

SECRET

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, SR Division  
 Attention : [ ] , SR/3, Room 1501 - J Building  
 FROM : Deputy Director of Security (Investigations and Support)

DATE: 20 FEB 1956

SUBJECT: COVERT SITE

[ ]  
 New York, New York  
 #127425

1. Reference is made to your request (SHPO #56-1) dated 30 November 1955 for safehouse facilities. Further reference is made to your request of 19 January 1956 that a security survey of the above-captioned premises be made and that your office be informed of the results of such a survey.

2. It is the understanding of this office that the Subject location is a replacement for your facility located at [ ] , New York, New York, #83992. It is further understood that the Subject premises will be operated [ ] . The premises will be used to make voice recordings of interest to your Division.

3. Pursuant to your request, a security survey was conducted of the premises with favorable results, and you are advised that this office interposes no objections to the use of the site for such purposes. It is noted, however, that many of the people in this area have eastern European backgrounds. A limited view of the premises can be had from other apartments having windows in the building court. It should also be noted that the person who acts as doorman and elevator operator is very inquisitive regarding visitors to the building.

4. Attached hereto for your information is a copy of the report of the survey of the Subject covert site. You are requested to return this report upon the termination of the site. This material should be returned by sealed envelope marked, "To Be Opened By Addressee Only." A copy of this memorandum is being forwarded to the Safehouse Procurement Officer for his information.

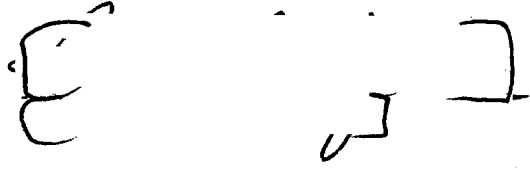
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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 SOURCES METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
 DATE 2007

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5. Should any information come to your attention which might influence the security of the above-mentioned site or its occupants, or should its use be changed, it is requested that you promptly inform this office.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY:

Handwritten initials or signature, possibly 'E J J'.

Attachment:

Report dated 25 January 1956

cc: Safehouse Procurement Officer

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Attention : Chief, SR Division  
SR/3, Room 1501 - J Building  
Deputy Director of Security (Investigations and Support)

COVERT SITE

New York, New York  
#127125

1. Reference is made to your request (SHPO #56-1) dated 30 November 1955 for safehouse facilities. Further reference is made to your request of 19 January 1956 that a security survey of the above-captioned premises be made and that your office be informed of the results of such a survey.

2. It is the understanding of this office that the Subject location is a replacement for your facility located at [redacted], New York, New York, #83992. It is further understood that the Subject premises will be operated [redacted]. The premises will be used to make voice recordings of interest to your Division.

3. Pursuant to your request, a security survey was conducted of the premises with favorable results, and you are advised that this office interposes no objections to the use of the site for such purposes. It is noted, however, that many of the people in this area have eastern European backgrounds. A limited view of the premises can be had from other apartments having windows in the building court. It should also be noted that the person who acts as doorman and elevator operator is very inquisitive regarding visitors to the building.

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FOR THE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY:

Attachment:

Report dated 25 January 1956

cc: Safehouse Procurement Officer

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COVERT SITE SURVEY

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Case No. 127425

25 January 1956

SYNOPSIS:

[ SUBJECT building is located on the [ ] When  
this fifteen story elevated apartment house was erected  
in 1924 this was a highly desirable residential neighbor-  
hood, as most of the three and four-story buildings in  
the area were occupied as private homes and the large  
apartment houses commanded a high rental. (For diagram  
of area see Exhibit A). Although in recent years many  
of the three and four story dwellings have been converted  
into rooming houses, the neighborhood can still be considered  
to be a desirable residential section. Many of the people  
in this area have an Eastern European background. SUBJECT  
building is divided into two sections, the southeast section  
of the building has its own passenger and service elevator  
(see Exhibit B). The remainder of the building has its own  
passenger and service elevator in the west end of the building.  
The southeast elevator gives access to two apartments on  
each floor which are totally separated and divided from  
the five other apartments on each floor which is serviced  
by the west elevator. SUBJECT apartment, 14B, is located  
in the east end of the building and the only other apartment  
on SUBJECT floor which has access to the elevator and public  
hall is Apartment 14A. SUBJECT apartment is classified as  
having seven rooms. The outer walls in SUBJECT apartment  
face the street or the building court. The inner walls  
which are contiguous with the fire tower and Apartment C,  
are listed as being sound proof (Exhibit C). The subway  
and bus transportation is good. The nearest Western Union  
Office is located on Broadway near 108th Street. The Post  
Office is at 219 W. 104th Street. The building is listed  
as being fire proof and is protected by the New York City  
Fire and Police Departments. There are several possible  
security hazards which could probably be easily protected  
against: A limited view of SUBJECT apartment can be had  
from other apartments having windows in the building court,  
and the elevator man doubles as doorman and questions  
strangers visiting the building. An outline of exhibits  
show the area of SUBJECT building, entrance for the SUBJECT  
building and the layout for SUBJECT floor and apartment.  
Known biographical data is noted after each person.

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## DESCRIPTION OF AREA:

SUBJECT premises is a fifteen-story, fire-proof, elevator apartment house located at [redacted], New York City. Other corner buildings are approximately the same height and buildings in the middle of the block are three and four story dwellings. (Exhibit A) When SUBJECT building was erected in 1924 this was a highly desirable residential section as most of the three and four story homes were privately owned and the apartment houses commanded a high rental. Although in recent years most of the three and four story buildings have been converted into rooming houses, the area can still be classified as a desirable residential section. It has been noted that many of the persons in the area have an Eastern European background and appear to be well-to-do.

SUBJECT building is located in block 1890, lot 24, which is also described as the [redacted] Street and West End Avenue Corporation and has an assessed value of \$855,000. The building fronts on West End Avenue 100 feet 11 inches, and runs along West End Avenue 139 feet 3½ inches. SUBJECT block is bounded on the east by West End Avenue, on the north by 103rd Street and on the west by Riverside Drive and the south by 102nd Street. According to plans filed on 8 October 1924, SUBJECT building was considered to be fireproof. It was a fifteen story structure with seven apartments in each of the upper floors and having a total number of 105 families. Plans and visual inspection show that although the building has a common entrance and public hall for occupancy purposes, it is divided into two sections. The eastern section has passenger and service elevator for the two apartments in the eastern end of the building, and the western section has a passenger and freight elevator servicing the five apartments on each floor of the western portion of the building. (See Exhibit B) It was observed that the only means of getting from the upper floors of the eastern portion of the building to the apartments in the western portion would be to go down to the lobby floor and take the western elevators. (See Exhibit C.)

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The building is managed by Arthur Eckstein, Inc. of 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, a well established real estate firm. It was observed that 103rd Street is west bound for automobile traffic and 102nd street is east bound; West End Avenue and Riverside Drive permit both north and south bound traffic. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays no parking is permitted from 8a.m. to 11a.m. on the north and west sides of the streets in the area. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, no parking is permitted between 8am. and 11a.m. on the south and east sides of the streets. No other parking instructions were noted.

#### DESCRIPTION OF SITE:

SUBJECT building has a large entrance vestibule which leads to the main lobby. On the left side of the vestibule is an exit door for the east end fire tower. On entering the lobby one notes on the left hand side, a few steps which lead to Apartment A and the passenger elevator which serves apartments A and B on the upper floors. (See Exhibit A.) Going beyond the passenger elevator, there are steps which lead to the service elevator and a wide stairway which leads to the upper floors. On the right side of the main lobby is a long hall which runs to the west end of the building where a passenger elevator, service elevator and fire tower are located. (See Exhibits A and B.) These elevators service the five apartments in the western end of the building. It was noted that the elevator man who operates the passenger elevator also operates the service or freight elevator. James O'SHEA, approximately sixty years of age, the elevator operator for the eastern section, doubles as doorman. Since there is no directory listing the tenants and the hall telephone connected to the apartments is in disrepair, JAMES O'SHEA questions all strangers entering the building concerning whom they wish to visit. JOHN MOORE, the elevator operator for the west side, is approximately 70 years of age. It appears that both of these elevator men have been on the premises for more than fifty years and there is no superintendent. SUBJECT apartment has two walls facing the street, the

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portion of another wall facing the court; one of the walls is contiguous with the fire tower, stairway and public hall, and portion of another wall is contiguous with Apartment C. (See Exhibit C.) It is to be noted that these inner walls were described in the building plans as being sound proof. On getting off at the 14th floor of the eastern elevator, one notes on the right a doorway which leads to Apartment A. Opposite the elevator is a doorway which leads to a fire tower. To the left of the elevator is a doorway which leads to SUBJECT apartment, 14B. Apartment 14B is laid out so that it has three bedrooms and two baths facing West End Avenue. (See Exhibit C.) The corner bedroom and the large living room face West 103rd Street. The dining room, small bedroom and kitchen face the court. The door from the kitchen leads to a hall service elevator and stairway. It is to be noted that there is no 13th floor. After the 12th floor what normally would be the 13th floor is known as the 14th floor.

#### COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS:

Most of the apartments in the buildings have telephones. The closest public telephone is located in a candy store at 2705 Broadway, and has the number, ACademy 2-9573. There is a Western Union office at 2809 Broadway near 108th Street, UNiversity 5-8424. There is a mail box in the lobby of SUBJECT building near the eastern elevator. The post office for zone 25 is known as Cathedral Station. It is located at 219 W. 104th Street, ACademy 2-7640. The IRT Seventh Avenue Subway has a local stop at 103rd Street. North and south bound buses run along Broadway; on Riverside Drive east and west bound buses operate along 96th Street. The Westside Highway has an entrance on 96th Street. This highway allows express auto traffic to downtown New York and also links with the George Washington Bridge and the New England States.

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## POLICE and FIRE PROTECTION:

SUBJECT building is considered to be fire proof and the 50 feet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches water hose was observed on both the eastern and western section of each floor of SUBJECT building. SUBJECT building also has a siamese hose connection off West End Avenue and another on W. 103rd Street. The area is covered by the Eleventh Battalion of the modernly equipped and efficient New York City Fire Department with headquarters at 105 W. 102nd Street, ACademy 2-7032. The fire companies attached to the Battalion and their locations are as follows:

Engine Company	47,	502 W. 113th Street
"	"	56, 120 W. 83rd Street
"	"	74, 207 W. 77th Street
"	"	76, 105 W. 102nd Street
Hook & Ladder Company	40,	6 Hancock Place
"	22,	766 Amsterdam Avenue
"	25,	205 W. 77th Street
Ambulance No.	1,	120 W. 83rd Street

There is a fire alarm box located on the northwest corner of 103rd Street and West End Avenue and another on the southwest corner of 101st Street and West End Avenue. There is a fire hydrant on the northwest corner of West End Avenue and 103rd Street and another on the northeast end of the same corner. There is also a fire hydrant at 301 W. 102nd Street. An air siren was noted on the southeast corner of West End Avenue and 100th Street.

Police protection is provided by the well-disciplined New York City Police Department. SUBJECT area falls within the jurisdiction of the 24th Precinct located at 134 W. 100th Street, ACademy 2-4707. The precinct detective squad is located at the same address; its phone number, ACademy 2-7613. In addition, the area is controlled by the 10th Detective Bureau which has its offices at 229 W 123rd St., Monument 2-4892.

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#### POSSIBLE SECURITY HAZARDS

Although SUBJECT apartment has several windows facing the side court and the windows on the outer walls face West End Avenue and 103rd Street, these windows only afford a limited view into SUBJECT apartment. This hazard can readily be corrected by the use of blinds. It had been noted that the elevator man also doubles as doorman and questions all strangers concerning whom they wish to visit.

#### OUTLINE OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibits showing SUBJECT area, Exhibit A; a diagram of the main entrance to SUBJECT building, Exhibit B; and a plan of SUBJECT apartment and floor, Exhibit C; are attached to and made a part of this report.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

For the sake of convenience and clarity an outline is prepared giving the names of the tenants on SUBJECT floor whose apartments are adjacent to SUBJECT's and also the occupants of the apartments immediately above and below SUBJECT and miscellaneous information.

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NAME	APT	REGISTRATION				AGE	MARI- TAL STA- TUS	BIRTH	YEARS IN STATE	IN ELEC. DIST	MISC.	CREDIT	
		1955 7 AD 13 ED	1954 7 AD 13 ED	1953 7 AD 13 ED	1952 7 AD 13 ED								
Charlotte Grauer	15B		*D	D	Blank	52	M	Belguim Nat. 2/45-SD	15	12		N/R	
Henry Grauer	15B				*Blank	55	M	Poland Nat. 11/47-SD	12	8	Diamond Importer	R	
Joshua Grauer	15B		*D	D	D	28	S	Belguim Nat-2/45-SD	13	10		N/R	
Florence Isaacs	14C	D	D	*D	D	21+	M	U. S.	21	15		N/R	
Irwin Isaacs	14C	D	D	*D	D	56	M	Austria Thru Father 8/4/99ED	49	15		R	
Jean Lauvain	12B	aka John College student here since 8/30/54										Student	N/R
Annie Manpel	14A	*D	D	D	D	59	M	Poland 8/44 SD	16	12		N/R	
Ruben Manpel	14A	*D	D	D	R	60	M	Russia 8/44 SD	16	12	Fur Assorter	R	
John Moore						70					Elevator Operator	N/R	
James O'Shea						65					Elevator Operator	N/R	

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>APT</u>	<u>REGISTRATION</u>				<u>AGE</u>	<u>MARI- TAL STA- TUS</u>	<u>BIRTH</u>	<u>YEARS IN STATE</u>	<u>IN ELEC. DIST.</u>	<u>MISC.</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>
		<u>1955 7 AD 13 AD</u>	<u>1954 7 AD 13 AD</u>	<u>1953 7 AD 13 AD</u>	<u>1952 7 AD 13 AD</u>							
Edward Spivack	12B										College Student	N/R
Alexander Zeltman	12B										College Student	N/R

\* Denotes year information appeared in records.

The names of the above listed persons were checked against the files of the Bureau of Special Service and Investigation, New York City Police Department, with negative results.

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Further detailed information under list of persons is as follows:

HENRY GRAUER

Credit report dated 1 April 1948 described him as middle aged and married. He was President of Henry Grauer and Son, Inc., 542 Fifth Avenue, New York City. They are importers and wholesalers of diamonds, listed but not rated by mercantile agency. The report stated that he had been in Apartment 15B at 875 West End Avenue for over four years. He formerly resided at 610 W. 110th Street, New York City.

IRWIN ISAACS

Credit report dated 7 January 1956 described him as in his fifties, married to FLORENCE ISAACS and having two children. He was described as being an active, practicing attorney for twenty years with offices at 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The report stated that he has resided in Apartment 14C at 875 West End Avenue since October, 1938. Prior to this he lived at 514 West Avenue for about three years. Credit report showed that in 1939 he had a high credit of \$103 which he paid in thirty days, but that in 1950 he was slow in meeting his rent and other obligations. The report also showed that he has had no record of SUBJECT since 29 March 1951.

RUBIN MANPEL

Credit report dated 29 May 1948 gave his wife's name as ANNIE. He was described as a free-lance fur assorter and his residence was given as 875 West End Avenue, New York City.

ARTHUR ECKSTEIN, Inc.

ARTHUR ECKSTEIN

A Dun and Bradstreet report dated 1954 stated that the corporation was formed in 1922 and operates as a general real estate brokerage and management concern with offices

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at 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City. ARTHUR ECKSTEIN, President-Treasurer, was described as about 63 years of age, married, native born. He has been in the real estate field since 1907 and in 1922 formed the corporation bearing his name.

SALLY ELLER ECKSTEIN

SALLY ELLER (Mrs. Arthur) ECKSTEIN, Vice President, is not active.

ADELAIDE AUERBACKER

Secretary of the Corporation, and daughter of the President.

CHARLES AUERBACKER

Husband of Adelaide. He is about 53 years of age, native born and has been with the firm for 15 years as renting agent. Report also stated that according to the management, due to the nature of its business, the corporation does not seek general commercial credit.

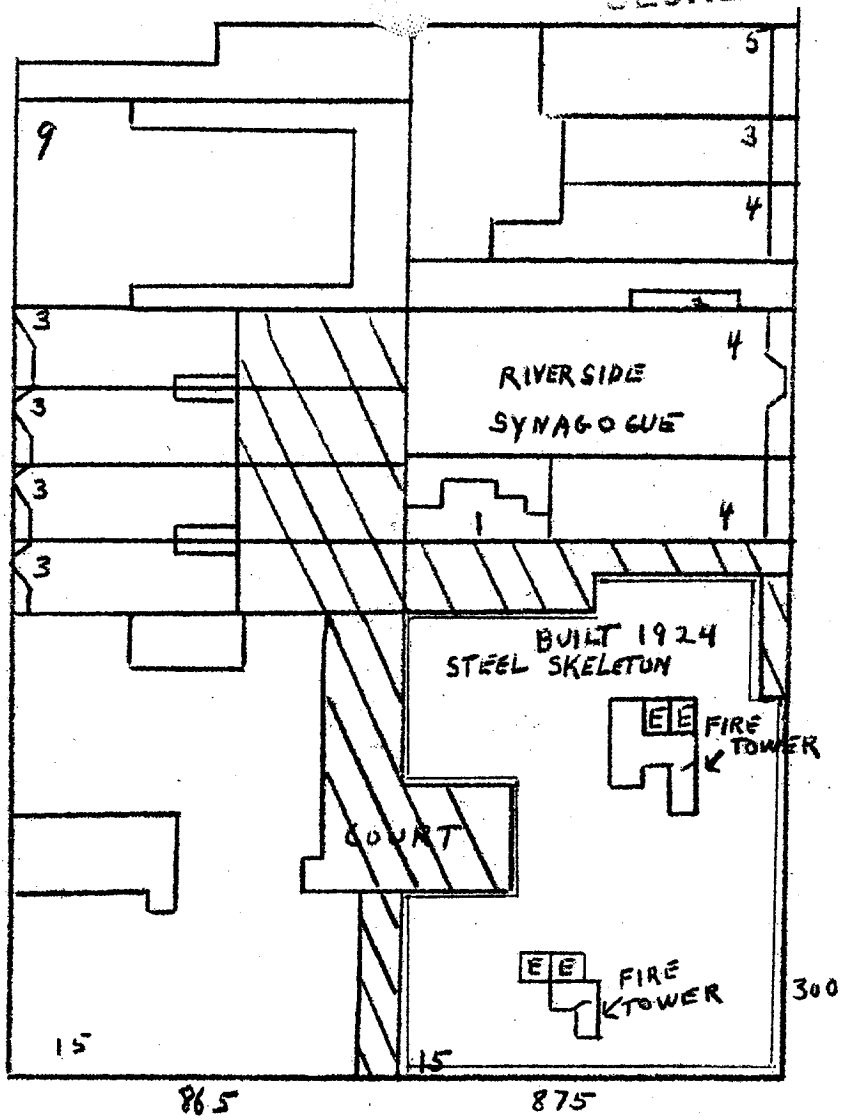
A search of the records of the Bureau of Special Service and Investigation of the New York City Police Department showed no record concerning any officers of the Arthur Eckstein, Inc.

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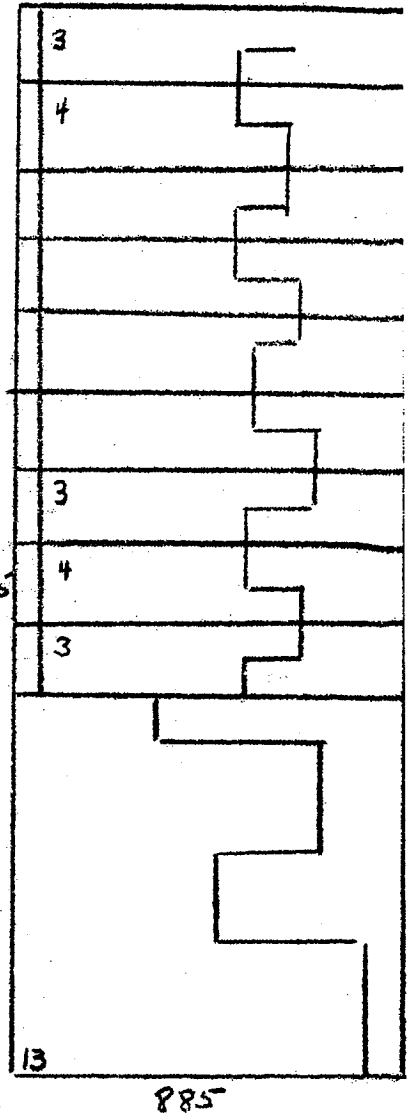
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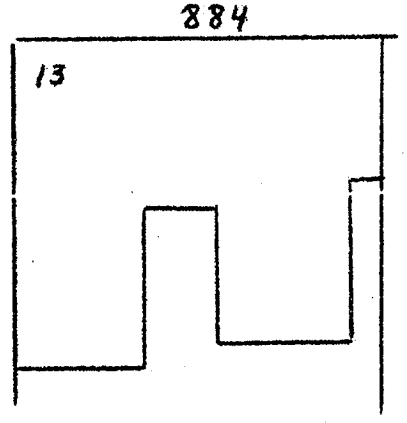
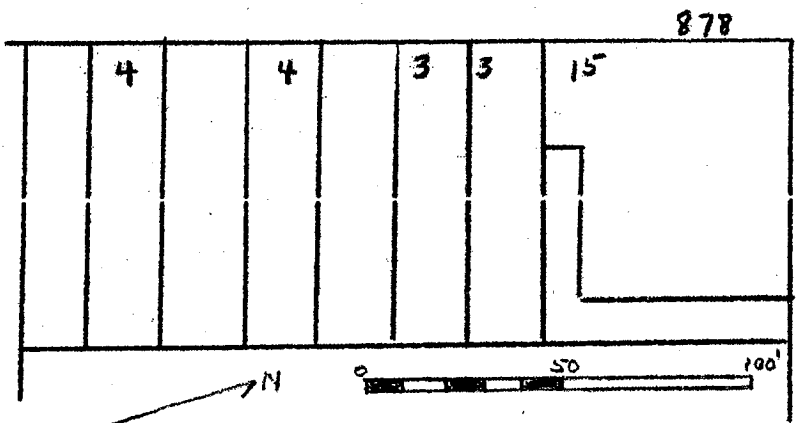
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W. 103rd ST.



WEST END AVE



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EXHIBIT A SECRET

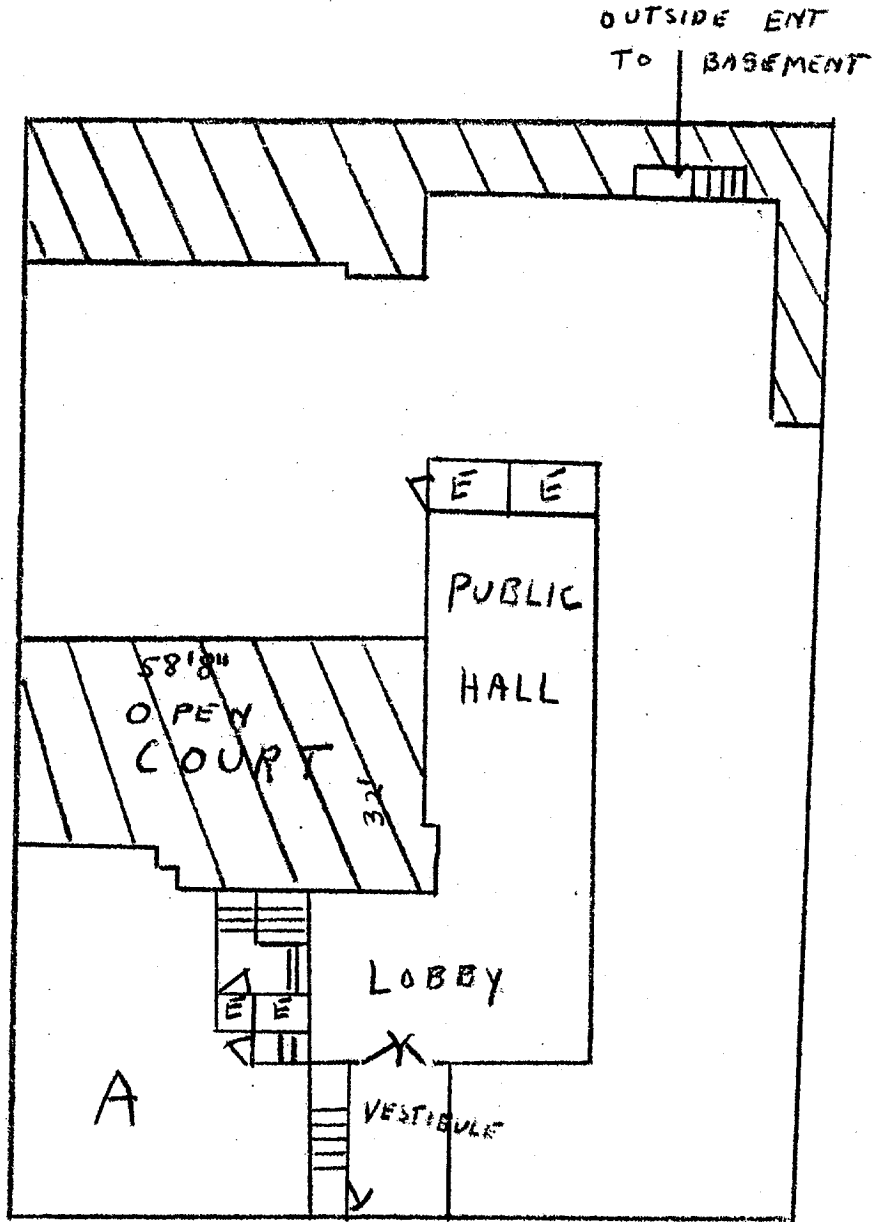


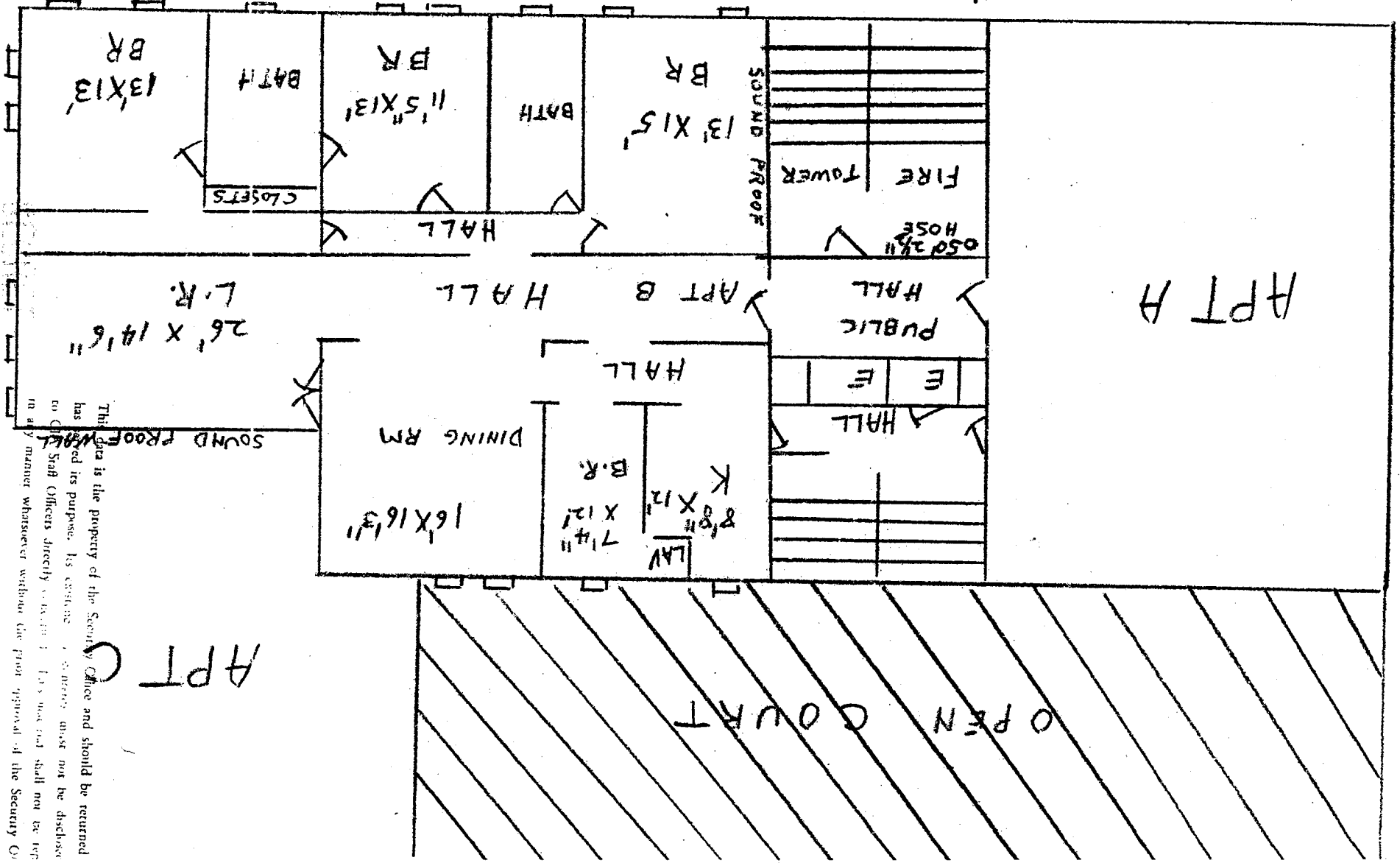
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EXHIBIT C

WEST END AVE



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