Airlines Will Build Training Center

Piedmont Airlines will build a $2.5 million training center across Liberty Street from Smith Reynolds Airport, the company announced yesterday.

The new building will allow the company to expand its training programs for Piedmont employees as well as other airlines and government agencies.

The company said that construction of the two-story, 53,000-square-foot building will begin next month. Completion is scheduled for August 1981. The builder is Fowler-Jones Construction Co. The building will contain 17 classrooms and training areas for an 80-member staff and 160 students.

A company spokesman said that the Piedmont Aerospace Institute will remain in the same brick building near the passenger terminal at the airport. However, the training programs will move from that building to the new training center, which will be built on three acres of land just north of J.W. Burress Inc.

H.K. Saunders, senior vice president at Piedmont, said, “This facility will provide an ideal teaching atmosphere. It will have the latest innovations in technical equipment for utilization in our own extensive training programs as well as our contract training operation, which we’ve had for eight years. The growth of Piedmont and our industry has created the need for this type of facility. We believe we’re in an excellent position to meet the needs.”

Piedmont will use the center for training pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, avionics technicians, station agents and dispatchers. The other airlines and government agencies that Piedmont provides training for are NASA, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Navy, Pinehurst Airlines, Saudi Arabian Airlines, TACA Airlines of El Salvador, TAN and SAHSA Airlines of Honduras, Wien Air Alaska and Reeve Aleutian Airways.