

Pioneer Library System buys Norman Borders building

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The empty Borders Books & Music store in Norman. (Photo by Maïke Sabolich)

NORMAN – The Pioneer Library System has acquired a big-box retail store that housed Borders Books & Music until earlier this year for \$1.6 million.

The building’s location at 301 Norman Center Ct. on a side street off Ed Noble Parkway and W. Main Street made it less attractive to other retailers, said Karleen Krywucki, a broker for Price Edwards & Co. who negotiated the deal on behalf of the seller, Farmington, Mich.-based Agree Realty Corp.

“It isn’t the most visible location because it’s not on the main road, so we thought it might lend itself to medical offices or some other use,” Krywucki said.

Eric Fleske of Equity Realty Inc. negotiated the deal on behalf of the buyer.

Pioneer, which operates 10 libraries in Cleveland, McClain and Pottawatomie counties, plans to use the 25,000-square-foot Borders building to house its service center and administrative offices. The library system is also in talks with Norman city officials to potentially open a new branch library in the building, said Christian Potts, a spokesman for Pioneer.

“It was a really good opportunity for us to do something with it, and we hope it will be a versatile location for us,” Potts said.

Pioneer is working with an architect to examine how best to retrofit the space, he said.

Borders Group Inc. announced in July that it would close all of its remaining 399 stores after a buyer for the bankrupt company failed to emerge. The Norman Borders was the troubled bookseller’s last location in the state.