

# History of the SOUTH POLE STATIONS



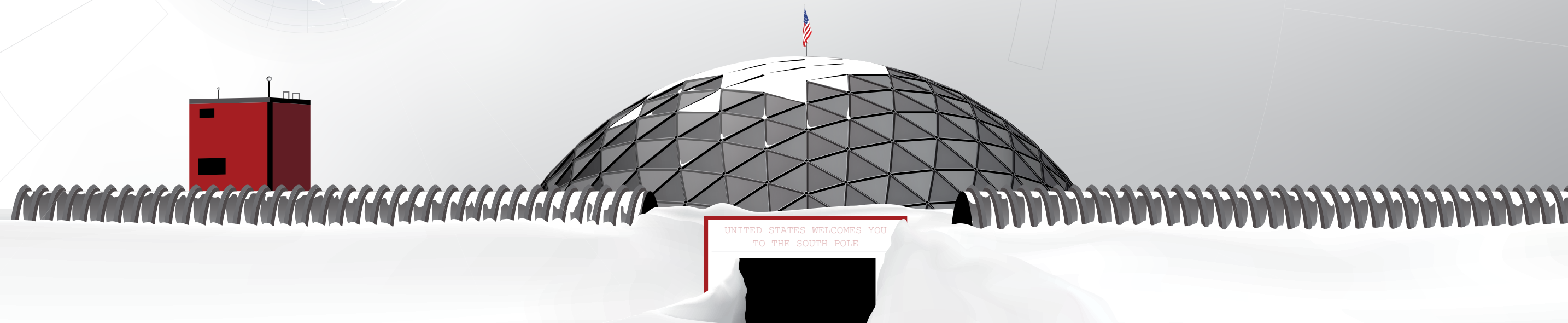
## AMUNDSEN'S TENT 1911

The first person to reach the South Pole was **Roald Amundsen on December 14, 1911**. Upon reaching the South Pole, he erected a tent along with a Norwegian flag and the flag of his expedition ship, the Fram. Amundsen reached the South Pole 33 days before British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, who had previously attempted to reach the South Pole in 1902.



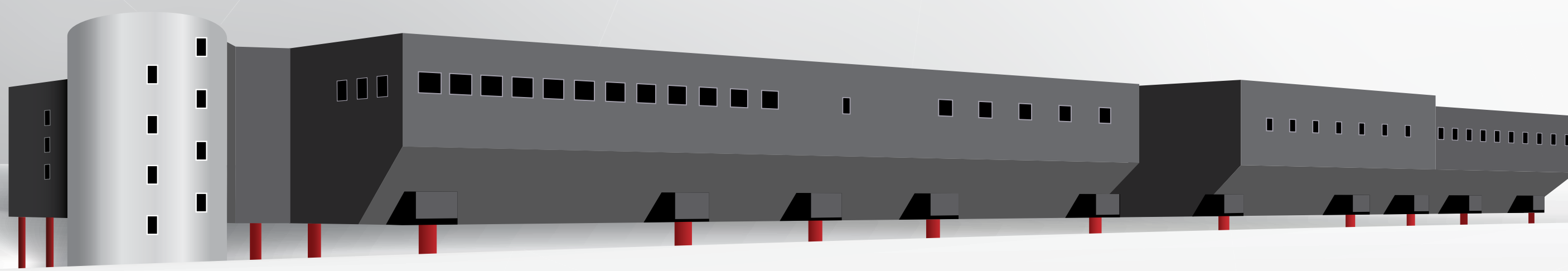
## NAVY STATION 1956

In preparation for the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), the **U.S. Navy built the first structure at the south pole for scientific purposes in 1956**. The structure was intended to be temporary and could accommodate 20 people. Although snow accumulation at the South Pole is low (~8 inches) each year, wind-blown snow accumulates much more quickly. Three years after the station's construction, it had already been buried by 6 feet (1.8 m) of snow.



## AMUNDSEN-SCOTT SOUTH POLE STATION 1975

Built by the National Science Foundation in 1975, the **first Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station stood out with its unique geodesic dome**. The dome, roughly 50 meters (164 feet) wide at its base, housed a library and recreation center, science spaces, single rooms for approximately 30 people, a galley, a post office, and a meeting space. By the 1990s, drifting snow had started covering the entrances to the station, and in 2009-2010, the dome was taken down.



## NEW AMUNDSEN-SCOTT SOUTH POLE STATION 2008

After ten years of construction, the **new, modernized Amundsen-Scott South Pole elevated station was dedicated in 2008**. To address the issues with drifting snow that plagued the previous two stations, the new South Pole station is built on a series of columns that can be elevated.