



***THE LUNAR  
SCIENCE  
INSTITUTE***



***'let this great  
new institute  
stand as a  
symbol'***

*“AS A FURTHER STEP* toward joining hands with the world’s scientific community, I want to announce that we will build facilities here in Houston to help the world’s scientists work together more effectively on the problems of space. We are going to have a new Lunar Science Institute alongside this great Center. It will initially be operated by the National Academy of Sciences and Rice University.



“We hope and expect that universities from all parts of the nation will join with them.

“This new Institute is a center of research designed specifically for the age of space. Here will come scientists—and their students—from all over the world.

“We will welcome here all who are interested in the sciences of space. We will strengthen the cooperation between NASA and our universities. And we will set down new patterns of scientific cooperation which will have profound effects on man’s knowledge of his universe.

“This new Lunar Science Institute will provide new means of communication and research for the world’s scientific community. It will help unite the nations for the great challenge of space.

“Let this great new Institute stand as a symbol. Let us show the world that we do not build rockets and spacecraft to fly our flag in space, or to plant our banner on the surface of the moon.”

—President Lyndon B. Johnson  
March 1, 1968

## **INTRODUCTION**

The establishment of the Lunar Science Institute was announced March 1, 1968, by President Lyndon B. Johnson, who made a personal tour of the Manned Spacecraft Center (MSC) that day. The President's announcement speech was delivered to a gathering of several thousand National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) employees and contractor support personnel.

As envisioned by President Johnson, the Lunar Science Institute will become one of the foremost space-research centers in the world, accessible to all members of the scientific community. The President gave assurance that students, scientists, and universities from all nations will be welcomed at the new Institute.

The objectives, concepts, and functions of the institute, so far as they have been formulated, are outlined in the following pages. The facilities and services the Institute will provide are considered, and Institute staff requirements are reviewed. A short history of the structure proposed as the site of the Institute is presented, as well as schematic floor plans showing present and proposed allocations of available floor space.

## **OPERATION**

The Lunar Science Institute was established by a NASA grant to the National Academy of Sciences which, in cooperation with Rice University, will operate the new facility. In addition to providing monetary and advisory assistance, NASA administrators will make the MSC Lunar Receiving Laboratory (LRL) facilities available to the Institute scientists. The site proposed for the Institute is adjacent to the MSC and, hence, to the LRL.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Formally stated, the objectives of the Lunar Science Institute are indicative of the close liaison which will exist among the National Academy of Sciences, Rice University, and the MSC. The formal objectives of the Institute are:

- To enhance communications among scientists, universities, and governmental organizations
- To encourage use of the unique LRL facilities to the common benefit of NASA and the academic community in the discovery and application of scientific knowledge

- To provide all universities with appropriate services for associate and postgraduate education at the MSC
- To provide general assistance and support to the principal investigators of university contractors for research on lunar material

## CONCEPTS

As conceived by President Johnson and NASA leaders, a primary responsibility of the Lunar Science Institute is development of closer working relationships among the various organizations engaged in space research. Thus, the present concept is that the Institute should encourage:

- Scientific discussion and exchange of ideas
- The association of university, industry, and government personnel engaged in lunar-science research
- The convocation of seminars, workshops, symposia, and the like, at which selected disciplines would be discussed
- Further accessibility of government employees and facilities, such as the LRL, to university representatives
- The participation of interested scientists in spaceflight operations and LRL scientific activities

Conversely, the Lunar Science Institute, as conceived, should discourage:

- The establishment of separate, fully equipped laboratories competitive with universities and NASA Centers
- The formation of large permanent staffs independent of universities and NASA Centers
- The establishment of separate institutions for the express purpose of conferring degrees
- The building of separate, institute-owned laboratory facilities
- The formation of competitive institutes seeking to participate in the direction or management of NASA programs
- The establishment of separate institutes on university campuses

## **FUNCTIONS**

The functions of the Lunar Science Institute can be divided into four major categories:

- Assisting the MSC in establishing further competence in scientific disciplines, by
  - Inviting professors on leave to participate in MSC activities
  - Making MSC facilities available to graduate students
  - Arranging colloquia, seminars, courses, and summer studies
  - Developing a program to bring scientists to the MSC for short visits
- Strengthening relations between the MSC and universities, by
  - Making the availability of MSC scientific facilities better known
  - Assisting Texas universities with special problems
  - Providing a "home away from home" for university visitors and helping them with housing needs
  - Providing undergraduate science students the opportunity of working in MSC facilities
- Improving relations with principal investigators, by
  - Providing a "home away from home" for visiting principal investigators and helping them with housing needs
  - Working with the MSC in convening meetings with principal investigators
  - Establishing a special library of NASA literature to satisfy the needs of principal investigators
- Providing a desirable environment conducive to advanced study for MSC science-advisory groups



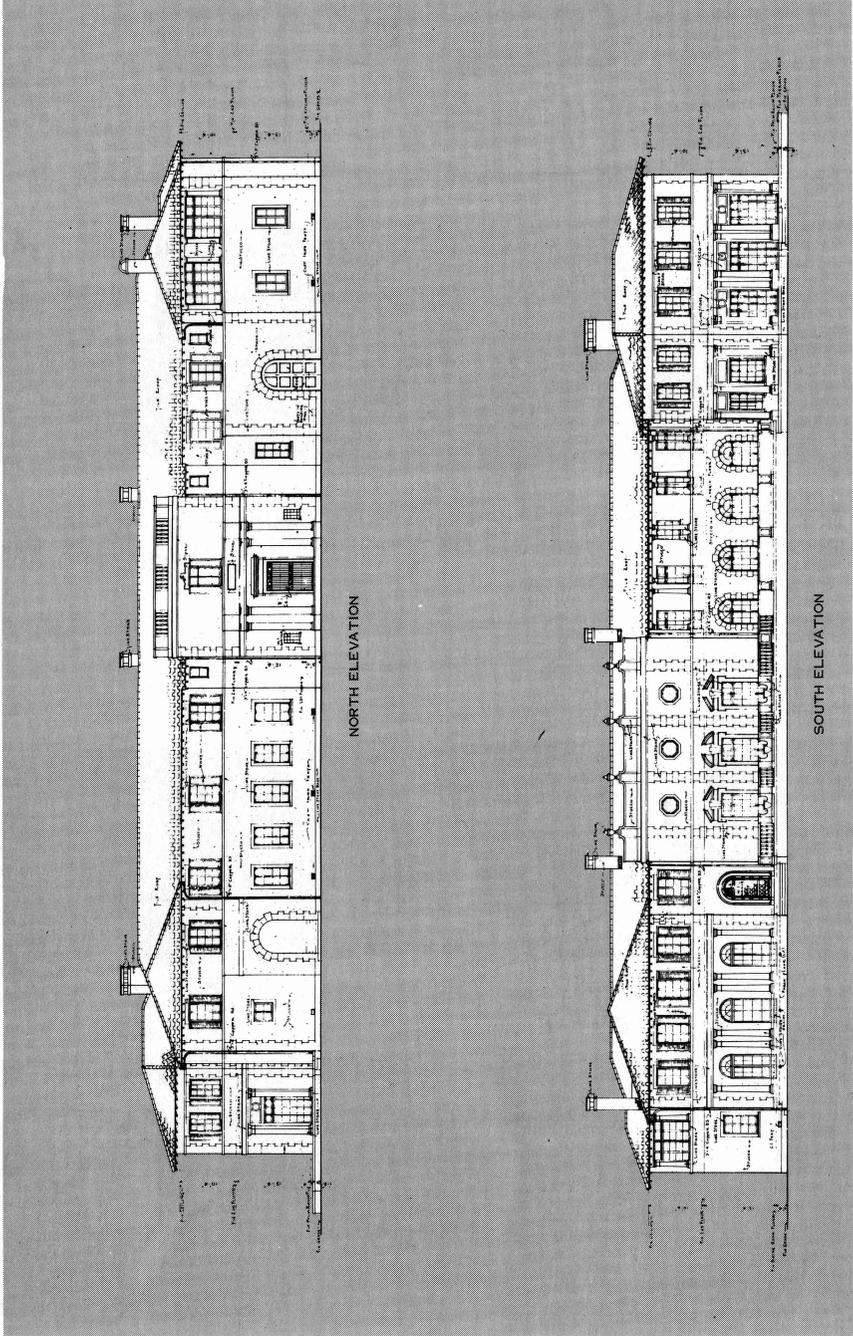
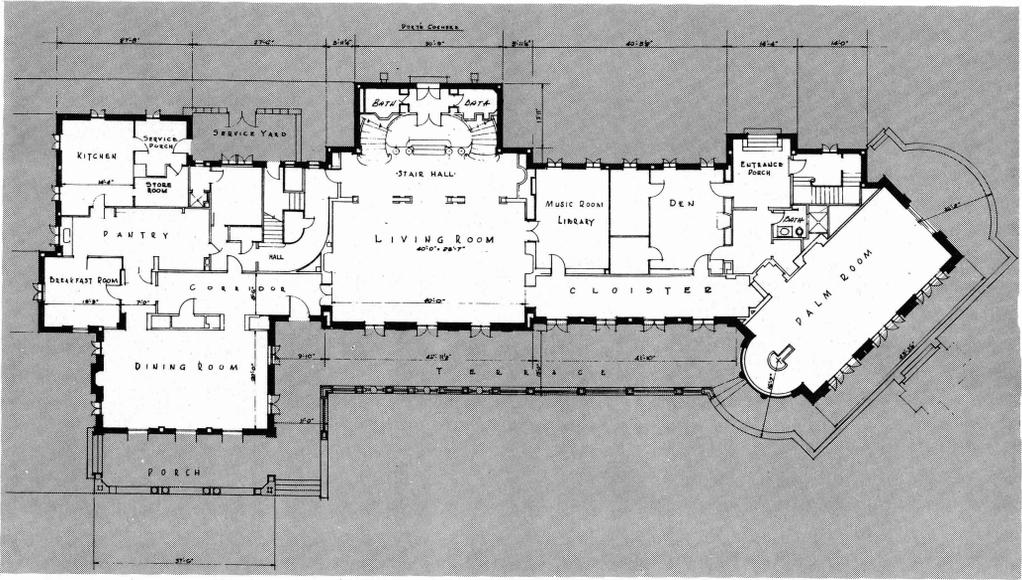
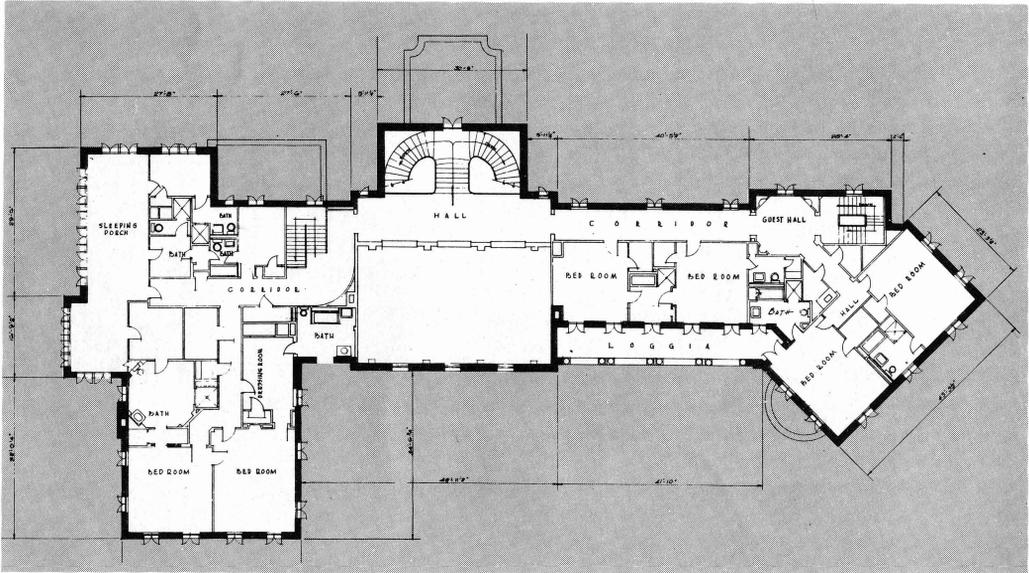


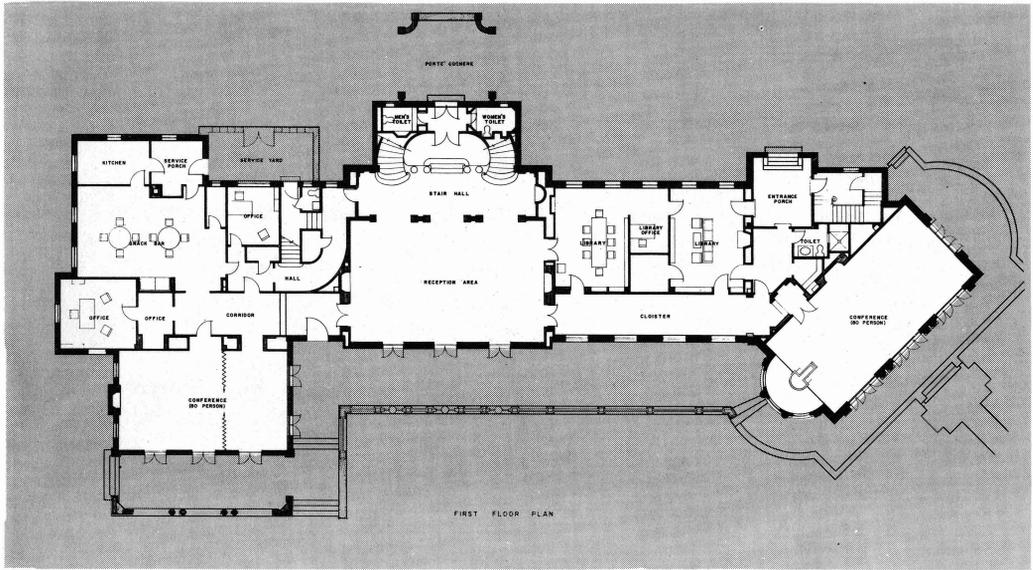
FIGURE 1. - NORTH AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS OF THE WEST MANSION.



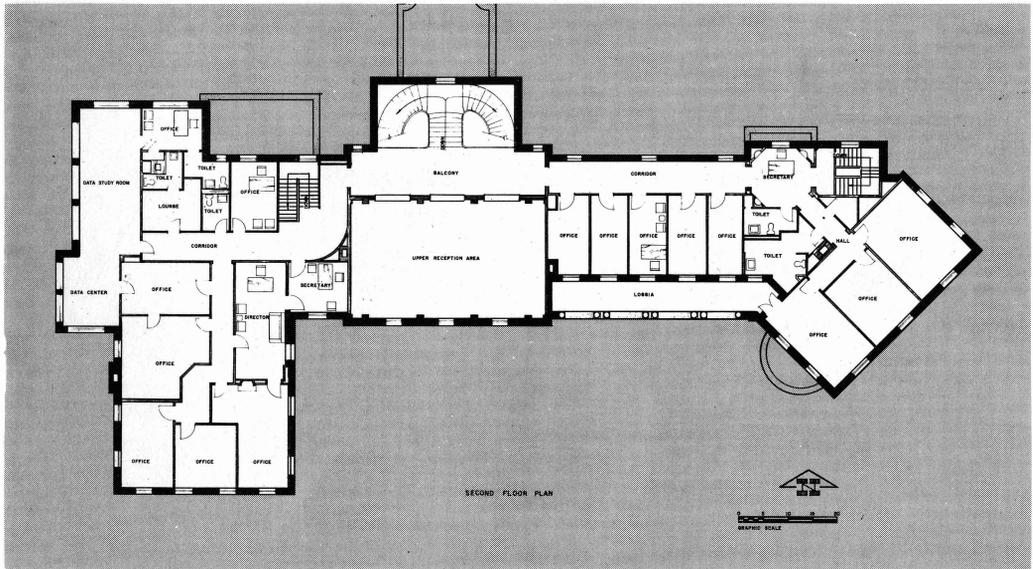
**FIGURE 2. - PRESENT ALLOCATION OF SPACE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE WEST MANSION.**



**FIGURE 3. - PRESENT ALLOCATION OF SPACE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE WEST MANSION.**



**FIGURE 4. - PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF SPACE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE WEST MANSION.**



**FIGURE 5. - PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF SPACE ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE WEST MANSION.**

## **FACILITIES**

The initial Lunar Science Institute requirements for scientific equipment will be satisfied by existing facilities at the LRL. For this reason, the Institute will be tasked more with providing services and assistance than with providing equipment. Present plans are for the Institute to provide:

- Offices, conference rooms, and other workspaces required by university scientists working with MSC personnel
- A special library and documentation facility
- A small permanent staff led by a scientist sensitive to MSC needs
- Services for arranging scientific conferences, studies, and symposia in support of the planning responsibilities of NASA, the Lunar and Planetary Missions Board, and other responsible groups
- Means of establishing cooperative programs to effect closer relationships between NASA scientists and university personnel with respect to teaching, research, and exchange of information

## **STAFF REQUIREMENTS**

The Lunar Science Institute staff will include:

- A director—a prominent scientist and capable administrator—to be named by a governing board
- Executive personnel
- Junior scientists and administrators
- Secretarial personnel
- A librarian
- Caretakers and support personnel

## **HISTORY OF THE WEST MANSION**

The structure proposed for use by the Lunar Science Institute is the West mansion, an Italian-style building located on a wooded tract of land near Clear Lake. The mansion, approximately 20 miles south of Houston, Texas, is situated on land adjacent to the MSC.

The mansion is named after James Marion West who built it for his family residence in 1929. West—whose fortune was derived from lumber, oil, and investments—made sure that the best materials and fixtures were used in construction of the stucco mansion. The cream-colored structure is two stories high and encloses 17,000 square feet of floor space. Among other improvements on the grounds of the estate are an eight-car garage and caretaker building, a swimming pool, a ten-acre lake, and a tennis court.

The mansion has been unoccupied since 1941 when Mrs. West moved to Houston soon after her husband's death. Mrs. West died in 1953.

The West mansion and three acres of land surrounding it were deeded to Rice University in 1959.

***'let us  
show  
the  
world'***



**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1968