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### Restaurant's demolition signals end of landmark

By [DAN WALLACH](#), The Enterprise

A longtime Beaumont landmark is gone and the building's demolition wipes clean a location along Calder Avenue, which itself is to be torn up and rebuilt in the next two to three years.

The Three Amigos restaurant, 1716 Calder Ave., replaced the longtime Felix Mexican Restaurant, which might have been Beaumont's first such south-of-the-border eatery when it opened in the 1940s at Calder and First Street.

Crews were finishing up their work Tuesday after Hurricane Rita started the building on its path to demolition on Sept. 24, 2005.

Cynthia Loza, who owned a similarly named restaurant at 3035 College St, opened her second Three Amigos at the former Felix location in April 1998.



Andrew Nenque/The Enterprise  
An excavator clears debris from what was once the Three Amigos Mexican Restaurant on Calder Avenue Tuesday in Beaumont. The eatery had replaced the longtime Felix Mexican Restaurant.

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She did not return a telephone call placed to her home Tuesday. A woman who identified herself as Loza's mother said she would relay an interview request.

In an interview with The Enterprise in 1998, Loza said she had bought the College Street property from its former owner who carried the note for her, and did the same with the Felix location.

Felix Tijerina Jr., son of the original Felix who opened Mexican food restaurants in Houston and the one in Beaumont, had told The Enterprise then he would carry the \$150,000 note on the Beaumont property for Loza.

The current property owner is Makas Management, said Waleed Khan, a company representative.

Khan said Makas acquired the property from a bank and plans to sell it.

The city of Beaumont undertook the demolition after an asbestos abatement, said Public Works Director Tom Warner.

He said demolitions usually are packaged in groups of eight or 10 for a single contractor and the city usually charges the property owner for his or her portion.

The city plans to perform a major reconstruction of Calder from the Neches River to where Calder rejoins Phelan Boulevard west of West Lucas Drive. The work involves installation of drainage boxes that will divert storm water runoff to the Neches River, relieving ditches that now take flood water to drainage ditches that flow south along the west side of Interstate 10.

The improvement project will start next year and take two to three years to complete. The first phase of it begins at the river and works westward, so the former Three Amigos property will be one of the earliest to be affected.

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