

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

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

For NPS use only
received **MAR 30 1984**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic West, Nathaniel, Buildings

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 711-727 SE Grand Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Portland N/A vicinity of Third Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Multnomah code 051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert C. Hunt and Gary Kaer

street & number 727 SE Grand Avenue

city, town Portland N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97214

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multnomah County Courthouse

street & number 1021 SW 4th Avenue

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resource Inventory
City of Portland has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981-1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Portland Bureau of Planning

city, town Portland state Oregon 97204

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nathaniel West Buildings are located side-by-side on SE Grand Avenue, Portland, Oregon. The building located at 711-719 SE Grand Avenue was constructed in 1892, and the building located at 721-727 SE Grand Avenue was erected in 1896. 711-719 SE Grand can be stylistically categorized as Italianate, while 721-727 SE Grand fits into the Streetcar Era Commercial category. 711-719 SE Grand is essentially unaltered. 721-727 SE Grand has been rehabilitated and its main floor has been slightly altered. Both retain a high degree of integrity.

These buildings were constructed and originally owned by Nathaniel K. West and remained in the West family up to and through 1907, as reflected in The Portland Block Book, Vol. II, 1907, page 154. The adjoining building, 701-707 SE Grand Ave., is owned by Jerry Bosco and was also built and owned by Mr. West and has been previously listed on the National Register.

The legal descriptions for the 1892 and 1896 buildings follow respectively: "Lot 7 and the South 1 and 5/6 feet of Lot 8, Block 99, East Portland, in the City of Portland, County of Multnomah and State of Oregon" and "Lot 6, and the Northerly 12 inches of Lot 5, Block 99, East Portland, in the City of Portland, County of Multnomah and State of Oregon."

Research through the Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1889 corrected to 1897, reflect the original uses of the buildings together with their original addresses. The buildings, formerly addressed 125-133 5th Street (Morrison was formerly "N" Street and Grand was 5th Street), were originally used as follows: 125-274 unspecified retail store, 129 Post Office Station, 131 unspecified retail store and 133 drug store with dwelling on the second floor.

The 1892 Portland City Directory more specifically describes the original uses of the 125 Grande Avenue address as "dry goods, clothing and men's furnishings goods." The 1896 Portland City Directory reflects Thadius S. West as the proprietor of a "boots and shoes" store and notes the Nathaniel West and family residence as 129 1/2 Grand Avenue, which is apparently the area above the Post Office Station. In 1897, Orville West took over proprietorship and converted the West residence to public boarding rooms.

Through the years the buildings have housed a variety of businesses including the Grand Electric Company and the Oregon Restaurant and Oyster House. The second floor window of 721-727 SE Grand still bears the word "GYM," denoting what was once a well known training facility for local professional and aspiring boxers.

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The ground floor of 711-719 SE Grande is currently leased to a sound company, specializing in sound systems for religious institutions. The remaining floors are under construction and will be leased as office space. The main floor of 721-727 SE Grand has housed a popular bar and restaurant for the last four years, known as The East Bank Saloon. The petitioners originally leased this section (and the basement which is used for storage) prior to purchase of the buildings and completely remodelled it. The plaster and paint which had accumulated through the years were sandblasted to expose the original brick on all interior walls. The interior has been furnished with many antiques including English pub tables, church pews, chandeliers and light fixtures and many old photographs representing areas of Old East Portland, together with old photos of the early Oregon logging and fishing industries. The second floor of this building has been renovated in the same style and is used by the East Bank Saloon as a banquet room to accomodate large groups.

Description 711-719 SE Grand

This Italiante style building is constructed of bearing wall brick. The main floor dimensions are approximately 51 x 65 feet. Three of the four original cast iron columns appear at ground level although the lower portion of the storefronts were altered c. 1928. The six-light per bay transom is original. Above the modestly decorated sub-cornice there are eight one-over-one, double-hung sash windows per floor. These are set into segmentally-arched frames and are embellished with label mouldings. The decorative scheme for the shed-roofed cornice is almost identical to its neighbor (701-707 SE Grand), with curved brackets and dentils and low-relief sawn frieze panels.

The main floor interior space is divided into two large spaces, one of which occupies two-thirds of the square footage. Upper floor rooms are disposed around the T-shaped circulation pattern.

Description 721-727 SE Grand

More modestly conceived, the last West Building is often stylistically referred to as Streetcar Era Commercial, as comparative stylistic references have been reduced. Divided into three unequal bays on the lower floor, the upper level is also asymmetrical.

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Occupying a 60 x 51-foot ground floor area, the building is constructed in bearing wall brick. Main floor bays are defined by corbelled brick pilasters. The original storefront configuration is unknown. The two 1920s-era storefronts were removed.

The upper level presents paired one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. Corbelled pilasters which extend from the roof to the lintel area, plus vertical recessed rectangular panels, serve to define the bays. Horizontal recessed panels appear in each bay above an unadorned belt course. Above these is a modestly ornamented cornice, a portion of which is in sheet metal. All original wall coverings have been removed on the interior. Interior arches, were uncovered and re-opened during the rehabilitation.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1892 and 1896 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nathaniel West Buildings are significant to the City of Portland for their associations with the Nathaniel West family and as two of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in the old city of East Portland.

Nathaniel West (1826-1897), a native of Broome County, New York, was descended from Thomas West, a member of the British armed forces sent to the North American colonies to enforce the Stamp Act. West's forebear is said to have switched his allegiance upon arrival and to have joined the revolutionary movement. In any event, West brought his wife and four children to Portland in 1875. In the following year he settled in the separate town of East Portland, on the east bank of the Willamette River, and bought property on 4th and "L" Street. The 4th Street property, containing a store and house, later was sold to become the East Portland First National Bank. Bank buildings typically were associated with his land dealings.

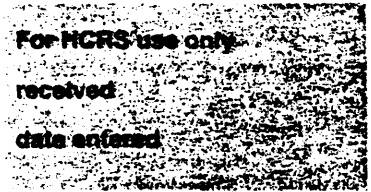
Selling his initial property for a bank site for \$30,000 enabled West to build at 5th and "M" Street (later renamed SE Grand and Alder) and open the "most complete dry goods and ladies' and gents' furnishing good establishment on the East Side." The Wests resided in an upstairs apartment in the building. Over the next ten years, the family constructed additional buildings on the block, including five stores and a bank. Of these, only 711-719 and 721-727 SE Grand are still standing, owing to construction of new approach spans for the Morrison Street Bridge in 1936 under WPA auspices. The remainder of the block is vacant except for a two-story concrete warehouse/retail building of the 1920s which occupies the northwest corner, behind West's Block. All of the West Buildings offer strong visual support for two National Register properties a block to the north on either side of Grand Avenue -- the New Logus Block (1892) and the Barber Block (1890).

West was elected president of the East Portland City Council and was known as a champion of public improvements -- most notably a crossing of the Willamette River at Morrison Street. The original Morrison Street Bridge promoted by West and other East Portland businessmen was opened in 1887. It was replaced by the existing structure in 1905.

East Portland was incorporated in 1870. The major impetus for development on this side of the river came from the construction of the Oregon and California Railroad. Steady growth attracted a greater percentage of the metropolitan population and before 1900, over 50% of the population lived on the east side. East 5th, now Grand Avenue, was the city's main thoroughfare, leading to the north to the city of Albina, incorporated in 1887.

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Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1889 corrected to 1897

The Portland Block Book, Vol. II, 1907, page 154

Preservation Options for Portland Neighborhoods

Portland City Hall Archives - Inspection Reports

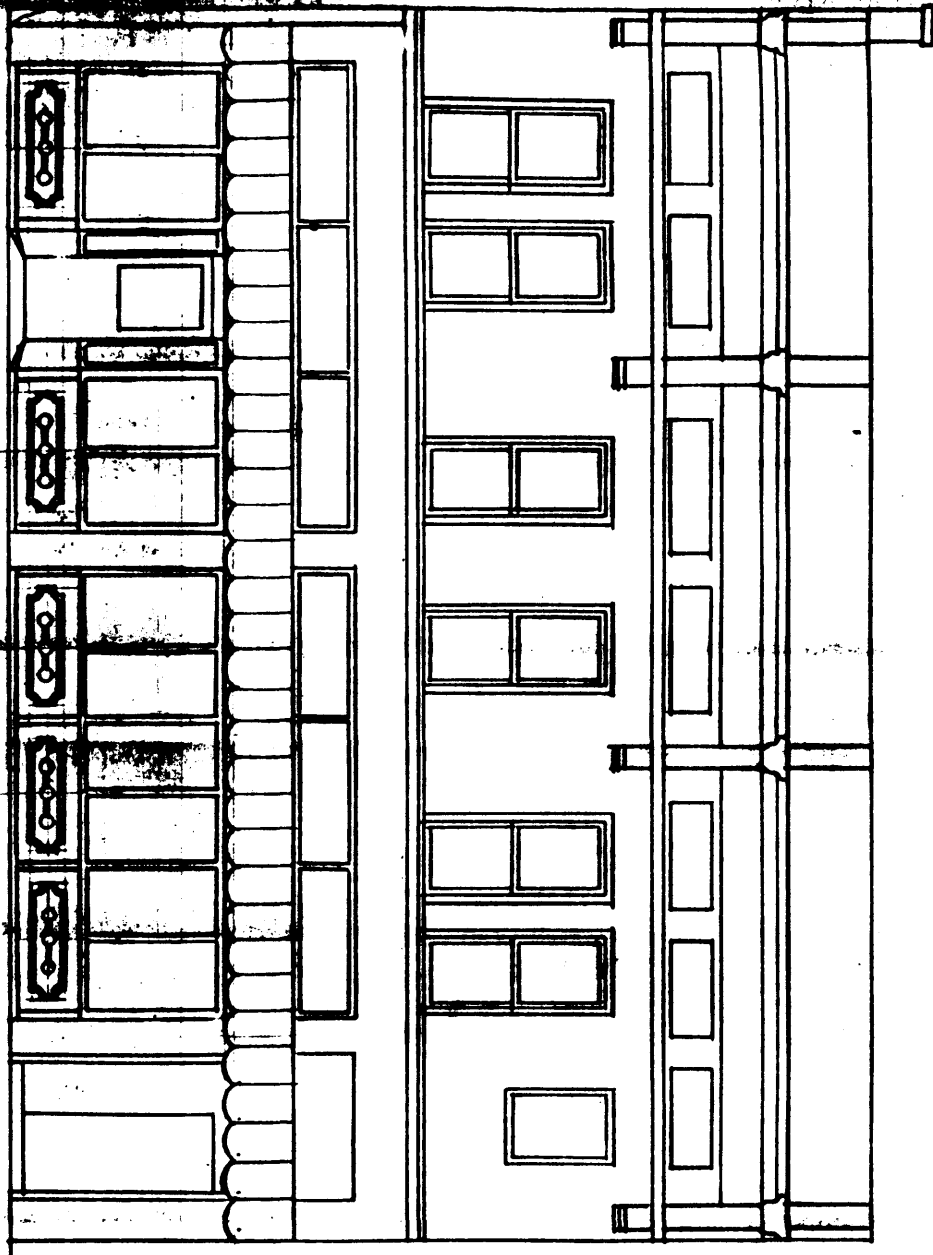
East Portland City Directory

Oregon Historical Society Scrap Book

Newspapers; SB 5, page 41

Oregon Historical Society Vertical Files - Bridges

NATHANIEL WEST BUILDINGS
711-727 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
Elevation of rehab scheme,
721-727 SE Grand



PATIO

NATHANIEL WEST BUILDINGS
711-727 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
First floor plan, 721-727 SE Grand

30' 2"

WALK IN
COOLER

WOMEN

MEN

KITCHEN

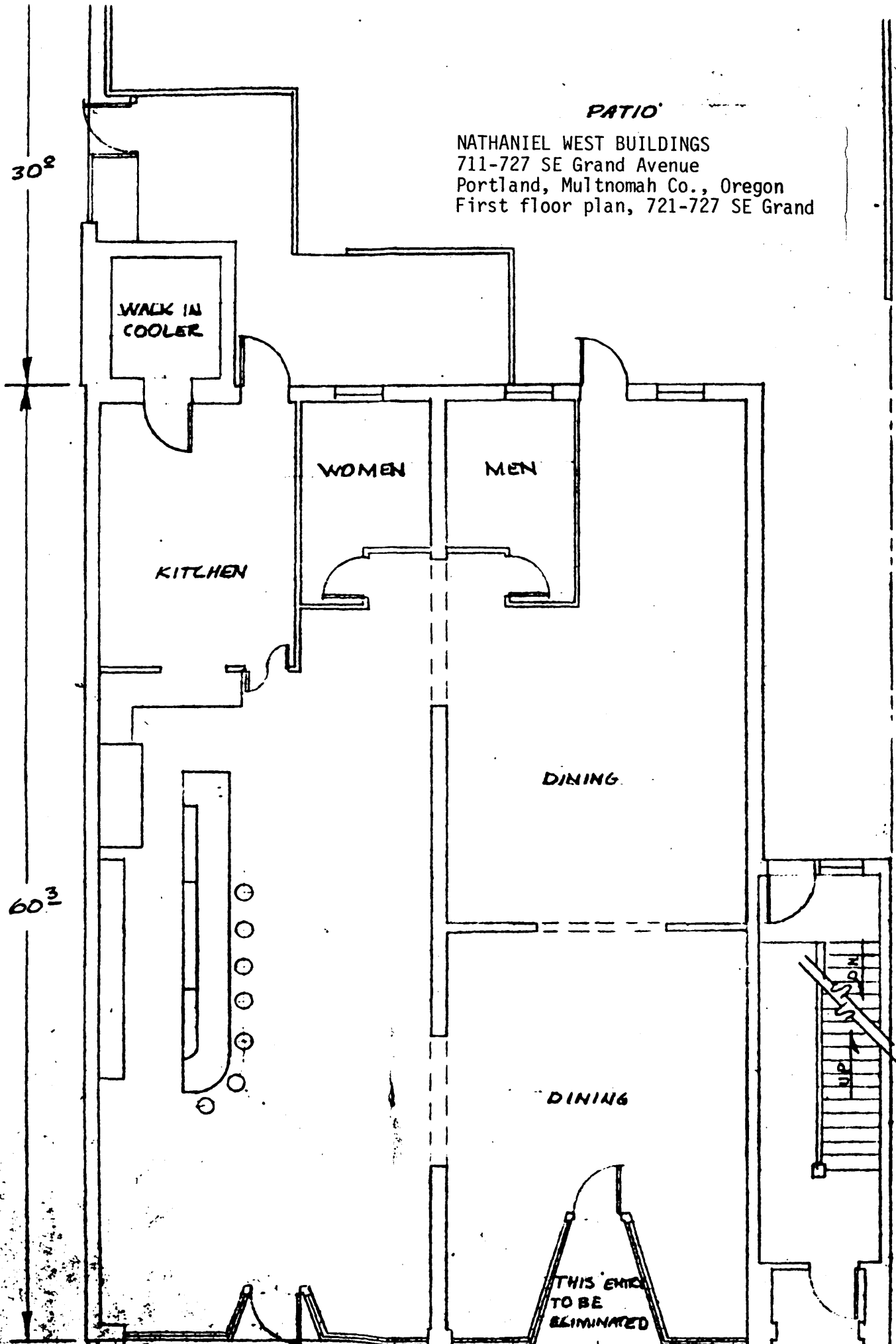
DINING

60' 3"

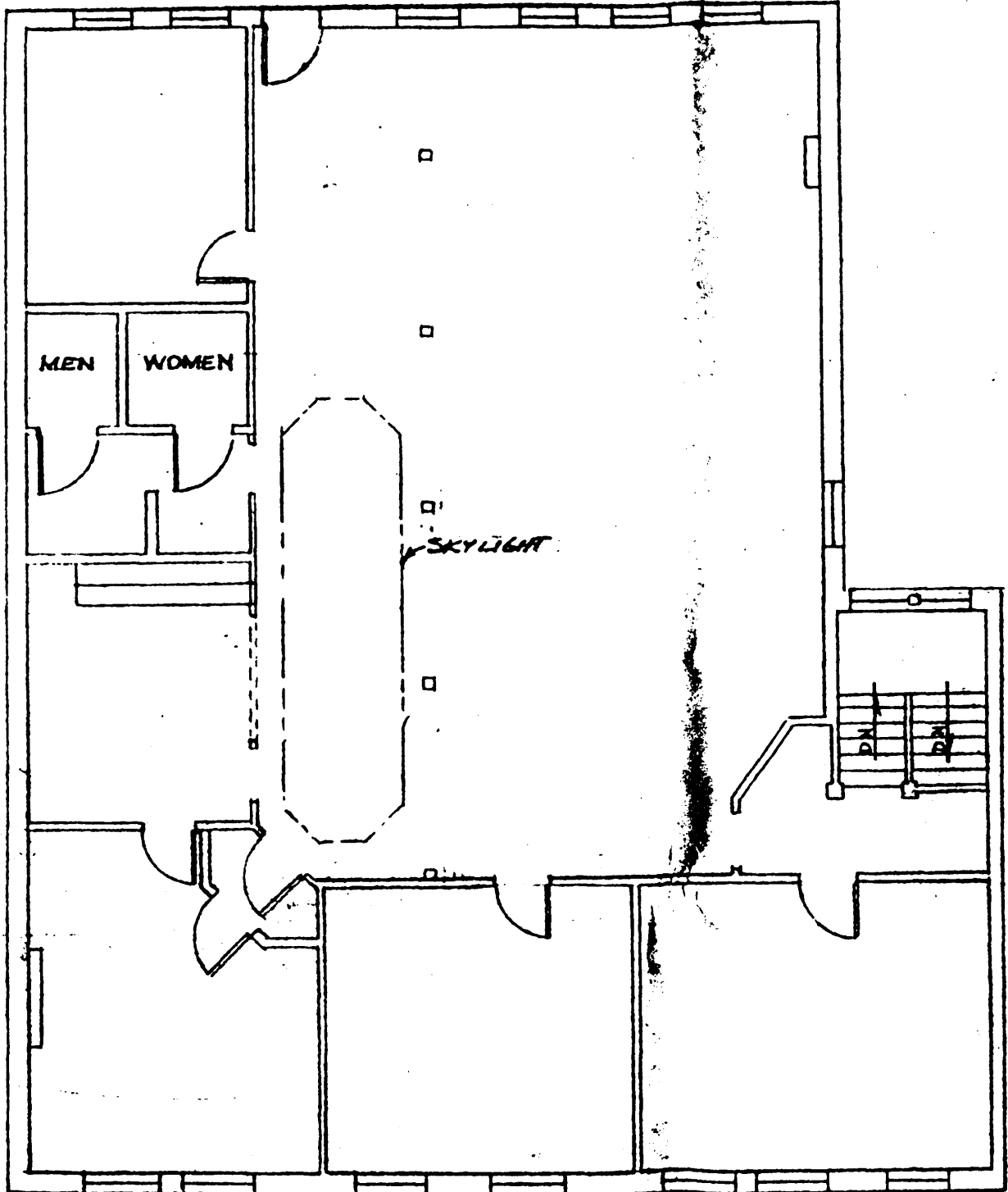
DINING

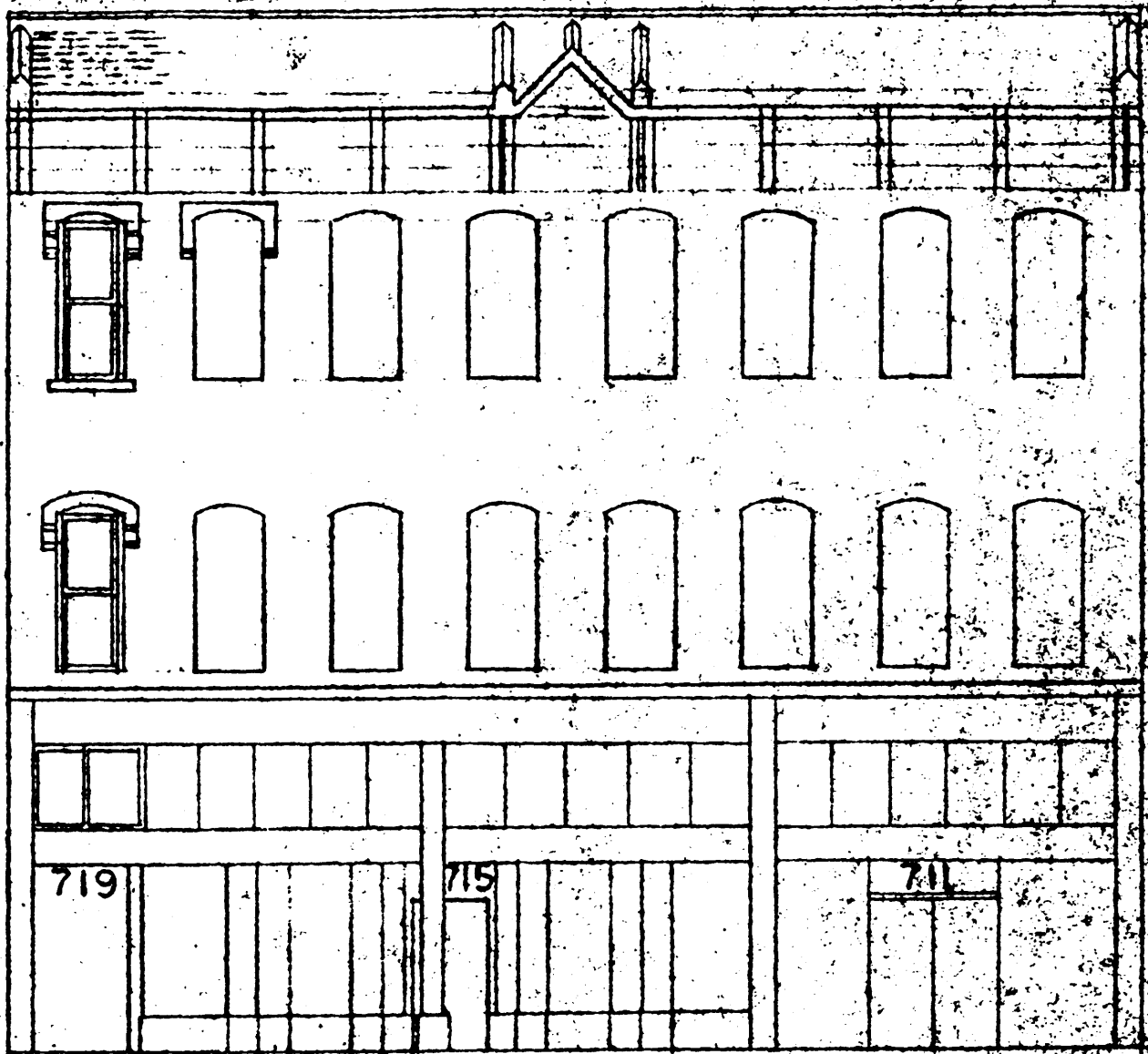
UP
DOWN

THIS END
TO BE
ELIMINATED



NATHANIEL WEST BUILDINGS
711-727 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
Second Floor plan, 721-727 SE Grand



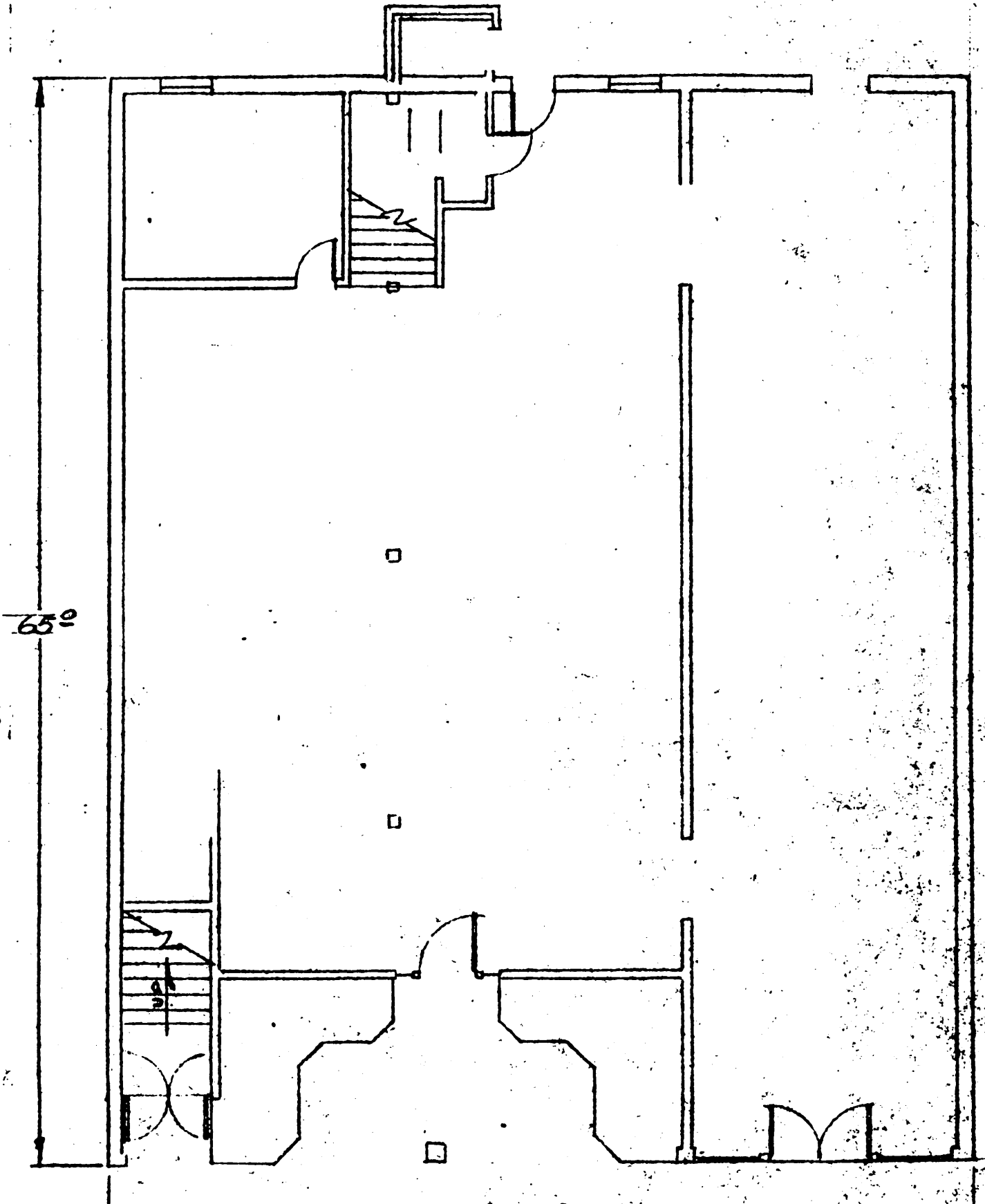


BRICK VENEER
2 X 6 STUDS
16" OC

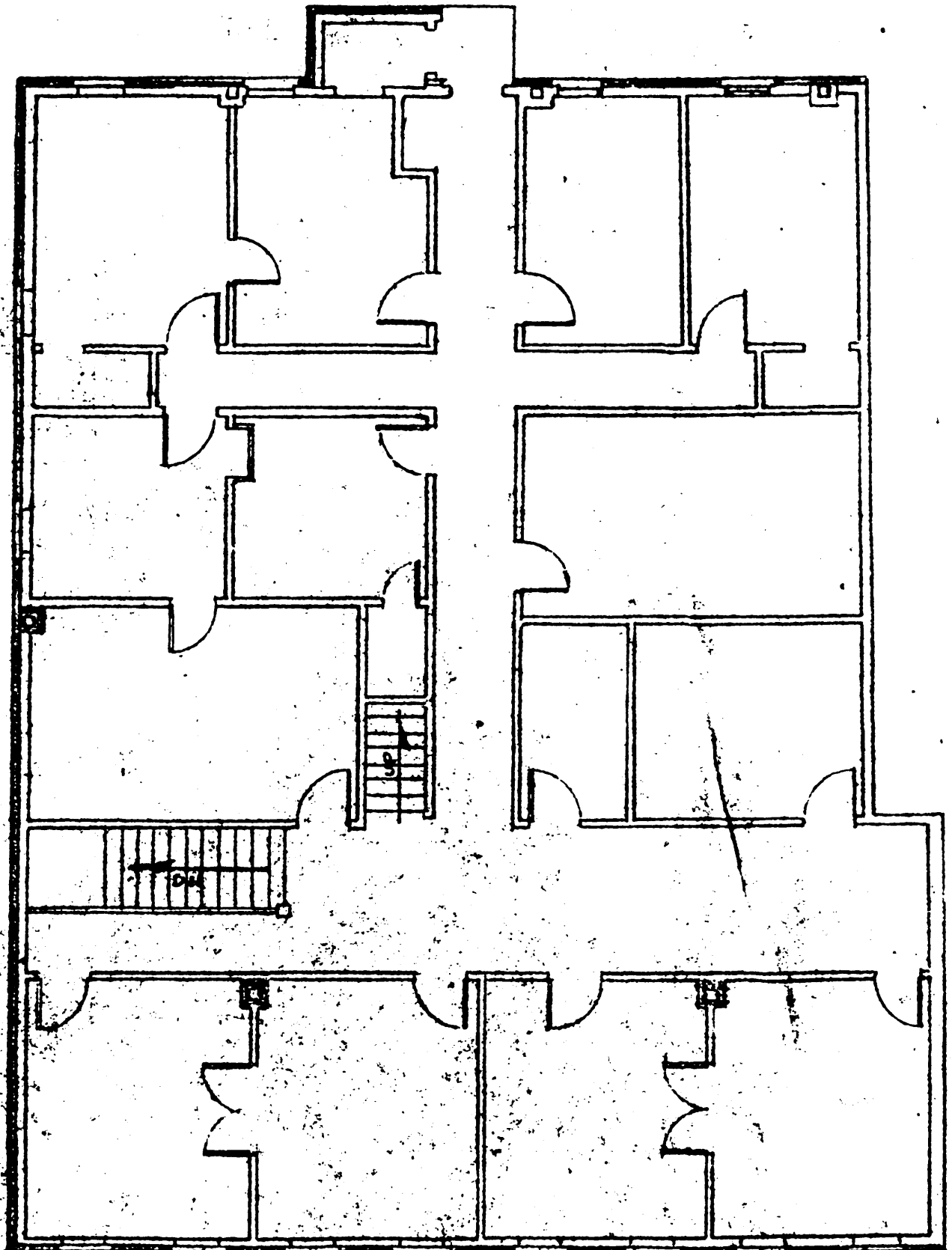
EAST ELEVATION

NATHANIEL WEST BUILDINGS
711-727 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
Front Elevation 711-719 SE Grand

NATHANIEL WEST BUILDINGS
711-727 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
First Floor plan, 711-719 SE Grand



NATHANIEL WEST BUILDINGS
711-727 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
Second floor plan, 711-719 SE Grand



NATHANIEL WEST BUILDINGS
711-727 SE Grand Avenue
Portland, Multnomah Co., Oregon
Third floor plan, 711-719 SE Grand

