

Apartment Phone

The “apartment phone” was a H-1542 subset and usually a WeCo 553 wall phone mounted on a common backboard. Provision was made to intercom between units in the apartment, remotely control access to the apartment (door latch) and signal a manager and janitor annunciator. Control of the intercom and connection to the telco central office must have been managed from a centralized point using a small PBX or switchboard. Information about the centralized control is lacking.



The following pages contain a close-up picture of the H-1542 subset, a copy of a circuit diagram contained within the H-1542 and a drawing showing H-1542 circuit connections.

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DIRECTIONS FOR USING APARTMENT HOUSE TELEPHONE

To Call or Answer the Central Office, Push the Lever of the Front Key Towards the Word "Central," and then Place Receiver to Ear.
To Answer a Call from the Manager, Janitor or Vestibule, Push the Lever of the Front Key Towards the Word "Hotel," and then Place Receiver to the Ear.
To Call the Manager or the Janitor, Push the Lever of the Front Key Towards the Word "Hotel," Place Receiver to the Ear, and then Press the Side Key Marked "Manager" or "Janitor" as Desired.
To Unlock Front Door, Press Side Key Marked "DOOR LATCH."

CENTRAL
OFFICE

HOUSE
SYSTEM

Photo credit: T. Adams



