

SRS Museum showca



The SRS Museum

The SRS Museum is a joint effort of Aiken County, the SRS Heritage Foundation and the Aiken Together capital campaign. The Museum is located at 224 Laurens Street SW in the building originally occupied by the Dibble Memorial Library. The building is owned by Aiken County and was turned over to the SRS Heritage Foundation for use as the SRS Museum with an official ribbon cut-

ting in October, 2014. The Foundation is adapting the building for use as a museum and is installing exhibits that recount the history of the Savannah River Site. Capital funds for building renovations are being raised by the Aiken Together campaign that is soliciting money for capital improvements at the Savannah River Site Museum, the Aiken Visitors Center and Train Museum and the Cen-

ter for African-American History, Art and Culture. Upon completion, the SRS Museum will be operated as part of the Aiken County Historical Museum.

The original Dibble Memorial Library was built in 1926 in a classic old-Aiken style. The south end of the building will be maintained as a reading room with an extensive library of books about nuclear and other scientific topics. The north end of the Dibble building is occupied by the large SRS Timeline, 20 feet long by 8 feet tall, that lists events and accomplishments at the Site from 1946 to 2015.

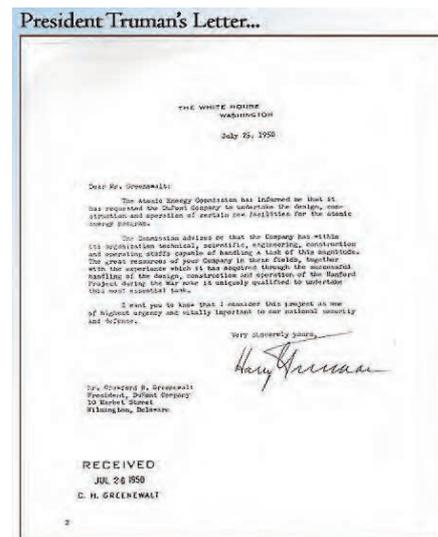
Most of the Museum exhibits are located in the two-story annex added when the Dibble Library became part of the Aiken County Library. Exhibits are currently limited to the first floor until an elevator and stair tower is constructed.



Visitors viewing timeline

Entrance to the galleries begins with a list of confrontations between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Soviet detonation of their first atomic bomb in 1949 convinced the US that we had to build the hydrogen bomb. President Truman wrote a brief letter to Crawford Greenewalt, President of the DuPont Company, asking DuPont to design, build and operate a plant to make plutonium and tritium for the proposed new weapon.

Apprehension about possible nuclear attack by the Soviets spurred construction of fallout shelters around the coun-



SRS Timeline - Courtesy of the SRS Museum

1946 – Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Established

August 29, 1949 – Soviets detonate atomic bomb

Jan 19, 1950 – President Truman announces that the United States will accelerate the atomic energy program

July 25, 1950 – President Truman sends a formal letter to DuPont

November 28, 1950 – Selection of location of Savannah River Plant, between Aiken, SC, and Augusta, GA, on the Savannah River is announced

February 1, 1951 – Ground is broken and construction begins

May 1951 – Environmental monitoring of SRP begins with Dr. Ruth Patrick's baseline survey.

1951 – First waste tank construction begins.

August 1952 – D area begins operations (producing heavy water)

September 1952 – 305-M graphite test pile is the first reactor to go critical at SRS



D-Area

1953 – R Reactor startup

1954 – P, L, K Reactors startup

November 1954 – F Area is the first separations plant to begin operations

December 1954 – First shipment of Plutonium to the AEC.

1955 – Permanent Tritium facilities operational

1955 – C Reactor and H Canyon startup

November 1955 – First shipment of tritium to AEC.

June 1956 – Capture and proof of free neutrino by Dr. Frederick Reines and Dr. Clyde Cowan in P reactor



Dr. Reines & Dr. Cowan

