



Early construction at Dublin 4-H Center - 1947.



Black Extension agents provided most of the labor on early buildings.

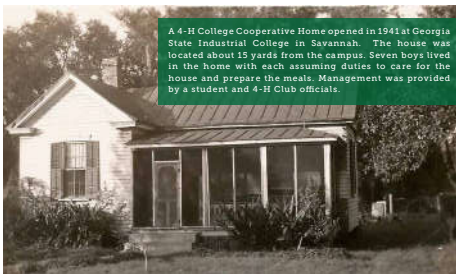
In 1933, Negro State 4-H Club Agents Alexander Hurse and Camilla Weems consolidated the boys' and girls' programs. The first meeting of the State Federation of Negro 4-H Clubs was held during a short course in August, 1933 in Savannah, Georgia. Elected officers for the State Federation pledged to (1) enlarge enrollment; (2) stimulate 4-H Club fellowship; (3) promote 4-H Club objectives; (4) coordinate 4-H Clubs within the state; and (5) develop close ties between the junior club leaders and Extension agents. By 1939, agents reported enrollment in black 4-H Clubs to be 11,829 members.

In 1939, the Dublin Lions Club donated 33 acres of land, bordering the Oconee River, south of the Dublin city limits in Laurens County, to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents for the express purpose of establishing the Dublin 4-H Center. W. Hershel Lovett donated property for the right-of-way, and the City of Dublin extended Wabash Avenue to form an entrance for the center. The City of Dublin also installed sewer and water lines. Young people hired by the National Youth

Administration (NYA), a division of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), cleared the property of underbrush while black Extension county agents drilled an artesian well. When G.V. Cunningham retired in 1942, the future of the Dublin 4-H Center was secure.

The very first building on the property was a community canning plant where Home Demonstration Agent Effie Lampkin provided demonstrations on home canning and preserving. Lampkin was killed when a tornado struck a Montrose church during a demonstration. Following her death, the canning plant was named the Effie Lampkin Canning Plant.

The first annual meeting at the Dublin 4-H Center was in July 1942, with about 350 Club members attending. On July 17, 1942, a police-escorted, victory parade through the streets of Dublin, welcomed all participants to town. Prior to this date, Dublin's Red Cross chapter sent County Agent Emery Thomas to an aquatic school in Nashville, Tennessee, where he qualified to teach swimming and first aid. Other activities included softball, baseball, boxing, and relay racing.



A 4-H College Cooperative Home opened in 1941 at Georgia State Industrial College in Savannah. The house was located about 15 yards from the campus. Seven boys lived in the home with each assuming duties to care for the house and prepare the meals. Management was provided by a student and 4-H Club officials.

Construction halted at Dublin 4-H Center during World War II, but not the spirit of black 4-H Club members. Over 100 Club members traveled to Pike County to pick peaches as part of the Emergency Farm Labor Program. While sleeping on cots in tents and cooking on field stoves, these young people allowed farming families to maintain their livelihoods while most men were fighting in the war abroad. Georgia's 4-H Club members sold \$9,517,479 in war bonds, enough to build four Liberty ships. Ella Norma

Williams of Emmanuel County helped christen the S.S. Hoke Smith as State President of the State Federation of Negro 4-H Clubs.

Activity at Dublin 4-H Center commenced again in 1946. A donation of \$1,000 from W.H. Lovett propelled construction of an assembly hall. Wildlife Camp moved to Dublin 4-H Center that year, using cots, tents, and field stoves previously used by 4-H'ers in Pike County. When the camp concluded, agents assembled in Dublin where Gus Hill provided training in better housing construction techniques. Using concrete blocks, the agents built a caretaker's cottage, a storage building, and a garage for the camp tractor. The black Extension agent assigned to Laurens County, Luther Coleman, moved into the caretaker's cottage, residing there from 1947 to 1954.



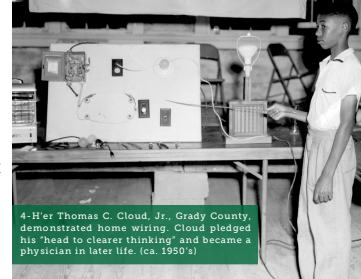
The first tractor show held at Dublin 4-H Center in 1948. 4-H Tractor school accounted for one of nearly 150 meetings scheduled each year at the Center in the 1950's and 1960's.



1938 Beef Cattle Show.



1948 Wildlife Camp.



4-H'er Thomas C. Cloud, Jr., Grady County, demonstrated home wiring. Cloud pledged his 'head to clearer thinking' and became a physician in later life. (ca. 1950's)

Later, the canning plant was converted into a kitchen and dining hall, and two army barracks from Camp Wheeler were converted into boys' lodging. Once two cement-block cabins were completed as girls' lodging, Dublin 4-H Club Center hosted co-educational Wildlife Camps, district and state short courses, and tractor clinics. The first State Negro 4-H Club



Original dining hall and demonstration building.



View of the Dublin 4-H Center before new building and renovation.

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Congress in Georgia was held at Dublin 4-H Club Center in December 1951. State winners were honored at a banquet and competed for national awards by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work.

**For more information please visit [Georgia4h.org/Dublin](http://Georgia4h.org/Dublin)**

Source information: Rock Eagle: Centerpiece of Georgia 4-H by Ina C. Hopkins