

**Des Peres City Hall (Lutheran Orphan Home), 12325 Manchester Rd.,
Des Peres, 1936, Mauran, Russell & Crowell**



The present Des Peres City Hall was once the Lutheran Orphan Home, built in 1936. Although the building is a relatively new one, the institution first opened in Des Peres in 1868. Three previous buildings were erected on the same site to accommodate the constantly increasing number of children. The second home was built in 1873. The present building replaced the one from 1893, which was demolished by fire in 1935. As different social aid programs for dependent children were developed after World War II, the need for orphanages gradually declined. Facing this new development, the leaders of the Lutheran Orphan House closed the facility in 1966. The city of Des Peres purchased the building in 1973 and converted it into a City Hall, council chambers, city court and local legislative offices. The surrounding buildings on the property including the Andrew Cremer Memorial School, built in 1947, are being used for community activities, while the grounds are preserved as a city park.