



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

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Garland Landmark Society Publishes Historic Map

By Mike Hayslip, DCHC Member

The Garland Landmark Society has recently published a map of 130 historic sites, structures and features within Garland's city limits.

Located on the skeleton of an official city map and described in an index on the back are 11 cemeteries, 23 churches established before 1950 and 12 residences from the 19th century, as well as early businesses, industries, public facilities, schools and other pertinent spots. The index also identifies 11 Texas State Historical Markers in the city, and an accompanying table compares previous labels with current names of some major streets.

The local history group's board had begun discussing map and marker schemes more than 20 years ago, subsequently making two attempts that collapsed under the weight of conversation. The Dallas County Historical Commission had sponsored a historical resource survey in 1983 that included Garland, but that study focused on structures from an architectural perspective.

In the summer of 1999, Bob

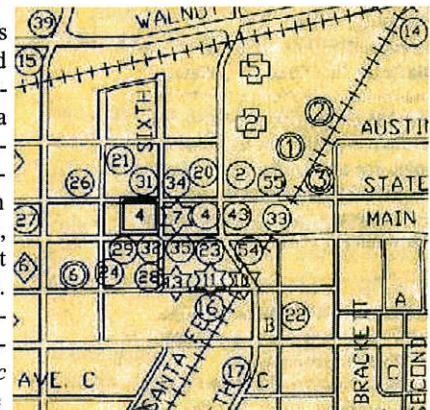
Hall, then Garland's Director of Parks and Recreational Services, convened a small group to discuss a more comprehensive identification of historic points, even those without original structures. Realizing the research challenges involved, Hall's *ad hoc* committee tagged the Landmark Society to complete the work.

While the initial goal was to place markers, Landmark workers decided to begin with a historical inventory that could be mapped. No other city in the county appeared to have a similar resource, so the Garland cartographers had to set their own guidelines for inclusion. Entries were considered only if information on age, uniqueness and community significance could

be satisfactorily verified. Eventually the presentation filled both sides of a 17 by 22-inch sheet, the largest the printer could process.

Production and printing of the map was funded in part with the support of the Garland Cultural Arts Commission and the Garland Parks and Recreation Department. Eight contributing business and professional pa-

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Detail of the Garland historic map shows the many points of interest in the old downtown.

Inside this issue:

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DCHC Member Donates Ruby Grand Jury Photos to Sixth Floor Museum

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Member

Angela Giessner, a member of the Dallas County Historical Commission, recently donated photos of the Dallas County Grand Jury that indicted Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald to the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. Ms. Giessner's father, Durwood A. Sutton, was the Grand Jury's Foreman. The Grand Jury was convened in October 1963. Also serving on the jury were Frank Heller, Assistant Foreman, and Sam S. Lake, Secretary.

Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested and held as the prime suspect in the Kennedy Assassination on November 22, 1963. Two days later, Jack Ruby, a local nightclub owner, fatally shot Oswald in the basement of the police building as Oswald was being moved to another facility.

The Grand Jury returned an indictment against Ruby. He was later tried and convicted.

Also donated was a copy of a prayer delivered by Grand Jury member A. P. Harrison on November 25, 1963, when



The Grand Jury, convened in October 1963, that later indicted Jack Ruby of the shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald. Photo courtesy: Durwood A. Sutton Collection/The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.

the jury reconvened following President Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Sutton was long time Grand Prairie banker and community leader. He was born on December 28, 1917, near Waxahachie. He moved to Grand Prairie in 1938. He served in World War II

and was instrumental in the formation of the Dallas County Community College District. He died in 1998 at the age of 80.

Material for this article was provided by Angela Giessner.

History of Religion in Garland Now Available From Garland Landmark Society

Religious Life in Garland Texas (1840-2001), a new book on Garland history, authored by Carr M. Suter, Jr., a DCHC member, has just been released by the Garland Landmark Society. Publication of a limited number of copies has been made possible as a result of a grant from the Garland Cultural Arts Commission.

Religious Life in Garland Texas tells the story of the beginning of Christian life in Garland from the 1840's until

the present. The early religious history of Garland began in a log school building in Central Park, then expanded into what are now the Methodist, Baptist, Christian, and Presbyterian Churches currently in downtown Garland. As Garland blossomed with World War II, other Christian denominations entered the city, and church buildings proliferated. In more recent years many Spanish speaking churches have been added, as well as congregations from Asian

countries, both Christian and non-Christian. Garland now has a church for each 1,000 residents

The story of the changing and developing religious patterns is recounted decade by decade in the first section of this book. The second section lists, by denomination, a total of 390 churches that have been started in Garland, and at least 216 that still function. Brief histo-

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Upcoming Activities at Old City Park

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Member

Old City Park: The Historic village of Dallas is a museum of architectural and cultural history of North Central Texas from 1840 to 1910. It occupies thirteen acres on the south edge of downtown Dallas and consists of nearly forty historic structures. It is open Tuesday through Sunday.



There are nearly 40 historic structures in the park.

May 18, Faces of Dallas will feature many nationalities and cultures that helped settle North Texas. Tours of specific buildings in the museum will tell the story of each group's role in developing Dallas. A variety of entertainment and craft activities will be held.

The difference between Afternoon and High Tea will be demonstrated in the Sullivan House June 15. Visitors can sample types of tea and decorate a bonnet to take home.

On July 4 the park will celebrate an old fashioned Fourth



The Brent Place Restaurant at Old City Park reopened March 15. Lunch is served Tuesday through Saturday from 11 to 2.

of July. The event will include bands, picnics, children's activities and a parade.

Information and pictures for this article were provided by Old City Park.

Fourth Annual Dallas History Conference Set for September 28 at Hyatt Regency

By Michael V. Hazel, *Legacies* Editor

The Fourth Annual Dallas History Conference will be held Saturday, Sept. 28, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel. This year's theme is "Historic Neighborhoods," and papers will examine such communities as The Cedars, Preston Hollow, and Wynnewood, as well as historic parks

and bungalow neighborhoods. A panel will discuss lost or disappearing neighborhoods such as Little Mexico, Eagle Ford, and Twelfth Street. Former Dallas Mayor Adlene Harrison, who was instrumental in creating early zoning ordinances that helped preserve historic neighborhoods, will be the lunch-

eon speaker.

The Dallas County Historical Commission is one of twelve institutional sponsors for the conference. Registration details will be available in the next issue of *The Chronicle*.

Garland History Book

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ries of many of these, never before published, are included. Garland's oldest church is First United Methodist Church, begun in 1855. First Baptist soon followed in 1868. First Christian was started in 1875 and First Presbyterian in 1888. The oldest church building still in use was

built in 1913 by the Rose Hill Christian Church at 1003 Rowlett Road. It is now occupied by the Bethany Apostolic Church. The second oldest, Big Springs Baptist Church, occupies a building it constructed at 6538 North Jupiter in 1919.

Copies of this book are available at the

law office of Randy Wisener, 620 Main Street, for \$10.00, from 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM. They may also be purchased by mail for \$13.00, (which includes postage and handling), from the Garland Landmark Society, 200 Museum Plaza Drive, Garland, Texas 75040. Or, telephone 972-272-9160 and someone will respond to your call.

Rowlett's Coyle House Preservation In Work

By Mike Hayslip, DCHC Member

Preservationists reflexively recoil at the thought of moving vintage structures. But relocation may be the only sensible way to preserve Rowlett's Coyle House and give it second wind as a local heritage center.

Built in 1919 by J. E. Coyle (1882-1975), a legendary cattleman, farmer and cotton ginner, the frame structure reflects the (architectural jabber) style typical of the region in that day. The house itself, landscaping and outbuildings are have been well maintained by Coyle descendents and are prized by Rowlett citizens, who have few other structural links with the city's past. Historians from Hicks and Company, an environmental consulting firm in Austin, believe that the condition of the structures, as well as the prominence of Mr. Coyle and his family gives the homestead potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

But options for extending the President George Bush Turnpike between Garland and Interstate 30 had clouded the future of the Coyle House, now located at 4822 E. Main. The Kirby Road route would have required demolition, while an alternate alignment would have isolated the homestead awkwardly behind a service road.

As a result project planners recommended moving the house and outbuildings to an appropriate location for its preservation as a community facility.



The Coyle House

Future uses envisioned for the restored Coyle homestead included the interpretation of Rowlett's history and life in rural Texas following early settlement and just before the coming of Lake Ray Hubbard and the explosive growth of the Dallas metroplex.

The challenge was to sell the relocation plan to the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Department of Transportation. Fortunately, the Coyle House relocation project was one on which the City

of Rowlett, surrounding property owners and the Coyle family could agree. The Dallas County Historical Commission endorsed the concept for the Dallas County Commissioners Court, which also urged approval.

As a result, the project appears to have a green light. Exploration of the exact routing of the toll way, and possible relocation site of the Coyle House, will continue into 2002.

Garland Map

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trons, whose names appear on a sponsorship panel of the map, also helped underwrite the project.

The Map of Historic Garland will solve some arguments and start others. At only \$2 each maps may be purchased from Potpourri Cottage on the Garland town square or from Landmark members. Mailed copies are \$2.50 each and may be obtained by phoning 972/272-9160 or writing the Landmark Society at 200 Museum Drive, Garland TX 75040.

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The Dallas County Historical Commission is a county board appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners Court. The Dallas County Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the DCHC for historical groups in Dallas County and the general public. This edition was edited by Buddy Frazer and published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Contributions should be sent to Jeff Dunn, via email at jddunn@flash.net, or by mail to Dallas County Historical Commission, 411 Elm Street, 3rd Floor, Dallas, TX 75202-3301. Visit the DCHC on the web at www.dallaschc.org and the Dallas County government website at www.dallascounty.org