

**AG**

Darcy Mantel

**Brand Story**

In 1997 Barbara Fite combined her two loves, antiques and gardening. She wanted to share her love with the local community, so her and her daughter Mariah opened their first store at an antique mall in downtown Norman selling furniture and vintage items. After some amazing but unexpected success, they decided to upgrade to a location on Campus Corner in 2003, which became their passion, Antique Garden.

 The location made them well-known. Being next to campus gave them a lot of customers, but after many years, the pressure of competing with online stores became apparent. Antique Garden was one of the first to really get hit by the decline in brick and mortar sales because of the online scene among college students.

Online shopping is convenient and in some cases can save you money. But since 2012, the number of online shoppers has only gone up, leaving Antique Garden with with a significant lower number of shoppers in store.

Barbara and Mariah are so incredibly thankful for their customers who have kept up with them for the last 20 years and they owe their success to them. After many years of trying basically everything, it breaks Barb’s heart to announce the closing of the store. She thinks the hardest thing about all of this will be not constantly working with her daughter. They have a bond now that will never be broken, but the store will definitely be taking a piece of their hearts.

There has been such a big sense of community that has come along with the store and that will be dearly missed. Antique Garden customers have been their family and support and Barb and Mariah can’t thank them enough for shopping small with them all these years.