

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Goddard, Robert H. House other names/site number Mescalero Ranch

2. Location

street & number 1501 East Mescalero Road city, town Roswell state New Mexico code NM county Chaves code 005 zip code 88201

N/A not for publication N/A vicinity

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private public-local public-State public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s) district site structure object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Resources of Roswell, New Mexico and outlying environs of Chaves County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Pueblo

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Not visiblewalls Stucco

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.SUMMARY

The Robert H. Goddard House is a one-story, flat-roofed dwelling, constructed of adobe in the Pueblo Revival Style. The stuccoed exterior is painted gray. Still a ranch house, it remains in an open setting of undeveloped farmland, and is in excellent condition. Although the interior has undergone remodeling, original features remain to convey its historic feeling. Modifications on the exterior of the house have not obscured its historic appearance.

DESCRIPTION

The house has an irregular floor plan built around an inner courtyard and contains a basement. The entrance is covered by a portal-style porch which extends along the west side of the house and has a stone floor. The interior floors, all of polished marble, and are now carpeted. There are four original fireplaces. All rooms have cherry ceiling molding and original brass light fixtures.

Relatively minor exterior modifications to the house have not changed its basic configuration. The garage which formerly extended from the west side of the house has been converted to living space. A slightly projecting wall pierced by a circular window has replaced the garage doors. In the center of the south facade a small section of parapet wall has been added, probably in frame, and clearly distinguishable as an addition because of the variation in building materials. The two vigas (roof beams) which project from this new section have been placed higher than the original vigas which project two on either side from the original parapet walls.

Beyond the 10' boundary around the house which is the limit of the present nomination, scientific installations from the Goddard years have been filled in and covered over by horse corrals. Goddard's "boneyard", a scientific scrap heap, has been covered by a hay shed. West of the house, approximately one tenth of a mile from the Mescalero Road, is a circular driveway leading to a parking area which extends south of the house.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Invention

Science

Period of Significance

1930-1932

1934-1942

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Goddard, Robert H.

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

This house was the home of Robert Hutchings Goddard, the pioneering American rocket scientist who is justly called the "father of rocketry and space flight", for ten years from 1930 to 1932 and from 1934 to 1942, during a highly productive period of his scientific career. Having received from the Guggenheim Foundation funding which for the first time was sufficient to permit him to devote his full-time to rocket experiments in a location suitable for rocket launchings, Goddard moved to Roswell, New Mexico. Here on the land surrounding this house which was called the Mescalero Ranch, and on nearby ranch land, known as the Eden Valley, he set up America's first, and at the time, only rocket testing installation. The climate, the open, level terrain, and the lack of population afforded Goddard the circumstances required to perform numerous detailed tests on ever larger rockets. In contrast to the ten flight tests including four actual flights which he was able to complete in Massachusetts before 1930, Goddard performed forty-eight flight tests of which thirty-one gave flights while living at the Mescalero Ranch. Before 1942 when he left New Mexico to work for the military in the war effort at Annapolis, Maryland, and his death three years later which prevented his intended return to Roswell, Goddard worked as a lone and self-directed researcher, on this ranch near Roswell, New Mexico, supported by grants of \$25,000 per year, and accomplished most of America's pre-World War II rocket development. America's first and only rocket pioneer, in a field which now requires teams of scientists with vast budgets working at complex installations, Goddard designed, built, and tested rockets which contained all of the essential devices found in later space rockets. It has been said that it is probably not possible to design, construct, launch, land, or guide a rocket in flight without involving one or more of the 214 patents issued in Robert Goddard's name.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	3
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5	4	6	3	0	0
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3	6	9	9	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

House and a contiguous strip of land ten feet or five feet from each of the walls of the house as shown on the accompanying sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the Goddard House. Remains of other Goddard installations in the surrounding acreage have been covered over and/or put to other uses.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title <u>Corinne P. Sze (revisions and additions)</u>	John P. Petronis (original nomination)
organization <u>N/A</u>	date <u>4/25/88</u>
street & number <u>1042 Stagecoach Road</u>	telephone <u>(505) 983-5605</u>
city or town <u>Santa Fe</u>	state <u>New Mexico</u> zip code <u>87501</u>

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HISTORIC CONTEXT

Born in Worcester, Massachusetts on October 5, 1882, Goddard at the age of 17 began to record in notebooks his speculations about the use of rockets for exploring the upper atmosphere, at a time when airplane flight had not yet become a practical reality. He received a doctorate in physics from Clark University in Worcester in 1911, and three years later while teaching part-time in the physics department at Clark, was issued his first United States patents for his ideas on multi-staged rockets and the use of liquid fuels to propel rockets. At the same time he began to perform self-financed rocket experiments. In 1917 having exhausted his personal funds, he received his first grant from the Smithsonian Institution for rocket work. During World War I he submitted proposals through the Smithsonian to the military and in January of 1918 received a contract from the Army Signal Corps to develop a small, solid-propellant rocket for use as a hand gun which was later developed into the "Bazooka". After the War ended later in 1918, the military dropped its funding of Goddard's research until World War II, except for work on solid-fuel rockets sponsored by the Navy from 1920 to 1923.

Until 1930 Goddard continued to teach at Clark University and to pursue rocket research primarily under the sponsorship of the Smithsonian Institution which was interested in developing rockets to carry meteorological instruments to higher altitudes than those achieved by balloons. In 1919 Goddard published a seminal paper on "A Method of Reaching Extreme Altitudes" at the end of which he speculated about the possibility of firing a rocket to moon. The ridicule to which his theories were subjected on front pages across the country made him henceforth extremely wary of the press and of public knowledge of his work. In 1920 he began to experiment with liquid propellants for rockets and on March 16, 1926 at Auburn, Massachusetts, launched the world's first rocket propelled by liquid fuel. It remained in the air for 2.5 seconds, reaching an altitude of 41 feet at an average speed of 60 miles per hour, and landed 184 feet from the launching frame. In Massachusetts he was able to undertake a total of ten test flights of liquid-propellant rockets, of which four yielded flights. The last on June 17, 1929 ended in a crash which by its noise and fire attracted public attention and was the subject of a ridiculing press report that Goddard's moon rocket had exploded 230,000 miles short of its target. More significantly, the Fire Marshall investigated and forbade Goddard to fire rockets within the borders of the State of Massachusetts. From December 3, 1929 to

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June 30, 1930 he received permission to use the artillery range at Camp Devens, 15 miles from Worcester under heavy restrictions placed upon him by the War Department. Here he performed sixteen proving stand tests but no flight tests.

GODDARD IN ROSWELL (1930-1932, 1934-1942)

In 1929 Goddard met with Charles A. Lindbergh for the first time. The aviator, impressed by the potential of Goddard's work as a source of high speed, high altitude propulsion of aircraft and of emergency power in the event of engine failure, brought it to the attention of his friend Harry Guggenheim. A World War I pilot and enthusiastic supporter of aviation, Guggenheim, had influenced his father Daniel to establish the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics, later renamed the Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation, which played a major role in the development of modern aeronautics in the United States. The Guggenheims awarded Goddard the then substantial grant of \$50,000 for two years with the possibility of the same amount for two more years if Goddard's progress was satisfactorily reviewed by Harry Guggenheim and an advisory committee.

The Guggenheim grants provided Goddard with sufficient resources to pursue his rocket research full time for the first time in his career, and to set up an installation in a place suitable for testing larger rockets. After inspecting other possible sites he chose Roswell, New Mexico for its level and open terrain, for its year-round mild climate with minimal precipitation and relatively long periods without wind, and for its sparse population. Arriving in Roswell on July 25, 1930, Goddard and his wife rented from Miss Effie Olds of the Oldsmobile family, a furnished ranch house on eight acres of land three miles northeast of town, known as the Mescalero Ranch. The house, which the Goddards eventually purchased, had no out buildings and was badly in need of repairs, having been vacant for several years. However, it had the advantages of being large enough to accommodate Goddard, his wife, and two of his employees, and of being isolated at the dead end of a dirt road. Miss Olds had built the house in 1908 after she moved to Roswell from Columbus, Ohio.

In the vicinity of the ranch Goddard designed and set up what was the first installation for the extensive testing of rockets in the United States. Out of his Guggenheim grant he constructed facilities, purchased materials and fuel, hired staff, and paid his own salary of \$5000 a year.

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A machine shop with a floor space of 30 by 60 feet was built at the rear of the ranch house. At a distance of 200 feet, a 20-foot tower was erected for small static firing tests. Goddard obtained permission from Oscar White to use his pasture of about 16,000 acres, which was some 10 miles away and known as Eden Valley, free of charge as a launching site for test flights. There he erected a 60-foot launching tower which had been dismantled and sent from Massachusetts. Under both towers, concrete gas deflectors were built to deflect gases from the rocket to the rear so as to avoid clouds of dust that would obscure the rocket during tests. Eventually, observation and control shelters were added. Machine tools, equipment, and materials were shipped from Massachusetts and high purity liquid oxygen and nitrogen gases ordered from Texas. Goddard's initial staff consisted of two instrument makers, a machinist, and a technical assistant. Another instrument maker joined the group the following spring.

The procedure for testing rockets at Mescalero Ranch and Eden Valley was to first perform static tests on the 20-foot tower. The fuel was ignited and the rocket held down by water-filled oil drums weighing up to 2000 pounds. The drums were supported by steel springs that were connected to a measuring device which recorded the engine's lifting force on a revolving drum. A concrete trough referred to as "the bathtub" was constructed under the test frame to withstand the scorching blasts. After many static tests, the rockets were flight tested from the launch tower in Eden Valley. Each flight was photographed by Mrs. Goddard who then rushed to the launching tower to put out any grass fires that might have started.

Between 1930-1932 Goddard performed a total of twenty-one static or proving stand tests and eight test flights of which five yielded flights. The average interval between these tests was nineteen days. He first performed a series of thorough static tests in which operating conditions were varied. In these tests the maximum lift was 289 pounds, and the duration 20+ seconds. Jet velocities of over 5000 ft/sec. were reached. In 1931 he completed construction of a remote control system which permitted experimenters to release and observe the rocket at a distance of 1000 ft. from the launching tower. The next year he developed a stabilization apparatus for controlling rocket flight, and on April 19, 1932 launched the first successful flight of a rocket with gyroscopic stabilization by means of movable vanes.

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When in June of 1932 the Guggenheim Foundation had to suspend all grants because of economic conditions caused by the Depression, Goddard was forced to close down his New Mexico operations. His shop equipment was crated and stored at the warehouse of the local hardware store. The machine shop itself was boarded up and miscellaneous pieces from discarded rockets were hammered flat and buried in a trench on the ranch. Goddard returned to teaching at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts for the next two years, where he was able to perform only limited experiments which did not require flight tests.

The Guggenheim Foundation was able to resume full support in the fall of 1934 and continued to do so without interruption until late in 1941. Able to return to New Mexico, Goddard resumed his work at the Mescalero Ranch, reestablishing the machine shop and constructing a concrete dugout fifty feet from the launching tower which permitted observation of launchings at close range. He now performed tests in groups which he designated the A, K, L, and P series.

The A series, performed between September 14, 1934 and October 29, 1935 was directed toward perfecting gyroscopic stabilization and led to the first successful flights of self-stabilizing rockets. On March 8, 1935 Goddard launched the first rocket to fly faster than the speed of sound. In all during the A series of tests Goddard performed one proving stand test and fourteen flight tests, of which seven gave flights. The average interval between tests was twenty-eight days. The rockets in this series averaged in length from 13 feet 6 inches to 15 feet 3-1/4 inches. Their empty weight varied from 58 to 85 pounds.

The K series, begun on November 22, 1935 and completed February 12, 1936, consisted of ten proving stand tests performed at an average interval of eight days and aimed at the development of a more powerful, 10-inch diameter motor, for the purpose of reaching higher altitudes.

The L series took place from May 11, 1936 to August 9, 1938. Divided into subsections A, B, and C, the L series attempted to solve various problems involved in trying to build larger rockets and consisted of thirteen static tests and seventeen flight tests all of which yielded flights. Tests were performed at an average interval of twenty-two to twenty-five days.

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In section A Goddard tested a nitrogen-pressured rocket using the 10-inch motor developed in the K series. In section B, he returned to the earlier 5-3/4 inch diameter motor to test fuels of various volatilities. He also developed a tilting cap parachute release and tested various forms of exposed movable air vanes, retractable air vanes and a parachute with heavy shroud lines. The pressure storage tank was redesigned reducing its weight by more than 50%.

In the C section tests, Goddard continued to redesign for weight reduction, did further work on liquid nitrogen tank pressurization techniques, and developed such new features as steering by a movable tail piece or gimbal, and catapult launching. The rockets used in the Section C tests varied in length from 17 feet 4-1/4 inches to 18 feet 5-3/4 inches with a diameter of 9 inches. Their empty weight varied from 80 to 109 pounds. Loaded they weighed 170 pounds or more. These tests achieved such high temperatures that pebbles of the concrete gas deflector were fused and thrown out, starting fires more than 50 feet from the tower. In July of 1938, near the end of the L series of tests, a twister hit the Eden Valley and destroyed the launch tower. In August a replacement was constructed which was twenty feet higher than its predecessor.

Between October 17, 1938 and October 10, 1941, Goddard turned his attention to fuel pumps, undertaking a phase of research that his wife later described as the most trying and disheartening. In a group of experiments called the P series, he developed turbine-driven pumps for liquid propellants which he began testing in his largest rockets.

Goddard never had the opportunity to continue testing this largest rocket, as outside events at last intruded upon the course of his work which for so many years had gone virtually unnoticed. America was about to enter World War II and the Army and Navy were interested in applications of rocket power to weaponry and to aircraft propulsion. From September of 1941 through the first five months of 1942, Goddard performed experiments for the military services dedicated to the development of a liquid-fuel, assisted-takeoff unit for aircraft. Details of tests he conducted at Roswell from October 1938 to July of 1942 are provided below under "Justification of Exceptional Significance, 1938-1942."

In July of 1942 the Navy moved Goddard, his personnel, and his equipment to the Naval Engineering Experiment Station at Annapolis, Maryland where he became the Director of Research at the Bureau of Aeronautics of the Navy Department. The assist rocket was abandoned that

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autumn after a fire broke out during a test in which it had been installed on a seaplane. Goddard's Navy contract was renewed in 1943 and he perfected a variable-thrust rocket motor which was later used on the Bell X-2 rocket plane.

Goddard had left New Mexico for the last time on July 4, 1942. Although the Goddards had bought the Mescalero Ranch a few years before and intended to make their home in Roswell after the War, their plans were never to be realized because Goddard died in Baltimore of throat cancer on August 10, 1945. Shortly after his death, Mrs. Goddard sold the ranch to friends. The workshop, which had been moved and enlarged by Goddard in 1941, was sold to a laundry proprietor who moved it down the road to the corner of Mescalero and Atkinson and converted it to his home.

JUSTIFICATION OF EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (1939-1942)

Goddard continued to conduct significant rocket experiments at the Mescalero Ranch until July of 1942. From October 17, 1938 through October 10, 1941, he performed what he called the P series of tests, in which he worked on developing a small, high-speed, turbine-driven pump to force-feed liquid propellants into the combustion chamber, which he felt would be required to reach high altitudes. These experiments began with twenty-four static tests performed at an average interval of five and a half days, in which five different pump designs were tried. Next Goddard performed nineteen static tests of a new gas generator to drive the turbine pumps. Finally, he tested his refined pump designs in his largest rocket in fifteen proving stand and nine flight tests, of which two yielded flights. Designed with a larger fuel capacity, these rockets averaged nearly 22 feet in length and were 18 inches in diameter. Empty they weighed 190 to 240 pounds and carried an average of 140 pounds of liquid oxygen and 112 pounds of gasoline. On August 9, 1940, on its first successful test flight this large rocket flew to an altitude of only 300 feet and achieved velocities of just 10 to 15 miles per hour.

Goddard never had the opportunity to achieve higher altitudes with this rocket. World War II was under way in Europe, and Harry Guggenheim offered to make the Roswell facilities available to the military. In September of 1941 Goddard, having received contracts from the Bureau of Aeronautics of the Navy Department as well as the Army Air Forces, began to work on a liquid-fuel, assisted-takeoff unit for aircraft, which required modifying and adapting his rocket from the vertical to the

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horizontal. The first test firing took place on December 3, 1941 and tests at the ranch continued until, at the request of the Navy, Goddard moved his operations to Annapolis, Maryland in July of 1942.

EVALUATION AND RECOGNITION OF GODDARD'S WORK

During the Roswell years Goddard performed a total of 103 proving stand tests and 48 flight tests, of which 31 gave flights, in contrast to an unknown number of proving stand tests and just 10 flight tests, of which 4 yielded actual flights, performed in Massachusetts before coming to New Mexico. He constructed and flew vehicles as large as 22 feet long and 18 inches in diameter which had attained flight velocities in excess of 500 mph and altitudes of over 8250 feet. He had built and tested rocket motors with thrust ranges of 289 pounds to 985 pounds. Through his methodically planned and painstakingly executed program of research, he worked out the many detailed and interrelated problems the solutions of which made possible rocket flight into outer space.

Eventually 214 patents were issued in Goddard's name, 83 of them during his lifetime and 131 after his death from his detailed and precise notes. Although he published relatively little and avoided publicity, his papers and patents were well-known in Europe and studied especially carefully in Germany. The German V-1 and V-2 rockets which fell on London during the War, though larger than Goddard's rockets, were of the same basic design as those he had developed at the Mescalero Ranch. In 1951 the Guggenheim Foundation and Mrs. Goddard filed a joint claim against the United States Government for infringements of Goddard's patents. At the conclusion of the suit in 1960 the complainants were awarded one million dollars, the largest government settlement in the history of patent law. Mrs. Goddard gave her share to the Foundation which used the money to continue sponsorship of the Goddard professorships that it had established at Princeton University and the California Institute of Technology.

Public recognition of Goddard's work, which he had avoided during his lifetime, began almost immediately upon his death. Two fully assembled rockets and miscellaneous motors, pumps, fuel tanks, and valves, all hand-tooled, were retrieved from his workshop before it was moved, sent on a tour of museums, and then placed in the National Air Museum of the Smithsonian Institution. In 1947 the Smithsonian requested permission to uncrate a complete liquid-fuel rocket which Lindbergh had persuaded Goddard to send to the Institution in 1935 on the condition that it be

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displayed only with Goddard's personal authorization or, in the event of his death, with that of Lindbergh or Harry Guggenheim. The crated rocket, which had been placed behind a false brick wall, was unpacked and placed on display a few hundred yards from Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis. In 1949 the launching tower complete with a replica of one of Goddard's rockets was donated to the Roswell Museum and Art Center. Ten years later the Robert H. Goddard Rocket and Space Museum of the Roswell Museum and Art Center was dedicated to house a significant collection of Goddard memorabilia donated by Mrs. Goddard. Goddard's workshop was reconstructed with original machinery at the Museum through a community effort led by the Roswell Rotary Club and in 1969 the Goddard Workshop and the Goddard Planetarium were dedicated.

Although his work was little recognized during his lifetime, many honors have come to Goddard's name after his death, in addition to exhibits dedicated to his work at the Smithsonian Institution, the Roswell Museum, Clark University, and the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and professorships in his name at Princeton University and the California Institute of Technology. In 1959 a Congressional gold medal was struck in recognition of his contributions to rocketry and in 1960 he became the ninth recipient of the Smithsonian's Langley Gold Medal, one of aviation's highest and rarest honors. In 1961 NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland was dedicated. The Goddard Medal, given by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics annually is the oldest award in the missile field and carries an honorarium of \$10,000. Many other prizes, awards, and scholarships have been established in his name. Numerous schools, buildings, lecture halls, streets, a power plant, a baseball field, and the like have been named in commemoration of Goddard and his work.

The house in Roswell, New Mexico, where Robert H. Goddard lived and worked while conducting his highly productive and significant experiments in developing and testing rockets, is the only remaining building representing this work. At present only a perimeter of ten feet around the house has been nominated. However, if in the future archaeological investigation of the scientific installations and scrap heap which have been covered over on the surrounding property should reveal significant finds, the boundaries could be expanded.

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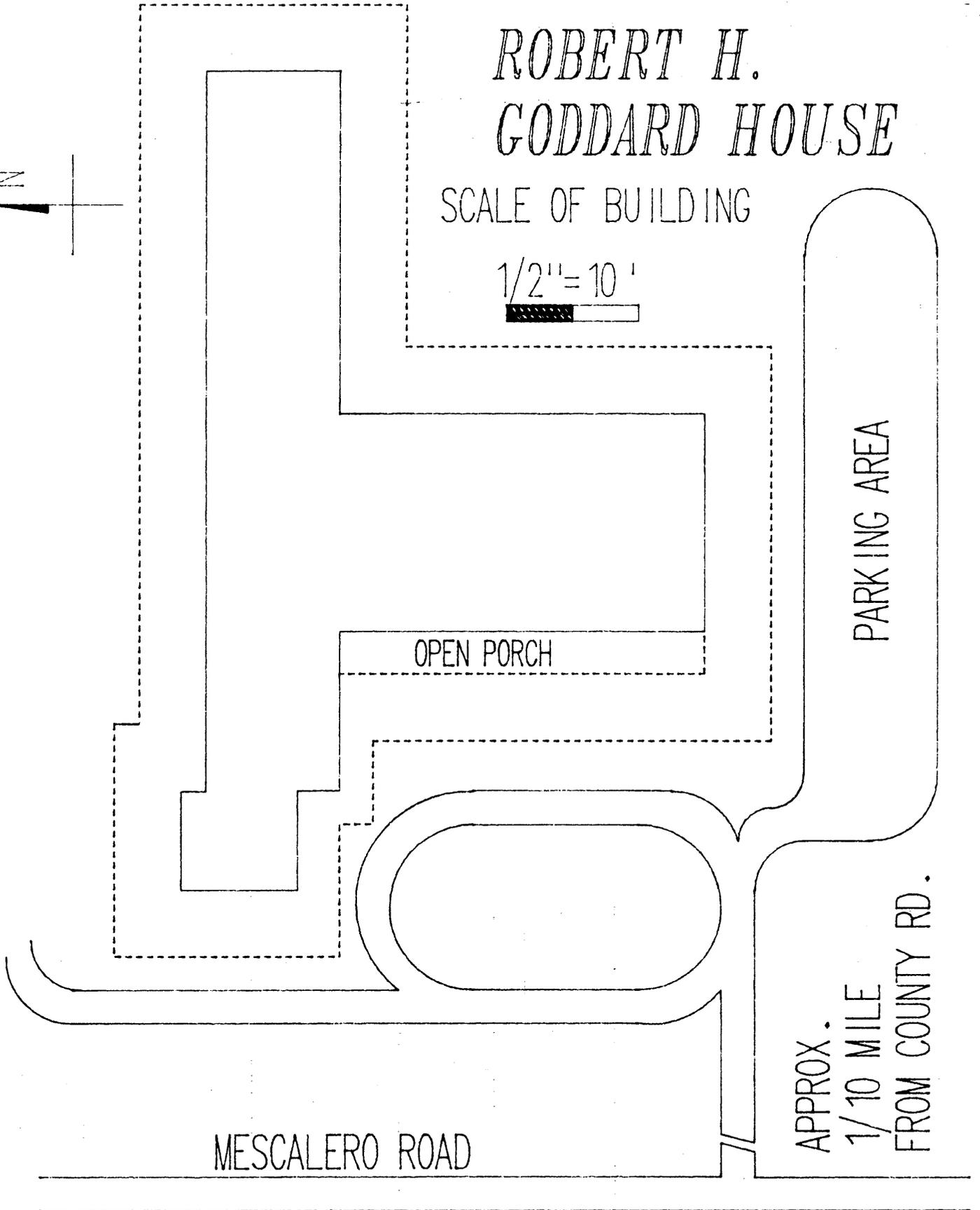
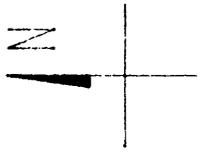
Goddard, Robert H., (Esther C. Goddard and G. Edward Pendray, eds.). Rocket Development: Liquid-Fuel Research, 1929-1941. Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1961.

Lehman, Milton. This High Man: The Life of Robert H. Goddard. New York: Farrar, Straus and Company, 1963.

*ROBERT H.
GODDARD HOUSE*

SCALE OF BUILDING

$1/2'' = 10'$



PARKING AREA

OPEN PORCH

MESCALERO ROAD

APPROX.
1/10 MILE
FROM COUNTY RD.