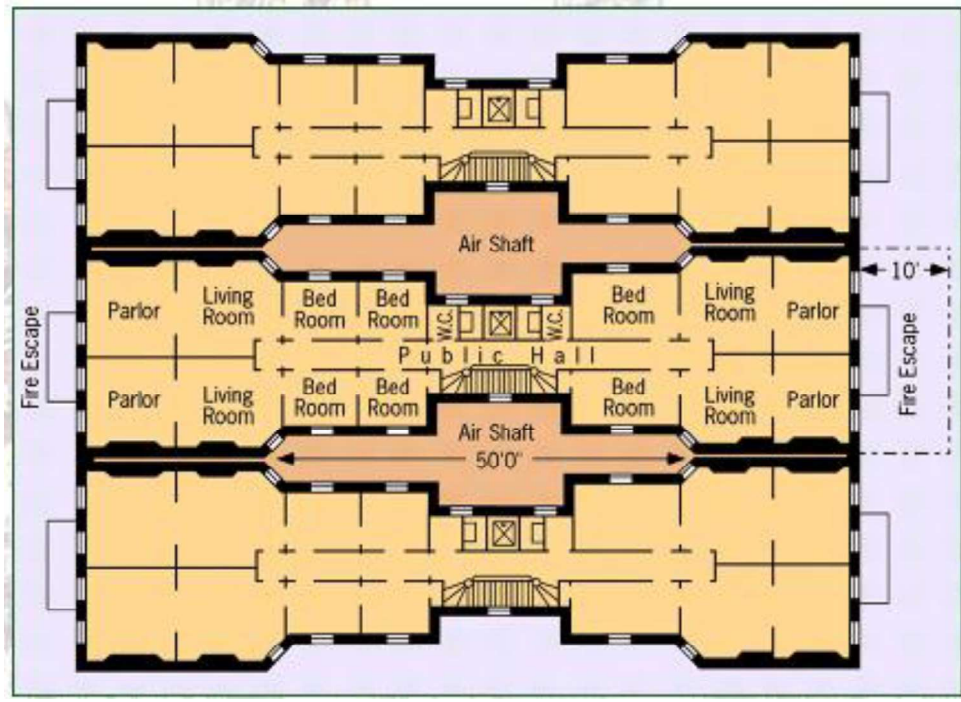


"Dumbbell" Tenement



Urban Housing

Most cities weren't prepared for such increasing populations. City streets were often flooded with waste due to inadequate sewage systems. Decent housing was scarce, most urban-dwelling immigrants lived in ***tenement*** buildings – rundown, low rent apartment buildings clustered together in the poorest parts of town.

Most tenements were filthy, run down and had little ventilation or light. Fires, disease and death were common among immigrant tenement communities. Half of Manhattan's fires were in tenement buildings.

Many immigrants came down with contagious lung disease, tuberculosis, and about 60% of immigrant babies died before their first birthday.