

A Guide to the Sears #1814 Fair Oaks Mall Scrapbook, 1979-1988

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A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 02-13

Title Statement

A Guide to the Sears #1814 Fair Oaks Mall Scrapbook, 1979-1988

Subtitle: Sears #1814 Fair Oaks Mall Scrapbook

Collection: MSS 02-13

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid created by Ross Landis, December 2, 2023

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Record Group Number

MSS 02-13

Language

English

Abstract

The Sears #1814 Fair Oaks Mall Scrapbook spans the years 1979-1988, and contains photographs, an employee handbook, a newspaper advertisement, and a flyer.

Creator

Sears #1814 employees

Extent

0.5 linear feet

Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

None

Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Oliver Peters in May 2019.

Processing Information

Chris Barbuschak, May 2019

EAD generated by Ross Landis, 2023

Preferred Citation

Sears #1814 Fair Oaks Mall Scrapbook, MSS 02-13, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

None

Related Material

None

Historical and Biographical Information

On June 14, 1976, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors rezoned 138.5 acres to permit construction of a shopping mall at the intersection of Route 50 and Interstate 66, the site of the Pinecrest No. 2 golf course. The developer, Taubman Co., planned for a 1.3 million square-foot shopping mall with two levels containing five department stores and 100 individual shops. Taubman Co. named their shopping center Fair Oaks Mall and opened it during an economic recession on Thursday, July 28, 1980. The mall had four original anchor department stores: Hecht's, J.C. Penney, Woodward & Lothrop, and Sears.

Sears #1814 opened on Fair Oaks Mall's first day of operation. S. David Whipkey supervised Sears #1814 as its first manager. The two-level store comprised of 230,000 square feet and it was located on the west side of the mall. The store had an auto service center, beauty salon, photo studio, and over fifty departments.

On Monday, July 19, 1982, Sears opened an experimental financial service center in the Fair Oaks Mall store. It was one of eight Sears in the country to get full-service in-store branches of Allstate, Dean Witter, and Coldwell Banker. The financial service center sold stocks, mutual funds, bonds, and insurance.

Beginning in the 1990s, Sears began a slow decline, and by 2010, the company was no longer profitable. On December 6, 2017, the Fair Oaks Mall Sears held a grand reopening after more than a year of renovating the store into half of its former size. The store abandoned its second floor and consolidated into a smaller store on the first floor reducing its departments and merchandise. On August 23, 2018, Sears Holdings Corporation announced that the Fair Oaks Mall store was among 46 Sears and Kmart stores that would be closed. Liquidation sales at the store began on August 30, 2018, and the store closed for good after 38 years of operation on November 25, 2018.

Scope and Content

The Sears #1814 Fair Oaks Mall Scrapbook spans the years 1979-1988, and contains photographs, an employee handbook, a newspaper advertisement, and a flyer. Sears #1814 employees started creating a photobook at the time of the store's opening in 1980. When the store closed in 2018, former employee Oliver Peters rescued the photobooks and reassembled them into this scrapbook. Photographs depict the construction of Fair Oaks Mall in Fairfax County, Virginia; the store's grand opening floor display; 1980 Christmas display; 1st year anniversary picnic at Lyn Marsh Farms in Gainesville, Virginia; 1981 Western Wear Kickoff; Sears Days Contest; 1981 Sears Management Team; 1982 Sears Days Breakfast; 1982 Home Improvement Skit; 1982 Sears Days Candlelight Dinner; 1983 Holiday Dinner; Changing of the Guard ceremony between managers S.D. Whipkey to E.W. Waters; 1984 Blood Drive and Awards Luncheon; 1985 Sears #1814 Softball Team; 1986 Ray Goddard's Pie-in-the-Face; 1988 Sam Paladino Management Team; award and tenure ceremonies; and unidentified Sears employees.

Index Terms

Fair Oaks (Va.)

Fair Oaks Mall

Fairfax (Va.)

Sears, Roebuck and Company

Shopping malls - Virginia - Fairfax County

Container List

Box 1: Sears #1814 Fair Oaks Mall Scrapbook, 1979-1988

Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library