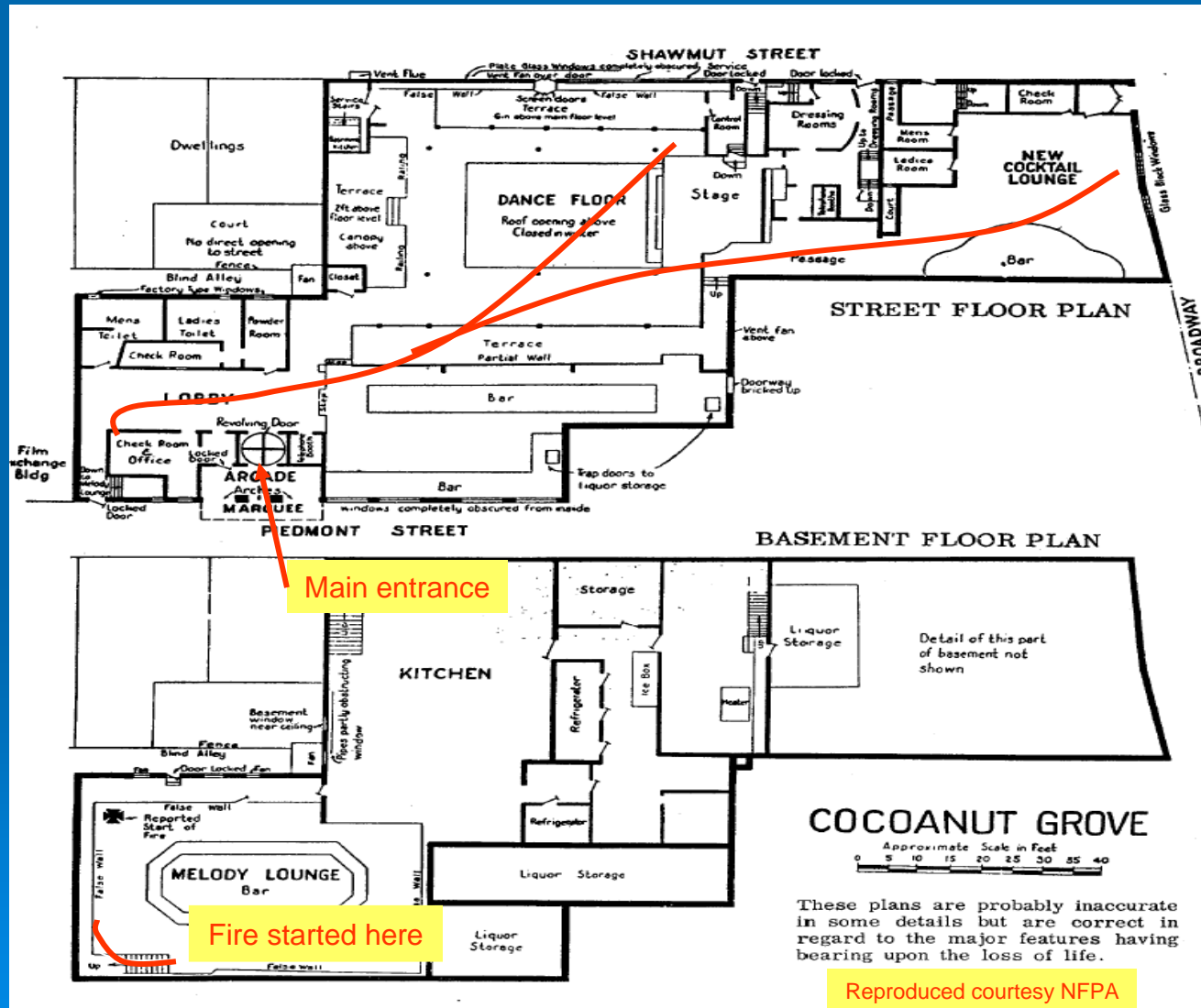


Cocoanut Grove night club, Boston, USA, 1942

492 fatalities and very many casualties.



Cocoanut Grove night club (basement and street level plans)



Cocoanut Grove night club fire

- This fire, in an over-packed night club in the evening of 28 November 1942, caused 492 fatalities and very many casualties.
- The planning of the means of escape was poor and many doors were locked. The fire spread very rapidly over combustible finishes, panic occurred and bodies piled up at two exits.
- The building had an official capacity of around 600 but on the night of the fire there were estimated to be 1000 people present. From outward appearances the building was one storey.
- The fire began in Melody Lounge in the basement where there were highly combustible decorations and cloth linings to the ceiling and walls. It spread up the staircase cutting off the only visible exit (the main entrance) and spread throughout the club in a very short time. People had no warning of the fire

