



FACT SHEET

The Museum

- The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza opened on Presidents Day in 1989 to chronicle the life, death, and legacy of President John F. Kennedy.
- The permanent exhibition, “John F. Kennedy and the Memory of a Nation,” features hundreds of photographs, documentary films, and artifacts regarding the early 1960s, the events of November 22-25, 1963, the world’s response to the assassination of President Kennedy, major investigations, and President Kennedy's legacy.
- Important areas of the permanent exhibition include two preserved areas – the sniper’s perch and the staircase where a rifle and clipboard were found – as well as original cameras used by assassination witnesses and a model of Dealey Plaza created by the FBI and used by the Warren Commission.
- The Museum has a diverse and growing collection of over 25,000 items, one of the world’s largest and most important sources of visual, audio, documentary, and artifactual documentation of the assassination and legacy of President Kennedy.
- The Museum’s holdings include three-dimensional artifacts, manuscripts and documents, photographic materials, historic film, video, and audio, newspapers and magazines, and oral histories.
- Special exhibitions, events, and public programs are held on the seventh floor.
- The Museum Store offers a wide selection of books and videos related to presidential history, collectibles, newspaper reprints, and gift items. The Store is open during regular Museum hours.
- The Museum offers more than 4,000 square feet of space for corporate meetings, business receptions, and similar events.

Hours

- The Museum is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday.

Admission

- Admission, which includes an audio guide of the permanent exhibition, is \$13.50 for adults and \$12.50 for seniors (65+) and youth (6-18); children five and under are free or \$3.50 with audio. Discounts are offered for groups of 20 or more people.

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The Site

- The Museum is housed on the sixth and seventh floors of a former warehouse known in 1963 as the Texas School Book Depository. Built in 1901, the red brick structure is now known as the Dallas County Administration Building.
- Dealey Plaza, a city park built in the 1930s as a vehicular gateway to downtown Dallas, is adjacent to the Museum building. Named for civic leader George Bannerman Dealey, the park is where President Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, as his motorcade traveled west on Elm Street and went past the Depository.
- The Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark District, designated in 1993, encompasses the plaza and surrounding buildings, the triple underpass and bridge, and a part of the rail yards north of Elm Street, including the railroad switching tower.
- A well-known feature of Dealey Plaza is the grassy knoll, which rises from the north side of Elm Street to the edge of the stockade fence.

Visitors

- Average annual attendance exceeds 325,000.

Location

- 411 Elm (northwest corner of Elm and Houston Streets in West End Historic District of downtown), Dallas, TX 75202
- General telephone: 214-747-6660
- General email: jfk@jfk.org
- Web Site: www.jfk.org

Mission Statement

- The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza chronicles the assassination and legacy of President John F. Kennedy; interprets and supports the Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark District and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza; and presents contemporary culture within the context of presidential history.



MUSEUM HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

- 1977 Dallas County becomes caretaker of a historic site on the western edge of downtown Dallas, an early 20th century warehouse known on November 22, 1963, as the Texas School Book Depository. The sixth floor of the building remains untouched since Lee Harvey Oswald allegedly perched with a rifle in the southeast corner window on that November day.
- 1979 Dallas County secures a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) with the help of Lindalyn Adams, chairman of the Dallas County Historical Foundation, and Conover Hunt, a museum specialist sent by the State of Texas. The NEH study panel recommends the sixth floor become the site of a major historical exhibition. County commissioners approve the recommendation in April 1979.
- 1983 A non-profit organization, the Dallas County Historical Foundation, is created to raise funds for the \$3.5 million museum and to oversee its operations. Adams is the Foundation's first chairman and leads the struggle for public support.
- 1987 Newly elected Dallas County Judge Lee Jackson pledges to bring the project to completion.
- 1988 Dallas County Commissioners advances the Historical Foundation \$2.2 million to complete restoration of the building's sixth floor and to construct a new visitors center.
- 1989 After raising the remaining \$1.3 million from private corporations, foundations, and citizens, the Historical Foundation opens the Museum on February 20, Presidents Day.
- 1993 The Secretary of the Interior formally designates the assassination site as a National Historic Landmark on October 12. On November 22, Nellie Connally returns to Dealey Plaza to dedicate the bronze landmark plaque before a crowd of 6,000.
- 2002 The Museum completes renovation of the seventh floor as a flexible exhibition and event space on Presidents Day.
- 2004 The Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums.



COLLECTION OVERVIEW

The Museum currently has more than 25,000 items in its collections, including newspapers, photographs, books and magazines, video and audio tapes, and other documentary materials.

Amateur Film and Photographic Collections

These collections, combined with news media collections described below, represent the largest single source for still and moving images related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy outside of the major broadcast networks and the National Archives. Items include films of Kennedy's trip to Texas in November 1963 and historic still photographs of Dealey Plaza, Love Field, and the Texas School Book Depository. Among the materials available for viewing and licensing are films by Abraham Zapruder, Orville Nix, Robert Hughes, Elsie Dorman, Jackie Tindel, Pat Sanders, Keith Griffith, George Reid, Jack Jernigan, and Frank Marotta; slides by Phil Willis; and still photos taken by Jay Skaggs, Dorothy Murphy, and Robert Russell among others.

***Dallas Times Herald* Collection**

The *Dallas Times Herald* Collection consists of nearly 700 images of the assassination weekend and beyond. All come from the newspaper's photographers' original negatives, and only a few were published by the newspaper. This collection includes many unique and crucial images such as the last three of only seven known images of the "tramps," images which were donated to the Museum two years before the newspaper closed.

Tom Dillard Collection

Consisting of mostly unpublished images, this collection includes approximately 250 original negatives of photographs taken by *The Dallas Morning News* chief photographer over the assassination weekend. The photographs show President and Mrs. Kennedy at Dallas Love Field airport, a bullet mark on the Main Street curb that led to the "single bullet" theory, Lee Harvey Oswald in police custody and, from 1964, Marina Oswald and her two daughters.

KDFW, KTVT and WFAA Collections

Donated by three local TV stations, these collections contain over 250 hours of local news coverage of the Kennedy assassination. The KDFW collection of news film, video and audio tapes, preserved by CBS-affiliated KRLD television and radio, includes coverage from the morning of the assassination through the 1964 Jack Ruby trial and resulting appeals. The KTVT collection includes video of President Kennedy's last speech in Fort Worth on November 22, 1963, and the aftermath of the assassination at Parkland Hospital. The WFAA collection includes video, film, and audio coverage of President Kennedy's arrival in Fort Worth on November 21, 1963, through Jack Ruby's death in 1967. The collections also feature most of the assassination weekend radio coverage offered by radio stations KRLD, WFAA, and KLIF.

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John F. Kennedy Funeral Ephemera Collection

Purchased at auction from the collection of Sanford L. Fox, Chief of the Social Entertainment Office and Director of Protocol for the White House, 1960-1974, this collection consists of materials from the office that produced all invitations, menus, place cards, escort cards, and programs for White House and State occasions, including the funeral of President Kennedy. It includes documents related to the planning of the President's funeral—some with handwritten notations by Mrs. Kennedy, an official invitation to the funeral, and a seating chart and narrative of events for the funeral services.

Various other collections in the Museum's holdings include Kennedy funeral mass cards, memorial service programs from various locations, recordings and transcripts of sermons and memorial services, and other memorial items.

Julia Knecht Collection

The Knecht Collection contains several thousand items related to the political climate in Dallas in the 1960s and the Kennedy assassination investigations. All materials were collected by Julia Knecht, the personal assistant to Major General Edwin Walker, a controversial and conservative Army general who retired in 1961 at President Kennedy's request for indoctrinating his troops. Two years later, Walker was allegedly shot at by Lee Harvey Oswald.

Library Collection

The Museum's extensive library includes nearly 4,000 books (some 2,800 different titles) covering subjects related to the Kennedy family, President John F. Kennedy and his assassination, presidential history, Dallas history, and various other topics. All publications in the library are available for research use onsite.

Newspaper Collections

The Museum archives over 4,000 newspapers relating to the assassination. Newspapers in these collections are from towns and cities throughout the United States. The Don Coleman Collection includes over 200 newspapers and documents from 25 countries in 16 languages.

The Orville Nix Film

The Nix film, produced with a Keystone 8mm Auto-Zoom camera, is considered the second most important film depicting the assassination. The FBI used the Nix film to study the assassination and the Warren Commission reproduced six frames.

Parkland Hospital Collection

Comprised of records from the Dallas county hospital where President Kennedy was taken for treatment immediately after the assassination, the collection contains original medical records related to the treatment of President Kennedy, as well as Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby. This collection also includes records of the autopsy report on police officer J.D. Tippit.

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Passage Productions Collection

This collection consists of approximately 35 hours of original, uncut interviews with many key witnesses and researchers compiled by producer/director Chip Selby for his documentary, "The Warren Commission," which premiered on The History Channel on November 22, 1999. Among the 26 interview subjects are David Belin, G. Robert Blakey, Anthony Summers, Josiah Thompson, Dr. Cyril Wecht, Harold Weisberg, and former President Gerald R. Ford.

The Jay Skaggs Collection

Featuring 20 color slides made by amateur photographer Jay Skaggs in Dealey Plaza just before and in the minutes following the Kennedy assassination, this collection was donated by Skaggs, who followed investigators around Dealey Plaza immediately after the shooting and periodically took pictures. Believing his photos were unimportant, since they did not show the actual shooting, the images are of great historical significance and may someday answer questions about the tragic event.

Marvin Scott Collection

This collection, donated by veteran print and broadcast journalist Marvin Scott, consists of original audio interviews with witnesses Abraham Zapruder, Marilyn Sitzman, Roy Truly, Peter Geilich, Penn Jones and others, including Muhammad Ali, recorded in Dallas in November 1966.

Jack Ruby Trial Collections

These collections include documents, correspondence, memoirs, and trial-related personal effects of the presiding judge, Joe B. Brown, and the handwritten diaries of three jurors, J. Waymon Rose, Allen McCoy, and jury foreman Max E. Causey. Other collections include original courtroom sketches by KRLD-TV staff artists Chuck Fisher and Gary Artzt as well as an original set of trial transcripts and assorted Ruby-related documents from the Dallas County District Clerk Collection.

Various other collections in the Museum's holdings include material relating to the life and death of Jack Ruby such as memorabilia from the Carousel Club and letters and Christmas cards sent to Jack Ruby at Parkland Hospital in December 1966 shortly before his death.

Wire Service Copy Collections

These collections, acquired from seven individual donors, include news wire copy and bulletins from the Associated Press, United Press International, and Dow Jones services. Together, these ticker tapes represent nearly complete coverage from the first bulletins about the assassination on November 22, 1963, through the President's funeral on November 25, 1963.

The Abraham Zapruder Film

The Abraham Zapruder home movie of the Kennedy assassination is the only known film of the entire assassination. A silent 8mm color record of the Kennedy motorcade just before, during,

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and immediately after the shooting, it is considered the most important film showing the assassination in the Museum's permanent collection. The two major investigations into the assassination, the Warren Commission in 1963-1964 and House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1977-1978, relied on it to answer questions about how the shooting happened.