704 NORTH BROADWAY
(Commercial Building)
Baltimore
Baltimore ~~County~~ City
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1025

HABS
MD
4-BALT,
203-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS
MD
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203-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

704 NORTH BROADWAY
(Commercial Building)

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Location: 704 North Broadway, Baltimore,
Baltimore ~~County~~ City, Maryland.
USGS Baltimore East, Maryland Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
18.4350440.0362940

Significance: One of a block of brick rowhouses in the 700 block of North Broadway, 704 N. Broadway is a greatly altered example of Baltimore urban vernacular brick rowhouse construction during the immediate post-Civil War period.

Description: This building is located on the west side of North Broadway, a major north-south boulevard in east Baltimore. Measuring approximately 17' by 75', the three-story, three bay rowhouse has brick foundations and walls laid in common bond. The structural system comprises a frame interior support of 5" joists spanning the masonry bearing walls. The primary facade no longer has its original appearance, having been altered in conjunction with 702 and 706 on the first floor with the construction of an aluminum and glass storefront, and on the second and third floors with the application of formstone. The second and third floors have one-over-one light windows. The facade is capped with a wood cornice which extends from 704 to 706, turning around the exposed wall at the end of the group. The roof is flat and tar-covered. A one step entry leads to the 2'- 6" wide doorways which feature wood doors (some hollow core).

Featuring a dining room, parlor, and reception hall, the original floor plan of 704 N. Broadway is no longer intact. The third floor plan appears unaltered but all interior details have been modified. Scrollwork molding on the staircase may have been an original decorative feature.

History: Deed research indicates that 704 N. Broadway was built ca. 1871, possibly by George R. Collis and Andrew Saulsbury who on May 30, 1871 were involved in the initial transactions involving the two lots and buildings at 704 and 706 N. Broadway. Precise dating of this structure has not been possible due to loss or destruction of most Baltimore building permits of the late nineteenth century. The 1869 Sachse birdseye view depicts three older, small two-story buildings occupying the sites of 700 through 714 North Broadway. The building is clearly shown on the 1887 Bromley Atlas as a brick rowhouse situated on a lot of 17.6 feet by 78.6 feet. The house front facing Broadway measured 17.6 feet in width.

The 1890 Sanborn map depicts 704 N. Broadway as a brick, three-story rowhouse with one chimney and a wood cornice facing Broadway. Subsequent atlases and fire insurance maps (1896, 1902, 1906, 1914, and the 1914-1951 Sanborn corrections) indicate no physical changes in the structure, which was

covered with formstone during the heyday of that material in Baltimore during the mid-twentieth century.

Construction of 704 N. Broadway reflected several larger patterns in the nineteenth century northeastward expansion of Baltimore City. Governed by the orderly requirements of Thomas Poppleton's 1822 street grid of Baltimore, yet strongly influenced by the continual need for immigrant housing, the Broadway rowhouse neighborhood which includes the 700 block of North Broadway developed in response to many geographic and economic pressures. Among these, a local factor of considerable historic importance has been the presence of one or more major hospitals in the area since the late 1700s. In particular, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, located in the 600 block of North Broadway since its opening in 1889, has had a key impact on the growth and building usage of the neighborhood.

Although Fell's Point, the southern terminus of Broadway, was a major deep water port between 1750 and 1800, the Broadway region north of current Fayette Street was largely beyond the reach of early mercantile activity at "The Point." Warner and Hanna's 1801 Plan of the City and Environs of Baltimore depicts only the then newly-built "hospital for the care of the homeless sick and the insane" on Loudenschlager Hill, in the vicinity of present Monument Street and Broadway. The Old Joppa or Philadelphia Road crossed this area as well, but did not change its predominantly rural character.

Between 1820 and the Civil War, Baltimore's rigorous adherence to the Poppleton Street plan defined much of the character of urbanization in the North Broadway region. Without regard for topography, the Poppleton plan laid out a grid of 350-foot long blocks with service alleys. The street grid preceded actual housing construction in the 700 block North Broadway by several decades. City maps of the pre-Civil War era show few residential structures north of Pitt Street (modern Fayette) along either side of Broadway. Beyond Pitt and Broadway, antebellum development centered in the Madison Square vicinity after that square's opening in 1853, but generally did not yet extend east of Bond Street. Key streets, however, were already in place. Its boulevard width a legacy of earlier use as a Fell's Point ropewalk, Broadway was opened and paved from Baltimore Street to Gay Street between 1851 and 1854. Monument Street ran eastward from the city center as early as 1830 and, by 1863, was under repair in the North Broadway area. Madison Street was in its present location by 1860.

As immigrant workers and their families arrived in Baltimore in ever-increasing numbers during the 1850-1880 period, neighborhoods bordering Broadway saw extension of city services, construction of public buildings, and speculative erection of entire blocks of rowhouses. In 1854, the Accommodation Line of

horse-drawn omnibuses began running from Fell's Point up Broadway to Gay Street. Public or community-oriented structures in the vicinity of 700 N. Broadway included the Broadway Methodist Protestant Church at the northeast corner of Monument and Broadway (1860), the Hebrew Hospital fronting Ann and Monument Streets (1866-1868; precursor to Sinai Hospital), and the Episcopal Church of Our Savior at the northwest corner of Broadway and McElderry (1869-1871). By 1876, the system of "Broadway Parks" along the center of that street were extended up to North Avenue (then the legal northern limit of Baltimore City) and landscaped with flowers, trees, and fountains. In 1888, Enoch Pratt Free Library opened its Branch No. 5 at Broadway and Miller Street (the 800 block North Broadway). A year later, displacing the Methodist cemetery and several dwellings, the seventeen original buildings of Johns Hopkins Hospital opened on the site bounded by Broadway, Monument, Wolfe, and Jefferson Streets.

The ethnic diversity of the North Broadway neighborhood was reflected by 1890 in construction of the Bohemian Hall at Barnes and Broadway (1000 block) and the new brick First Baptist Church southwest of the hospital (built 1880 to house the oldest black Baptist congregation in Maryland). The twentieth century saw Johns Hopkins attain a dominant position in the community, building Hampton House for nurses (1926-1927), a series of apartment houses and units (1950s-1960s) and the Kennedy Institute (1962-1964) in the surrounding vicinity of the 700 block of Broadway. As early as 1904, residents in the 700-730 block responded economically to Hopkins' influence by opening drug stores for patients and boardinghouses for medical students and doctors. Jane Tydings at 726 N. Broadway pioneered in the latter enterprise and became a major real-life model for Augusta Tucker's best-selling 1939 novel Miss Susie Slagle's.

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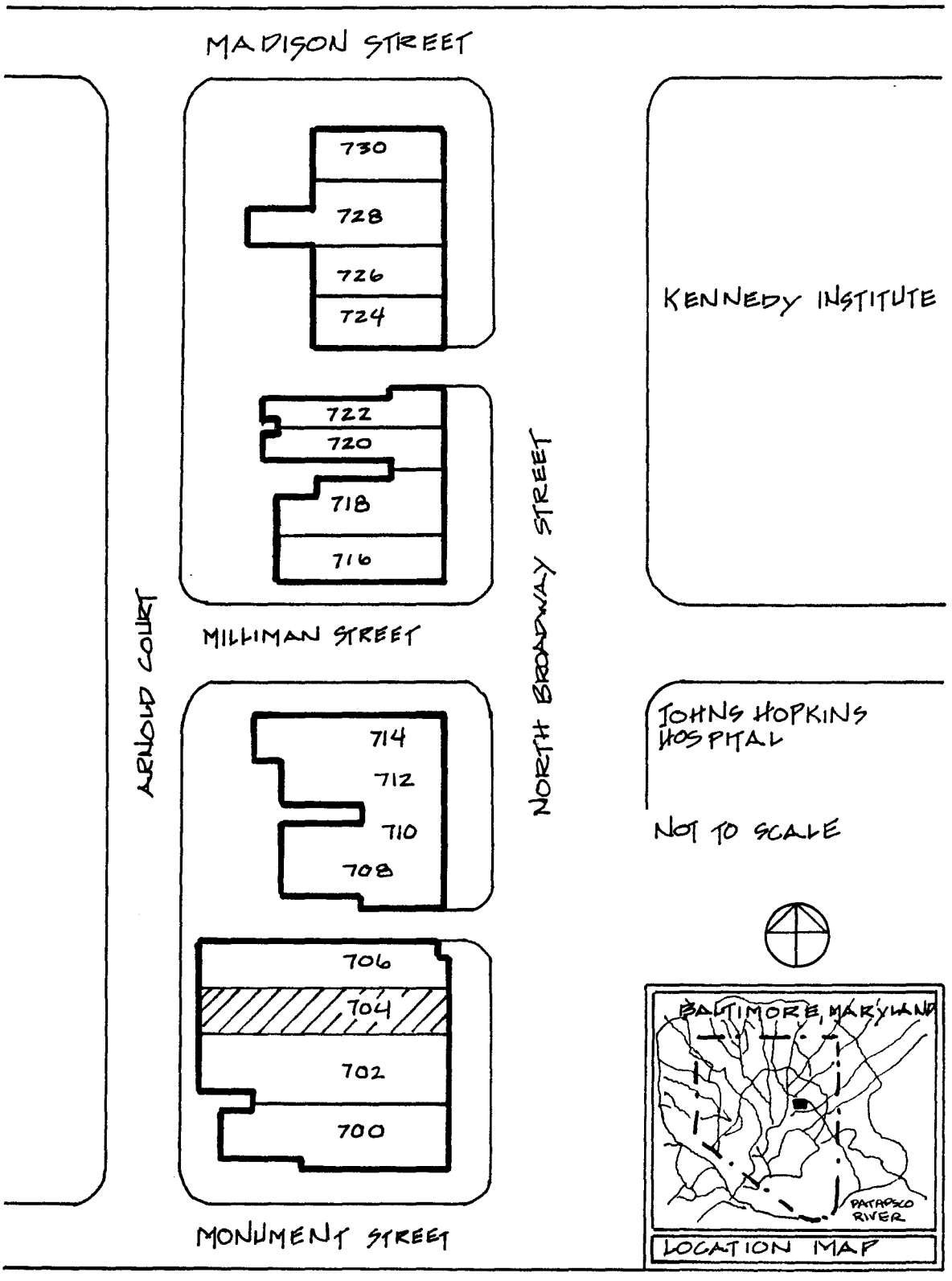
Baltimore, Maryland
May 14, 1991


MADISON STREET
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MILLIMAN STREET
ARNOLD COURT
NORTH BROADWAY STREET
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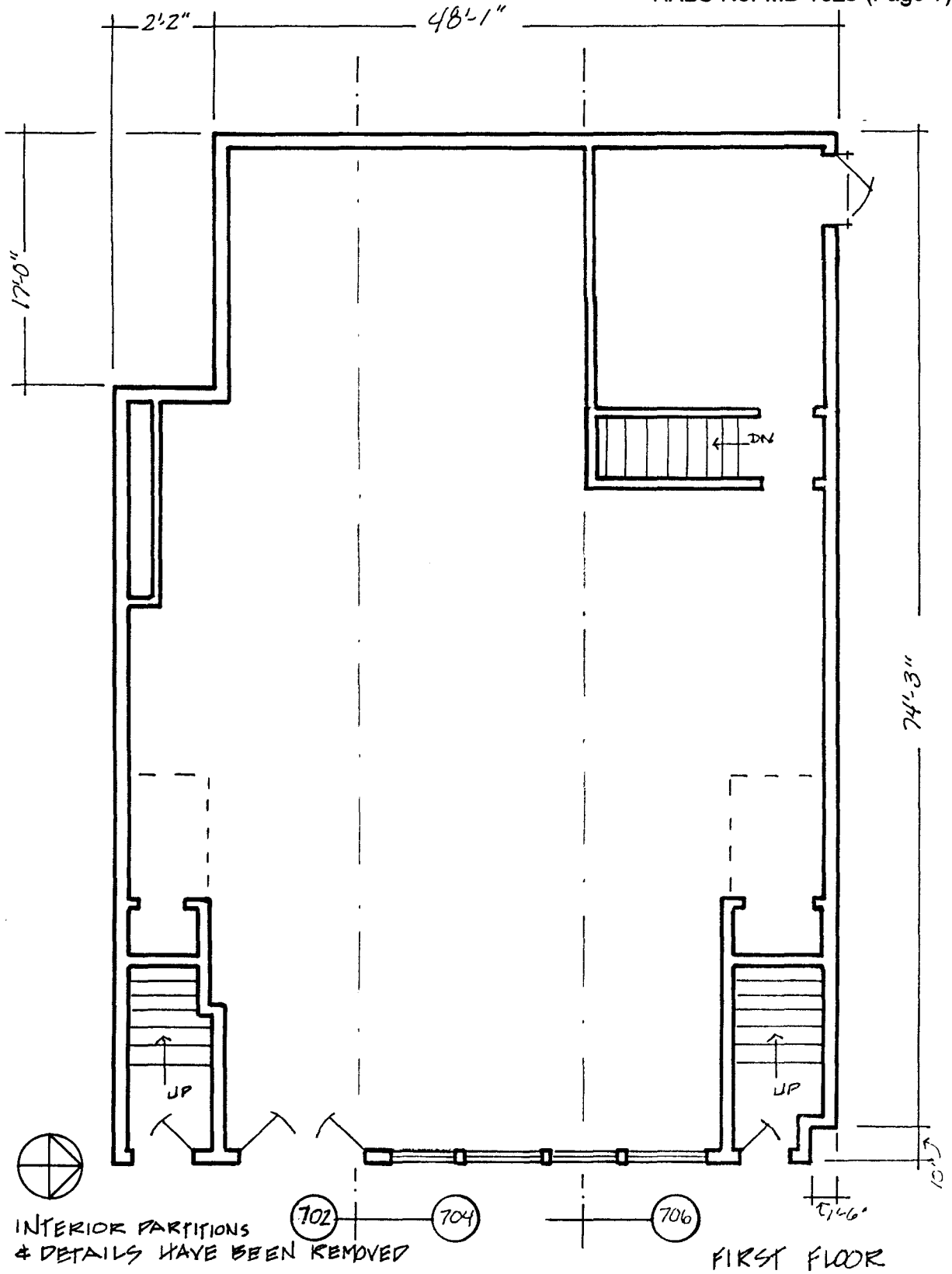
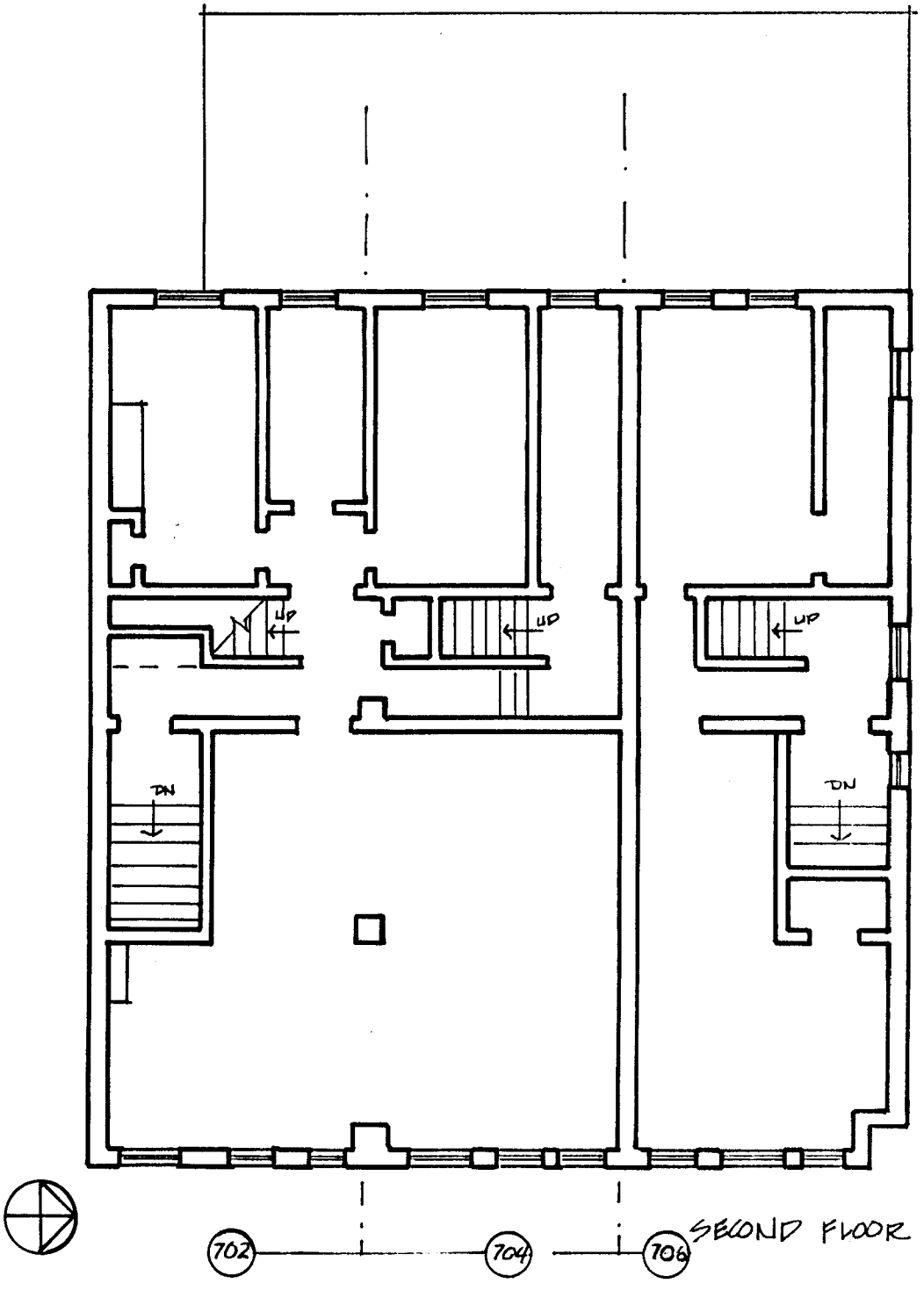
708
706
704
702
700
MONUMENT STREET
KENNEDY INSTITUTE
JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL
NOT TO SCALE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
PATAPSCO RIVER
LOCATION MAP

704 NORTH BROADWAY
(Commercial Building)
HABS No. MD-1025 (Page 7)

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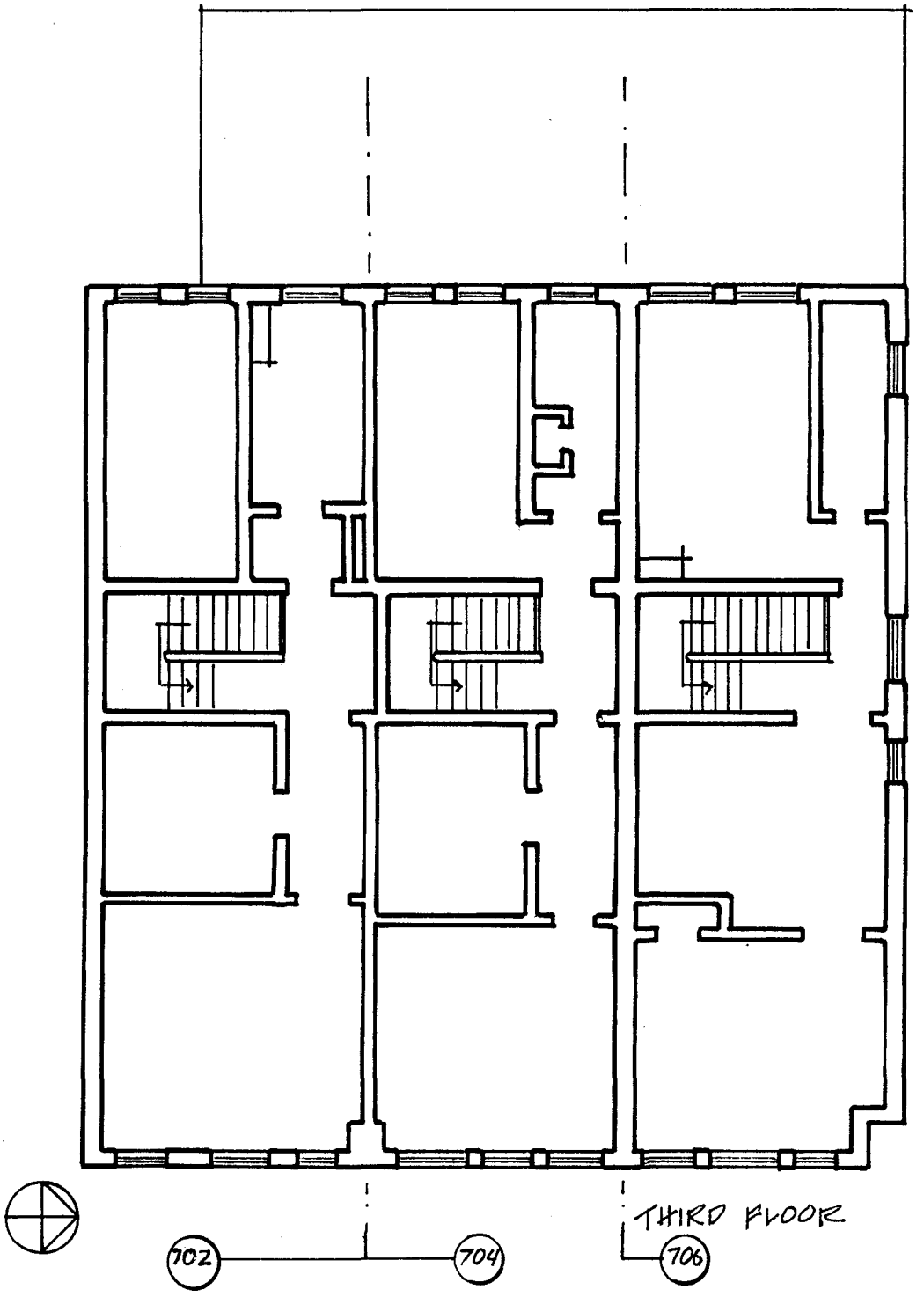
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