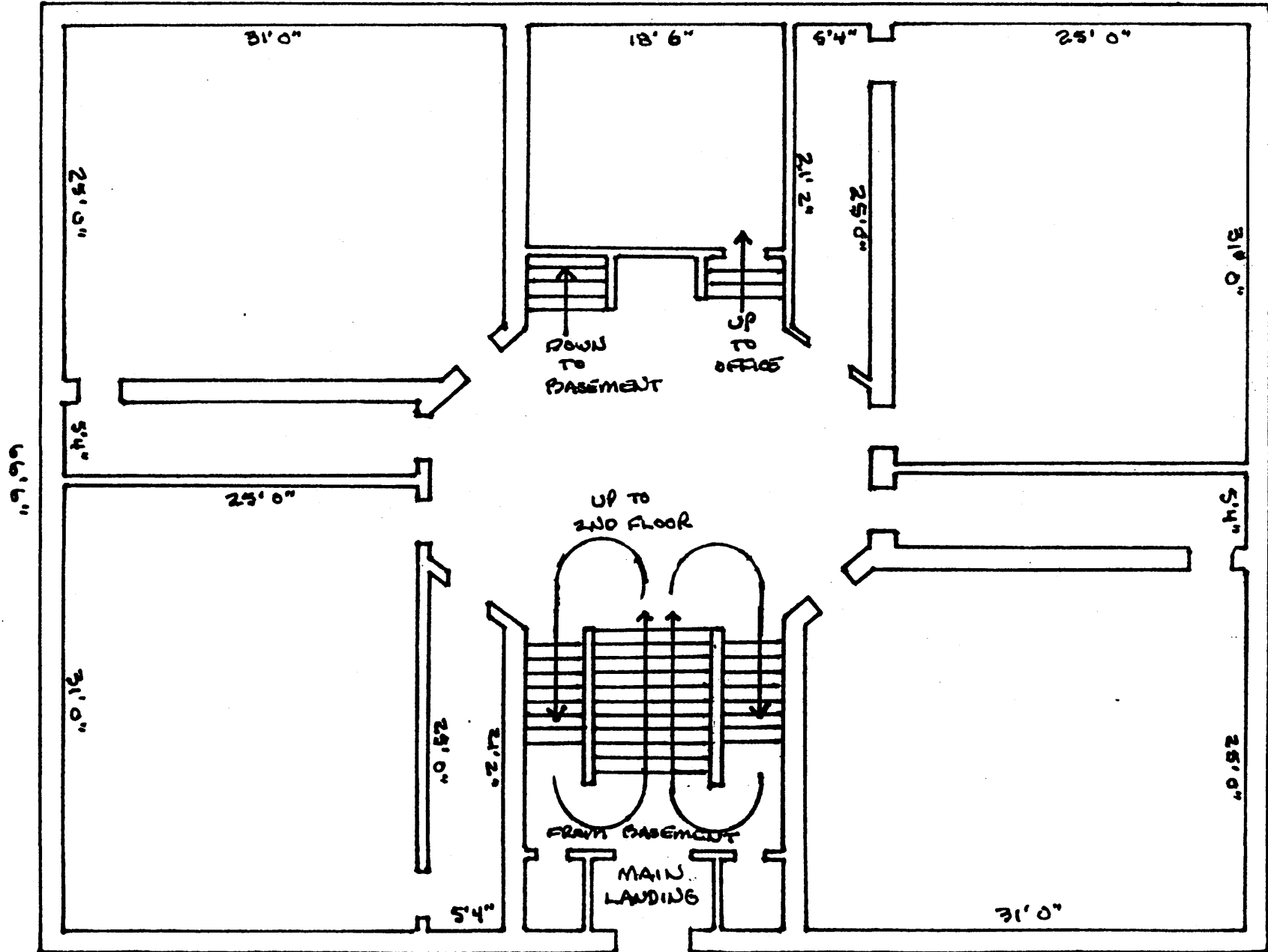
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thence east and parallel with the north line of said Section 6 a distance of 300 feet;  
thence south and parallel with the west line of said Section 6 a distance of 300 feet;  
thence west and parallel with the north line of said Section 6 a distance of 300 feet;  
thence north and parallel with the west line of said Section 6 a distance of 300 feet  
to the point of beginning.

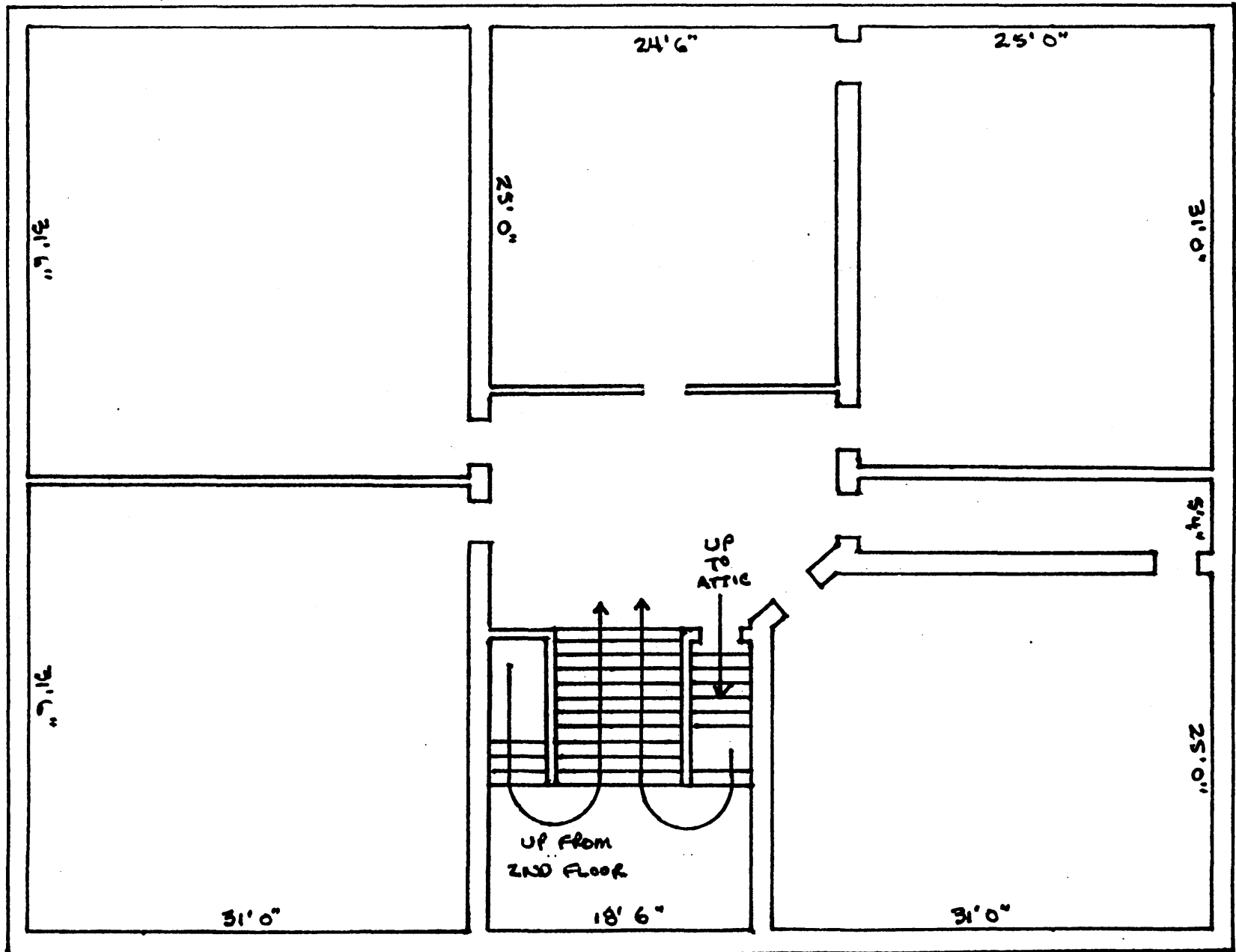
1ST FLOOR

96' 6"



NORTH

2ND FLOOR



NORTH