



Staff Photo by Bill Ray

An FH-227, a YS-11 and a Boeing 737 jet in Piedmont's new hangar.

Piedmont Aviation Will Move Into Its New Building Today

Piedmont Aviation, Inc., will formally move into its cavernous \$7.4 million headquarters today.

Whitney Gilliland, the vice chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, will speak at a ceremony at 4:30 p.m. at the building just north of Smith Reynolds Airport.

Gilliland was chairman of the CAB during the Eisenhower administration.

A number of city and county government officials are expected to attend the ceremony. The county owns the building, which Piedmont has leased for

20 years with an option to buy.

Open house will be held at the headquarters from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. "The people of the county are the real owners of the building, and we'd like them to see it," said a company spokesman yesterday.

The building covers seven acres. This is about one and a half times more floor space than the Wachovia Building has.

There is one acre of carpeting. The main hangar is six stories high and can hold five of Piedmont's new Boeing 737 jets.

About 800 employees work in the building. The building has

shops for working on the interior of planes, painting, electrical and systems repair and assembly.