

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Rapid City Garage

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 827-829 Main Street

NA not for publication

city, town Rapid City

NA vicinity of

congressional district First

state South Dakota

code 46

county Pennington

code 103

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>NA</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Raymond Hillenbrand

street & number 9th and St. Joseph, Suite 400

city, town Rapid City

NA vicinity of

state SD 57701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Pennington County Courthouse

city, town Rapid City

state SD

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date NA federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records NA

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The L-shaped Rapid City Garage building, which is located in the 800 block of Main Street, stands 30 feet high, 135 feet long and 100 feet across the widest point along the alley. Constructed of rubble stone masonry with a painted buff colored brick veneer, this early twentieth century commercial building has symmetrically arranged rectangular windows with arch lintels and a cut-brick parapet with mousetoothing along the Main Street and 9th Street facades.

Built in 1911 as an auto sales and repair garage, the garage provided for large entry doors, reinforced floors and ramp to basement level storage. The rear wing was added in the late 1930's to allow for larger automobiles and truck repair. The storefront was modified, probably in the late 1940's, to accept commercial store window display and the smaller windows filled in to accomodate new interior display in the late 1950's. Plans for the restoration of the Rapid City Garage include the reconstruction of the masonry storefront and reopening closed windows and doorways. Both front and rear entrances will be utilized and doors will be designed and patterned after the original garage doors. The brick was painted a number of years ago to reduce surface deterioration, and to cover mismatched brick in the window openings. The painting of soft brick was not uncommon. Renovation plans call for new brick construction to match existing design and configuration and painted to match the existing paint colors.

On the interior, the first floor contains open and commercial display space and reflects little change from the old automobile showroom/repair design. Originally used for auto and parts storage, the basement retains its early elements of low ceilings, ramp from the alley and remnants of an outside stairway to the public sidewalk. The second floor, which has changed little since 1911, contains two hallways dividing a series of rooms that were part of the hotel/nursing home use and rooms utilized by a publishing company. There is little interior ornamentation reflecting its use as an auto/service garage and working persons hotel.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1911 Builder/Architect NA

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rapid City Garage is significant for its role in the commercial history of Rapid City. As the first fireproof garage, the building provided service and storage for one of the first auto dealerships in the city, Canfield and Holcomb. The second floor of the building also served as a boarding house and later became the first commercial nursing home in the Rapid City area.

The early 1900's saw tremendous changes in western South Dakota in technology, transportation, and communication with the advent of automobiles, telephones, and commuter railroads. A number of early automobiles were introduced into frontier towns and many dealerships grew as an extension of Livery stables. The Cole was an automobile introduced into the American market in 1909 and was available for sale or hire by C.I. Canfield. The Overland automobile dealer was A.A. Holcomb, and located in a former livery stable on east Main Street. In 1911, Canfield and Holcomb formed a partnership to market these two excellent automobiles and provide sales/service and storage in a new modern building constructed exclusively for serving the needs of the driving public.

When the Rapid City Garage opened in September of 1911, its owners boasted that it was the first fireproof garage providing service and storage for their cars. The market for automobiles grew steadily and in 1928 there were 12 dealers selling every car from Ford Model T's to REO Wagons. The competition was fierce and many small companies across the country produced a wide variety of automobiles. The Rapid City Garage grew until the Cole ceased production in 1925 and the Overland a year later. This brought an end to the original Rapid City Garage car dealership.

In the late 1920's, the Raymond Motors Company dealership occupied the building and sold Chrysler/Plymouth automobiles until the beginning of World War II at which time automobile sales dropped significantly because of the production of war machinery. The building then went through a series of tenants ranging from the Railway Express Agency, U.S. Reserves, a furniture store, a restaurant, professional offices and finally to the present Montgomery Ward catalog and auto repair store.

The second floor of many early commercial buildings doubled as a rooming or boarding house for travelers through the city. The close proximity to the two railroad depots offered a ready supply of clients to the boarding house. The second floor had nearly twenty rooms for rent by the day, week, or month, and the boarding rooms/hotel business passed from the Ferdinand House, to Hank's Rooms, Fitzgerald Hotel, Arrowhead Hotel and finally to the Mt. View Hotel.

In 1951, the second floor was divided into residential and commercial office use, and the Basler Publishing Company obtained office space at 829½ Main and remained there until 1978 when they relocated to the western section of the commercial area of Rapid City. Since that time, that area of the second floor has remained vacant.

Mrs. Marie Sheldon took over the second floor of the Rapid City Garage Building in 1953 and established the Mt. View Hotel. She eventually shifted the emphasis of the Hotel from

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Holiday Greetings" by the Rapid City Journal, 1914-15  
Rapid City Journal, 1911-12

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less Than One Acre  
Quadrangle name Rapid City East Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	13	641600	4882260	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 13-16, Block 82, Original Town Site

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

state	NA	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark W. Thomas with the assistance of Melanie A. Betz

organization Historic South Dakota Foundation, Inc. date March 23, 1984

street & number P.O. Box 2998 telephone 343-3781

city or town Rapid City state South Dakota 57709

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Office of Cultural Preservation date

For HCERS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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serving travelers and permanent residents to serving older, retired persons needing special care and attention. This facility is recognized as the first commercial nursing home in the Rapid City area which served the region until 1965.



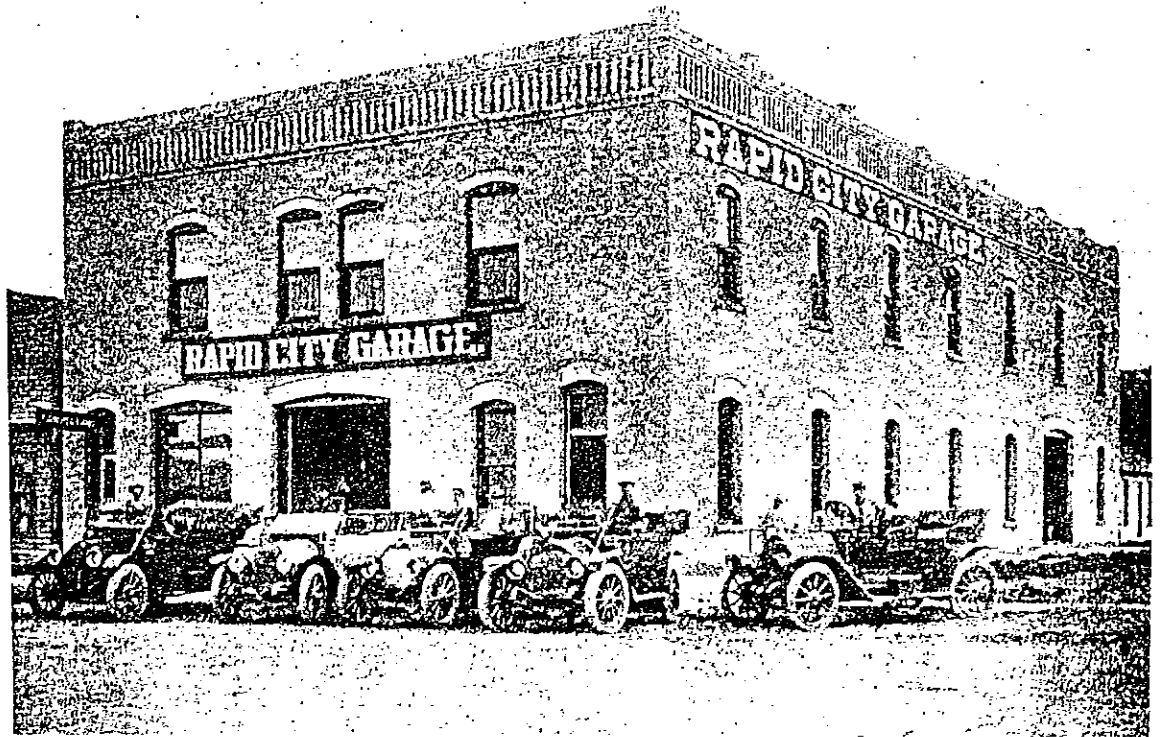
Rapid City Garage  
 13/641600/4882260

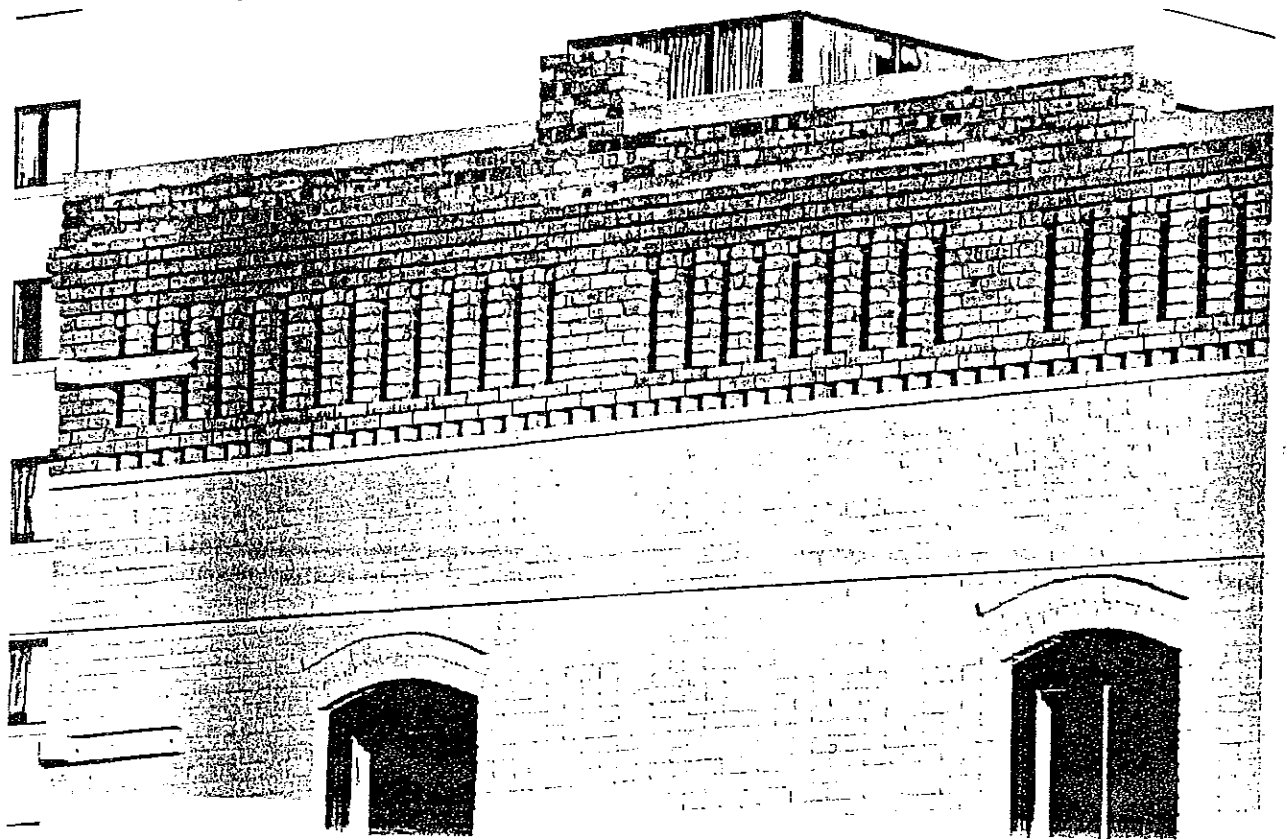
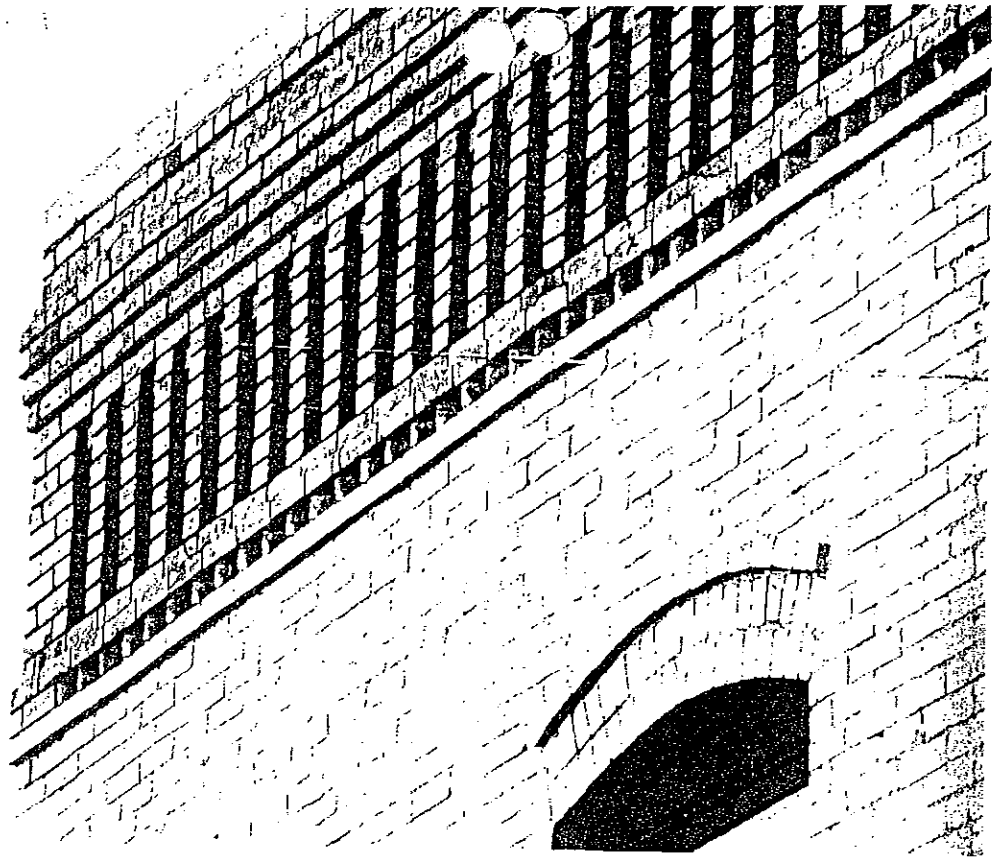
5/  
 T. 2 N.  
 T. 1 N.  
 5/8 MI.  
 BLACKHAWK 5.5 MI.

5372 III SE  
 (RAPID CITY WEST)

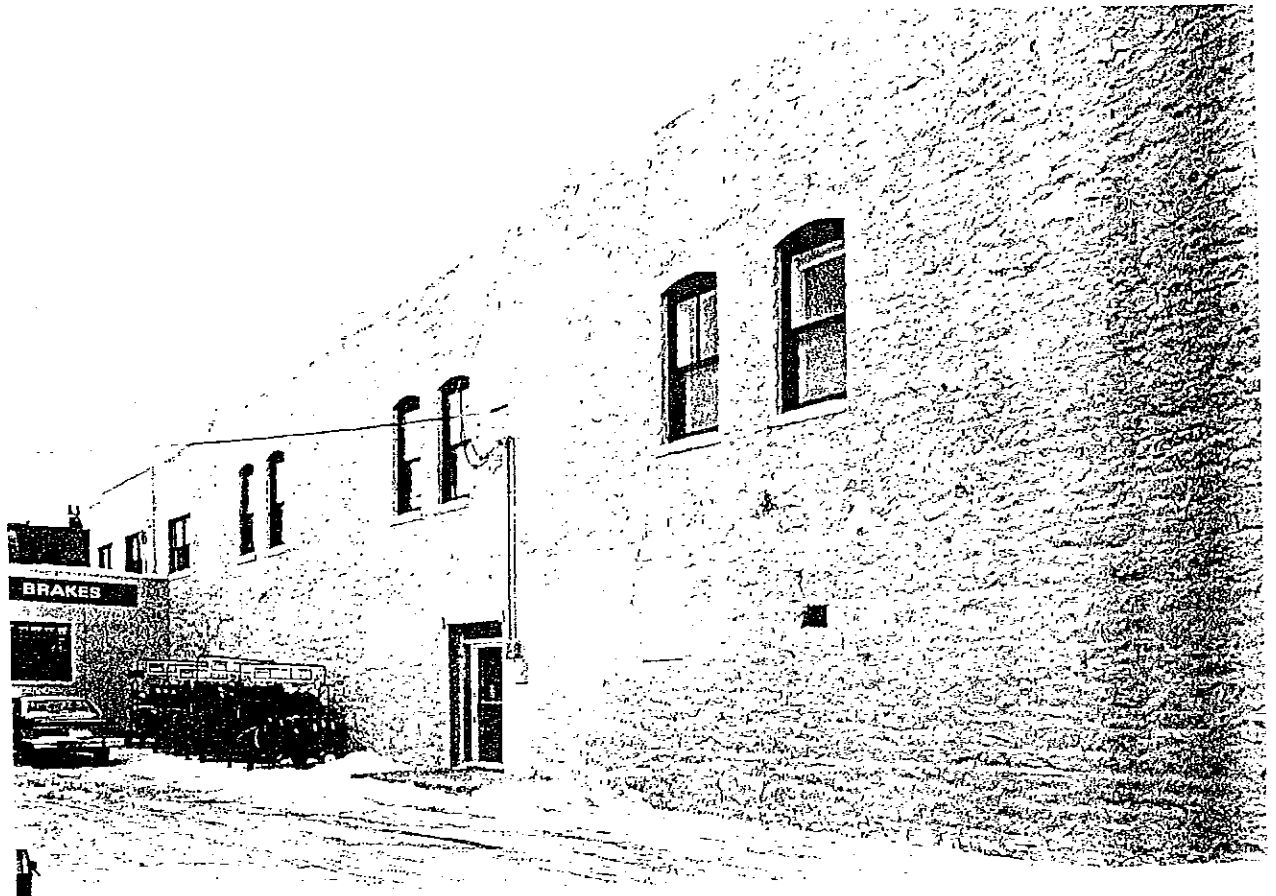
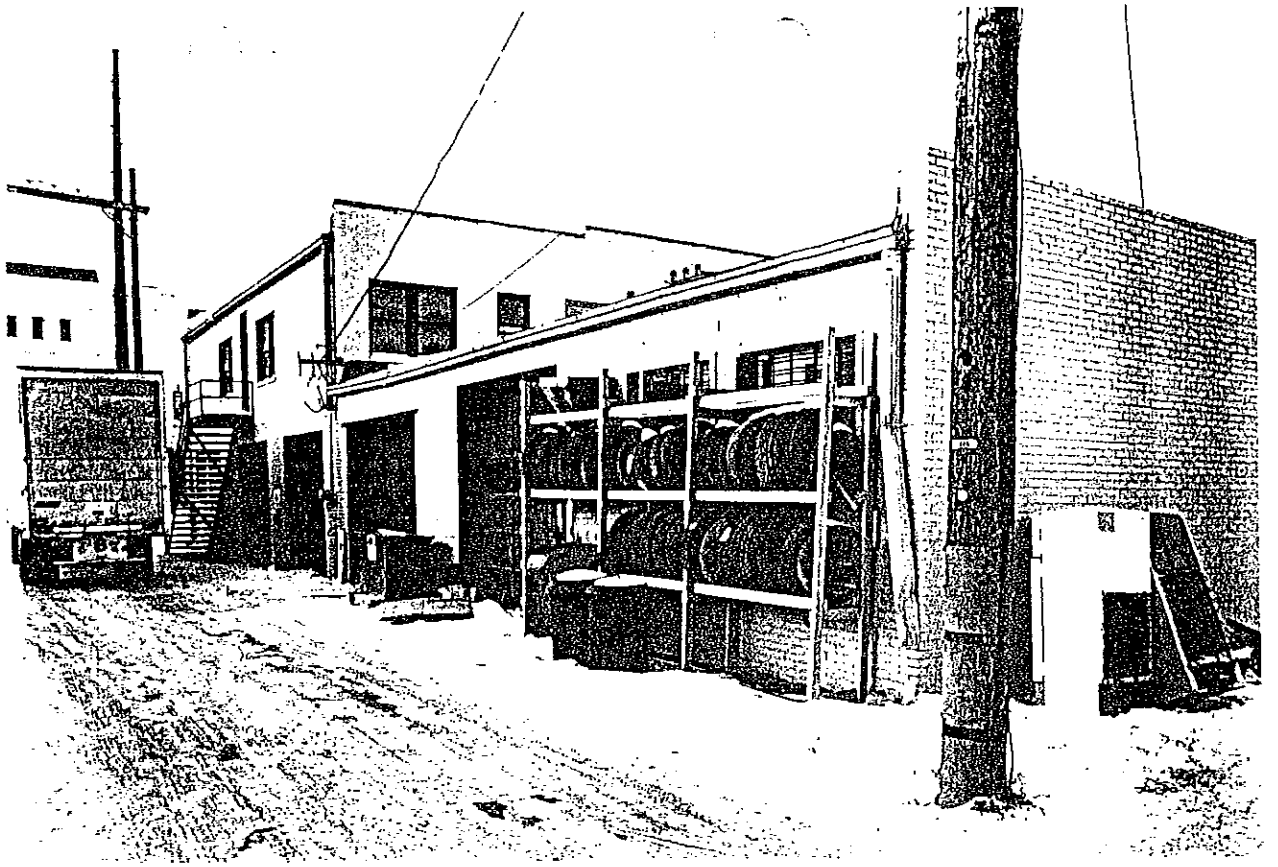
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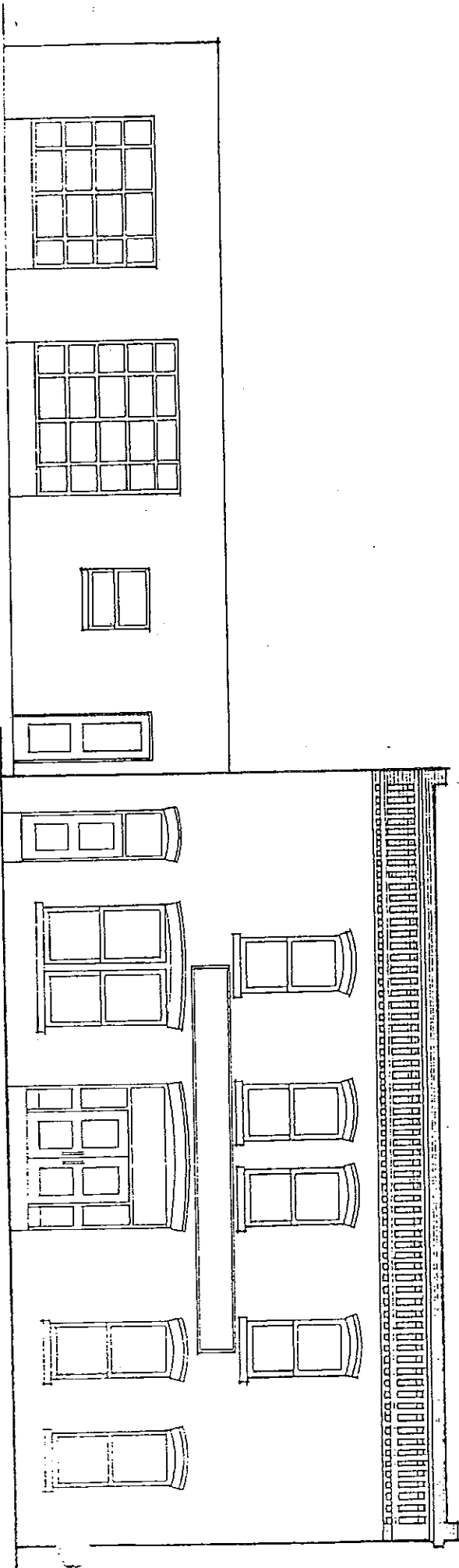
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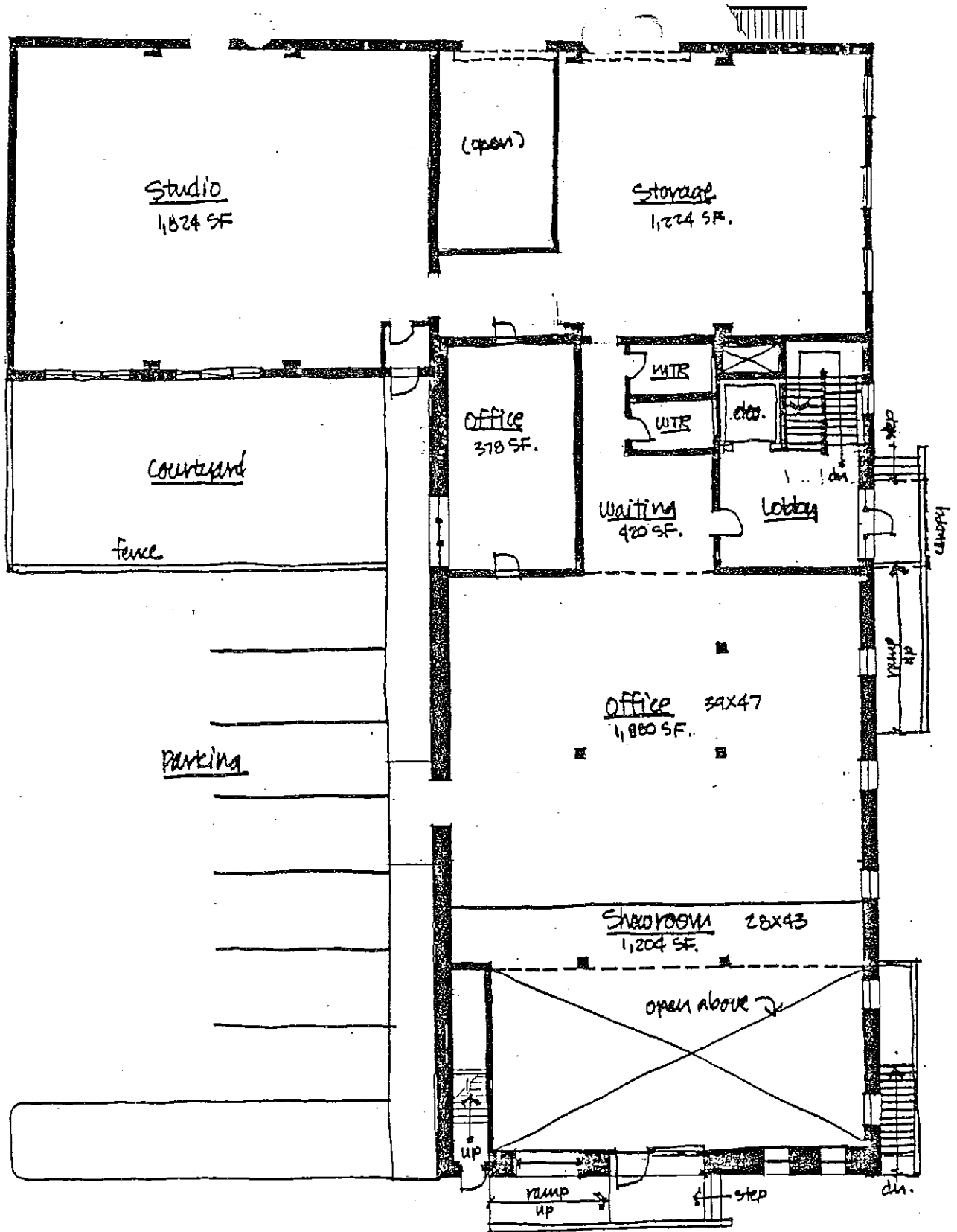






**NORTH ELEVATION**

PROPOSED STOREFRONT DESIGN



Total space occupied - 6,930 S.F.

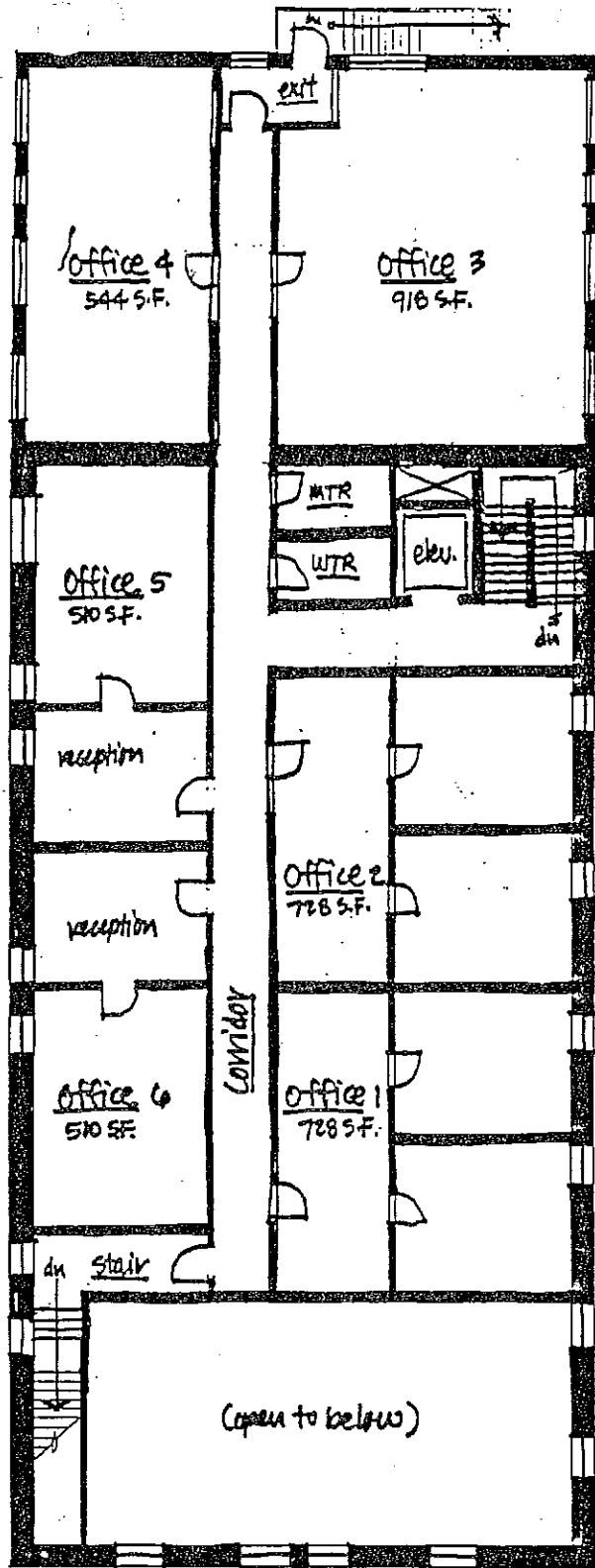
PROPOSED USAGE



**MAIN FLOOR**

3/32" = 1'-0"





Total leasible Space - 3,938 SF.

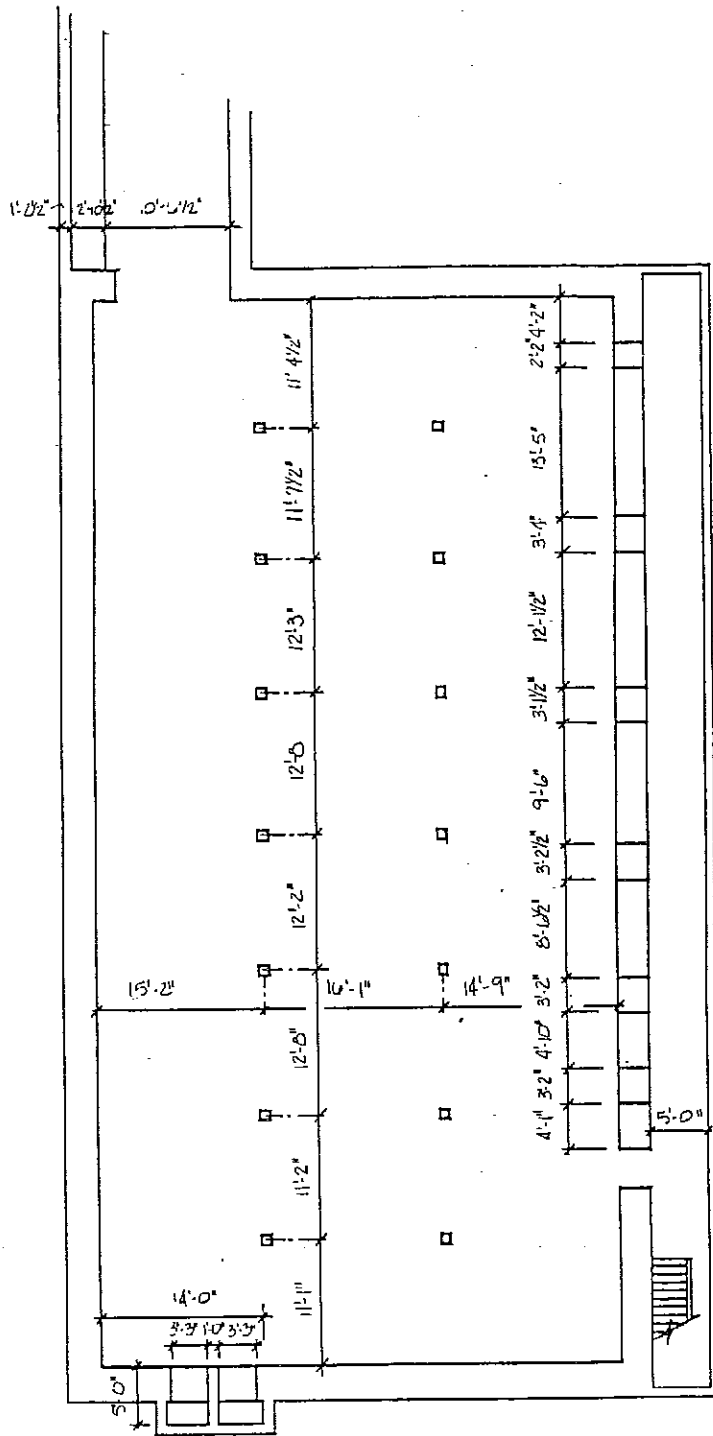
PROPOSED USAGE



# SECOND FLOOR

3/32" = 1'-0"



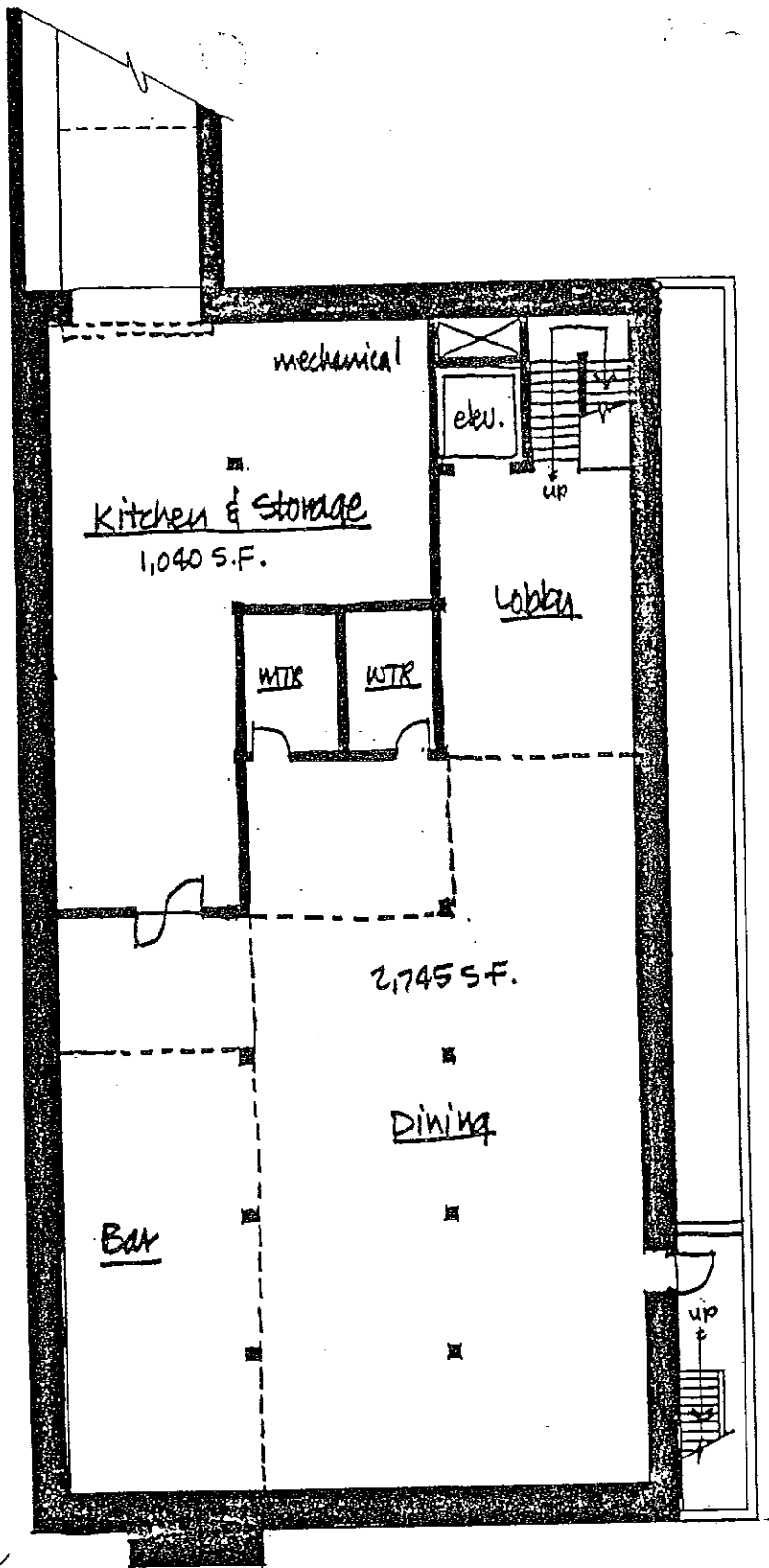


EXISTING FLOORPLAN



**BASEMENT**

3/32" = 1'-0"



Total leasible space - 3,785 SF.



**BASEMENT**

3/32" = 1'-0"

PROPOSED USAGE