

“A NEW INSTITUTION WITH A RUNNING START”

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF UTC

Although the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) was established as a legal entity 50 years ago in an agreement between the University of Tennessee and the University of Chattanooga (UC), the roots of the university date back to a private school founded in 1886. The materials in this exhibition illustrate UTC’s growth and development into the vibrant and engaged metropolitan university it is today.

The University of Chattanooga Years

In 1884, a small group of members of the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church and prominent Chattanooga businessmen broke ground for what would become the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Originally established as Chattanooga University in 1886, the institution went through several name changes and administrative restructures in the early decades of its existence. In 1907 it was formalized as the University of Chattanooga, the name it would bear until the merger with the University of Tennessee system in 1969.



*Chattanooga University students
The first students of Chattanooga University in
front of the original building, Old Main, circa 1886.*

During the early twentieth century, the University of Chattanooga weathered two world wars and the Great Depression—no small feat for a young liberal arts school. In fact, it boasted steady development of the physical plant and achievement in all areas of academics. A large part of this success was due to the way in which the university embedded itself in the greater metropolitan area. In 1939 for example, the University of Chattanooga partnered with the City of Chattanooga to build a public library on campus—today known as John Storrs Fletcher Hall—that housed the book collections of both entities. This commitment to community engagement is one of the university’s enduring priorities that manifests itself in its Community Engagement Classification designation by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching today.



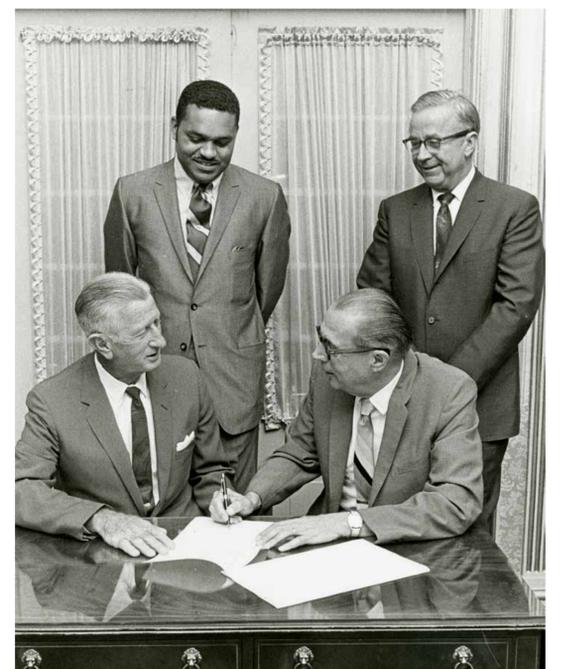
*Alumni Memorial Gateway
The Alumni Memorial Gateway was built in 1947 to
honor the student veterans of World War II. The sign
has since been updated to reflect the merger and re-
naming of the university.*

The Merger

In early 1968, the newly formed Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) recommended the establishment of a University of Tennessee campus in Chattanooga. Quickly following this proposal, Governor Buford Ellington signed two acts of the General Assembly into law that authorized the establishment of the school and allocated an initial capital outlay of \$5 million.

Realizing that it would be unable to compete with the inexpensive tuition and state-funded resources offered by the University of Tennessee system, the University of Chattanooga approached the University of Tennessee in the interest of striking a deal. Within weeks, representatives from the University of Chattanooga Board of Trustees met with representatives from the University of Tennessee system including system president Andy Holt and vice president of development Ed Boling and reached an informal consensus on the basic points of a merger agreement.

In April 1968, the University of Chattanooga Board of Trustees voted on a motion to move forward with the transfer on the conditions reached through the earlier negotiations. The motion passed with a large majority, and after a year of legal finessing by attorneys on both sides, the “Agreement of Merger and Plan of Transition” was signed by University of Chattanooga Board of Trustees president Bill Brock and University of Tennessee System President Andy Holt in March 1969. Effective July 1 of that year, The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga was born. In August, a local junior college, Chattanooga City College, formerly known as Zion College, also merged with the newly formed institution.



*Merger Signing
University of Tennessee system president Andy
Holt and Chattanooga City College Board of
Directors president William New sign the
Chattanooga City College and University of
Tennessee at Chattanooga merger agreement.
Horace Traylor, president of Chattanooga City
College and University of Tennessee at Chat-
tanooga chancellor William H. Masterson look on.*

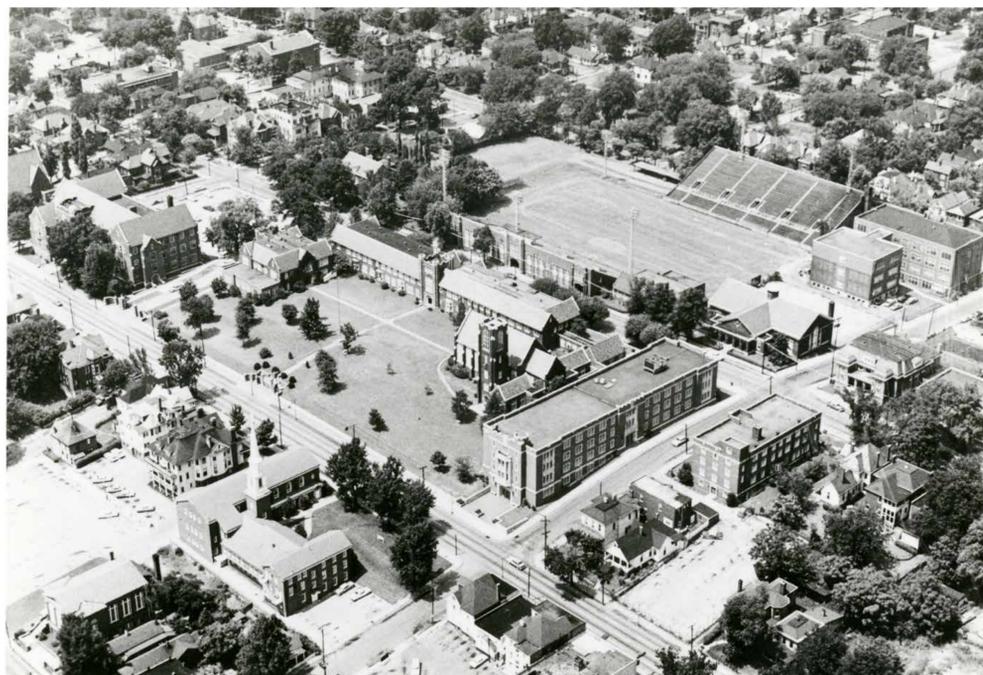
THE CHANGING CAMPUS LANDSCAPE

From the original Old Main structure to a large campus encompassing over 141 acres today, the physical plant of UTC tells the story of its growth. The buildings dotting the campus landscape, with their varied architectural styles, are indicative of this expansion and change over time.

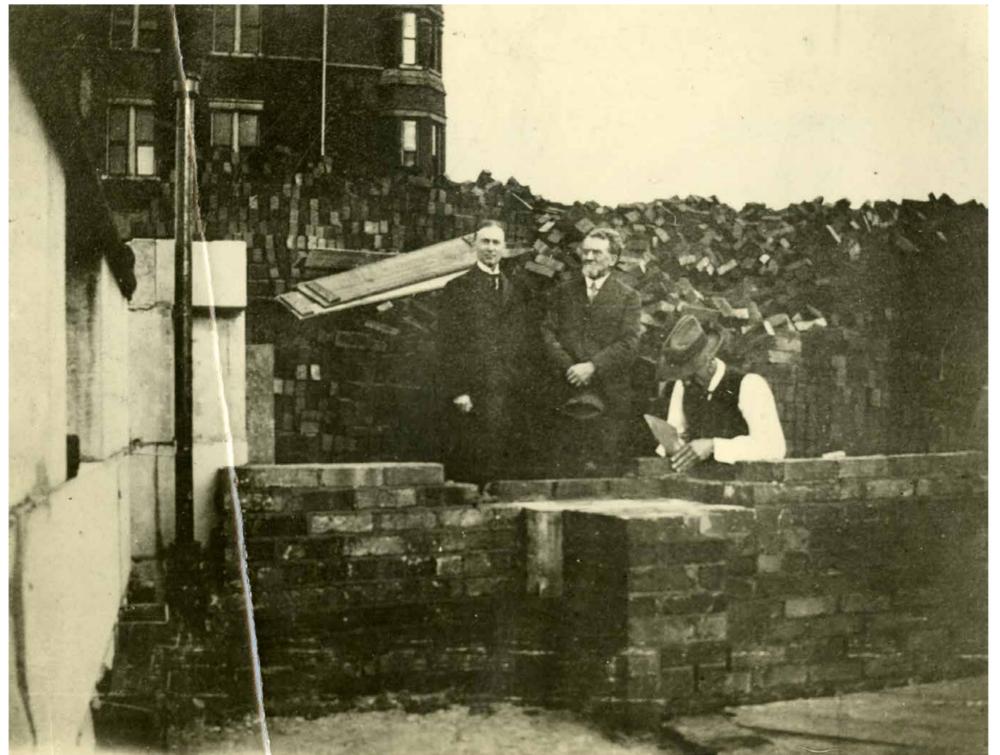
By the early 1910s, the University of Chattanooga had outgrown Old Main and began work on other infrastructure. The President's House, still standing as the Development Office today, was completed by 1910. Shortly thereafter the construction of Founders Hall—then known as the administration building—and Race Hall was completed. In 1917, construction began on both Patten Chapel and Hooper Hall, and in November the demolition of Old Main was underway. By spring of 1919, Patten Chapel was complete, finalizing the central campus quadrangle as it is today.

As the university continued to expand, there were periods of construction throughout the 1950s and 1960s that saw the addition of new dormitories, classrooms, and facilities like the Guerry Student Center and McClellan Gymnasium.

Revitalized by the merger, the 1970s ushered in a period of unprecedented development and construction for UTC. Large scale building projects such as Lupton Library, the University Center, Boling Apartments, and Holt Hall were all completed and dedicated within a two-year period.



Aerial View
Aerial view of campus, circa 1960s.



Founders Hall Cornerstone
University President Fred W. Hixson and namesake of Hooper Hall Wesley W. Hooper at the laying of the Founders Hall cornerstone in 1916. Old Main is visible in the background..



Dedication of The University Center
Student Government Association president Kathy Gomes speaks to a crowd at the groundbreaking ceremony for the University Center, 1972.

In the 1990s, the university acquired a large parcel of land south of campus through an anonymous gift. Today, south campus housing and Brown Academy are situated on this property.

In recent years, the university's purchase of existing buildings like the State of Tennessee Office Building and the James R. Mapp building has allowed for renovations and improvements to be made on older buildings on campus. Additionally, new construction projects such as the Aquatic and Recreation Center (ARC), the Library, and the West Campus Housing Complex are a testament to the continued growth of UTC.