



ARCHITECTS
WEEKS
AMBROSE
MCDONALD
INC.

L.T. ROSS BUILDING

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



Original Concept Sketch for the Design

The program called for a single, convenient access point for consumers of city, county, state, federal and private social services, plus neighborhood police and fire support. The 65,270 sf community center was completed in 1980 for a total construction cost of \$4,460,000, or \$56.50/sf. The City of Knoxville, acting as both Owner and landlord for an intergovernmental and private agency co-op, retained Architects Weeks & Ambrose as the technical and production half of a Joint Venture with a newly formed firm retained to establish the initial design. The design included various departmental services, a library, health care, child and family services, both elder care and child care, a multipurpose room, and the police and fire stations.



Northwest Corner

A steeply sloped triangular site, centrally located between the Mechanicsville, Lonsdale and Beaumont communities, was selected for the project. The topography dictated that the Fire Hall and Police Precinct would occupy the lower level with immediate access to Western Avenue. Each participating Agency met with the Architects to develop specific programs which varied from one to 70 separate spaces based upon service volumes and other factors. Appropriate groupings of agencies were clustered along a wide, interior, tiled pedestrian "street" beginning at the reception desk and leading to a large sunlit atrium space used for waiting, meeting, dining, and events. Finishes were simple and durable, with scored block painted for accent and agency identification. Precast and cast-in-place concrete were both used extensively throughout the project. The modular grid of the various precast elements delineate the many departmental services included within the facility.



Skylit Lobby

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Main Entrance



Fire Station