



History of The Ohio FFA Center

Keith Mason
2006

Foreward

Since 1987, the Ohio FFA Center has served as a home-away-from-home for those who support Agricultural Education and the FFA.

Visiting the Ohio FFA Center takes many individuals back to their days as an FFA member, teacher of agriculture or program supporter. Many have been known to bring generations of family members to the Ohio FFA Center to point out noteworthy displays and to share memories from their involvement in Agricultural Education and the FFA.

In addition to maintaining and exhibiting our organization's archives and memorabilia, the Ohio FFA Center serves as a gathering place for leaders who are planning and preparing the future of Agricultural Education and FFA.

So much of what we enjoy today at the Ohio FFA Center would not have been possible without the leadership of Dr. Earl F. "Doc" Kantner. Dr. Kantner has dedicated a lifetime of service to Agricultural Education and FFA in Ohio. In addition to advancing the lives of many young people as a teacher of agriculture and as Ohio's FFA Executive Secretary, Dr. Kantner spearheaded the development and construction of the Ohio FFA Center.

We extend our gratitude to Dr. Kantner and the countless other friends and supporters who made this building a true home-away-from-home for so many.



Dr. Isaac Kershaw



Dr. Steve Gratz

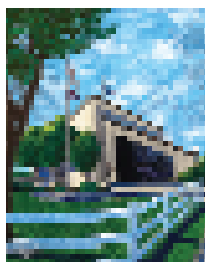
Dr. Isaac Kershaw
State FFA Advisor

Dr. Steve Gratz
State FFA Executive Secretary



History of The Ohio FFA Center

Table of Contents



On the cover:

An original painting by artist
Jodi S. Hassan, a Hardin
Northern FFA alumnus.

Chapter 1 – The start of it all 1975-1980	1
1975: A need develops	
1975-1980: Solutions projected	
Costs, finances explored	
1980: Storage archives approved	
Chapter 2 – Location pivotal 1981-1983	3
1980-1982: Six locations studied	
1982: State fairgrounds preferred	
1983: Dream location achieved	
Chapter 3 – Early developments 1984	5
January: Development director named	
February: Three-year plan projected	
March: Upscale facility idea grew	
June/July: Official FFA Approval	
July: Collection of Historical Items Started	
October: Fairgrounds location official	
November: Financial plan developed	
December: Official Board of Directors Formed	
The Ohio FFA Center named	
Chapter 4 – Design approved 1985	9
March: Architect hired, designs, cost projected	
May, July: Teachers, members pick final design	
July: Business and industry finance drive starts	
August: Site dedication held	
Chapter 5 – Building construction 1986	11
January: Hall of Achievement design started	
April: Ground breaking ceremonies	
First trench dug	
June: First block laid	
Summer, Autumn: Audio-visual units produced	
Displays designed	
Flag complex the centerpiece	
Landscaping designed/developed	
Autumn: Inside development	
November: Outside completed	
Chapter 6 – Grand openingplanned 1987	17
January, April: Final phases unfold	
January: Opening day planned	
February: All room areas finished	
Special telephone number selected	
April: Construction of display modules finished	
Display cases filled	
Countdown to opening day	
Chapter 7 – Grand opening ceremony April 24, 1987	21
Opening day ceremonies	
Pre-opening VIP tour	
Official grand opening ceremonies	
Appendices	23

Introduction

This history is presented as the authentic record of the development of The Ohio FFA Center. It is recorded herein while facts are still available lest they be forever lost.

The Ohio FFA Center today is fulfilling the dreams, hopes and projections of its early founders. It is, an envisioned, an attractive and highly visible front-piece for Agricultural Education and FFA in Ohio.

Numerous meetings and conferences are hosted throughout the year. It is also the home office of The Ohio FFA Foundation and is a working home to the state FFA officer team. The Hall of Achievement is an enduring basis of the Center.

Deep appreciation is extended to all who supported the development of The Ohio FFA Center in any way. Special recognition is due to James E. Dougan (who gave the first approval in 1975), Dr. Darrell Parks, Dr. Jim Cummins and John Davis, head State Supervisors whose guidance and counsel from idea to completion were keys to making the Center possible. Others of special note were the teachers, FFA members, state staff, the agricultural industry and many friends of FFA. Congratulations and “thank you” to every single participant.



Earl F. “Doc” Kantner

Earl F. (Doc) Kantner
Editor and Development Director

“The Ohio FFA Center will, with certainty, serve Agricultural Education and FFA with great distinction for all time. It was a challenging and most inspiring task.”



The Ohio FFA Center, 2004

Chapter 1 – The start of it all

1975-1980

1975: A need develops

A new Federal law, the Vocational Act of 1963, opened Vocational Agriculture to a burst of new classroom programs and students in the late 1960s and '70s. New FFA activities and award programs were subsequently being developed for students in Horticulture, Resource Conservation, Food Processing, Mechanics and other distinct classroom teaching areas. History was being made almost daily and there was real need for the preservation of this important growth and development. It also became very evident that limited files in the state FFA office as well as the allocated storage space of the State Office Building were being overloaded. Additional storage and organization was needed.



65 S. Front St. – The State Office Building

1975-1980: Solutions projected



James E. Dougan

In the mid 1970s Earl (Doc) Kantner, state FFA executive secretary, discussed with state supervisor James E. Dougan the need for long-term preservation of valuable FFA history and organized storage space for growing FFA programs. An exploration committee was formed and extensive discussions were held with state FFA officers, teachers and FFA members at conventions about possibly renting a room for a storage/archives facility or even a separate building. The idea emerged that a storage/archives facility might involve a “display” type of setting that could provide FFA members and others a chance to view historical items. Interest continued to grow and discussions became more serious. All aspects of such a development were considered including location, size, costs and finances.

Costs, finances explored

Early questions arose ... What would something cost? Who would pay for it? It was generally agreed that renting a room would be manageable but building a building would be a greater concern. An early figure of \$100,000 was mentioned and was deemed possible if FFA dues could be increased, if chapters contributed and if state FFA foundation support could be available.



Dr. Darrell Parks

1980: Storage/archives approved by FFA

Interest in developing an official FFA storage/archives facility grew rapidly in the late 1970s culminating with official action at the 1980 State FFA Convention. With pre-approval of their teachers in a separate session, delegates voted unanimously to approve the development of an Ohio FFA Storage/Archives. Similar action was taken by teachers at their 1980 OVATA Summer Teacher’s Conference. Dr. Darrell Parks, then state supervisor of the Vocational Agriculture Service, named Doc Kantner, FFA executive secretary, to continue to lead development activities of the archives and significant progress continued.



Chapter 2 – Location pivotal

1981-1983

1980-1982: Six locations studied

Much study and discussion was held in the early '80s regarding the location of an FFA Archives that would have a major impact on the total nature and success of the facility. A rented room or building would be of a temporary nature, while a purchased or constructed building would be of a more permanent and possibly larger design. A study of locations in 1982 resulted in six possibilities:

- 1 A small older house on the grounds of the Ohio Department of Agriculture in Reynoldsburg
- 2 ATI at Wooster
- 3 The Ohio State University Campus
- 4 FFA Camp Muskingum
- 5 A room in the Curriculum Materials Service building near The Ohio State University
- 6 The Ohio Expositions Center (State Fairgrounds)

Further analysis involving working availability, public visibility and usage narrowed the choices to FFA Camp Muskingum and the Ohio State Fairgrounds. A visit to Camp Muskingum was made and a room was identified as a possibility. Although it would be highly accessible to FFA campers, severe limitations were noted relative to working availability and public visibility. Interest grew rapidly in the State Fairgrounds.

1982: State fairgrounds preferred

The State Fairgrounds emerged as the most desirable location. A little-used parking lot and garbage area between the Rhoades Center and the Lausche Building seemed like the “dream location” but would require constructing some type of building. Excitement grew rapidly over the thought of an FFA facility on the Ohio State Fairgrounds! After extensive discussion among FFA members, teachers, state staff and industry leaders, the strong consensus was to proceed.



1983: Dream location achieved

Contact was made in 1982 with Jack C. Foust, general manager of the Ohio Expositions Commission and director of the Ohio State Fair. After numerous meetings and discussions lasting into 1983, Foust indicated the garbage area could possibly be moved and the parking lot would be great for an FFA building. He suggested making plans and drawings of the building, and if acceptable he would take them to the full board of the Ohio Expositions Commission for their consideration. This historic decision was pivotal in what was later to become “The Ohio FFA Center.”



Jack C. Foust

Chapter 3 – Early developments

1984

January: Development director named



Dr. Jim Cummins

Dr. Jim Cummins, state supervisor, named Doc Kantner (who was retiring as state FFA executive secretary on Dec. 31, 1983) full-time director of the Archives and of the Ohio FFA Foundation, effective Jan. 1, 1984. This provided full coordination of time and effort to the organization and development of an archives facility.

February: Three-year plan projected

A detailed organizational plan was formulated for the development of the Archives with a three-year completion goal of 1987 set, with a commitment to hold Grand Opening Ceremonies the first day of state convention — April 24, 1987. Selection of the architect's final building designs, working out the necessary financial support, and literally hundreds of other activities made the three-year period a continuous and exciting beehive of activity. Note: The three-year goal of opening day, April 24, 1987, was achieved on target!

The Ohio Expositions
Commission approved the
construction of an FFA
facility on the Ohio State
Fairgrounds at their
Oct. 25, 1984, meeting.

March: Upscale facility idea grew

The perfect location tentatively available for a new FFA Archives building gave great impetus to the idea of constructing an upscale building rather than some earlier thoughts of a single room. General consensus grew rapidly that in order to have a sizeable and balanced facility, a large archives room could be combined with a meeting room, offices, restrooms, lobby and other amenities. This was the first time a “total” facility was mentioned rather than a storage/archives room or small warehouse building. Costs of such a facility were discussed with a range of \$250,000 to \$300,000 seeming possible.

June/July: Official FFA approval

The committee officially endorsed the idea of an upscale facility and presented their findings to state FFA officers and members at the June 1984 state FFA convention, to teachers at the 1984 OVATA summer Teacher’s Conference and to other individuals interested and concerned. The plan was enthusiastically accepted, and a high quality upgraded FFA archives facility was approved.

July: Collection of historical items starts

Critical to the development of the FFA Archives was the collection and organization of historical materials. Dozens of boxes and stacks of pictures, FFA forms, letters, directives, announcements, etc., were located and sorted into various classifications in the Kantner home in Canal Winchester. The standard joke of the time was “if the Kantner home burns down — there is no history of FFA in Ohio.” The process took three years (July 1984-March 1987).

October: Fairgrounds location official

Meetings with Foust in 1984 covered many details, in addition to the basic building design. Examples included a long-term lease agreement, how utility costs would be handled, relocation of water and power lines, overall outside appearance and upkeep, and ownership and usage. The Ohio Expositions Commission approved the construction of an FFA facility on the Ohio State Fairgrounds at their Oct. 25, 1984, meeting.

November: Financial plan developed

One of the most critical aspects of The Ohio FFA Center from the very beginning was the availability of funding. As enthusiasm grew and desire for an ever-increasing upscale facility developed over the years, costs likewise grew. What started as a rented room grew into a total facility, and the original \$100,000 cost grew to \$750,000. Funding started with FFA members voting themselves a \$1 a year dues increase for three years and later extending it another three years for a total of \$120,000. Local FFA chapters provided strong support as did their teachers, and state staff. The agricultural business and industry sector joined the efforts with a financial drive, and a per-box contribution from all FFA Citrus Sales in Ohio was a major support. Groundwork was also laid for long-time financing of the Center including maintenance and operation. The plan and efforts worked well with the total facility fully paid for soon after its official opening on April 24, 1987. More than 1,000 FFA members, teachers, chapters, organizations, businesses and friends of FFA are listed on the official “Wall of Honor” in the lobby of the center in lasting appreciation for making it happen (see Appendix A).

December: Official Board of Directors formed

With state officers and members, their teachers and friends of FFA all agreeing that the facility should be an upgraded one that could become a showcase for FFA in Ohio, an official Board of Directors was formed. This board was considered to be the official decision body of the Archives facility and would serve through its entire development (see Appendix B).

Dr. Cummins, as state supervisor of the Vocational Agricultural Service, served as chairman. The plan worked well with regular meetings to review progress and study next steps. Board members reported back to their particular segments of the Vocational Agriculture community and brought feedback to the building process.

The Ohio FFA Center named

One of the first actions in 1984 was the official naming of the FFA Archives. With a much upgraded building in a prime location, the early used names of “storage building” and “FFA Archives” no longer seemed to be appropriate. The perfect name emerged — **The Ohio FFA Center!**



Chapter 4 – Design approved

1985

March: Architect hired, designs, cost projected

The Board of Directors met in the state FFA office in March 1985 to select an architectural firm for planning and designing the Center. Three firms were interviewed with Varasso, Wachtel and McAnally of Newark selected. They developed five designs with one becoming a popular board choice. It was a beautiful building but at 5,800 square feet was larger than originally planned. The Board was pleased to hear the cost of the building was \$350,000, a seemingly workable figure for such a quality structure and not too much above the anticipated cost. All earlier thoughts of a pole building or steel frame building were dropped in preference to this very attractive fluted-block design.



Architect rendering of The Ohio FFA Center.

May, July: Teachers, members pick final design

The Board of Directors took the five designs and the estimated cost to the State FFA Convention in April 1985 and the OVATA Summer Teacher's Conference in July 1985 for all to review. There was strong support for the committee's choice. General agreement was reached and a *building design* was in place by summer.

July: Business and industry finance drive starts

The business and industry sector of the agricultural industry was impressed with the high quality of the planned new Ohio FFA Center. They also took note of the strong financial commitment of the FFA members themselves, their teachers and friends of FFA, and joined in their efforts with a financial drive of their own. Under the leadership of past state and national FFA officer Dennis Sargent, a high-energy committee of agricultural business and industry representation was developed. This committee met July 8, 1985, in Springfield to map plans for their drive. They set financial goals and developed procedures to achieve those goals. This commitment to the future of the Blue and Gold in Ohio was a significant link in the total funding of what was to become The Ohio FFA Center.

August: Site dedication held

The site dedication was a significant event on Aug. 1, 1985, the first day of the 1985 Ohio State Fair. Jack Foust, manager of the Ohio State Fair, served as Master of Ceremonies to introduce the newest structure-to-be on the fairgrounds. Bill Bien, state FFA president, gave a history of developments to date and along with his fellow state officers unveiled a 4-foot by 8-foot sign announcing “Site of The Ohio FFA Center.” Governor Richard Celeste gave glowing remarks about the Vocational Agriculture/FFA program in Ohio and the excitement being created by The Ohio FFA Center’s anticipated construction. Dennis Sargent, past state and national FFA officer, announced the upcoming financial support of the agribusiness community and reported on the July 8 kick-off of their fund drive.



Dennis Sargent



Chapter 5 – Building construction

1986

January: Hall of Achievement design started

Although the building was not yet started, designing of the Archives room began in January 1986. It was a critical and extensive process, because of its historical collections, its permanence and a desired strong viewer appeal. Uniqueness, eye appeal, easy comprehension and excitability were basic constructs of the plan.

A chronological concept starting with the beginning of Vocational Agriculture in 1918 and progressing through the years until current time was popular. This led to the name “Archives Room” being changed to “The Hall of Achievement.” Dorr Designs was the firm selected to make final designs and construct the display cases. A \$100,000 contract was agreed on which later proved to be significantly low due to their commitment to perfection, but they finished the job as contracted.

April: Ground breaking ceremonies

April 10, 1986, was an exciting day in the history of The Ohio FFA Center. Architects and supporters gathered at the site for official groundbreaking ceremonies. The traditional first shovel of dirt ceremony was held at 2 p.m. The official shovel was retained for display in The Hall of Achievement.

First trench dug

April 24, 1986, was another historic day for The Ohio FFA Center. With limited fanfare, the backhoe arrived and the first foundation trench was dug at the northeast corner of the building. While considerable pre-construction work had been done, this event was considered to be the official start of construction of The Ohio FFA Center.



June: First block laid

The first “cornerstone placement” for the Center occurred on June 15, 1986. The northeast corner was again the center of attention as the building started to spring up.



Summer, Autumn: Audio-visual units produced

Following the desire of making the Hall of Achievement as interesting, informative and dynamic as possible, six audio-visual modules were planned and developed. They were 2-3 minute “quick hit” slide presentations, complete with TV monitors in six different display cases. Former Loudonville FFA member K. Elliott (Kim) Nowels developed the high quality units. Bartha Visual Education Services produced and installed the modules.

Displays designed

The heartbeat of the Hall of Achievement was, of course, the quality of the displays themselves. Along with the display of historical materials and facts, dynamics and readability were basic guidelines. Written presentations were projected to be brief and uniquely presented. Well lit, colorful backing and framing techniques were planned for pictures and items, as well as narrations. The design-layout and written narration for the 45 displays was an extensive process taking nearly all of late 1986 and early 1987. Dorr Designs followed prepared copy and developed each display with care and quality.



The plaza entrance

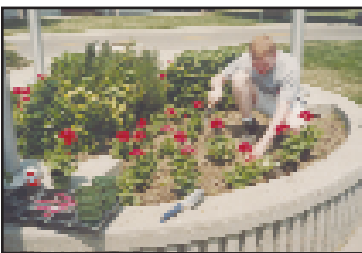
The great dynamics of the building design required an attractive and dynamic outside area treatment. Numerous plaza designs were developed and studied with a final plan that was deemed to be especially appropriate. Rather than a mere sidewalk to the parking area, it was a comprehensive design of concrete covering the entire width of the smoked-glass front entrance and extending out to and including the flag pole complex. Large driveway-wide walkways connected the plaza northwest to the Lausche Building and southeast to the front of the Rhoades Center, tying the total “fairgrounds youth complex” together.

Flag complex the centerpiece

A large three-pole raised base flagpole complex was the preferred choice for a centerpiece — a great forefront for the dynamic angled FFA Center building as viewed from all sides including fairgrounds midway fairgoers. A “dancing waters” design was a second choice, but maintenance and limited



viewing areas were limiting factors. The architects did a masterful job in designing the fluted base design of the final plan, matching the fluted block of the main building. The work was completed in early autumn.



Landscaping designed/developed

JVS Horticulture Departments and local schools throughout Ohio developed landscaping proposals for the Center creating considerable interest and participation throughout late 1985 and early 1986. Under the direction of state staff member Jim Scott, who had considerable horticulture experience, participating schools came together May 30, 1986, to share proposals. They developed a final landscape design and a plan of action. Delegations from numerous Horticulture Departments and Scott did a tremendous job readjusting, securing, installing, edging and mulching a variety of flower areas, bushes and trees. The lawn area, complete with an underground watering system, was finished with top quality Kentucky Bluegrass sod. It was a beautiful front-piece to The Ohio FFA Center and was completed in November 1986.



Late Autumn: Inside development

Completion of the outside of the building in early November provided good working conditions for inside development. Interior dividing walls were built, and the lobby, bathroom, conference room, library and kitchenette were all completed following earlier designs and plans. This phase of the total building process was extensive, lasting through autumn of 1986 and extending into early 1987.

November: Outside completed

Construction of the beautiful fluted block building progressed dramatically during the summer and early autumn. Doors were hung, windows were installed, and soil grading was completed. The roof went on in October and November, and the skeletal building was basically completed on schedule!





Chapter 6 – Grand opening planned

1987

January, April: Final phases unfold

With opening day, April 24, less than four months away and with the building basically empty and unfinished, there was much inside work to be done in the winter and early spring of 1987! Previous planning and programming, however, provided a timely unfolding of final phases of development. It was a period of intense effort but an inspiring time in the development of the Center.

January: Opening day planned

The importance of opening day made detailed planning necessary. All logistics, including direction signs, visitor traffic routes, crowd ushers, refreshments, crowd announcements and literally dozens of other detail amenities were planned for the inside visitation hour. The official outside opening ceremonies involved planning an assembly area in the parking lot, securing a temporary stage set-up, ordering seating delivery and arrangement, planning a sound system, and arranging for ushers. Early detailed plans and procedures were vital in assuring smooth opening day ceremonies in April.

February: All rooms and areas finished

Although most inside construction was completed, final finishing touches were yet to be completed in early 1987. Examples would be: doors, cabinets and mirrors in the bathroom, cabinets and equipment in the kitchenette, design and construction of the lobby center piece and the registration counter. The large Wall of Honor in the lobby was an intricate project in designing the unique type of display, getting 100% accuracy of names and their proper categorical listing, as well as working with the producing company through to completion. Decisions on paint selection, wall covering, floor coverings and window blinds were a time consuming but inspiring process due to their vital significance to the inside appearance of the total facility. In the end, a conservative earth-tone theme was selected over an FFA Blue and Gold approach. Specific paint colors, wallpaper and floor coverings were selected for each area with completion in February and March — on schedule!

Special telephone number selected: 299-1FFA

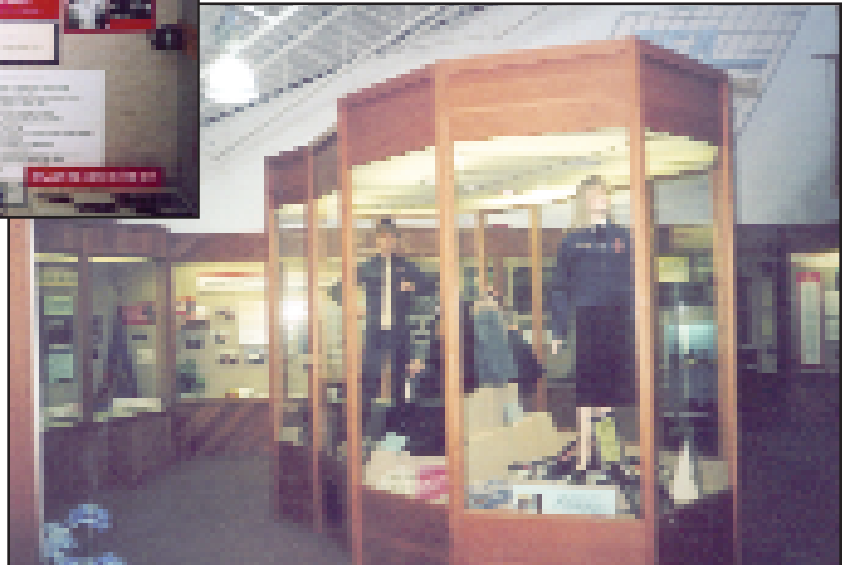
Among the dozens of finishing touches necessary to cap-off a quality facility was the selection of a telephone number. Numerous contacts with the telephone company included checking out all number and letter combinations and selecting one that would describe and enhance FFA. One stood out as ideal, and luckily, available — 299-1-FFA. This number was officially assigned to The Ohio FFA Center and was often referred to as being an ideal description of FFA and The Center.

April: Construction of display modules finished

With time beginning to be a major factor, the sizable job of developing the 45 display case complex was basically completed in early April. Dorr Designs hand-crafted the solid oak modules.

March, April: Display cases filled

Many stories can be told about the rush of filling the displays. Layout plans came to life with historical pictures, items, records and narratives installed. Some loyal supporters even took days off work to assist. **It was a time of great inspiration, culminating in the moment all displays were ready, all lights were turned on and the six audiovisuals sang.**



April: Countdown to opening day

The countdown to opening day seemed to race in the last 24 days before the Grand Opening! Check-off lists were the focus of each day as last minute details were completed and checked off and checked off again. By mid-April all in-building and grounds preparations were fully complete and efforts turned to reminder letters and phone calls to all participants. It was an exhilarating time.

Chapter 7 – Grand Opening ceremony

April 24, 1987

Opening day ceremonies

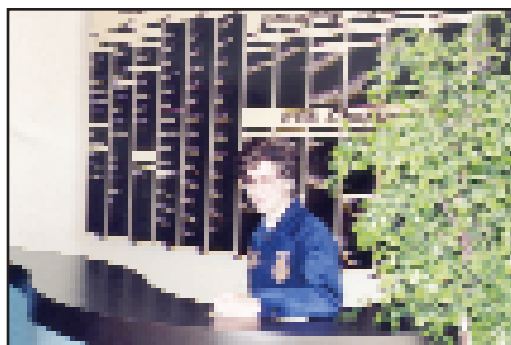
Few major surprises or frantic moments occurred on opening day. Everything and everyone arrived on time, and preparations developed as planned. The only glitch was the weather, a very cold damp windy spring day, which was countered with great inspiration and good humor. FFA friends, supporters and members from all over Ohio gathered for a 3:30 p.m. inside VIP tour and the 4:30 p.m. Official Grand Opening Ceremonies. This historic activity was a pre-event of the 1987 State FFA Convention.

Pre-opening VIP tour

An inside tour of The Ohio FFA Center began at 3:30 p.m. as special guests gathered to get their first look at the Center facilities. The Hall of Achievement was alive with presentations from the audio-visuals, the bright attractive displays and the crowds of people filing through. Other areas including the lobby, conference center, kitchenette, library and storage areas were likewise filled with enthused observers. Numerous P.A. announcements had to be made to move the crowd outside for the official Grand Opening ceremonies.

“The Grand Opening Ceremonies held on April 24, 1987, made it official – what was only a dream 12 years earlier in 1975, was now complete! The Ohio FFA Center now stood majestically.”

Earl F. “Doc” Kantner



Official grand opening ceremonies

With all platform participants in place, and more than 1,000 FFA members, teachers, friends and supporters of the Blue and Gold in the viewing area, the moment had arrived — the Grand Opening Ceremonies of The Ohio FFA Center! Jeff Vance, immediate past state FFA president, chaired this historic event with great distinction. It was truly an exciting day. The mountain-top moment occurred with the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the first official raising of the Center's three flags. Heavy applause broke out.



A ppendices

Appendix A

“Wall of Honor”

When visiting the center, please notice especially the “Wall of Honor.” On this wall, six businesses and organizations who provided founding sponsorships for major areas of the Center are listed. In honor of their strong commitment, name plates were attached to their particular area of sponsorship. They are:

Arby’s	FFA Archives Area
Bob Evans Farms, Inc.	Hall of Achievement Area
Countrymark, Inc.	Outdoor Plaza
Ohio Farm Bureau	Leadership/Conference Room
Sealdsweet Growers, Inc.	FFA Center Lobby
TSC Industries	FFA Center Library

Several additional individuals sponsored an area or activity of the center:

Fredericktown FFA Alumni	FFA Jacket Display
Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Augenstein	Kitchenette
Past State Officers	Office

In addition, the names of more than 1,000 FFA members, teachers, chapters, organizations, businesses and friends are listed on the official “Wall of Honor.” Funding the Center was a significant challenge for that time in history, but with a strong belief in the Blue and Gold and dreams of an exciting facility for FFA members (past, present and future) to call home, the inspiring task was accomplished! Thank you to all who contributed!

Appendix B

Administration During the Building Years

State Supervisors Agricultural Education Service

All final responsibility for the Center rested with the head state supervisors. The development director reported directly to them, sharing all progress and proposing further procedures. Those supervisors were:

James E. Dougan*	1967 – 1979
Dr. Darrell Parks	1979 – 1982
Dr. James Cummins **	1982 – 1987
John H. Davis	1987 – 1992

* Gave the first approval to consider an “Archives.”

** Was supervisor during heaviest development time.

Board of Directors

With all preliminary approvals in place assuring the development of an upscale FFA “Storage/Archives” facility, it was deemed advisable to have an official Board of Directors. This Board was established in December 1984 for the purpose of making official major decisions. They represented all segments of the FFA family as follows:

Dr. Darrell Parks	Director of Vocational Education
Dr. Jim Cummins	State Supervisor, Vocational Agricultural Service
Rob Hovis	State FFA Executive Secretary
Bob Freeze	State Staff
Ed Johnson	Business and Industry
Doug Phillips	1984-85 State FFA President
Bill Bien	1985-86 State FFA President
Jack Jacquemin	OVATA
Tim Reichart	OVATA
John Carl	OVATA
Duane Van Sickle	Ohio FFA Alumni
Rick Metzger	Ohio FFA Alumni
Dr. Earl Kantner	Director of Development

Appendix C

Lease Agreement

FFA Lease of Land from Ohio Exposition Center

The plat of land for The Ohio FFA Center was available as a lease-arrangement rather than a direct purchase since state-owned land is normally not sold. A lease agreement was developed in great detail by attorneys, outlining duties, responsibilities and requirements of both parties — a 54-item, 22-page legal document.

Examples of Contents of the Lease:

1. A \$1 per year lease fee was set, a legal procedure to make the lease official.
2. Initial term of the lease is 40 years, with two automatic renewals of 40 years each (total of 120 years) unless lessee (FFA) notifies the Commission of no desire to renew.
3. All permanent property shall remain with the land, property of the Exposition Center, State of Ohio, at the end of the leasing period.
4. Lessee (FFA) has the responsibility of maintaining all parts of the complex in a good state of appearance and repair.
5. Lessee shall be responsible for securing and financing all costs of fire, liability and extended coverage insurance, as well as other operational costs.

A copy of the full lease is on file in the Ohio FFA Center office.

Appendix D

Continuing Operation of The Ohio FFA Center

The Ohio FFA Center is professionally managed by a carefully selected Executive Director who is chosen after a series of interviews and in consideration of related data. This individual reports directly to the Assistant Director, Agricultural Education Service, Ohio Department of Education. It is a position shared with The Ohio FFA Foundation on a 1/4 - 3/4 full-time basis (1/4 Center and 3/4 Foundation).

Executive Directors to Date

Earl F. “Doc” Kantner	January 1, 1984 – December 31, 1992
Bernadette Siekman	1993 – 1996
Dennis Swartz	1996 – 1998
Cheryl Bachman	1998 – 2003
John Collet	2003 – Present

Board of Trustees

The Ohio FFA Foundation Board of Trustees was appointed a dual role of also becoming the FFA Center Board of Trustees. This board works in conjunction with the Assistant Director, Agricultural Education Service in administering The Ohio FFA center through the Executive Director.

