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DOWNTOWN ARLINGTON



Contractors complete the showroom of the renovated original Vandergriff Chevrolet dealership building Thursday. The dedication of the Division Street building is today.

STAR-TELEGRAM/MAX FAULKNER

Historic dealership building reopens today with exhibit

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The historic Vandergriff Chevrolet dealership building officially reopens today as part of downtown Arlington's first multiuse, urban-redevelopment project. An exhibit on Arlington and the original Vandergriff Chevrolet dealership building will be on display. The Hooker Vandergriff dealership was housed there from 1940 to 1972.

SCM Real Estate Services of Arlington bought the vacant 1927 building in May 2006 and began renovating it last year for office space. SCM Real Estate plans to occupy the second floor as its new headquarters.

"We're especially pleased to see good people like Gary Walker and his SCM team helping to preserve a piece of Arlington that holds a unique sentiment in our family and for many early leaders of Arlington," former Arlington Mayor Tom Vandergriff said in a news release. "The V symbolized a lot of the same teamwork, vision and economic development that we have in today's community."

In 2006, developers opened the 30,000-square-foot Vandergriff Town Center at Mesquite and Center streets, adjacent to the Vandergriff building.

By the numbers

1927 Year Vandergriff Chevrolet dealership building built
1940-1972 Years the Vandergriff dealership operated there

1994 Year the city bought the vacant building from Hooker Vandergriff's son Tom Vandergriff. It was sold to the nonprofit Arlington Foundation Town Center four years later, then to various private developers without major improvements.

\$75,000 Appraised value
\$250,000 Estimated price a developer paid for the building in 2003

\$1.5 million Estimated renovation cost

\$360,000 Amount of city funds the developer has requested for improvements