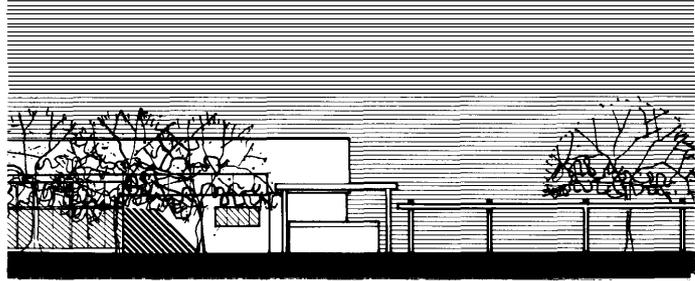


6 - 4



Fort East: Renovated Local Troop Center

a. Post Situation and Population

(1) Surrounding Context. Fort East is located in the eastern United States, approximately 45 miles from a major metropolitan area. The surrounding counties have recently experienced considerable suburban housing and support services development. Immediately outside the post, on one of the major access roads, is an extensive strip development of restaurants, fast food outlets, bars, movies, bowling, recreational activities and retail services. These facilities are heavily patronized by the on-post population, as are the recreational and entertainment opportunities of the nearby metropolitan area, for evening and weekend activities.

(2) Post Mission and Population. Fort East primarily supports a large number of specialized, highly technical operational units with diverse functions, including technical training. The current military strength of the post is 8,500, though for planning purposes it is projected as 15,000. The post contains slightly over 4,000 single troop barracks spaces. There are roughly 3,000 family housing units, accommodating about 10,000 people. Many additional single troops, and some married military, live off-post in the surrounding communities. There is an active dependent youth population of 12,000. Post facilities also serve some 20,000 civilian employees who work in the technical operations, and approximately 67,000 military retirees in the area.

(3) Geography. The terrain of the site is gently rolling. As the masterplan (figure 6 - 19) shows, post operations areas are located in the southeastern and southwestern sectors of the cantonment. The single troop billets are concentrated near some of the operations facilities, in the southwest quadrant. The family housing is clustered in closely packed neighborhood units with individual elementary schools, mostly in the northern half of the cantonment and near the post boundary. The beginning of a Community Center, including main exchange, exists in

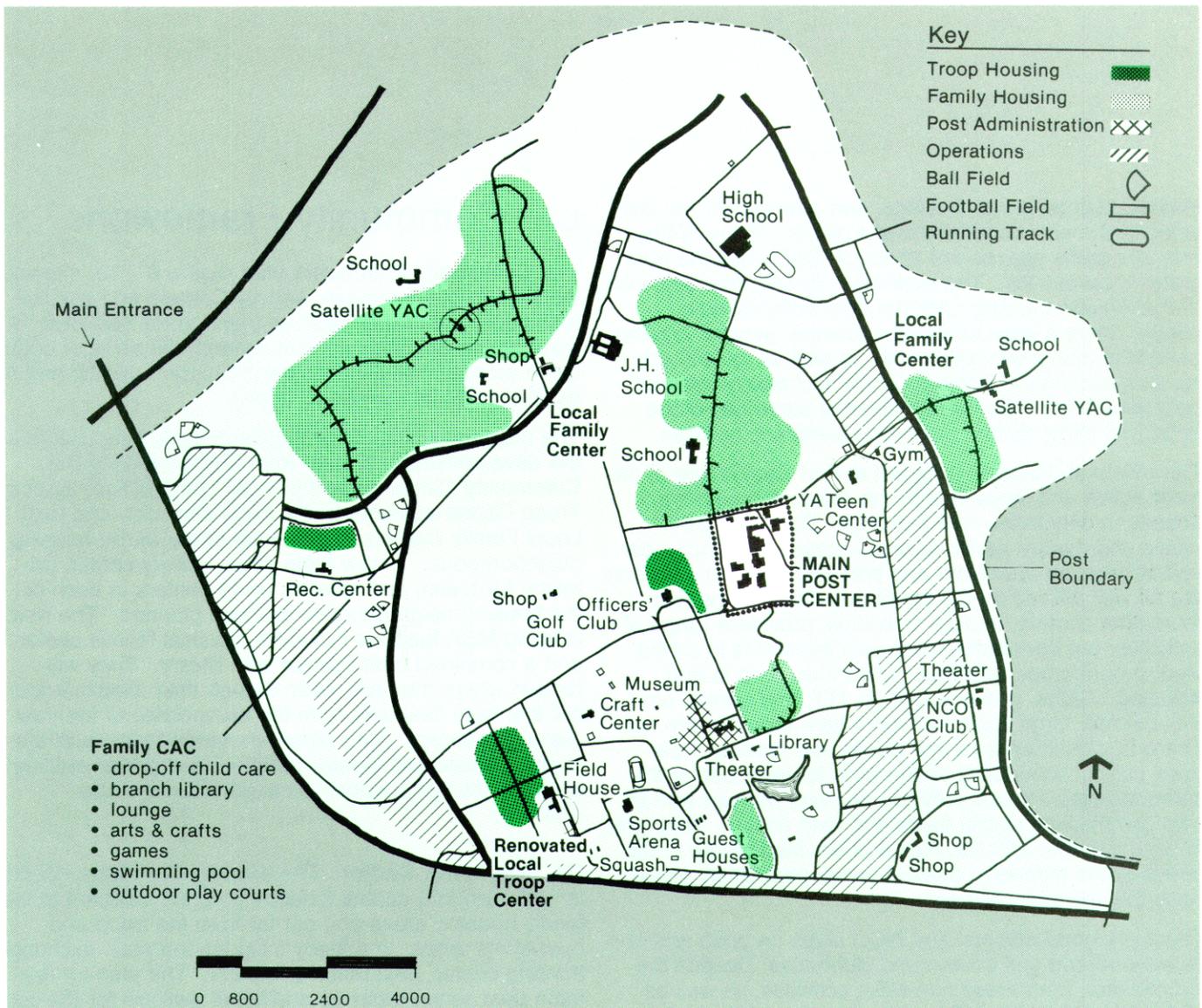


Figure 6 – 19 Fort East: Community Framework Plan

the center of the cantonment, between the family housing and the operations/troop billeting areas. The post administrative center is located slightly to the south of this center.

b. Existing Programs and Facilities

Fort East has an extensive MSA program in most functional areas. It is generally adequate for the users' needs, with the exception of sports, family programs, and child care (a non-MSA program of particular importance here). The facilities for these programs vary greatly in age and quality. There are excellent new buildings for physical fitness, swimming, arts and crafts, auto crafts,

library, and bowling. The recreation centers, youth activities, music and theatre, and child care are housed in inadequate temporary structures. The MSA programs generally tend to be particularly heavily patronized by families - soldiers and their dependents - largely because the single troops seem to be more likely to take advantage of the competitive off-post recreational and entertainment opportunities.

The most active MSA programs are the physical activities, with over one hundred teams in various sports. The available facilities cannot accommodate as full a program as is demanded by the users, even though the existing facilities include a new physical fitness center, indoor swimming pool, bowling center, and some older facilities such as the field house (see figure 6 - 19). A full range of arts and crafts activities (wood, ceramics, photography,

leather, stained glass, fine arts, and auto crafts) are provided in the new combined crafts center. Many of the arts and crafts spaces are under-utilized, while the auto crafts is always full. The main post library, in a fairly new and adequate building near the post administrative center, offers a wide range of reference, general reading, periodical and youth collections, as well as special collections serving the interests of the technically-oriented post population. Two branch libraries serve two of the large and more remote technical operations facilities.

The music and theatre program at Fort East is one of the most active and innovative in the Army, although it is housed in only make-shift buildings. Dinner theatre, music and theatre performances, music and dance classes, instrument check-out and practice, and jam sessions are all well utilized by the entire population. The two recreation centers, in older buildings, provide a range of activities, but the predominant user interest is in scheduled, programmed activities, rather than drop-in and lounging. Clubs, group meetings, ITT, and games are well-utilized, large-scale ball-room type activities are not. There is a reluctance to mix troops and families, however, careful scheduling allows both to make use of the same facilities. Youth activities are very popular with its own gymnasium, sports fields and teen center. They are housed in make-shift facilities that are inadequate to the needs of the extensive on-post family population, especially the younger children.

There are good officers' and NCO clubs on post, and an actively utilized golf course and clubhouse. Despite the competition from these non-MSA activities, as well as off-post facilities, the MSA program is generally well-run and well-attended. Gaps in the sports, recreation, family services and youth activities areas need to be remedied.

c. Community Framework

The Community Framework plan (figure 6 - 19) shows the pattern of Community Activity Centers and specialized other community facilities planned for Fort East. It responds to the geographical context, the array of population groups, their locations and program needs, and the existing facilities discussed above.

The major components of the Community Framework are the development of a Main Post Center utilizing the Community Center currently under construction, a Local Troop Center adjacent to the troop barracks, and two Local Family Centers in the midst of the family housing neighborhoods. A new main youth activity center, primarily for teens, and satellite youth centers in each of the housing neighborhoods are also planned. The new existing MSA facilities include a physical fitness center and a combined crafts center with library. They will remain where they are, even though their locations are not the most desirable from the perspective of the new planning concept. Two older renovated theatres of the existing music and theatre facilities, and all the existing sports fields and outdoor recreation facilities, are retained.

(1) Main Post Center. The existing Community Center is well-sited in a central location on post, adjacent to the family housing areas and not far from the troop and operations areas. It already includes the main exchange, bowling center, post office and bank. The plan for the main post center includes additional facilities for the commissary, MSA theatre, movie theatre, child care center (with full-day, part-day and hourly care), ladies' gym, community services, emergency relief, shoppette, amusement center, and other retail stores (see figure 6 - 20).

The Fort East Main Post Center provides a good mix of MSA, commercial and community services which all benefit from shared parking, and mutual attraction and activity generation. The center is oriented heavily toward family functions (ladies gym, child care, community services) because of the large family population and the absence of existing facilities. Also, the site is conveniently located with respect to all the family housing neighborhoods. Arts and crafts, music, and some indoor sports are adequately provided in existing facilities and are not included in this center.

(2) Local Troop Center. This local Community Activity Center serves the concentration of troop barracks at Fort East. It is a renovation of an existing recreation center. It accommodates a full range of local activities, plus one major specialized activity serving the whole post. An existing field house, chapel, new branch exchange and outdoor swimming pool are nearby and, together with the renovated facility, form a local CAC complex. Programs and illustrative designs for this project are presented in detail in paragraph d, below.

(3) Local Family Centers. Two local family centers are proposed for Fort East. One is located at an intersection of two main roads within the family housing areas, next to an existing shoppette. The other is located next to an existing elementary school and a proposed satellite youth center, near a dense enlisted men's family housing neighborhood.

These Community Activity Centers provide a full range of locally needed programs. Each includes family oriented activity areas including a lounge, snack bar, large multi-purpose program room, serving kitchen for community

functions, small arts and crafts area (ceramics, home repair/light woodworking, and photography lab), games room, a small basketball court with support spaces, branch library, small hourly child care, and possibly an outdoor swimming pool.

(4) Youth Activity Centers. The large family and youth population on this post is served by a main youth activities/teen center and three juvenile-oriented satellite youth centers with one in each of the major housing neighborhoods. The main center replaces an existing teen center nearby. It is located near the existing youth baseball and other sports fields at the edge of the family housing areas. The satellite centers are designed to serve each neighborhood's younger population, with largely volunteer staffing. They are sited at the already-existing focus of each area, next to the neighborhood elementary school. This system is more fully developed, and programs and designs for the individual facility types presented, in DG 1110 -3-138, Design Guide for Dependent Youth Activity Centers, Chapter 7, Illustrative Designs.

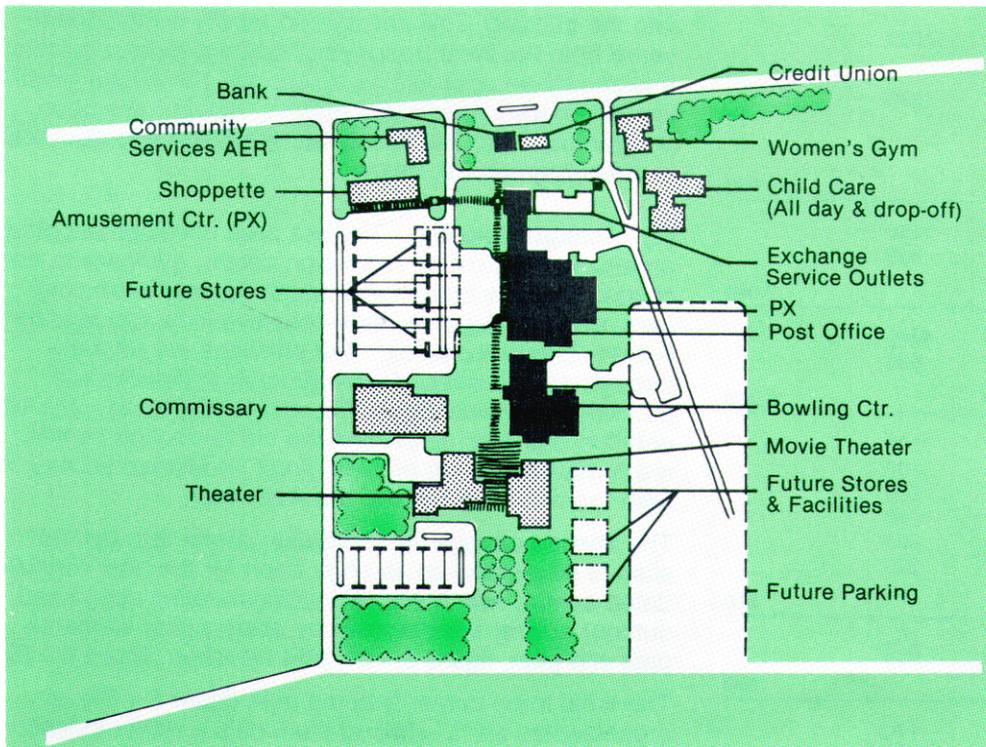


Figure 6 – 20 Fort East: Main Post Center- Diagrammatic Plan

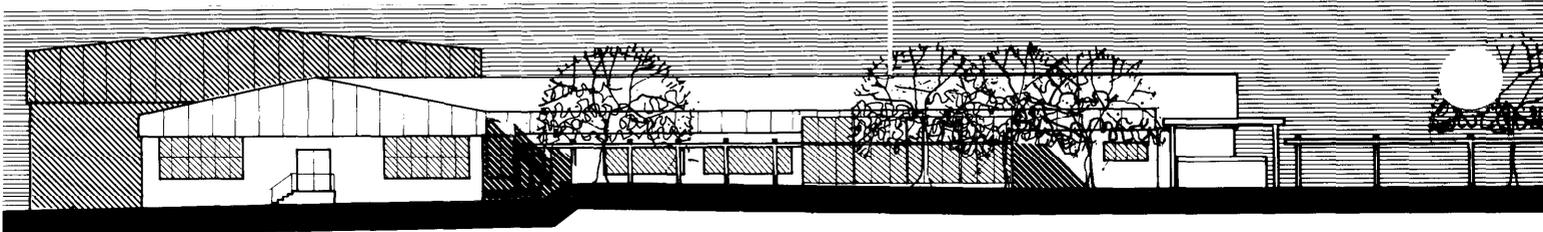


Figure 6 - 22 Elevation

d. Renovated Local Troop Center

(1) Program. This center serves the 4,000 unattached troops housed in the immediately adjacent barracks complex. The intention is to provide as wide a range of locally-appropriate activities in a consolidated center requiring a minimum of program specialists. The center should be economically operated and open a maximum number of hours each day.

The function and space program for this local troop center are indicated in table 6 - 6. The areas included do not provide the full amount of space allocated for 4,000 troops. The remainder is to be provided by additional facilities on a post-wide basis. The existence of an underutilized 35,000 square-foot recreation center at the site was also taken into account. Most of the functions are intended to serve the local troop population. However, the existing large ballroom space, no longer appropriate for current needs, provided the option of programming a music/performance theatre, with support areas, into the building. This specialized facility is intended to serve both the local troops and the post-wide population, and should be operable as a separate part of the building. Alternative specialized activities could have been programmed into this space, as discussed and illustrated in subparagraph (3), below.

(2) Design Solution. The site area development plan organizes the existing recreation center, gymnasium and chapel, the new branch exchange, outdoor swimming pool, and parking area, as a cohesive local Community Activity Center complex. The buildings are related through careful siting of new structures, coordinated pathways, a connecting trellis, and landscaping. The orientation of the complex, and the old recreation center, are turned around to provide direct pedestrian access from the troop barracks to the northwest.

The space between the recreation center and gymnasium is developed as an entry court for the new consolidated center, with a stepped sitting/meeting space and outdoor activity area defined by landscaping elements (see site plan, figure 6 - 21, and elevation, figure 6 - 22).

The local troop center building (see figure 6 - 23) is organized as an "L"-shaped plan, plus a rather-independent music/performance wing. The center is designed, as much as possible, as continuous open space subdivided by low walls and by changes in the ceiling height

Table 6 - 6 Fort East Renovated Local Troop Center: Space Program

Function-Space	Area (Gross Square Feet)	
Social Activities		9,040
Small Group Activities		6320
• Active and Electronic Games	2130	
• Television Lounge	520	
• Table Games	850	
• Fireplace Lounge	570	
• Meeting Rooms	2250	
Administration		1080
• iControl Center/ITT/Storage	1080	
Refreshment		1640
• Snack Bar	1280	
• Kitchen	360	
Arts and Crafts		1,660
General Crafts		1130
Photography Lab		530
Music		2,040
Practice and Listening Rooms		1460
Instrument Checkout		580
Drama		9,280
Experimental Theater, incl. stage		7300
Control		100
Dressing Rooms		530
Workshop/Storage		950
Toilets		200
Green Room		200
Library		570
Reading Rack/Reading Area		570
General Support		650
Maintenance		170
Toilets		480
Total		23,240

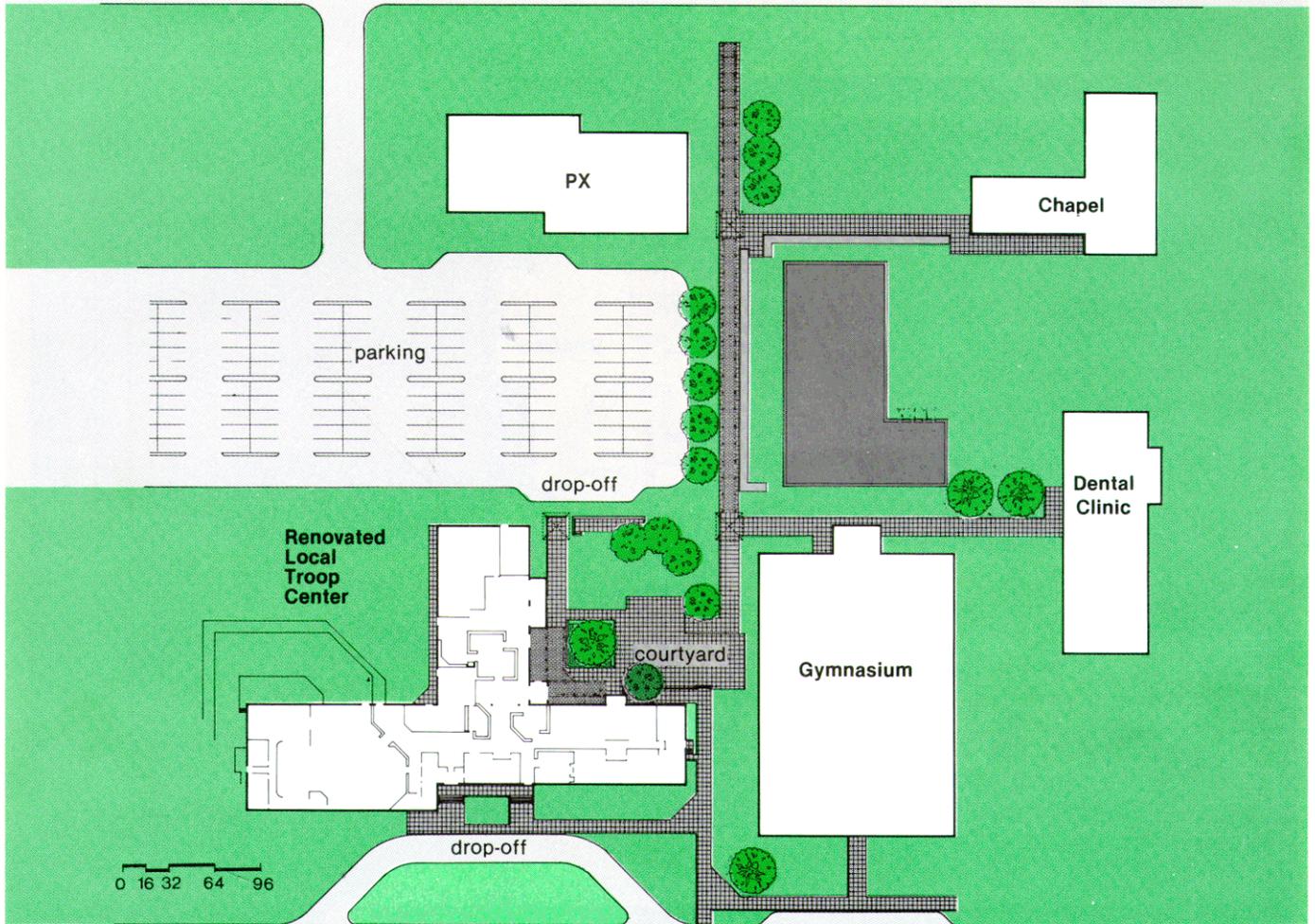


Figure 6 – 21 Site Plan

and floor levels (see section, figure 6 - 24). This openness offers good visibility among the activity spaces, providing exposure and cross-fertilization for different programs, and facilitating supervision. Circulation passes through rather than around activity spaces and thus reinforces good visibility. Enclosed areas are located at the periphery in order to enable easy surveillance.

The new main entry is located at the intersection of the two wings of the plan, providing good access to all program areas from the troop barracks, gymnasium, and the rest of the complex. Immediately inside this main entry is the central lobby surrounded by the control desk and

two lounge areas defined by low banquettes and built-in seating, all at a raised level. The control desk is centrally located and raised to provide good surveillance of all non-enclosed spaces and all entrances (the two existing entrances on the old driveway side remain). From this desk, the support staff also operates equipment/materials check-out (instruments, ITT, games). There are offices, general and instrument storage immediately accessible from behind the desk. One of the lounges is equipped with booths and tables for card games and a partial extension of the snack bar space. The other lounge has seating and an ITT literature rack

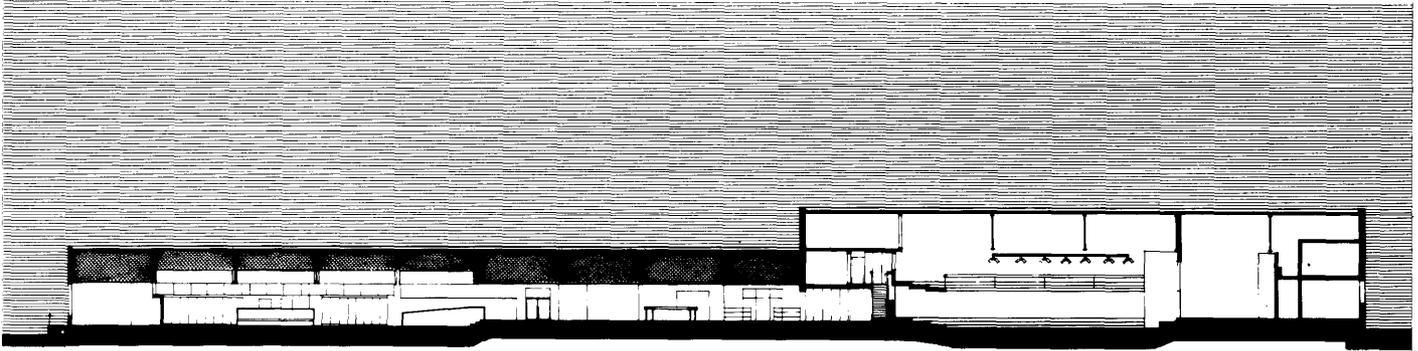


Figure 6 - 24 Fort East: Renovated Local Troop Center-Section

and information board, which acts as a buffer zone for the active games area nearby.

The two branches of the "L" are at the lower floor level, with ramped connections. One branch (see figure 6 - 23) has an active games area for billiards and table tennis under a raised coffered ceiling (see figure 6 - 24) with a greenhouse/window-seat extension, three multipurpose club/meeting rooms with high clerestory windows to light their interior areas (one equipped as a music listening room), a pantry/kitchen along the connecting corridor (for snacks and serving for functions) and an intimate lounge facing an existing fieldstone fireplace with visual and acoustic privacy provided by high banquettes, and racks for periodicals, recreational reading, and paperback trading. The other branch of the "L" includes a snack bar and kitchen run by the post exchange with a greenhouse seating space extending out into the forecourt, a recessive television lounge, a glazed but acoustically separated electronic games area, and a small general crafts shop and photography lab, entered through a shared buffer space with one wall of the crafts space glazed for observability from the snack area.

The music/performance wing functions independently and is identifiably separate from outside and in. Its entrance has doors for control and acoustical separation, but is visible from the central CAC control desk. The performance function also shares use of toilets and support facilities, and can benefit from the adjacent lounge and snack spaces. This wing includes a mainstage with cyclorama, open wings, adjacent workshops, two-level dressing area, storage and outside access; a 300 - person seating area with movable seatwagons on a flat floor to permit theatre-in-the-round or proscenium performances, and a second-level balcony taking advantage of the height of the existing ballroom space; three large, and eight small practice rooms, with glazed walls, acoustically separated from the large theatre space; and a large instrument check-out storage area, just behind and operated from the main CAC control desk, which is usable when the rest of the music/performance wing is closed.

(3) Alternative Specialized Activities. The music/performance wing of the Fort East renovated local troop center could easily be programmed for other specialized activities, if the needs of the post change. The roughly 12,000 - square-foot space could accommodate a small gymnasium, branch library, arts and crafts center, or dinner theatre. Sketch designs for these options are illustrated in Figures 6 - 25 through 6 - 28, as variants of the basic design described above. Most of the alternatives require some modifications to the consolidated part of the center, to accommodate the music practice rooms in place of either the crafts area or the meeting rooms. These designs are included to suggest the range of space-use flexibility which should be applied in considering renovation of existing structures.

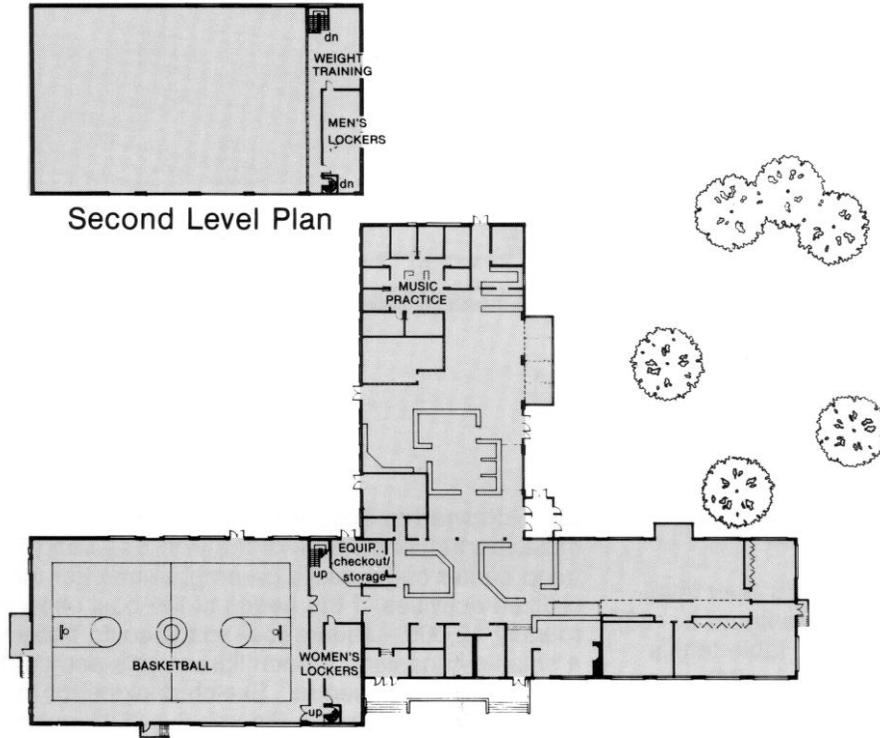


Figure 6 – 25 Fort East: Renovated Local Troop Center-Gymnasium

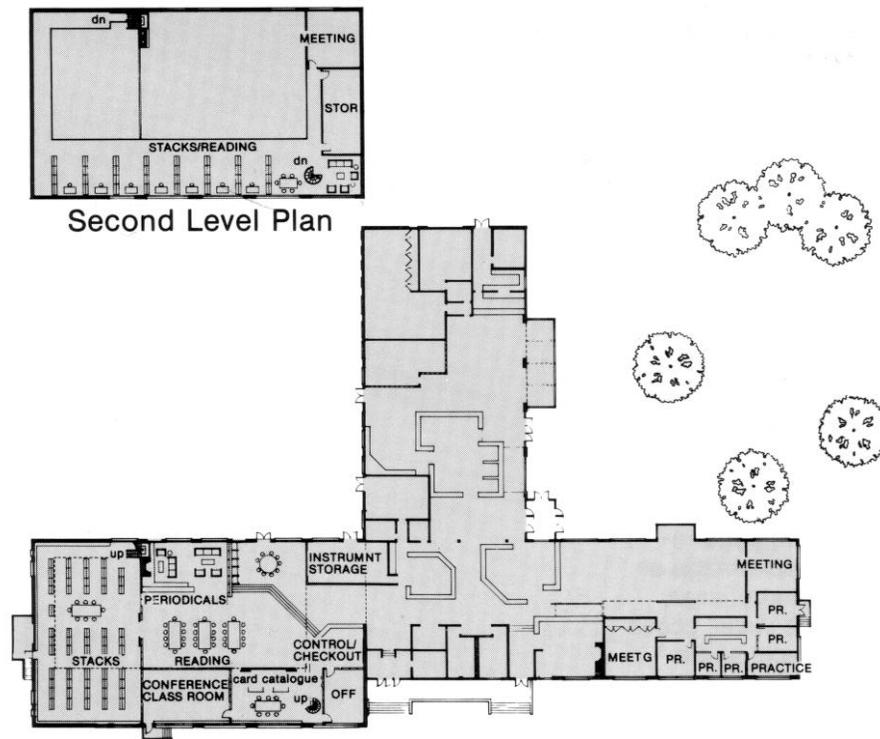


Figure 6 – 26 Fort East: Renovated Local Troop Center-Branch Library

