

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Paseo YMCA  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number 1824 The Paseo N/A not for publication  
city, town Kansas City, N/A vicinity  
state Missouri code MO county Jackson code 095 zip code 64108

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of the 18th and Vine Area of Kansas City, Missouri  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*G. Tracy Mehan III* 22 July 91  
Signature of certifying official G. Tracy Mehan III, Director Date  
Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls brick

roof Asphalt

other Tin

Terra Cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Paseo YMCA is a four-story brick, seven-bay building constructed in 1914. The building was constructed in a rectangular plan with a rear three-story wing housing a gymnasium. The building is sited on a large rectangular urban lot with the main facade oriented towards The Paseo. Adjacent to the building on the north facade is a parking lot and there are no outbuildings.

The Paseo YMCA was built with Colonial Revival influences and has a raised basement and exterior of 5 course bond brick. The building's main entrance is located in the first story's central bay and has original double doors of wood and glass which are presently obscured by a plywood panel. Over the doors is a transom bar and a 16 light transom. The entrance has a brick and terra cotta surround and above the entrance is a terra cotta entablature. Directly above the entrance is a rectangular panel inscribed "PASEO Y.M.C.A." and above this panel is a small terra cotta cornice. Above this cornice is a rectangular recessed brick panel with a central terra cotta panel laid in a diamond pattern. Flanking the door are brick pilasters with Doric capitals and fleur-de-lis incised terra cotta panels.

The basement level on the main facade has large rectangular window openings with stone sills. All window openings are presently covered with plywood. Above the basement level is a belt course of soldier brick coursing. On the first floor are 7 bays with the north and south bays containing 2/1 rectangular wood sash windows. All windows have terra cotta sills and are set within recessed brick panels. Above the first story windows are several corbelled brick belt courses and a terra cotta belt course which extends the width of the building. The second, third, and fourth stories have similar bay and window arrangement. Windows on the north and south bays have single 2/1 rectangular sash windows while the other bays contain two 2/1 rectangular sash windows. All windows have terra cotta sills and are located within recessed bays.

In the central bay of the second story is a rectangular terra cotta panel with the YMCA triangle symbol and garland and swag designs. Dividing each bay on the upper facade are brick piers which terminate below the building's cornice at the roofline. Separating each floor on the upper facade are corbelled brick belt courses. At the roofline is a corbelled brick belt course and terra cotta cornice. At the capitals of the brick piers are inset concrete panels in diamond designs.

See continuation sheet

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Paseo YMCA, Kansas City, MO

Above the cornice is a stepped parapet with an exterior surface of soldier course brick and terra cotta coping. The north facade of the main block has two bays with windows located on each floor. These windows have stone sills and are covered with plywood. A prominent metal fire escape is located on this facade and ca. 1960 metal and glass doors are located on each upper floor. This facade is of five-course common bond construction. At the roofline is terra cotta coping. The basement level has a concrete staircase leading to a ca. 1960 metal door.

The west facade of the main block has two bays of windows which have concrete sills and are covered with plywood. The gymnasium wing at the rear is two-stories high and rests on a raised basement. This section is attached to the main block by a one-story wing. The gymnasium has five bays on the south facade with each bay containing a rectangular window opening with stone sills on all three levels. All windows on this facade have been covered with plywood panels. The exterior surface on this facade is 6 course common bond. At the roofline is terra cotta coping. The rear or west facade has similar brick construction and is divided into five bays with each bay separated by a concrete pier. Window openings on this facade have been covered with plywood and at the roofline is terra cotta coping. The north facade is similar in configuration to the south facade except for the addition of a metal staircase connecting the basement level with the first story. Also on this facade is a square brick smokestack associated with the basement coal fired boiler. Window openings on this facade have been covered with plywood.

### 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Ethnic Heritage--Black

Period of Significance

1914- 1941

1914-1941

Significant Dates

N/A

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Paseo Branch of the Y.M.C.A. is significant under Criterion A for its role in the social history of Kansas City's black community. The building was constructed in 1914 and was the primary social agency and center which served black citizens in the early 20th century. (See "Historic Resources of the 18th and Vine Area of Kansas City, Missouri" MPS: "Social Buildings and Organizations in the 18th and Vine Area, 1914-1941.") Designed with Colonial Revival influences, the four-story building was one of the largest constructed in the 18th and Vine area and its architectural appearance has not been significantly altered. Upon its completion, the building contained dormitories, a cafeteria, gymnasium, and swimming pool operated by the Young Men's Christian Association. The YMCA also provided meeting space for local black civic and social organizations. The building was utilized by the YMCA until recent years and is presently vacant.

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was formed in England in 1844 to improve the conditions and opportunities for young men. The YMCA stressed spiritual, social, and physical development and by 1851 the association had branches in America. The first convention of American associations took place in 1854 and over the next several decades YMCA chapters had been formed in most major cities in the country. Buildings constructed by the YMCA usually included not only overnight lodging and meeting rooms but also gymnasiums for physical activities.

YMCA membership was not restricted by race and black branches of the organization were formed as early as 1853. In 1900, the growing black population of Kansas City led to the formation of a local YMCA by both black and white civic leaders. Organization of the black YMCA branch occurred two years later with headquarters at 914 E. 12th Street. A building campaign was begun in 1907 with a goal of \$10,000 to construct a modern facility. Property was purchased in the 1800 block of The Paseo, a major thoroughfare one block west of the intersection of 18th and Vine Streets. This location was in the Paseo District, the most densely populated area of black residents in the city.

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Paseo YMCA, Kansas City, MO

The goal of \$10,000 was soon reached and the YMCA moved into three small buildings on its property on The Paseo. Prominent physician, Dr. J. Edward Perry was the first chairman of the Board of Managers and he provided capable leadership in these early years. The YMCA soon outgrew its original buildings and began to examine ways to construct a new facility. In 1910, Jewish philanthropist Julius Rosenwald of Chicago announced that he would offer \$25,000 to any city that would raise an additional \$75,000 for a Negro YMCA building. This challenge was met by Kansas City and in 1913 a ten-day subscription campaign raised \$30,000 in the black community while white residents donated \$50,000. Construction began on a large four-story brick building which was completed in 1914. Named the Paseo YMCA, the building was sited facing The Paseo towards the 18th and Vine area.

The architect for the Paseo YMCA has not been identified but the design for the building was influenced by the Colonial Revival style. The main section of the building is rectangular in form and has a decorative stone surround at the entrance with brick Doric pilasters. Dividing the upper floor bays are brick piers and below the roofline is a sheet metal cornice. The main facade has a stepped parapet roofline with terra cotta coping. The building is symmetrical in form and has a rear two-story wing.

The main section of the building was constructed with meeting rooms, dormitories, and a cafeteria along with offices of the YMCA. The rear wing was built with a large gymnasium and in the basement was a concrete swimming pool. The services provided by the YMCA were many and reached into hundreds of homes in the black community. The building contained rooms for visitors and tourists, a dining hall and cafeteria, and meeting halls and rooms for use by local civic and social organizations. The YMCA organized and sponsored basketball teams, swimming teams, and other teams to promote physical activity and sportsmanship. The YMCA sponsored youth groups such as the Hi-Y and Gra-Y clubs, Boy Scout troops, and Bible classes.

For many years the Paseo YMCA was the only community enterprise in the city that blacks supported and operated. The YMCA was run by an all-black Committee of Management of twenty-one local residents who guided the day-to-day operation of the facility. During the 1920s and 1930s, it provided the only meeting place for clubs and study groups and the swimming pool was the only indoor pool available for the black community. The building was open 24 hours each day and was the major social center for black residents of Kansas City during these decades. By 1941, the YMCA provided community service to 162 groups which annually held 3,650 meetings in the building with total attendance estimated at over 76,000.

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Paseo YMCA, Kansas City, MO

The Paseo YMCA continued to be an important center in the black community until integration of YMCA facilities in the 1960s. Attendance at the facility also declined in these years as black residents moved to the east and south into other areas of the city. By the 1970s, the Paseo YMCA was no longer economical to maintain and the building was closed and is presently vacant. For much of the 20th century the Paseo YMCA was the major social center for the Kansas City black community through its meeting halls, promotion of sports, and outreach of social services. Over the years the building has not been significantly altered and retains its original exterior appearance. The Paseo YMCA possesses a lengthy heritage of service to the black residents of Kansas City and remains a landmark on The Paseo.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 15 364755 4227635  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

Kansas City, MO Quad

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Paseo YMCA includes all of lots 86, 87, 88 of block 4 in the H.W. Armfield's Addition and lot 2 of the Brent's Addition. The boundary is drawn to include the building but exclude the adjacent parking lot.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all property historically associated with the Paseo YMCA.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Phil Thomason date 21 December 1989  
 organization Thomason and Associates telephone 615-383-0227  
 street & number P.O. Box 121225 state TN zip code 37212  
 city or town Nashville

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Bibliography, Paseo YMCA

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Bruce, Janet. The Kansas City Monarchs. Lawrence, Kansas: The University of Kansas Press, 1985.

League of Women Voters. The Negro in Kansas City. Kansas City, Private Printing, 1944.

Martin, Asa E. "Our Negro Population." M.A. Thesis, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, 1913.

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Young, William H. and Young, Nathan B. Jr. Your Kansas City and Mine, Kansas City: n.p., 1950.

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Paseo YMCA, Kansas City, MO

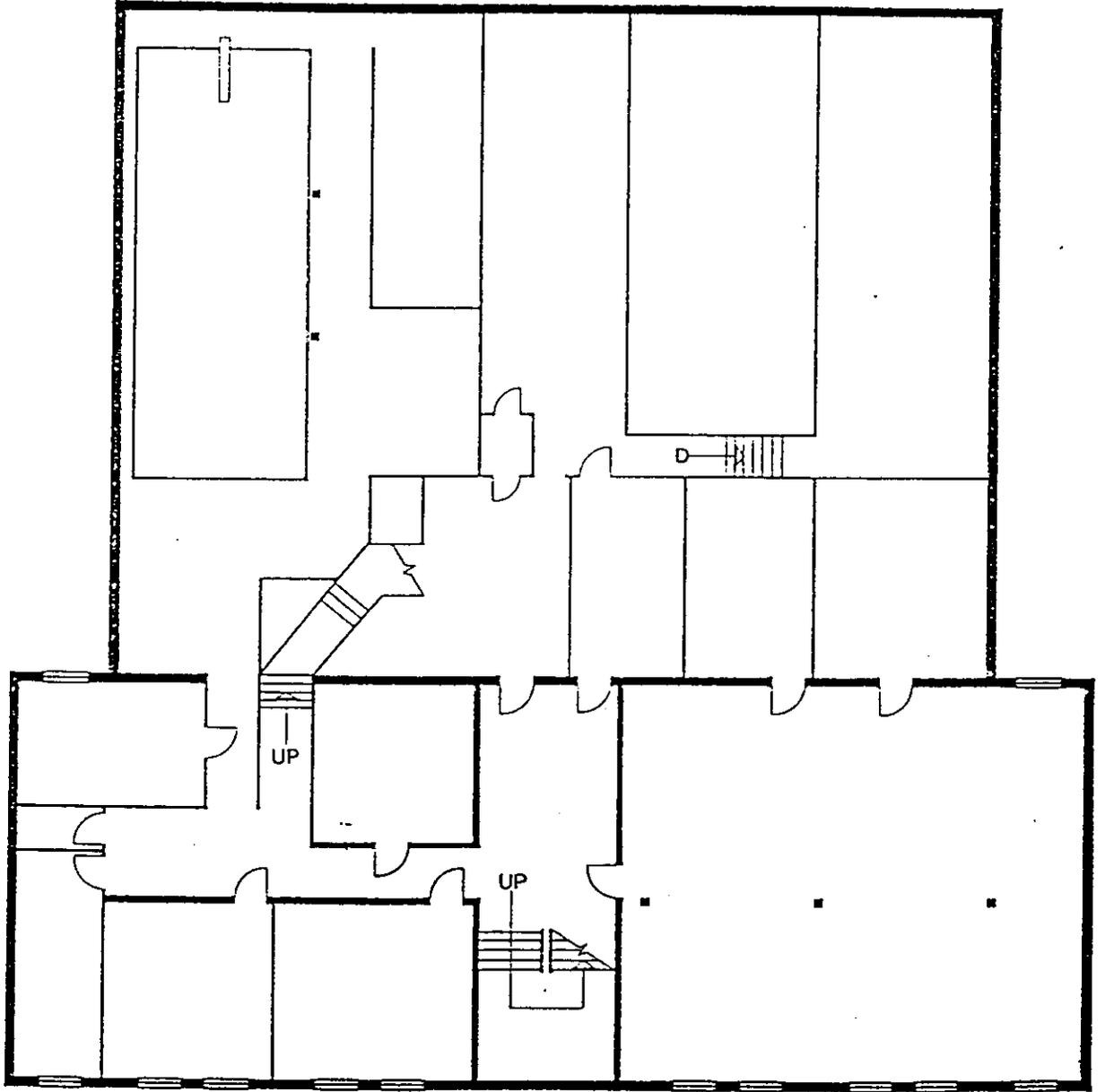
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~~18th and Vine Multiple Resource Area~~  
Paseo YMCA  
Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri  
Date: September, 1989  
Photo by: Thomason and Associates, Nashville, TN  
Neg: Department of Natural Resources  
View: East facade, towards northwest.  
Photo # 1 of 4

View: Entrance on east facade.  
Photo # 2 of 4

View: North facade, towards south.  
Photo # 3 of 4

View: South and west facades, towards north.  
Photo # 4 of 4

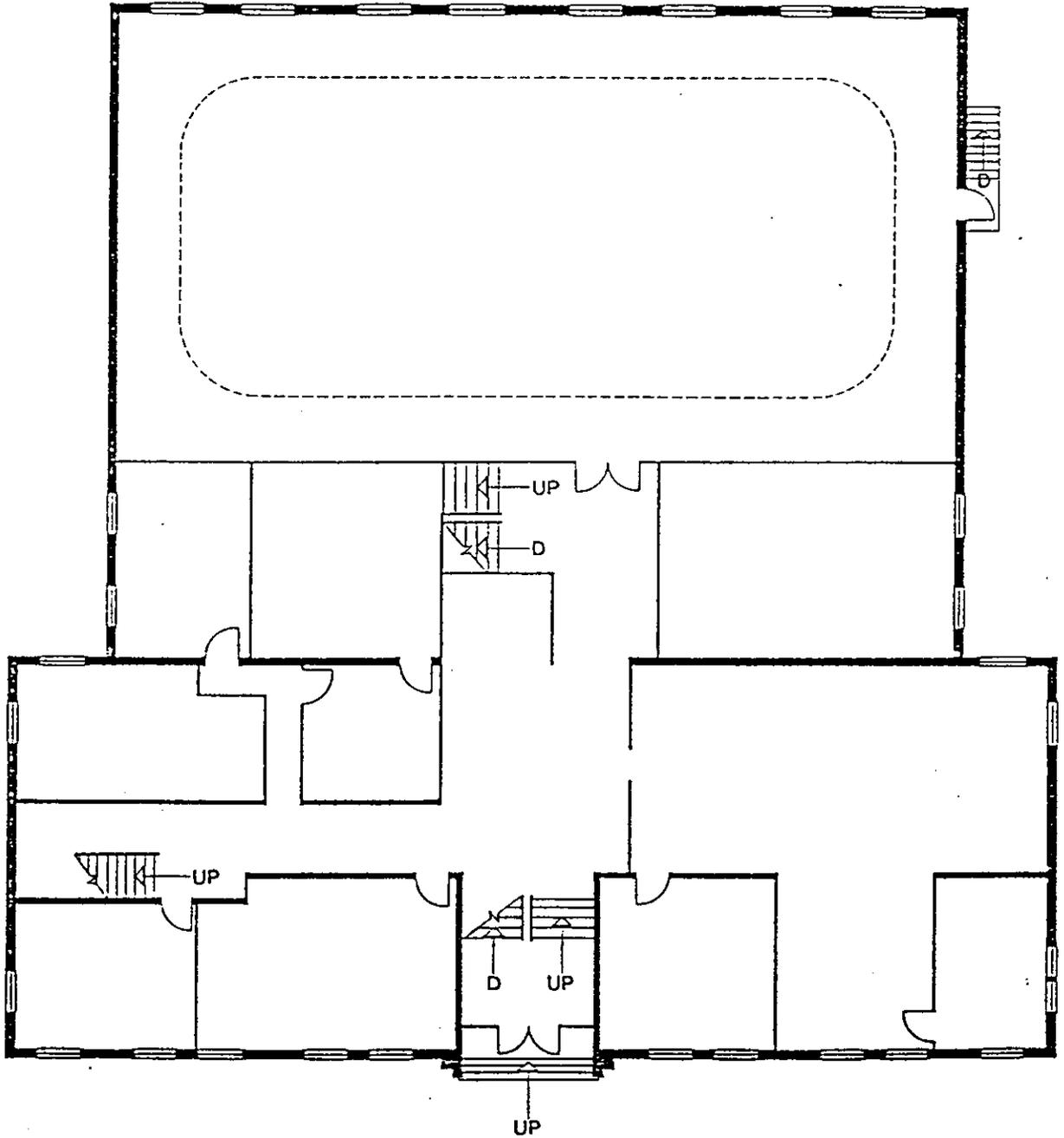


**EXISTING BASEMENT PLAN**

SCALE 0 5 10 20



Paseo YMCA  
Kansas City, MO

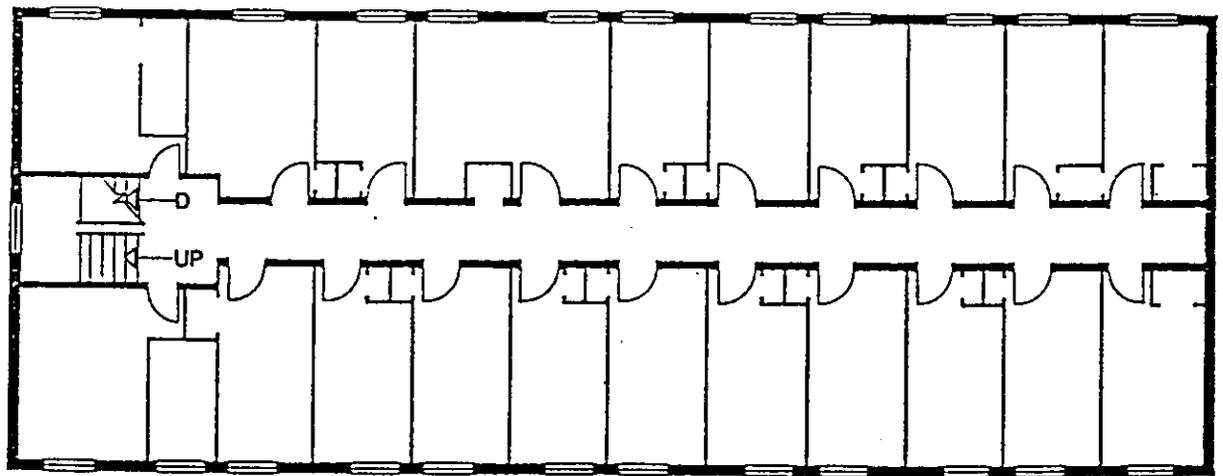


**EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

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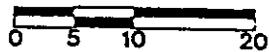


Paseo YMCA  
Kansas City, MO



**EXISTING 2nd, 3rd, 4th FLOOR PLAN**

SCALE



Paseo YMCA  
Kansas City, MO





PASEO YMCA



