



DALLAS COUNTY  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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## Featured Landmark



## SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

The Scottish Rite Cathedral, located at 500 South Harwood in downtown Dallas, was dedicated in 1913, construction having begun in 1906.

It was designed by the firm of J.B. Hubbell and Herbert Greene, who also designed three other Scottish Rite Cathedrals (in San Antonio, El Paso, and Joplin, Missouri, all of which still stand and are still in use). They also designed other buildings in Dallas, a number of which are still with us: the Neiman-Marcus building (still Neiman's), the Tiche-Goettinger building (now the Universities Center at Dallas), the Davy Crockett school on Carroll Avenue (now DISD administrative offices), the First Church of Christ, Scientist (now the Eagle's Nest Cathedral), Hook and Ladder Company #4 (still a fire station in Oak Lawn), and the old Parkland Hospital (restored by Crow Holdings and now housing offices).

### CONTENTS

Scottish Rite Cathedral P.1

Garland Landmark Society P.2

Featured Member Profiles P.4

Bryan's (?) Cabin P.4

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The Cathedral, now more than 100 years old, still serves the mission of the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry, hosting its many meetings and ceremonies. The building is also a center for private events, and is the site of numerous weddings and banquets. In 1978 it was recognized as a City of Dallas Landmark, and in 1980 it received a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker.



The Scottish Rite Cathedral Library



The Green Room

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## Garland Landmark Society

Condensed from an article by Bob Compton

In the early 1970s, Garland's 1901 Santa Fe depot was facing demolition. To save it, then City Manager Charles Duckworth negotiated with the railroad, arranging a swap of the depot for some right-of-way. The City then moved the building a short distance to a spot near the square in downtown Garland.

To manage the depot, and to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret Garland's history, the City Council created the Garland Landmark Society in 1972, and appointed its 9-member Board of Directors.

The Society's first job was to oversee the City's renovation and restoration of the old Depot into the Landmark Museum. Restoration complete, the depot was dedicated on Sunday, September 29, 1974. The ceremony included Mayor Don Raine's official acceptance of a new Texas Recorded Historic Landmark marker, recognizing the role the depot had played in Garland's history.



Several years later, in 1977, the railroad donated a 1910 Pullman car to the City. Society members and volunteers cleaned and spruced the car after it was placed on tracks in front of the depot.



The Garland Square, photographed toward the southeast ca. 1906, hosted farm visitors from miles in every direction as they arrived to do business with local banks and merchants. Several of the structures shown survive, as does the M. D. Williams enterprise, which evolved from a general merchandise store into a funeral home.

The following year saw the small piece of land on which the depot and railcar sat renamed Heritage Park, to which the Lyles House was added in 1979 and the Pace House in 1985.

Also in 1985, the Landmark Society ceased to exist as a government body, and was reborn as a private non-profit. The City, while relinquishing management of the museum, continued to provide for maintenance of the structures.

Through the years the Landmark Society accumulated many artifacts and historic photographs. While a fine museum, the depot was too small to accommodate the entire collection. To extend its outreach and make the collection more accessible, the Society creates a number of

publications:

- The Historic Garland calendar, which commemorates important dates in Garland's history, illustrated with historic photographs. The calendar is furnished to members, and is available for purchase at a number of Garland retail establishments.
- A map of historic Garland, which is also available for purchase.
- The *On Track* quarterly newsletter for members and friends.
- Books on Garland's history, the most recent of which is *Sketches of Kate James*, a memoir of early Garland edited by Garland historian Michael Hayslip.

The most recent outreach effort was the redesign of the Society's website ([www.garlandhistorical.org](http://www.garlandhistorical.org)). The revised site now hosts numerous historic photos, documents, and essays available to everyone.

The Society also assists residents who wish to secure historical markers in the city.

In 2014, more than 40 years after its founding, the Garland Landmark Society is relocating to a more prominent and visible location. The depot and rail car have been moved to a greenspace at Walnut and Sixth Streets, near the Nicholson Library, the DART rail station, and Richland College's Garland campus. The depot has again been restored and received a new foundation, and it is hoped that the rail car will also one day be restored.

The new location signals a new beginning for the Garland Landmark Society, as it strives to preserve and interpret the unique history of Garland, Texas.



Roy Rogers and Smiley Burnette got a special welcome when they visited Garland in 1938 to promote their new picture "Under Western Stars." The film was shown at the Garland Theatre, whose marquee is visible on the left side of Bankhead Avenue, now Main Street. Their route to the welcoming ceremonies on the square took the actors under these banners.

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# Historical Commission Members



**Don Baynham** joined the Historical Commission in 2009, and was appointed Chairman in 2013. He is a past Chairman of the Dallas Historical Society and current Chairman of Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park. He also serves on the Boards of the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture, and, concurrent with his chairmanship of the Commission, the Board of the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.

Don has been employed by Eastfield College for almost 45 years, where he serves as Associate Vice President. Prior to Eastfield he served four years in the United States Air Force, at bases in Texas, Colorado, Virginia, and the Republic of Vietnam.

His hobbies include researching Carnegie Libraries and photographing those still standing. He has been married to Barbara for 46 years. A retiree of Nortel Networks, she is President of the Society for the Preservation of Spring Creek Forest, and serves on the Boards of the North Texas Master Naturalists and the Dallas Heritage Village Guild. They have two daughters and five grandchildren.

**John W. Roppolo** is one of the newest members of the Dallas County Historical Commission. A retired professional fundraiser and public relations practitioner, he worked for many nonprofit organizations in Dallas, including St. Paul Medical Center, Parkland Memorial Hospital, DFW Airport Interfaith Chaplaincy, The Arc, UCP of Metropolitan Dallas, Catholic Charities, The Science Place, and the Museum of Biblical Art.

A native of Waco, he is a graduate of Baylor University. He serves on the boards of the Dallas Winds, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, Metrocrest Services, the Historical Preservation Advisory Commission for the City of Carrollton, and the A. W. Perry Homestead Museum Society. He is a liaison for the Class of 1977 to Leadership Dallas Alumni, and is a member of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Innovators, and the Museum of Biblical Art Guild. He and his wife, Marilyn, are celebrating 50 years of marriage this year and they are parents of four children and grandparents to 11.



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## John Neely Bryan's (well, somebody's) Cabin

Helen Widener

Dallas founder John Neely Bryan built a number of cabins on different properties in Dallas. Representative of those is the one which sits on the Dallas County Historical Plaza between Main and Elm, welcoming all who come to Dallas. This cabin, which in reality is likely composed of parts of several different cabins, is a reminder of our city's beginnings.

The cabin is representative of the one in which the Bryan family lived in 1846; it also served as the post office and as a temporary courthouse when Dallas County was created and organized. By 1847 Dallas had a real courthouse: a 16' X 16' log building, located where Old Red is now. It would serve until 1855 when it was replaced by a two story brick version.

Over the years the cabin has been moved and re-assembled a number of times. All the logs in the cabin are of the era the cabin was first built, but the probability that all of the logs are from a single cabin is low. According to an article in the Dallas Morning News of October 1, 1935, a cabin that had once belonged to John Neely Bryan was donated to Dallas County by the Buckner Orphans Home. The Texas Centennial Exposition, which would open the following year, acquired it and several other cabins for an Exposition display. Different versions exist of what came next, but the upshot is that the cabin on the Plaza is not Bryan's.

The next time you're passing The Dallas County Historical Plaza, stop by the cabin, and just imagine what it was like to live in one tiny room without electricity, water, air conditioning, or the Internet.

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## The Dallas County Chronicle

The Dallas County Historical Commission is a County board appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners Court. The Dallas County Chronicle is a publication of the DCHC for historical groups in Dallas County and the general public. This issue was edited by Don Baynham and Rick Loessberg. Articles should be sent to:

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