

# History of CDC Chamblee

A brief overview of the history of the Chamblee Campus from the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century to today.



# The Early Days

The Chamblee Campus area

~1800 to 1917

# The Early Days 1800-1822

- The earliest inhabitants of the area were Cherokee and Creek Native Americans.
- CDC Chamblee is on a land plot that was part of a treaty cessation in 1821 from the Creek Nation.



Cherokee Supreme Court Building



Typical Cherokee farmhouse



Vann Tavern house and shop



Cherokee *Phoenix* printing house

# The Early Days 1822-1860

- Treaty lands were plotted out in 202.5 acre parcels and distributed via lottery.
- Lot 280, on which CDC Chamblee is located was given to Jacob Cobb on August 31, 1822.

## Early Farm Setup



cabin



corncrib

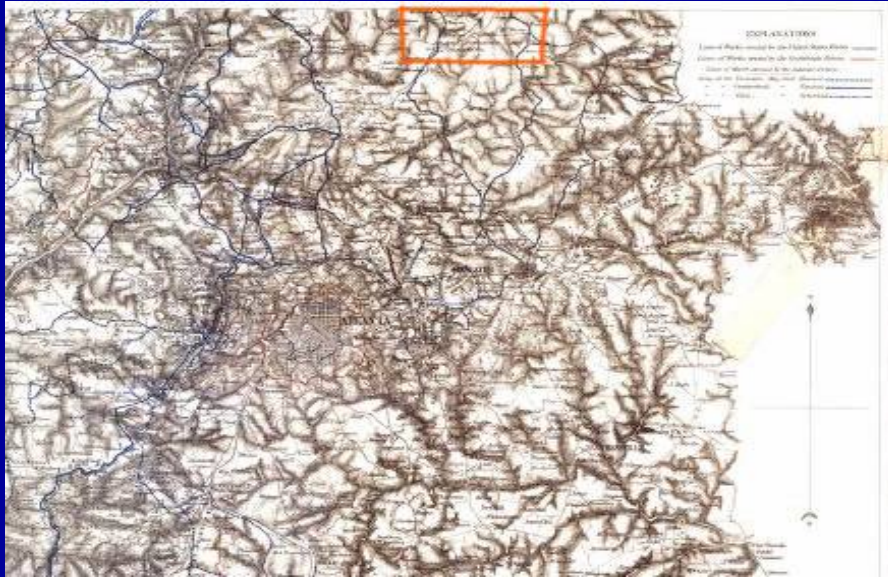


stable



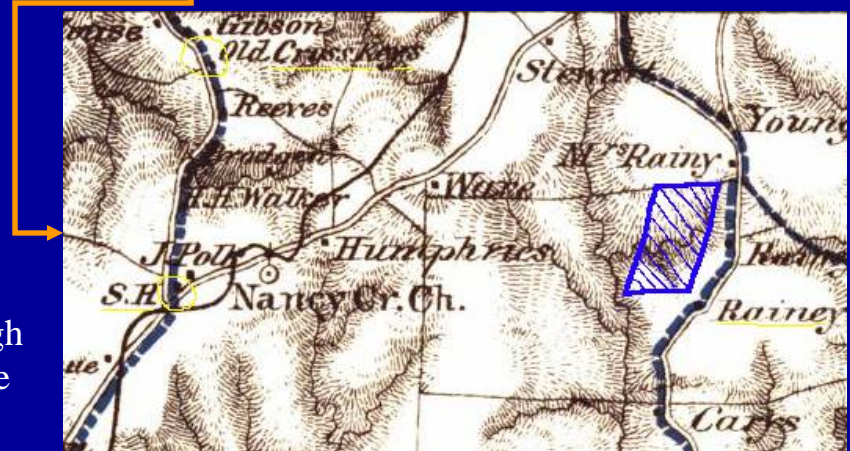


# The Early Days 1860-1865



Map of Atlanta area  
during the Civil War.

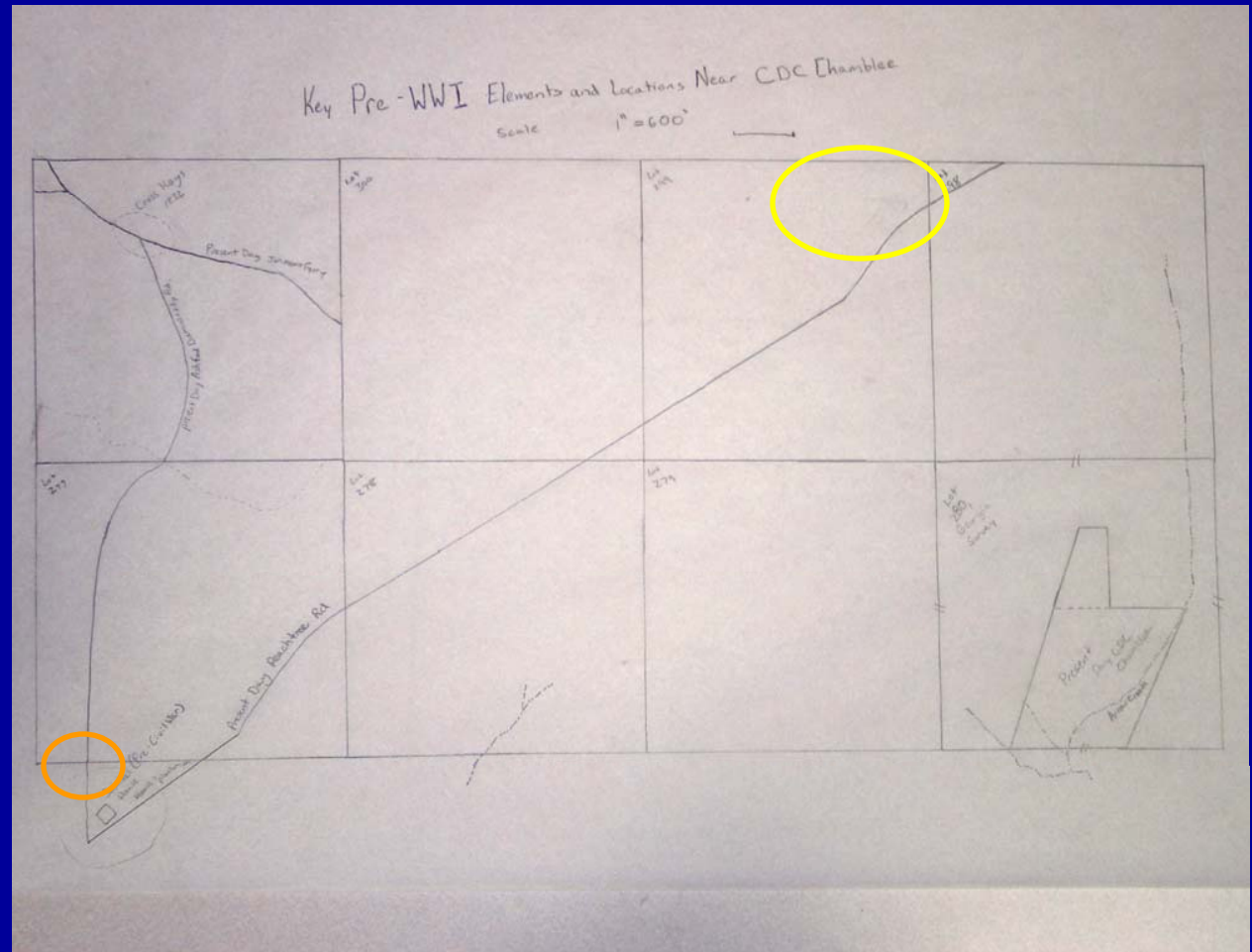
- During the civil war the area played scene to maneuvering by both Confederate and Union Forces.



Area Highlights, with rough  
position of CDC Chamblee  
in blue hatching.

# The Early Days 1865-1917

- After the civil war a railroad spur was completed to Chamblee, providing an impetus for the city's growth.
- Chamblee's first post office was opened in 1881, and the town was incorporated in August 1908.



# Pre-CDC Era

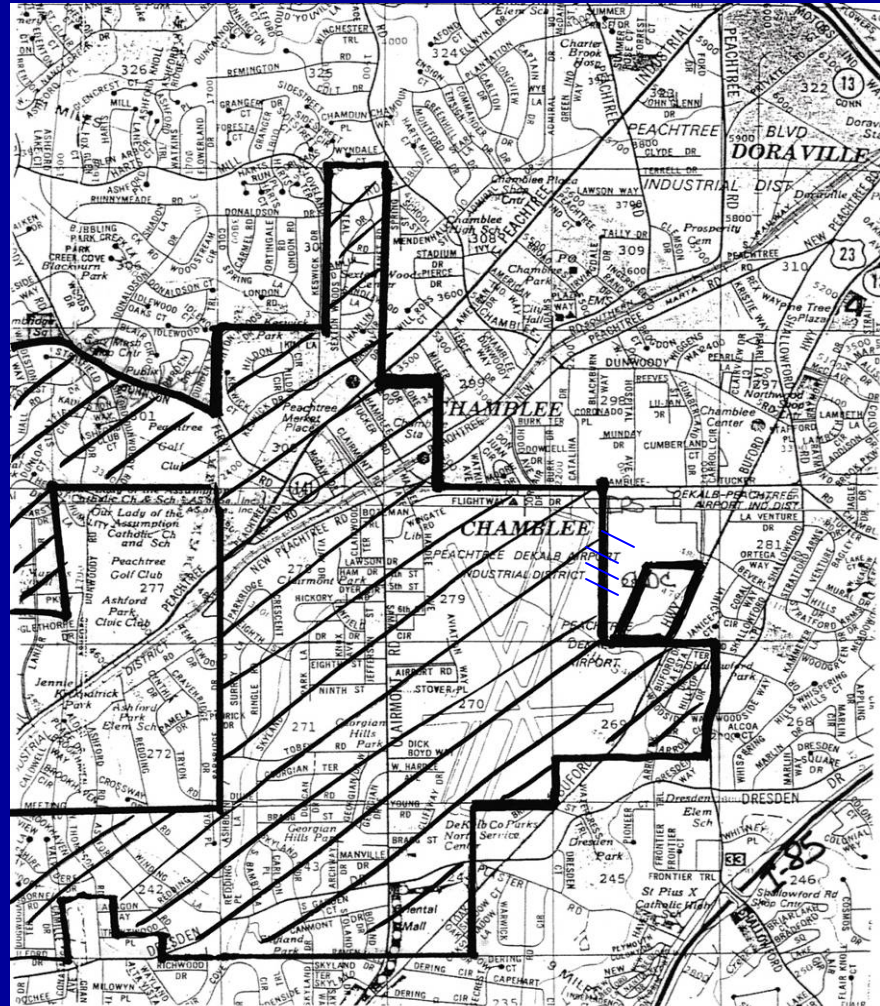
The Chamblee area  
before CDC arrived

1917 - 1946



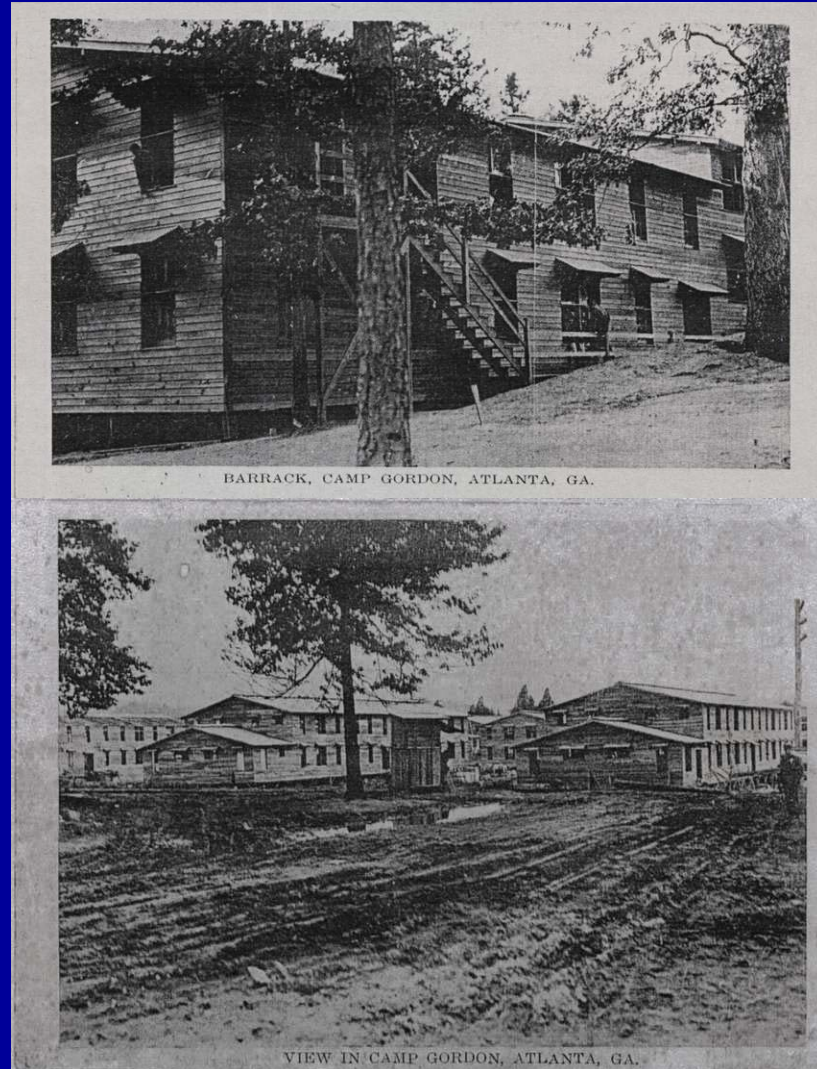
# Camp Gordon Era 1917-1921

- In May of 1917 a military camp was established in the immediate vicinity and named Camp Gordon.
- The property did not contain CDC property but was adjacent to CDC Chamblee.



# Camp Gordon Era 1917-1921

- Camp Gordon was ideally placed near a railway. This allowed easy access to interior areas of the US and to coastal areas for embarkation.



Barracks of  
Camp  
Gordon

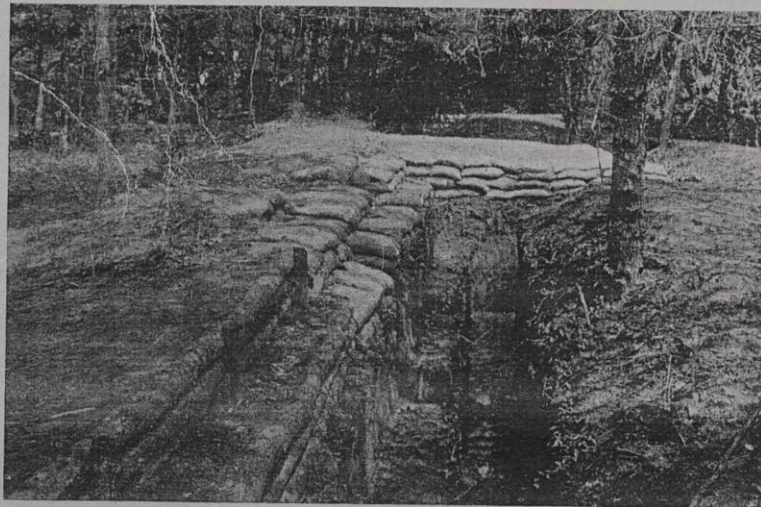


# Camp Gordon Era 1917-1921

- Notable WWI soldier Sgt. Alvin York received training at Camp Gordon.
- The facility was disbanded shortly after the war.



VIEW IN CAMP GORDON, ATLANTA, GA.



TRENCHES, CAMP GORDON, ATLANTA, GA.

Elements of  
Camp  
Gordon.

# Between the Wars 1921-1941

- Camp Gordon's lands were divided up and sold to land speculators.
- These plans did not go through, and eventually a deal was brokered for the sale of the airport property to the county to start the airport.
- Shortly after completion, the county airport was leased to the US Navy for \$18,000 a year, creating Naval Air Station Atlanta.



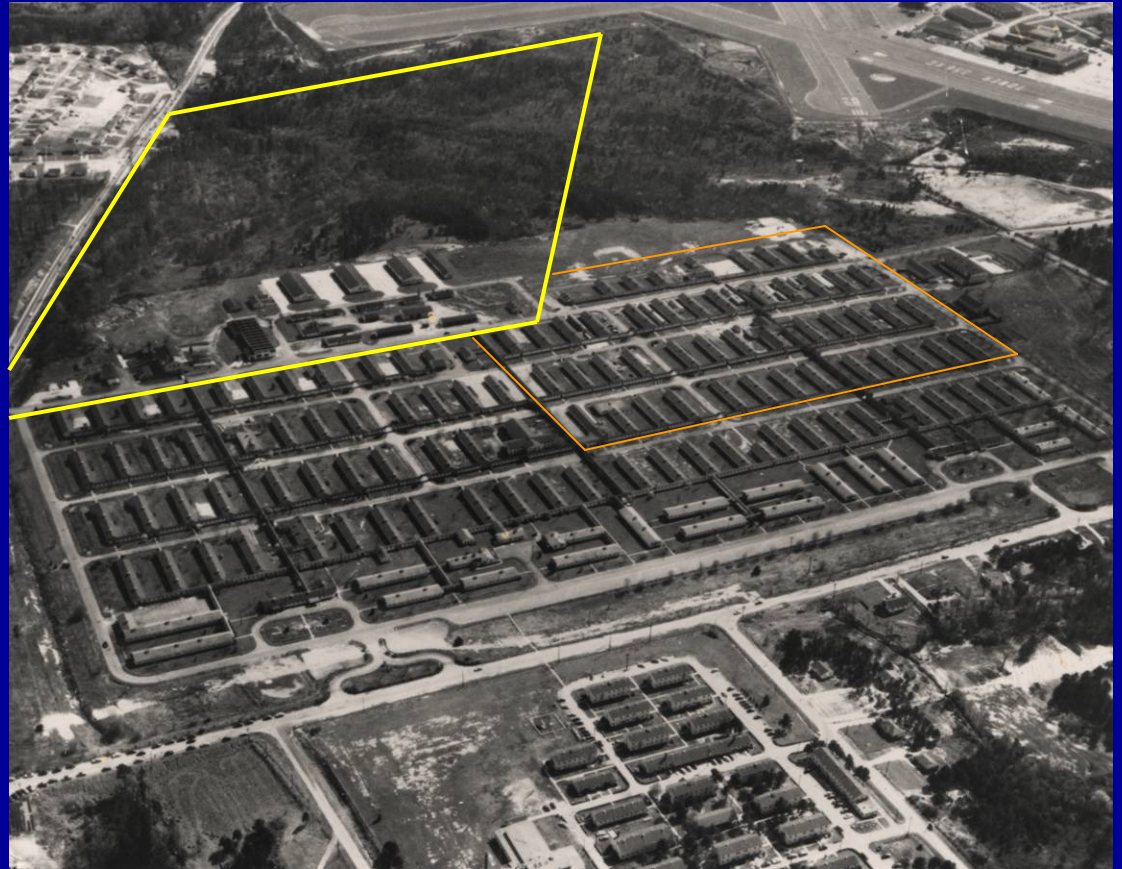
NAS Atlanta



# World War II

## 1941-1945

- World War II saw the Chamblee area develop into what would be a key source of CDC's beginnings.
- In 1941 Lawson General Hospital was erected on the present day properties of CDC Chamblee and the IRS complex.



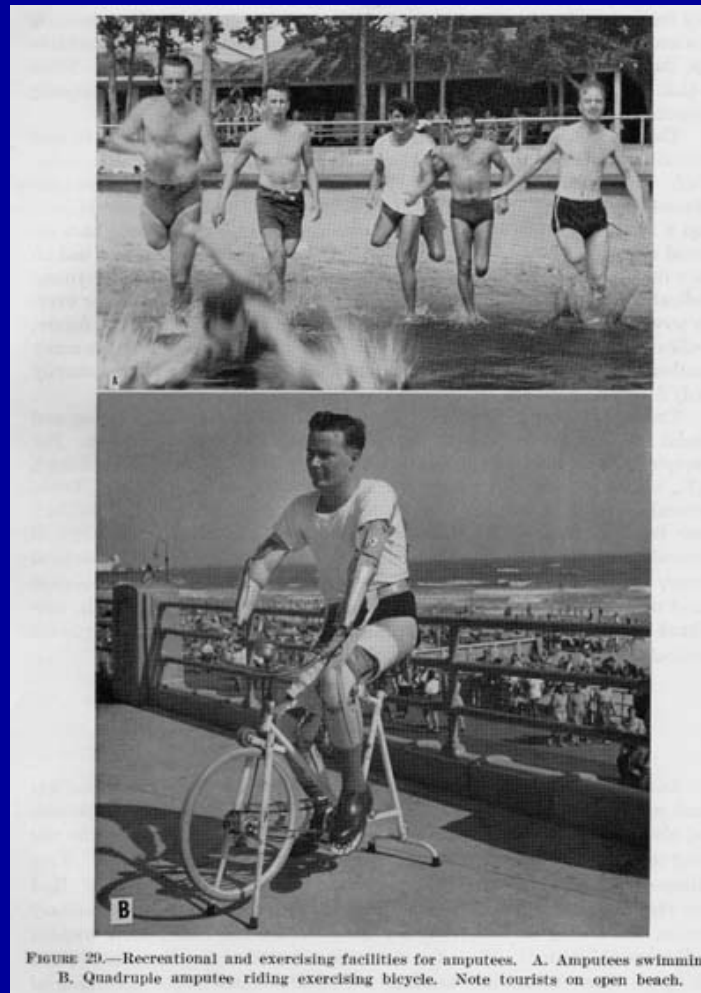
Lawson Hospital Complex

# World War II

## 1941-1945

- Lawson General Hospital was originally designed as a general hospital, but grew to specialize in amputations and neurosurgery.
- Additionally, World War II saw the introduction of the MCWA program, the forerunner to the CDC.

Amputees in a rehab program



# The CDC Era

The Events and Times  
on  
CDC's Chamblee Campus

1946 - Present

# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- The CDC grew out of the Malaria Control in War Areas program (MCWA), a series of efforts to control malaria and typhus in soldiers and war related industries during the Second World War.
- Headed first by Dr. Joseph Mountin, it was designed to give practical aid to the numerous states, by providing services that a single state could not.

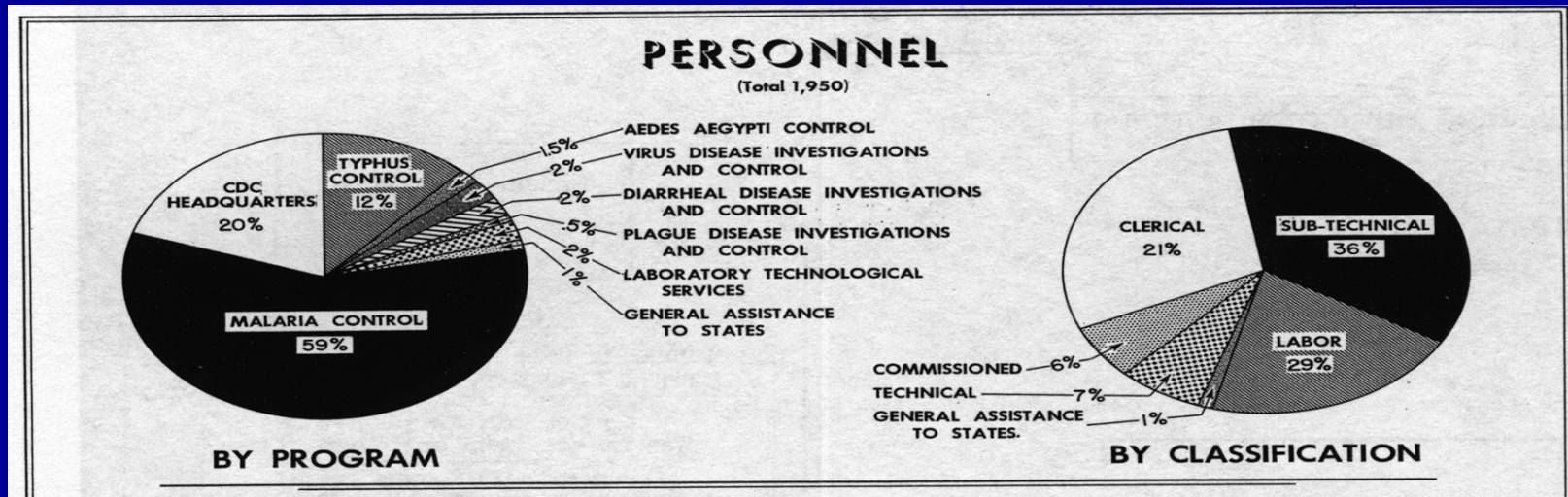


Doctors Mountin and Miller meet with CDC staff.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

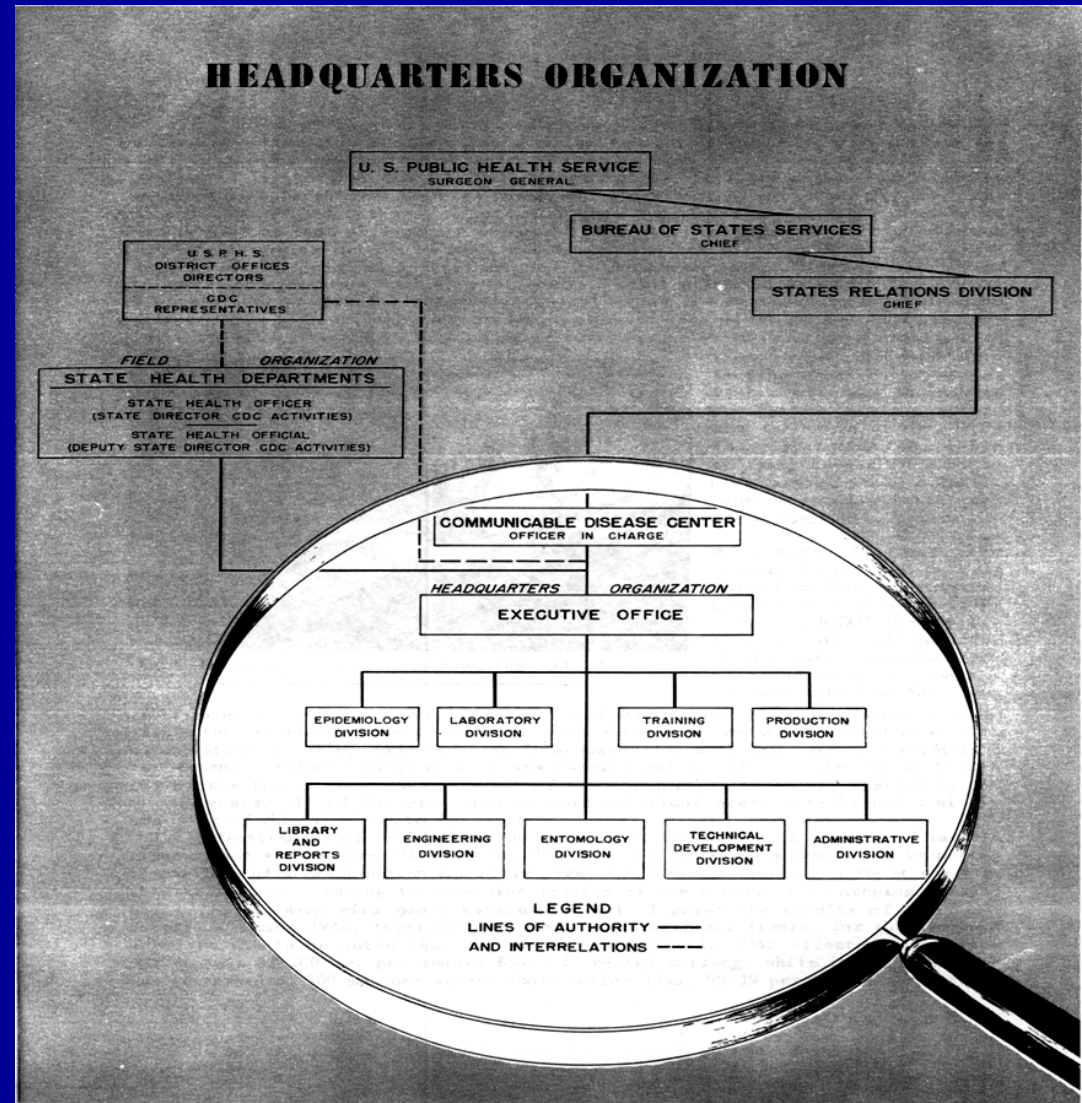
- CDC's beginnings were strongly rooted in the MCWA program initiatives.
- In its first year of operation, 59% of employees were detailed to malaria control, and another 12% were assigned to typhus, the two major program areas of MCWA.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- CDC was initially organized into 8 divisions, with a ninth being added shortly after the center was commissioned.

1947 Organization Chart



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- The Engineering Division was responsible for eradication programs and construction.

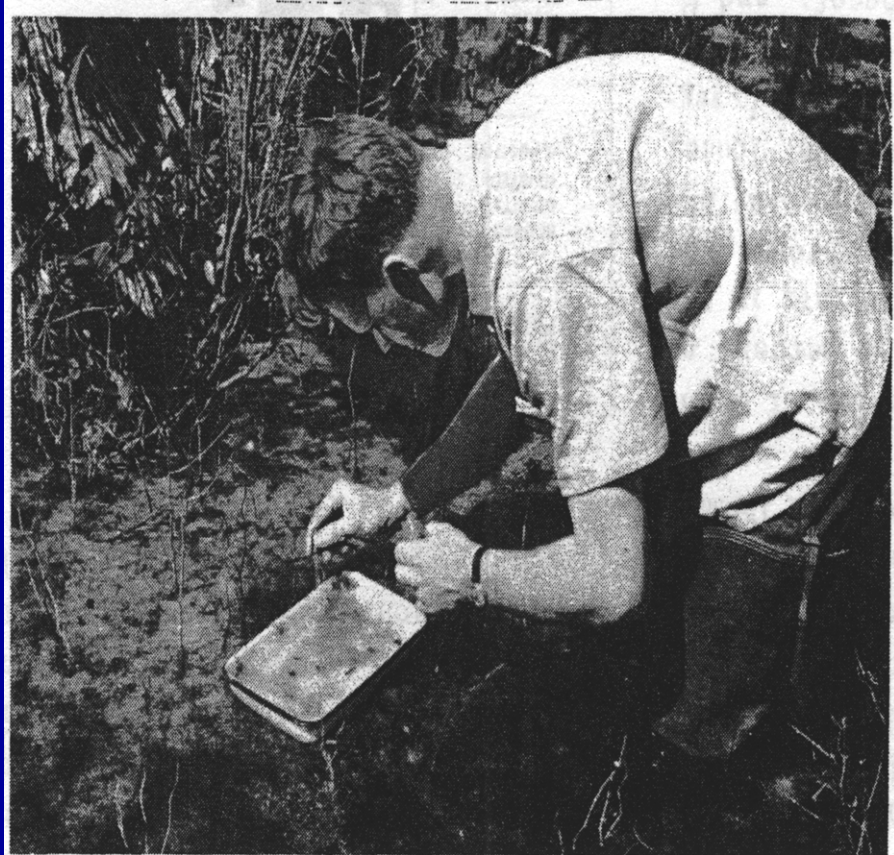


DDT spraying to control mosquitoes.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- Entomology was tasked with insect research for purposes of enhancing control programs.



Entomologist collecting Anopheline mosquito larvae.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- Epidemiology was initially tasked with statistical analyses of various health concerns.



Sampling during a Typhus outbreak.

# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- The Laboratory Division developed enhanced procedures in diagnostic medicine and provided general lab services for CDC.



Working hard in a parasitology lab.

# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- Technical Developments improved and sought new solutions to control methods.



Items developed  
for pesticide  
dispersion.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- The Training Division educated state public health officials in the newest methods and practices of public health.



Trainees undergoing a lesson in insect vector.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- The Library and Records Division kept the reports and publications for CDC.



CDC Librarian hard at work.

# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

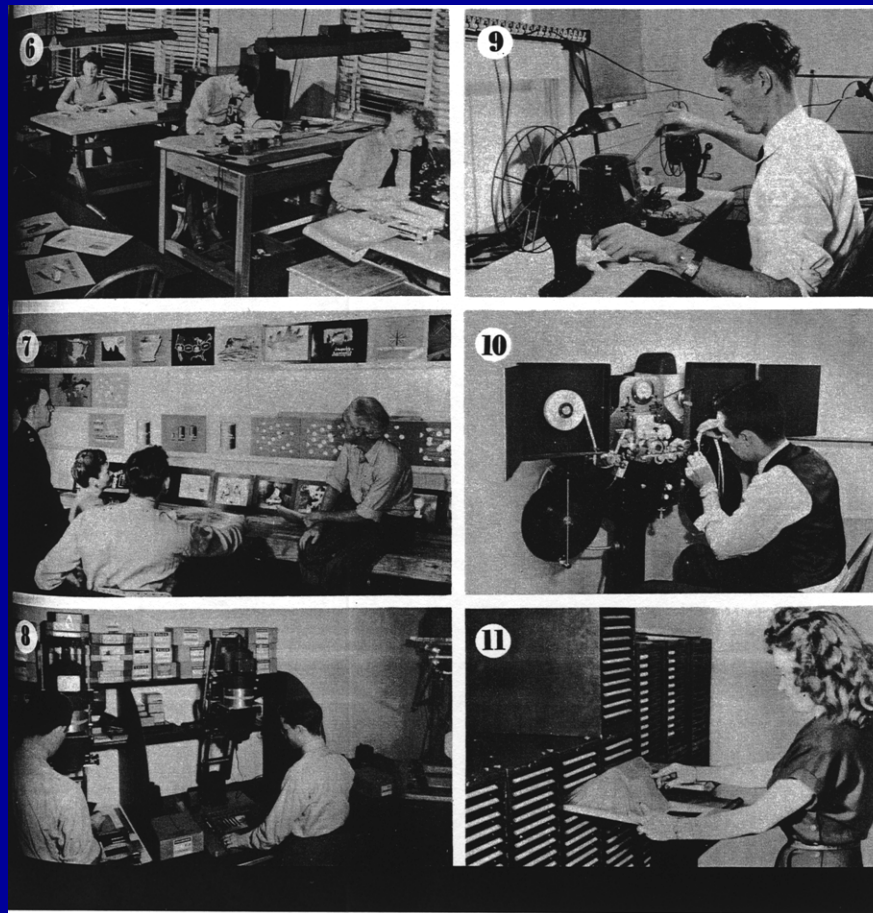
- Administration provided oversight and coordination for the center.



Interviewing an applicant for a position with CDC.

# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1947

- The Production Division, added shortly after the Centers creation, was responsible for all A/V materials for training and organizational purposes.

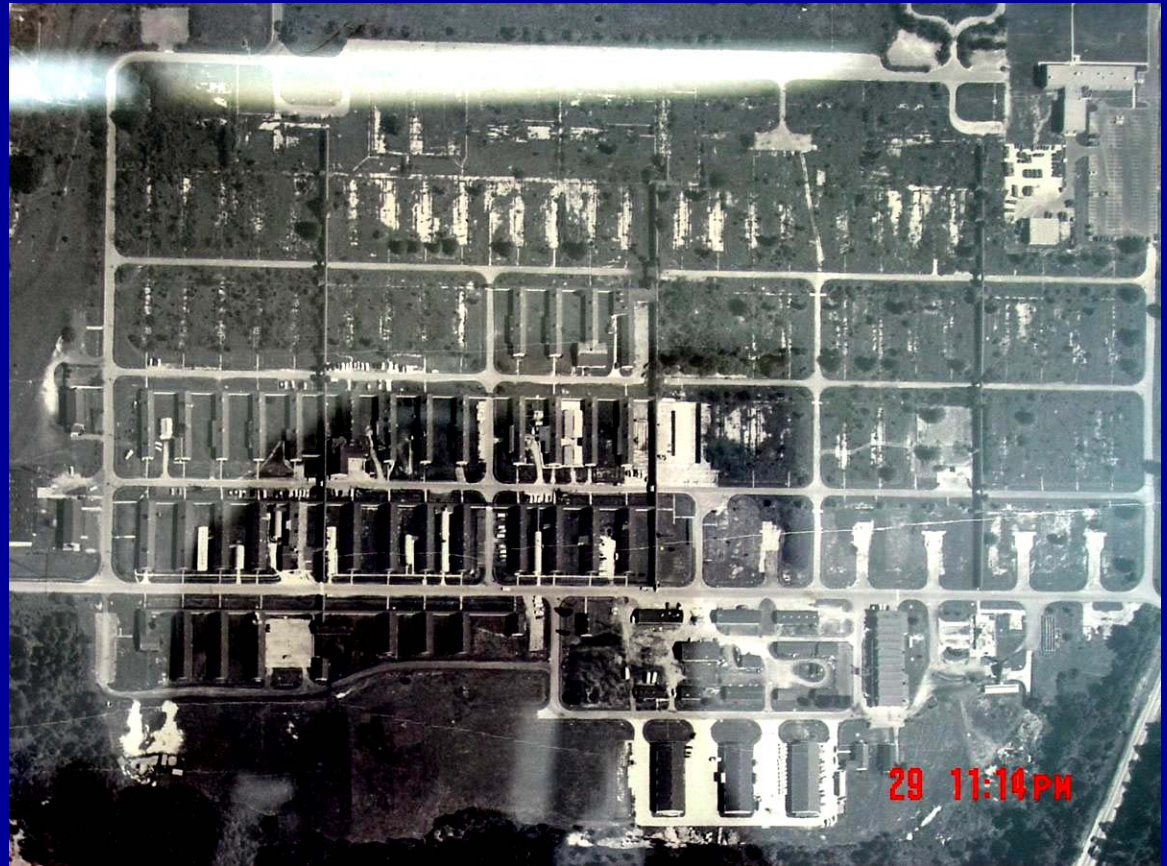


Various  
highlights  
from  
Production  
Division  
activities.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- In the earliest days Chamblee played the important role of housing CDC's laboratory programs.
- The labs were initially developed to fulfill the functions of reference diagnosis, training, and methods research.



Post-WWII Lawson Facilities



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- The Laboratory Division was originally organized to deal with viral disease (e.g., polio, encephalitis); bacterial disease (e.g., strep, diphtheria); other enteric diseases; mycotic diseases; and parasites.



Polio research

# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- Training was an important element of CDC's early activities.
- Chamblee offered courses in
  - Rickettsia Diagnosis
  - Mycotic Disease Diagnosis
  - Bacterial Tuberculosis Diagnosis
  - Bacteriology
  - Enteric Bacteriology
  - Rabies Diagnosis
  - Laboratory Tuberculosis Diagnosis



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- These programs were elemental in some of CDC's early success.
- The programs were housed in the Lawson hospital wards. These facilities were woefully unsuitable for CDC's work.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- The facilities at Chamblee were quite unsuitable and received a poor reception by scientists.
- The buildings were quite hot during the summer, cold in the winter, leaked during rain, and suffered from termite damage.
- Despite these problems, spirits stayed high, with many references to a family – like quality at Chamblee.



A condemned lab building before being razed. A fire truck is barely visible.

This same building ablaze.



Deteriorating window area in barracks building



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- In addition to lab facilities, Chamblee CDC had facilities for lab animals.



Guinea Pig holdings

# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- Chamblee also housed some important facilities for the production program, including the broadcast unit.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- The growing prowess of CDC ensured that other units of the Public Health Service would fall under its jurisdiction.
- Venereal Disease came under CDC's purview in 1957. A Venereal Disease laboratory was set up on the Chamblee site.



VD lab analysis



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

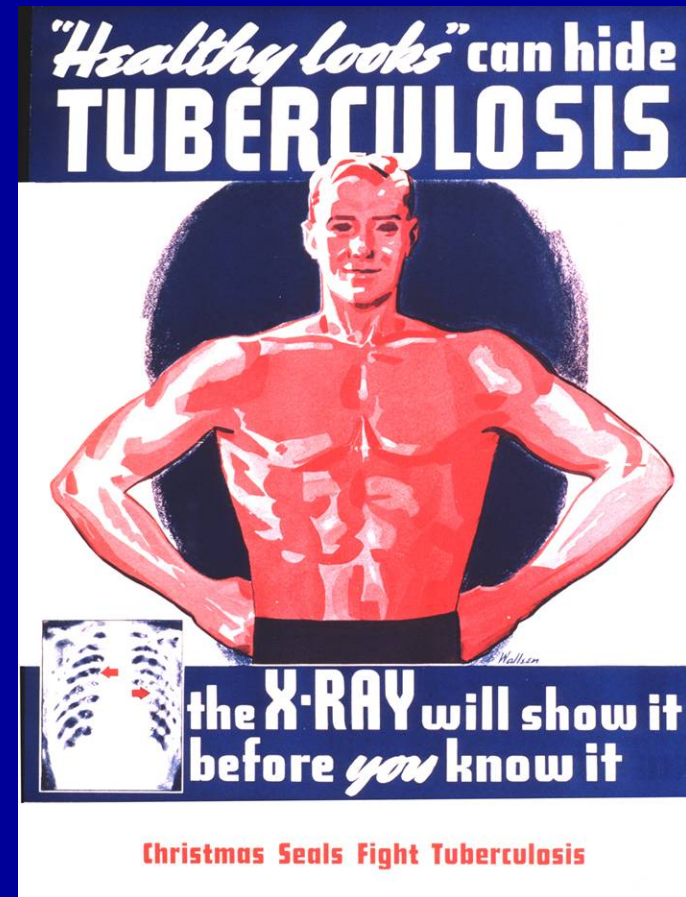
- A clinical chemistry group was brought to Chamblee in 1952.
- This program created many useful tools for diagnosis via chemistry.



Fume hood in Chamblee's building 1

# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- Tuberculosis was added to CDC's list of responsibilities in 1960. A Tuberculosis research laboratory was located on the Chamblee site.



# Communicable Disease Center 1946-1960

- The parasitic disease programs also enjoyed a healthy presence on the campus.
- Malaria has maintained active programs at Chamblee since CDC's inception.



Spraying near Savannah, Georgia



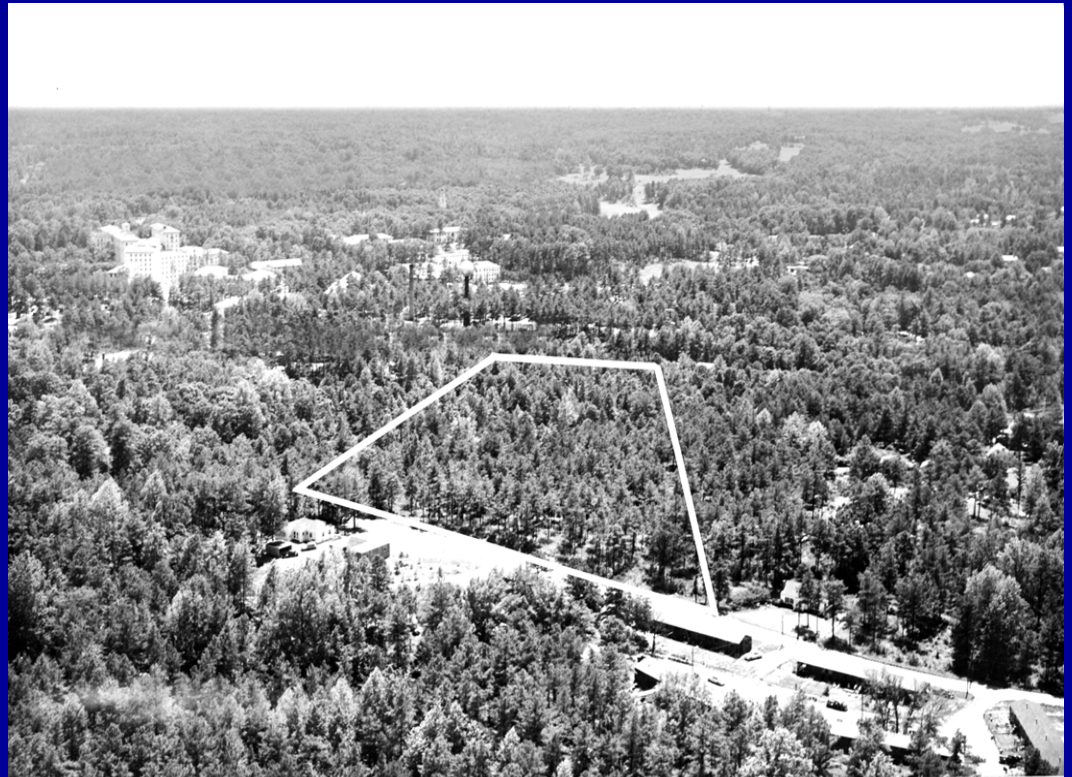
# Transfer to CDC

## 1946-1958

- After the war Lawson hospital was transferred to the Veterans Administration.
- The Communicable Disease Center was granted use of some of the buildings at the Lawson site.
- In 1954 the General Services Administration (GSA) granted a permit for the combined plot of CDC Chamblee and the IRS complex.
- In 1958 the plot was limited to the present Chamblee CDC property.

# Communicable Disease Center 1958-1960

- In the late 1950's construction began on the Clifton Road site for CDC.
- The plan was that the various operations of CDC would relocate to the Clifton campus once construction was complete.



1947: Emory University donated 15 acres for CDC

# Communicable Disease Center 1958-1960

- It was initially thought that the Chamblee operations would transition to Clifton Road as well.
- This would not be the case.
- The Clifton site provided issues with live animal facilities, notably for mice breeding, that made it impossible to house such activities there.



Clifton site under construction in 1958



# Communicable Disease Center 1958-1960

- As early as 1958 CDC officials recognized that the new Clifton Facilities would not be able to contain all of CDC's activities.
- The Bureau of the Budget (BOB) and GSA both desired that the Chamblee property be vacated by the CDC.



Clifton site in 1959

# Communicable Disease Center 1958-1960

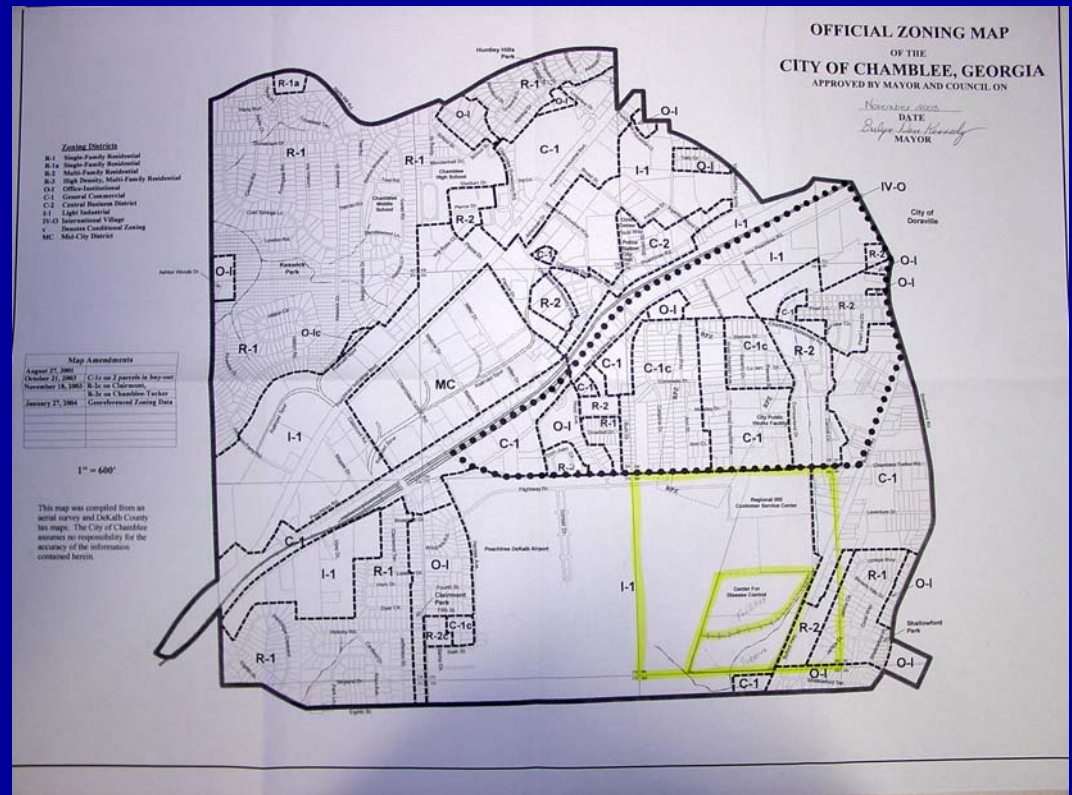
- It was suggested that a new site could be found that could fulfill the requirements that Chamblee provided.
- This property was designated as Site X, and would later become the Lawrenceville Campus.



Lawrenceville Campus

# Communicable Disease Center 1958-1960

- It took numerous meetings to demonstrate the drastic necessity of maintaining a presence at Chamblee.
- It appeared the GSA and BOB were intent on selling the property, as it has been corroborated that the area was desired to be used for commercial and industrial purposes, due to its proximity to the airport.



Chamblee Zoning Map



# Communicable Disease Center 1958-1960

- Through these meetings, Chamblee was secured as a CDC location, although the property holdings were reduced to the present area.



# Communicable Disease Center 1960-1979

- Throughout the 1960's and 70's these programs made up the bulk of CDC Chamblee's activities.
- While the Clifton campus held a spotlight with the headline catching infectious diseases like Marburg, legionnaires disease, etc., Chamblee's scientists diligently worked on their clinical pursuits.



Chamblee Campus in the early 70's  
Note that all the buildings in this  
photo are WWII vintage

# Center for Disease Control

## 1980-1989

- In 1980 the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) was established. The center was formed out of the Environmental Health Services Division, Chronic Disease Division, and Clinical Chemistry Division.
- In its first year of existence CEH investigated problems in infant formula, leading to the Infant Formula Act of 1980. That same year CEH also standardized dried blood spot testing, and cholesterol measures.



Chamblee Campus circa 1980  
The brown and white building is  
Building 17 built in 1978.



# Center for Disease Control 1980-1989

- Throughout the 80's CEH had several important success:
  - Lead gasoline identified as a major source of human contact.
  - NHANES used CEH as its central lab.
  - Birth defects from a variety of issues are investigated.
  - ATSDR is established in 1983 to handle Superfund issues.
  - Dioxin testing methods are developed.
  - Vietnam Veterans' health issues are investigated in a massive study.



A Superfund Site

# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## 1990-Present

- In 1991, CEH became NCEH
- NCEH also enjoyed considerable successes in the 1990's
  - Mercury is banned from paints due to a report from NCEH.
  - Air quality and Respiratory health programs are added to NCEH workload.
  - In 1994 a DNA specimen bank is established.



Chamblee Campus in 1992  
Note the addition of buildings 15, 101,  
and the construction of 102

# Chamblee today and into the future

- The new building projects on the Chamblee Campus promise to bring a renewed sense of purpose and dedication to CDC's legacy of excellence with state-of-the-art facilities.



Chamblee of the Past



Chamblee of the Future





# Acknowledgements

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