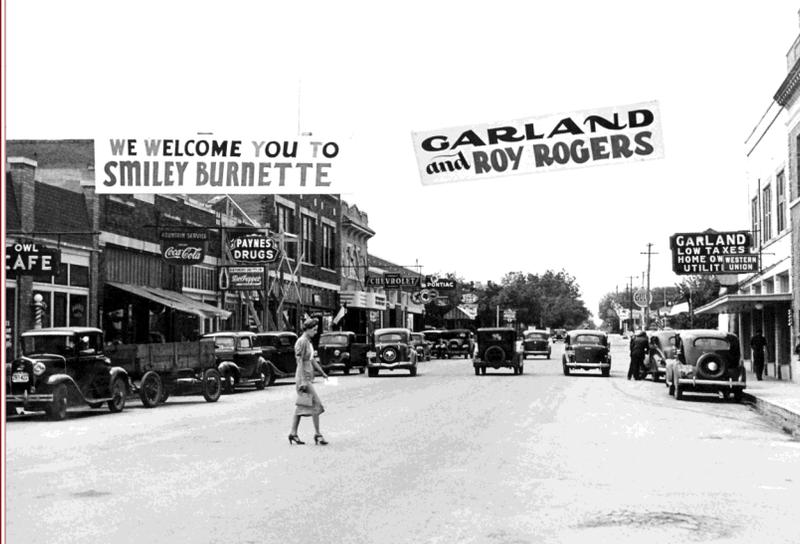


HISTORICAL MAIN STREET WALKING TOUR

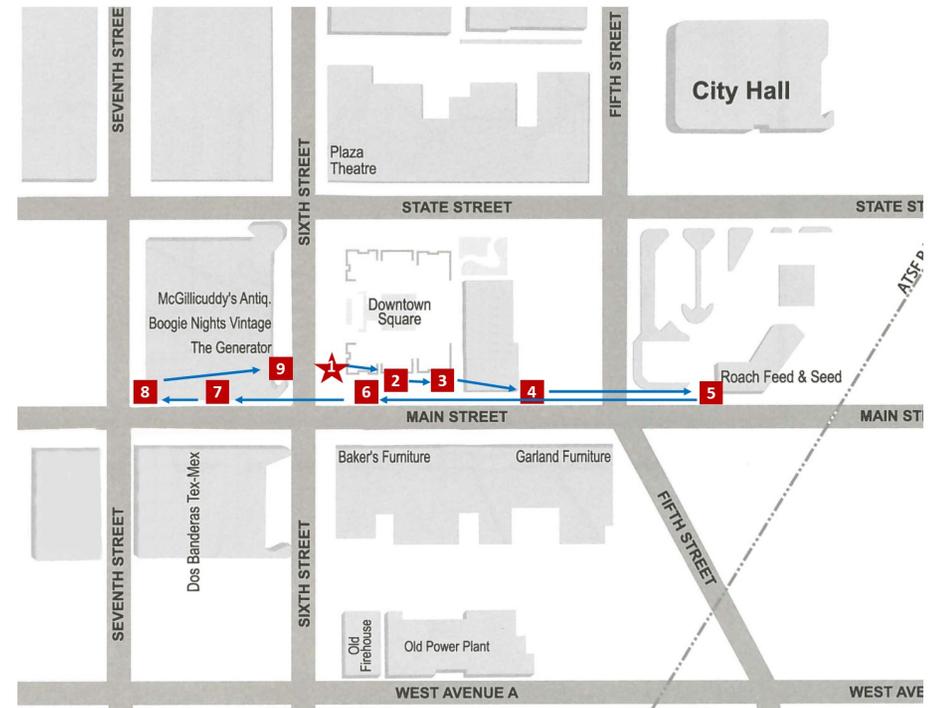
HANDGUIDE



Garland, Texas



GARLAND
HERITAGE CROSSING



All photos provided courtesy of Garland Landmark Society, Inc. These materials and more may be found on their website at GarlandHistorical.org

1. BIRTH OF THE PUBLIC SQUARE

(NE Corner of 6th and State)

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT IN 1891

The original downtown business structures were of wood construction, connected by wooden sidewalks and laid on a grid system with dirt streets. Neighborhoods developed along the edges of this commercial center.

Initially, the Downtown business district had no central Square. Between present State and Main streets, businesses lined the east side of Sixth Street, with an alley behind them; another row of buildings fronted Fifth Street.



Photo ca. 1891 looking westward along State Street.

IMPACT OF THE FIRE OF 1899

On November 30, 1899 (Thanksgiving night), a fire razed Downtown Garland; at least 30 businesses and homes were lost. With the fire having cleared the town center of structures, the opportunity was seized to acquire that property and set it aside as public open space. As a result, the downtown Square was born.



Photo of the Square ca. 1906 looking Southeast. By this time, many of the structures on the square were of masonry construction and the center of the square had been cleared for public open space.

LOOKING NORTHEAST ACROSS THE SQUARE

In 1895, Garland's first bank, Citizen's National Bank, opened – only to succumb to the fire of 1899 four years later. In 1900, the bank rebuilt, erecting the Alamo-style building shown on the site in the photo below.

By 1901, the northeastern corner of the Square featured the Garland Hotel, a two-story wood structure. The building began life as part of a school dormitory located near present-day 9th Street and Main Street. When the school ceased accepting boarders, a part of its dormitory was salvaged and moved to this location. The Garland Hotel was lost to a fire in 1932.

By 1901, the square, composed of dirt, was established here in the center. It was used to park horses and buggies, as well as for Trade Days, where it was used for trading livestock. A small well was provided near the center of the Square to supply water to the horses, visitors, and businesses. In 1914, a massive cistern was created beneath the square. (It was reported to be 45 feet deep and 34 ½ feet across; it was referred to as “The Big Well”, and was said to have been large enough to drive a horse-drawn carriage through.)

*Don't miss the time capsule. What do you think is in it?



Photo of the square looking northeast ca. 1906.

2. BANKHEAD HIGHWAY

(At the midpoint of the Square on Main Street)

BANKHEAD HIGHWAY

In 1916, the U.S. Congress passed The 1916 Federal Aid Road Act, sponsored by Alabama Senator John H. Bankhead to supply funds to states to improve roadways. Soon to follow was the designation of America's second east-to-west transcontinental highway, routed over existing roadways from Washington, D.C., to San Diego, California. The Garland people noted the highway's potential for economic impact and worked to have the route designated through Garland along present-day Main Street. The Bankhead Highway's route through Texas was officially designated as Texas Highway 1 in 1917, but it also retained the official Bankhead name until 1926, when it became part of U.S. Highway 67.



3. SQUARE DEVELOPMENT CONTINUES

(At the crosswalk on Main Street, SE corner of the Square)

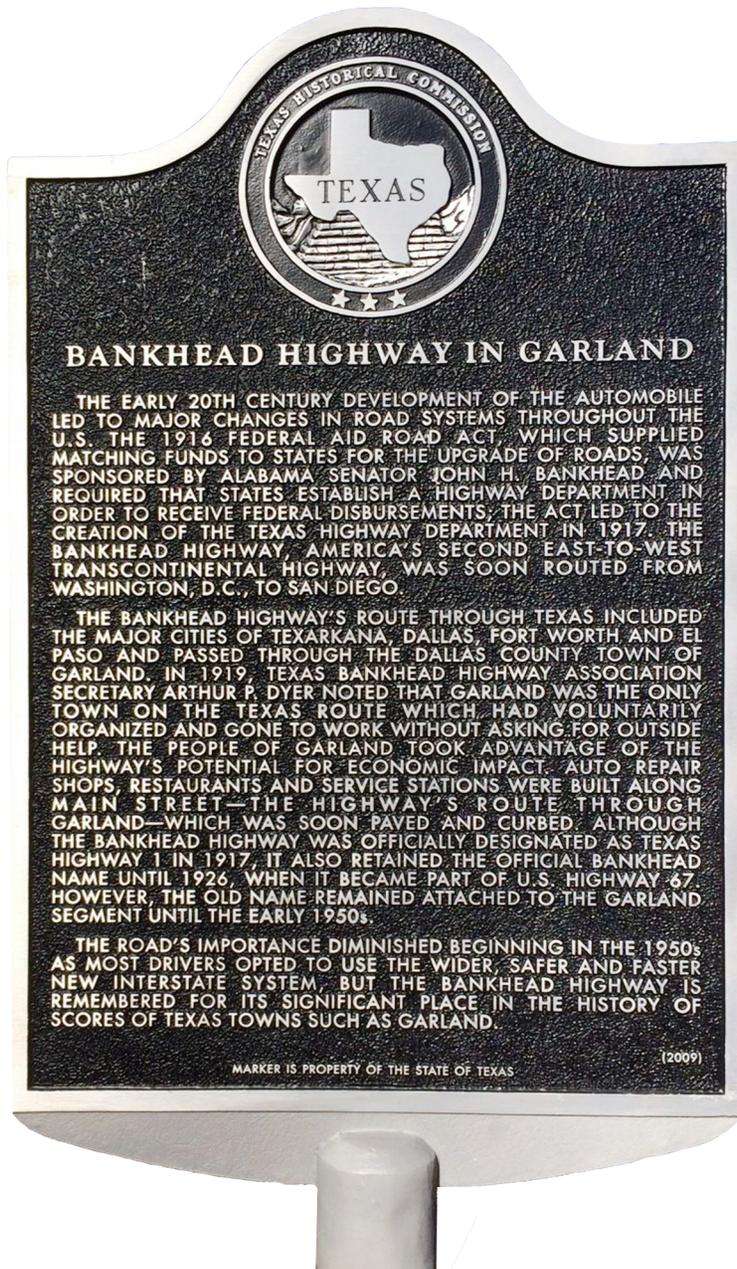
PAVING THE WAY TO PROGRESS

By the 1920s, streets transitioned to gravel and parking in the square was now used for automobiles instead of horses/buggies; the cistern was abandoned.

As shown below, by 1933, the square was paved, and a neo-classical style fountain, with lighting and landscape, was located in the center. The fountain bore a memorial plaque honoring citizens of Garland who lost their lives during World War I. (The plaque can now be found at the Garland Senior Center.)



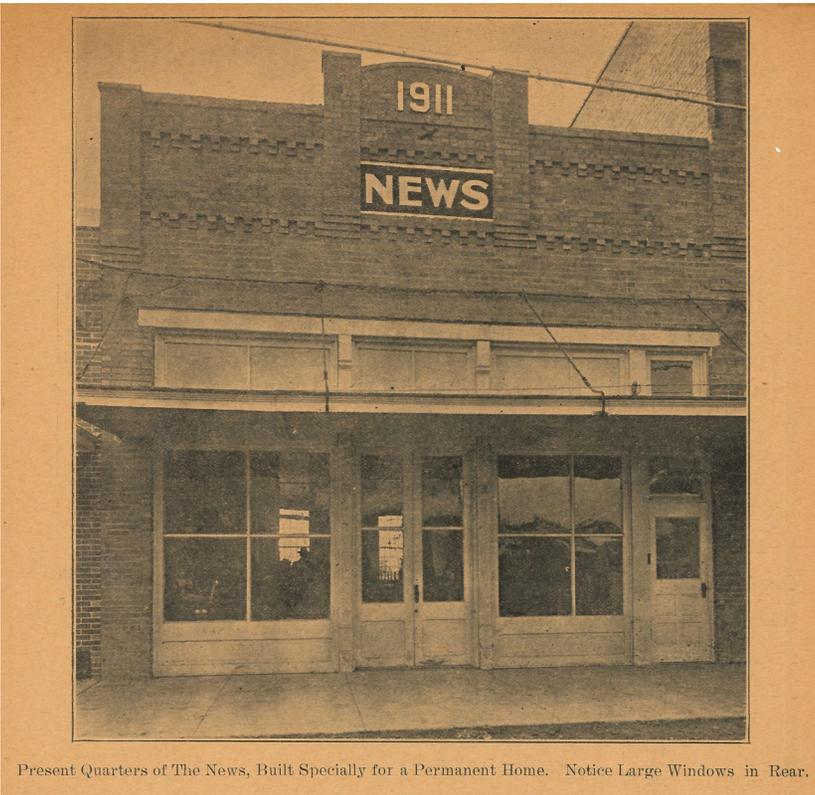
A second floor was added to the Citizens National Bank around 1918, but by 1919, the bank was defunct. The bank was recapitalized, re-opening as the First National Bank of Garland, and later merged with the State National Bank in 1929. In 1933, the building was sold to W.R. Nicholson, who remodeled and offered it for the City's use, as a memorial to his mother and brother, who perished in the tornado of 1927. Known then as the Nicholson Memorial Building, it housed (a) municipal offices and Garland's first library on the first floor and (b) an auditorium on the second floor.



4. EAST 500 BLOCK OF MAIN

510 MAIN STREET

Built in 1915 as a meat store and used later as an electric motor shop with a concrete floor and “steel ceiling,” this brick building appears to retain its original façade, one of a handful to do so on the square.



520 MAIN STREET

Constructed in 1911, this brick masonry building was first occupied by the Garland News until 1936. It originally had a much taller and more elaborate parapet with a strong central brick element featuring a flat arch and the word “news”. By the early 1960’s, the taller parapet was removed and a canopy was added as it became the Baker Furniture Annex. A new canopy can now be seen , recently added by Main Street Deli.

5. ROOTS REMAIN

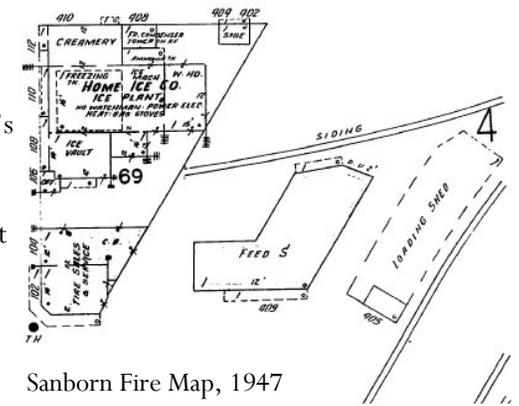
ROACH FEED AND SEED

Evidence of Garland’s agricultural roots still echo from one of Garland’s longest operating businesses. In 2013, Roach Feed & Seed was recognized by the Garland Landmark Society for having operated continuously for over 80 years in Downtown Garland.



This business was established in 1933 after W.H. Roach and son Haskell sold their grocery business located at the south-east corner of Main and 6th Streets. This frame building is one of the last wood structures on Main Street and was constructed in 1933 for the store. In 1919, the Roaches renovated an onion shed previously owned by the railroad existing on the site.

Haskell Roach was also in partnership with Earl McDaniel Sr. in the Roach & McDaniel Grain Company through 1952 (located further north on 4th Street). Earl McDaniel’s son, Earl (Jack) McDaniel Jr. joined the business in 1949 and eventually bought out Roach Earl (Jack) McDaniel Sr., 07-21-11). McDaniel Jr. still runs the business today.



Sanborn Fire Map, 1947

6. WEST 500 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET

524 MAIN STREET

Originally erected in 1911 by T.N. Hickman, the first floor of this building was occupied by City Grocery and a drug store, and the upper floor was used as an opera hall and auditorium. In 1932, Baker Hardware moved into the building. Over the years, the hardware gave way to furniture. In the 1950's, the building was remodeled, including raising the second floor to make room for another floor above the first floor, essentially making it a 3-story building on the inside.

528 MAIN STREET

This building was built and designed in 1911 with the same design as 520 and 524 Main. Built for the firm J.M. Naylor and Son (and referred to as the Naylor Building), photographs show that it was occupied by the Garland Hardware Company by 1915.



532 MAIN STREET

A fire broke out in 1902, which caused the destruction of four storefronts along Main Street. A smaller brick building was built to replace these in 1906. Originally known as the M.D. Williams building; a grocery, warehouse, and undertaker once occupied this three-storefront-wide building. M.D. Williams started in two storefronts, but moved into the third when it was built in 1911. In 1920, the Roach Grocery Company operated in this building. In 1931, the façade was modernized in the Spanish Colonial style which can be found on Garland High School and on the former Williams Funeral Directors west on Main Street. In 1933, the Roaches sold and moved down the street to establish Roach Feed & Grocer Company.

7. MAIN ST. WEST OF SQUARE

This block of Downtown reflects the growth of the automobile and the many businesses that sprang up in Garland to sell and service them.

607 MAIN STREET

Once the home of administrative and billing offices for Garland Power and Light, this building can be seen advertising Garland's "low taxes and home owned utilities" in the 1938 photo below.



This 1938 photo looking west down Bankhead Avenue (known today as Main Street), shows the businesses in operation during that time. Among them is the Garland Theater which showed the movie "Under Western Stars" that Roy Rogers and Smiley Burnett came to town to promote.

614 MAIN STREET

"The Ford House" was opened here ca. 1917 by Carl M. Brown to complement his operation in Mesquite. Besides featuring automobiles, the showroom served as a hangout for local businessmen. The building later housed the city's Chevrolet dealership. Remnants of the painted advertisements for the Ford dealership are still visible from the building's upper façade on the south side.

618 MAIN STREET

This building once housed the Garland Theater, including a marquee, as pictured.

8. SEVENTH & MAIN STREETS



620 MAIN STREET

Morrison's garage, shown above in the early 20s, provided gas, tires and mechanic service to the exploding population of automobile owners in the early 20th century. At the time of this photo, neither Main or Seventh Streets was a hard-surface road. Shown below is the same business during the late 1920s in its brick-veneered incarnation that replaced the earlier version. The remodel reflects the growing success of auto-related businesses. The building also hosted Pontiac and Ford dealerships over the years.



700 MAIN STREET

This building, once Garrison & Bruiner Dodge & Plymouth, was also Garland's Post Office before it was eventually located at its current location on Walnut Street where the malodorous Craddock pickle factory once stood.

9. THE SQUARE SINCE THE 1950's

THE 1950s

The 1950s was a decade of great growth for Garland, and the Downtown reflected that with almost a complete transformation in the character of the buildings. The need for additional parking, resulted in the removal of the fountain and the redesign of the square as a parking lot, with curbs and lighting, but no landscape. Any surviving corbelled cornices were removed, canopies were removed or replaced, brick facades were painted or covered with stucco — all in the name of progress.



THE 1960s AND BEYOND – REVITALIZATION EFFORTS CONTINUE

During the 1960s and 70s, as Garland experienced rapid growth and transitioned to a suburb of Dallas, Downtown began to have a difficult time competing with outlying shopping centers. The changes to buildings that had characterized the past half century seemed to come to a halt, and the buildings began to suffer from inability to justify further investment. In the late 1970s, the City initiated revitalization efforts, including the public plaza. A new canopy was also installed on nearly all of the buildings to create a continuous element on all sides of the square. An example of this remains today on the east side of the square.



The 1990s brought the Main Street USA Program to Downtown Garland, resulting in replacement of many of the awnings you see along Main Street. In 2002, DART light rail opened a station in Downtown Garland, bringing with it the opportunity for Transit-Oriented Development. In 2005, a comprehensive Downtown Revitalization Program was initiated by the City, focused on bringing more residents to Downtown to support local business, on increasing the walkability and visual appeal of the public spaces, increasing the amount of green space, upgrading public infrastructure, and renovating the facades of public buildings to make Downtown Garland a true destination - a place for people to live, work, and play.

CONCLUSION

The Square is unique in that it has survived, while both evolving to meet practical needs yet capturing snapshots in time of Garland's growth, for 115 years. The Downtown reflects Garland's evolution from an agricultural community to a significant suburb of Dallas, changing to meet the needs of the day, but always remaining the beloved heart of the city.

THIS PUBLICATION PRINTED IN COOPERATION
BETWEEN
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THE CITY OF GARLAND

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The Garland Landmark Society, Inc.
393 N. Sixth Street
Garland, Texas 75040
www.garlandhistorical.org

