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New FedEx hub lands on site of landmark Big Town mall in Mesquite



Steve Brown

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A Mesquite property with a storied past will be the site of a major new distribution hub.

FedEx will locate a large regional distribution center on the former site of the Big Town shopping center on U.S. Highway 80 near Buckner Boulevard.

The development tract was previously the site of the Dallas-area's first shopping mall, which opened in 1959.

Big Town mall was demolished in 2006 and the property rezoned for industrial construction.

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“It will take up most of the site,” Rohrman said. “We’ll have the building finished by December.

“But they are installing an automated sorting facility which will take six months or longer to get running,” he said. “FedEx probably won’t start operations until September of next year.”

The facility will employ about 500.

FedEx chose the site because of its location at the intersection of Interstate-30 and U.S. 80 which is also close to LBJ Freeway.

Rohrman’s firm will own the building and lease it long term to FedEx.

“We are developing in 15 states for FedEx,” he said.

The first enclosed shopping center of its kind in the state, Big Town originally had Sanger Bros., Montgomery Ward and JC Penney department stores.

At one time there was a small amusement center, bowling alley and movie theater on the property.

Big Town’s business declined after construction of newer and larger shopping centers in the area.

In 2005 after the shopping center had closed it would temporarily used to house people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

A Dallas real estate partnership bought the mall site in 2012.

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When Big Town opened in 1959 it was the first enclosed shopping mall in Texas. (DMN files)

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