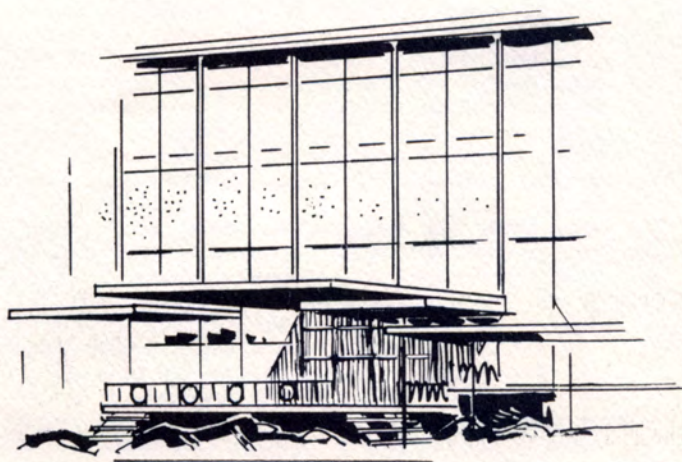


GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 20, 1962

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The idea of a University of Alabama Research Institute at Huntsville existed in the minds of many residents of Alabama for several years, but was first advanced formally on June 13, 1960, by the Joint Army/Marshall Graduate Study Steering Committee in a written proposal to the University of Alabama President, Dr. Frank A. Rose. The proposal carried written endorsement by Dr. von Braun, Director, Marshall Space Flight Center, and Lieutenant General August Schomburg, then Commanding General, U.S. Army Ordnance Missile Command. Two main purposes of the Institute stated then are valid today:

"To improve the academic climate of Huntsville."

"To provide research in aerospace problems encountered at Redstone Arsenal."

By October 1, 1960, the University of Alabama had considered the proposal and appointed Dr. F. H. Mitchell the Interim Director of the Research Institute. In the beginning of 1961, the Institute began the first research studies when it was awarded three contracts by Redstone Arsenal agencies. Lacking experimental facilities, only theoretical studies could be undertaken, with scientific manpower loaned by Departments on the Tuscaloosa campus.

Later in the year, the need for a Research Institute in Huntsville was firmly stated and publically endorsed by aerospace officials, first by Dr. von Braun before the State of Alabama Legislature, and a few days later by Mr. James E. Webb, Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration, during a visit in Huntsville. The realization of the plan was given great impetus when the House and the Senate of Alabama unanimously passed legislation which placed before the voters a referendum to furnish \$3 million through general revenue bonds to finance building, facilities, and equipment.

Through the efforts of farsighted and civic-minded citizens, a campaign to acquaint the general public with the state-wide benefits of a University Research Institute resulted in a 3 to 1 approval of the bond issue. The date of passage, December 5, 1961, thus marks the birth of the Institute because without funds for experimental facilities, the Institute would not have proceeded beyond a paper organization.

Later in December 1961, the City of Huntsville and Madison County committed \$400,000 to the University for the purchase of some 200 acres of land on which to locate the Research Institute.

On January 15, 1962, Dr. Rudolf Hermann accepted the position of Director of the Research Institute to begin full-time duties on September 1, 1962. The intervening period was used to define the research needs in aerospace engineering sciences, select those areas in which the Institute could make a contribution, begin to assemble a staff, and develop criteria for the specialized laboratories.

By September 1, 1962, the Institute had secured five of the first year's goal of ten professors who are to be the nucleus upon which the Institute plans to build its research capability.

The contract to design the first phase office and laboratory building was awarded to the architectural firm of Warren, Knight and Davis on June 1, 1962. The site planning is being done by Mr. Hannes Luehrsen in conjunction with University staff personnel.

The groundbreaking ceremony is to be followed by actual construction in early 1963, with the building scheduled for completion late that year.

LUNCHEON — 12 NOON

FORT RAYMOND JONES ARMORY
Memorial Parkway, Southwest

President Frank A. Rose, Presiding

INVOCATION:

The Reverend David Leech
Headmaster, Randolph School
Huntsville, Alabama

LUNCHEON:

REMARKS AND
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Dr. Frank A. Rose
President, University of Alabama

GREETINGS:

The Honorable Homer Whitt
President, Huntsville City Council

GREETINGS:

The Honorable James Record
Chairman, Madison County Board of
Commissioners

REMARKS:

Dr. Rudolf Hermann
Director, Research Institute

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY
2:30 P.M.

RESEARCH INSTITUTE SITE
Erskine Street, Northwest

President Frank A. Rose, Presiding

INVOCATION:

The Reverend David Leech
Headmaster, Randolph School
Huntsville, Alabama

REMARKS:

Major General Francis J. McMorrow
Commanding General
U. S. Army Missile Command
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama

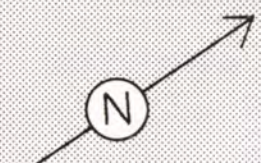
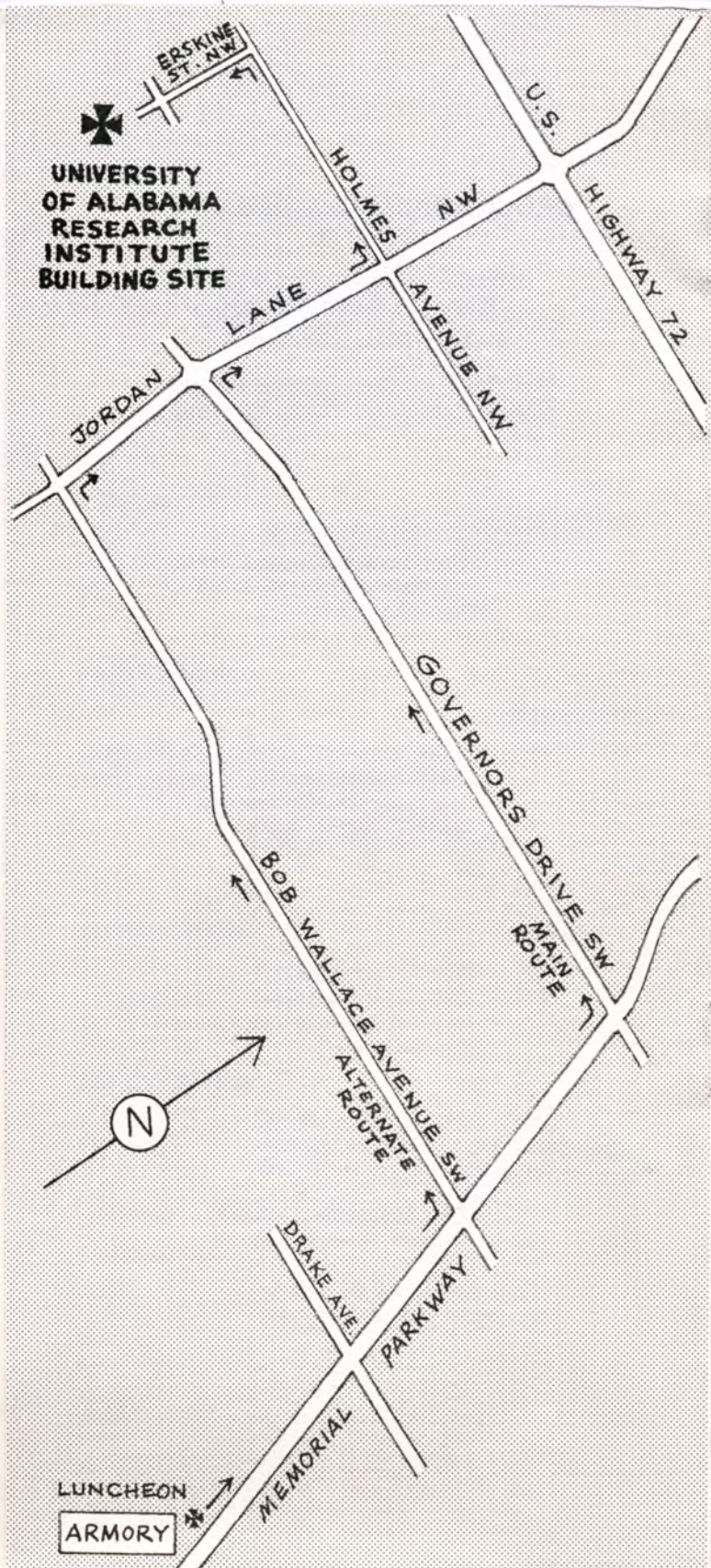
REMARKS:

Dr. Wernher von Braun
Director, Marshall Space Flight Center
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration

ADDRESS AND
GROUND-BREAKING:

The Honorable John M. Patterson
Governor, State of Alabama

**UNIVERSITY
OF ALABAMA
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE
BUILDING SITE**



LUNCHEON
ARMORY