



THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM AT DEALEY PLAZA

History of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza

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Books

Abbott, Arlinda. *Dealey Plaza: The Front Door of Dallas*. Dallas, Tex.: The Sixth Floor Museum, 2003.

Fagin, Stephen. *Assassination and Commemoration*. Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013.

Hunt-Jones, Conover. *Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark, Dallas, Texas*. Dallas, Tex.: The Sixth Floor Museum, 1997.

Hunt, Conover. *JFK for a New Generation*. Dallas, Tex.: The Sixth Floor Museum and Southern Methodist University Press, 1996.

Hunt, Conover. *The Sixth Floor: John F. Kennedy and the Memory of a Nation*. Dallas, Tex.: Dallas County Historical Foundation, 1989.

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. *The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza*. Virginia: Donning, 2013.

Articles

Abbott, Arlinda. "Dealey Plaza: birthplace, pride and shame of Dallas." *American History* Dec. 2003.

Floyd, Candice. "Too Close for Comfort: Museum Professionals find that Collecting the Recent Past is a Delicate and Sometimes Dangerous Endeavor." *History News* Sep. 1985.

Moore, Jonathan. "Open window to history: A look back at the improbably conservation of the Texas School Book Depository." *Texas Architects*. Nov. /Dec. 2008

West, Jeff. "Wiser Heads Prevailed." *American History* Dec. 2003.

Video

JFK: Breaking the News. KERA and The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, 2003.

Lambert, James K. *From That Moment On*. University of North Texas, 2004.

[Never commercially released, James Lambert's two-hour documentary traces, in some detail, the history of Dealey Plaza and the Museum.]

Mathews, Quin. *City of Hate: Dallas and the Assassination*. Quin Mathews Films. 2013.

Mondell, Allen. *Films from the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza: John F. Kennedy and the Memory of a Nation*. The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, 2003.

Collections

The Museum's Collection provides audio, visual, documentary resources, and artifacts related to the history and formation of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. Artifacts and documents include audio tour equipment, architectural designs, exhibit designs, newspaper clippings, letters and photographs. Audio and video recordings include oral history interviews and recordings of special programs and events over the years.

Please visit our [online collections database](#) for more information. For research assistance, please contact the Reading Room at readingroom@jfk.org or (214) 741-6660 ext. 6646.

Oral Histories

For more information about the [Oral History Collection](#)

Lindalyn Adams

Chairman emeritus of the Dallas County Historical Foundation board of directors, Adams was one of the key figures in establishing The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. Recorded January 15, 1997.

Lillian Bradshaw

Head of the Dallas Public Library System throughout the 1960s, Bradshaw was an original board member of the Dallas County Historical Foundation. As a longtime community leader, she was instrumental in obtaining funding for the Museum. Recorded May 11, 1998.

Charles A. Briggs

The former executive director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Briggs spent one year working on research for The Sixth Floor project in the Washington, D.C., offices of exhibition designers Bob Staples and Barbara Charles. Recorded February 16, 2009.

Rodger Burson

A longtime architect, Burson worked on the first phase of the adaptive reuse of the Texas School Book Depository building after it was purchased by Dallas County in 1978. Recorded February 13, 2002.

Barbara Charles

Interviewed with her partner, Robert Staples, Charles was part of the design team for The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza's permanent exhibition, "John F. Kennedy and the Memory of a Nation." Recorded August 30, 1994.

Nancy Cheney

One of the Dallas County Historical Foundation's original board members, Cheney had close ties to the Kennedy family. Recorded December 1, 1994.

John Clark

A longtime maintenance manager with Dallas County, Clark has worked with county-owned buildings in the Dealey Plaza area since 1981. He was involved in air conditioning, lighting, and other facilities work during the early days of The Sixth Floor exhibition. Recorded October 25, 2010.

William E. Collins

A local attorney in Dallas, Collins was one of the Dallas County Historical Foundation's original board members. Recorded June 12, 1997.

William Cooper

The head of Dallas Market Hall, which included the Trade Mart, Cooper was one of the Dallas County Historical Foundation's original board members. Recorded March 30, 1994.

Joe Dealey

President of the *Dallas Morning News* in 1963, Dealey was later one of the original board members of the Dallas County Historical Foundation and a longtime supporter of The Sixth Floor Museum. Recorded May 19, 1994.

Robert W. Decherd

Chairman, president, and CEO of Belo Corp., Decherd played an important role in raising funds and obtaining local acceptance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Recorded March 2, 2001.

Dr. Paul Geisel

Professor emeritus at the School of Urban/Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington, Geisel was a consultant to the Dallas County Historical Foundation during the planning of The Sixth Floor exhibit. In the months after the exhibit opened, he conducted a visitor reaction survey. Recorded September 5, 2008.

Eugene George

George served as the restoration architect for The Sixth Floor exhibit and was charged with ensuring the historical integrity of the former Texas School Book Depository building during the design and construction of the exhibit. He remained an active member of the project team from 1978 to 1989. Recorded September 11, 2008.

Robert Groden

A longtime assassination researcher and author of several books, including JFK: The Case for Conspiracy (1976) and High Treason (1989), Groden served as an advisor during the planning of the original Sixth Floor exhibit. Recorded June 30, 1994.

Robert Hays

Former executive director of the Dallas County Historical Foundation, Hays guided The Sixth Floor Museum through its early years of development. Recorded March 25, 1993.

James L. Hendricks

A fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Hendricks was the principal architect responsible for the adaptive reuse of the Texas School Book Depository building after it was purchased by Dallas County in 1978. He later designed the original Visitor Center and exterior elevator shaft for The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. Recorded September 19 and December 1, 2008.

Carl Henry

A Kennedy assassination researcher and memorabilia collector since the 1970s, Henry served as a researcher and consultant for The Sixth Floor Museum for several years. Recorded February 12, 1998.

Conover Hunt

Hunt served as the original project director and curator for the Dallas County Historical Foundation and was instrumental in the planning, research and content of The Sixth Floor Museum's permanent

exhibition. Hunt is the author of the Museum's official guidebook and *JFK for a New Generation* (1996). Recorded on March 26, 2003, and February 16, 2009.

Judge Lee F. Jackson

A former Dallas County judge, Jackson played an important role in making The Sixth Floor Museum a reality and remains a vocal supporter and prominent community leader. In 1991, he actively opposed Oliver Stone's request to film scenes for *JFK* inside the Museum on the sixth floor of the former Texas School Book Depository. Recorded January 12, 2001.

Martin Jurow

The producer of such films as *Breakfast at Tiffany's* (1961) and *The Pink Panther* (1963), Jurow was the executive producer of The Sixth Floor Museum's films and worked with documentary filmmakers Allen and Cynthia Mondell. Recorded May 12, 1993.

David Kilbourn

The first member of The Sixth Floor Museum's security personnel, Kilbourn retired after almost a decade of service. Recorded June 22, 1998.

James Lambert

A former graduate student at the University of North Texas, Lambert spent two years compiling and producing a feature-length documentary on the history of Dealey Plaza, the Kennedy assassination, and The Sixth Floor Museum. His interest in the assassination was initially inspired by Oliver Stone's 1991 film *JFK*. Recorded August 23, 2005.

Dr. Glenn M. Linden

A longtime associate professor of history at Southern Methodist University, Linden was one of the founding board members of the Dallas County Historical Foundation. A prolific writer on the Civil War, he was also the author of *Desegregating Schools in Dallas: Four Decades in the Federal Courts* (1995). Recorded August 4, 1997, May 24, 2006, and June 9, 2008.

Jackie McElhaney

In 1963, McElhaney was a recent graduate of Southern Methodist University and was working at the university when she decided to go with friends to see the presidential motorcade. Years later, as a Dallas historian, she worked on photographic research for The Sixth Floor exhibition. Recorded February 23, 1995, and June 11, 2009.

Allen and Cynthia Mondell

Award-winning documentarians, the Mondells wrote, produced and directed the films seen in the permanent exhibition at The Sixth Floor Museum. Allen Mondell was working as a member of the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone at the time of the assassination. Recorded June 13, 2002, and May 18, 2007.

Dr. Marian Ann Montgomery

Montgomery was the first director of interpretation at The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza and worked at the institution from 1994 to 1999. A fashion historian, she was given the rare opportunity to examine Jacqueline Kennedy's famous pink suit in the National Archives. Recorded November 22, 1996, and December 12, 2008.

Frances Moreno-Randle

Moreno-Randle was part of a large Hispanic community in Brownsville, Texas, at the time of the Kennedy assassination. She waited in line on the morning of February 20, 1989, to be among the first visitors to experience The Sixth Floor exhibit. Recorded July 1, 2010.

Dr. James W. Pennebaker

Currently a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, Pennebaker was a social psychologist at Southern Methodist University in the 1980s. In that capacity, he conducted a series of studies in cooperation with the Dallas County Historical Foundation regarding the emotional impact of President Kennedy's assassination. Some of his findings were published in his book *Opening Up* (1990). Recorded October 17, 2008.

Bob Porter

A theater critic and columnist for the *Dallas Times Herald*, Porter was acquainted with Jack Ruby. From 1992 to 2001, Porter supervised the Oral History Project and handled public relations for The Sixth Floor Museum. Recorded January 26, 1993.

Meg Read

A former member of the Dallas County Historical Foundation's board of directors, Read played a primary role in obtaining historic landmark recognition for the Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark District. Recorded May 3, 1995.

C. Judson Shook

Former director of public works for Dallas County, Shook played a crucial role in preserving the former Texas School Book Depository building by having the county purchase it. Recorded August 13, 1992.

Robert Staples

Interviewed with his partner, Barbara Charles, Staples was part of the design team for The Sixth Floor Museum's permanent exhibition, "John F. Kennedy and the Memory of a Nation." Recorded August 30, 1994.

Sanford Williams

A 16-year employee of The Sixth Floor Museum, Williams supervised Museum facilities from 1990 to 2006. At the time of the assassination, he was a waiter in Detroit, Michigan. Recorded August 10, 2006.

Wes Wise

Mayor of Dallas from 1971 to 1976, Wise in 1963 was a reporter for KRLD-TV in Dallas and president of the Dallas Press Club. He spoke with Jack Ruby in Dealey Plaza the day after the assassination. Previously, in October 1963, Wise captured on film the famous attack on U.N. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson in Dallas. From 1992 to 1997, Wise served as a consultant and primary interviewer for the Museum's Oral History Project. Recorded January 26, 1993, November 22, 1998, September 22, 2005, November 1, 2007, and November 20, 2008.

Adah Leah Wolf

The first full-time staff member hired by the Dallas County Historical Foundation in 1987, Wolf was assistant project director for The Sixth Floor exhibit. She continued to work for the foundation until 1990. Recorded May 11, 2009.

Memory Book

The Memory Book are pages of memories or reflections signed by visitors since the Museum opened on President's Day in 1989. Currently digitized and accessible through the Reading Room are pages from 2004-present and various dignitaries. Other accessible pages are from the following dates:

- Museum Opening- President's Day 1989
- Death of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis - May 19, 1994
- Oklahoma City Bombing - April 19, 1995
- Death of John F. Kennedy Jr. - July 16, 1999
- September 11, 2001

Online Memory Book pages can be found at <http://www.jfk.org/go/about/memory-book>. These entries do not include pages from the physical Memory Book in the Museum. For more information, please contact the Reading Room at (214) 747-6660 or ReadingRoom@jfk.org.

YouTube

[The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza Channel](#)

[Assassination and Commemoration: A Conversation](#)

A special program featuring a conversation between the Museum's two key founders, preservation activist Lindalyn Adams and historian Conover Hunt, and Stephen Fagin, the Museum's Associate Curator. Speaking publicly at the Museum for the first time, Adams and Hunt discussed the decade they spent making The Sixth Floor exhibition a reality while helping the community confront its darkest tragedy.

[The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza: 25 Years](#)

February 20, 2014 marked the 25th anniversary of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. This video traces how the Museum—initially conceived as a temporary exhibit—has evolved into a world-recognized, accredited cultural institution that is also a vibrant part of the Dallas community.