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The new Magnetic Observatory and Laboratory of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey will be dedicated at Fredericksburg, Va., at 2 p. m., Wednesday, by Commerce Secretary Sinclair Weeks.

The Fredericksburg facility, designed to study the baffling secrets of earth's magnetism, was built at a cost of about \$750,000 on a 180-acre site of land obtained from the A. P. Hill Military Reservation.

Presiding at Wednesday's dedication services will be Rear Adm. H. Arnold Karo, CGS director. He will be assisted by Rear Adm. Robert W. Knox, assistant director, and Captain E. B. Roberts, chief of the agency's division of geophysics.

The new center will replace the Cheltenham (Md.) Magnetic Observatory which has been in operation since 1900.