

**DMAHL Statement on the
Destruction of the Historic Barrow Family Service Station
in the Los Altos barrio of West Dallas**

The Dallas Mexican American Historical League is dismayed to learn that the service station and family home of Clyde Barrow – part of the infamous ‘Bonnie & Clyde’ crime duo – was torn down on April 20, 2022. The structure, situated at the southern edge of the Los Altos barrio, was demolished by a developer who purchased the property in 2020. The site was undergoing the city’s landmark process and was bulldozed as soon as the two-year moratorium had expired.

West Dallas has a rich history written by the colorful and diverse people who have populated the area since the Southwestern States Portland Cement Company first arrived to build its cement plant and company town in Eagle Ford in 1907. Since then, it’s become the home of Mexican immigrants escaping war, Black Texans seeking a safer and more tolerant community, tireless workers, underdogs with grit, and dreamers whose relentless ambitions built the barrio. Notorious depression-era outlaws Bonnie and Clyde were just two of those people and, for nearly a century, the Barrow family service station had been a fixture in this community – a reminder of our rugged past and how far we’ve come. For many, it was also a point of pride; one of the many significant national landmarks (designated or not) that attracted people to the neighborhood from across the city and around the globe. Now, this important piece of our past has been lost forever.

It is no secret that West Dallas is experiencing a major transformation. Significant investment is flowing into the community - but this investment comes at a major cost to the families who have lived there for generations, many of whom still live in the endangered historic barrios that dot the area. As an organization that seeks to preserve the history and cultural contributions of Mexican Americans and its barrios across the region, we feel a strong and inherent responsibility to express our distress at this important piece of our city’s past. We echo calls for the city manager and city attorney to investigate this matter further and hope this tragedy begins an important conversation about how to streamline the landmark designation process and better protect historical sites.

We must also urgently turn our focus to ensuring the preservation of the Lillie McBride home, another depression-era landmark with significant historical value to the Los Altos community - and just a few hundred yards from the now-leveled Barrow service station and family home. If we have learned anything from this incredible loss, it’s that there is no time to waste.

To read the full statement, visit www.dmahl.org. You can follow DMAHL on Twitter and Instagram at @dmahlofficial or on Facebook by searching: Dallas Mexican American Historical League.

If you would like to join DMAHL in the fight to preserve our city's historical sites, please contact Rosemary Hinojosa, DMAHL board member and City of Dallas Landmark Commissioner of District 6 at rrhinojosa@att.net.

###