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Garland LANDMARK SOCIETY

EST. 1972

GarlandHistorical.org



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GARLAND LANDMARK SOCIETY

PO BOX 462232, GARLAND, TX 75046

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Calendars are on sale NOW!!

Get yours every Saturday from
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the
Landmark Museum.

Calendars are also available at
the following businesses:

Roach Feed and Seed

McGillicuddy's Antiques

Finders Keepers

Paw Paws

WE NEED YOUR HELP...

Are you a long-time Garland resident
with 1-2 hours to spare?

Make an appointment to visit the
Museum and help us identify hundreds of
photographs. We are looking for
information on WHO is in the picture,
WHAT they are doing, WHERE the picture
was taken and by WHOM, as well as
WHEN the photographer
pushed the button!

Appointments available on
Mondays and Wednesdays
10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Email: Heritage@GarlandTX.gov

ON TRACK

VOLUME 16 NO. 1

GARLAND LANDMARK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JAN FEB MAR 2019

Garland Shopping Center

From 1951 to the present, the landmark sign lights up the night



Lining Garland Ave. in the early 1960s is the iconic shopping center sign, Osborn & Morrow's Texaco Station and Lobello's burgers and barbecue advertising "curb service." In the background is the old Cemetery Oak at the Garland Cemetery.

Garland Landmark Society Archives

Called Skillern's Shopping Center by many when it opened in the 1950s, the Garland Shopping Center covered 90,000 square feet and when the \$250,000 building permit was issued in 1951, it was the largest issued by the city at that time. Stores at the corner included JC Penney, M.E. Moses, Oglesby Jewelry Store, Wyatt Food Store, Skillern's Drugs, Garland Bank and Trust Co. and more.

The landmark Garland Shopping Center sign marked the development for several decades. "The original shopping center sign is iconic. A Google image search on the Garland Shopping Center turns up numerous examples where people have come to the old, dilapidated shopping center to take pictures of just the sign," John Willis, a former council member said. "These kinds of historical, landmark signs are interesting and deserving of preservation and



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protection. It is my hope that an ordinance protecting historic landmark signs can be passed here in Garland.” Willis added that other signs in the area, including the Ridgewood Shopping Center and Orchard Hills signs, could benefit from this kind of ordinance.

The Garland Shopping Center was one of the first “strip” shopping centers in the North Texas area. Developers promoted the unique retail center with signs in the parking lot reading “One Stop Shopping.” The enormity of the center seemed to necessitate parking help, as another sign read “Remember ... you parked near the shopping-rex” and was illustrated with a cute dinosaur.

At one time the most vibrant retail center in the area, the shopping center slowly fell into disrepair, transitioning to a group of abandoned and dilapidated structures, and then becoming an empty, weedy lot. The structures were eventually demolished and redevelopment was later begun by Walmart. There are now several thriving businesses at this corner once again.

The revitalization of the site of the old Garland Shopping Center has already been confirmed as a success for the city and the neighborhood. The original 1950s Garland Shopping Center sign, which was left on the property as a condition of the development, is again lighting the



At the southern end of the shopping center, visible stores include (left to right) JC Penney, Rick Furniture, M.E. Moses Co. and Skillern’s Drugs. Ca. 1960s Garland Landmark Society Archives

area. The neon sign with its bright red arrow is a familiar and welcome sight to long-time Garland residents as well as those who have seen the sign all their lives but are not old enough to have seen it shine.

Recent revitalization at the corner of Miller and Garland roads has been great for Garland and an especially welcomed development for the

surrounding neighborhoods. The old Garland Shopping Center, a once thriving retail center had become an eyesore and an embarrassment to the community. New businesses at the corner include a Walmart Neighborhood Market, Wendy’s Restaurant, Bank of America, Subway, Pizza Patron, a cell phone store, dentist office and nail salon.

Kim Everett



At the north end of the shopping center in the early 1960s, visible stores include (left to right): Wyatt Food Stores, Stern’s Dress Shop, Baker’s Shoes, Plaza Hardware, Texas State Optical, Ogelsby Jewelry, Plaza Cafeteria and Garland Bank & Trust Co. Garland Landmark Society Archives