

Mountain Brook Municipal Complex

Graphics Courtesy of Williams Blackstock Architects



Set between existing oaks, the new Mountain Brook City Hall will have a T-plan two-story structure fronted by a gabled, rusticated entrance arcade. The new fire department headquarters fronts the street behind with the existing library visible beyond.



A single level of parking extends across the middle rear of the site between the fire department/city hall (left) and police department.

By Philip Morris



The new Mountain Brook Municipal Complex will feature a big city element – 60 below-grade employee parking spaces – in order to maintain its small town character. The design by Williams Blackstock Architects with Henry Sprott Long Associates solves the knotty problem of how to replace the existing smaller facility with one four times as large at the same location in Crestline Village.

As with its new library built in place 10 years ago, the city decided to move to temporary quarters and rebuild on the existing site. (The purchase of a small adjacent triangular property helped.) The new two-story city hall will occupy the same prominent tree-canopied setting on Church Street with its shops, while the expanded fire and police departments face each other across narrow Tibbett Street to the rear. Total square footage expands from 22,000- to 80,000-square-feet. Completion is set for mid-2012.

Like the landmark clock tower at the north end of Church Street, structures will be clad in red brick with limestone trim. A new fire department tower will occupy the corner across from the library. With employee parking tucked under the complex, the village will gain 40 public parking spaces and enhanced green space by Nimrod Long & Associates.



As the site plan shows, the design team managed to fit four times the space on the site of the former municipal buildings. Below-grade employee parking extends under Tibbett Street between the fire and police departments.



Crestline Village, like Mountain Brook's other villages, has form-based plans to reinforce its pedestrian character. Keeping city facilities in place is part of that strategy.