



DESIGN SOLUTION

In order to maximize the use of the existing building for program space, a new addition is proposed on the vacant piece of land on the north side of the existing building.

This addition would house a new access/exit stair from the second floor, elevator for handicapped access, toilet facilities and a small amount of office space. The addition would also allow for controlled access to either the first floor or second floor without one use group jeopardizing the security of the other.

1ST FLOOR The first floor would be occupied by the Unity Square Community Group as a community center. Its main feature would be a large, flexible space for a variety of uses from group meetings to more casual and informal groupings of tables and chairs as well as lounge type furniture. Movable storage cabinets would be utilized to help reconfigure the space for the uses requested by Unity Square. In addition, the first floor would contain a reception desk, director's office, staff workroom and instructional kitchen with direct access to Suydam Street for deliveries.

2ND FLOOR The second floor would be occupied by the City of New Brunswick Fire Department as a meeting area and museum for their fine collection of artifacts.

It would contain a large museum area, meeting room with folding partition to divide the two areas, kitchenette, curator's office and storage. Part of the new addition outside the elevator and stair could also be utilized as a gallery.

EXTERIOR Our approach to the exterior of the building would be to repair the existing façade, install new windows and roof and provide for a glass storefront in place of the former overhead door. This storefront would allow the public to see into the center and thereby open it up to the community it serves. On the second floor, in place of the former bricked-up window we would propose a replica of the City of New Brunswick Fire Department's shield as part of a projecting display window that would allow a glimpse of the activities in the museum.

The new addition is envisioned as a two piece structure. The entrance doors and vestibule are proposed as a transparent glass link, while the utilitarian nature of the stairs, elevator and toilets would utilize materials tying it back to the surrounding neighborhood's residential character.