

Kennedy Museum, Or 'Trap'?

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Dallasites have a variety of opinions about whether the old Texas Schoolbook Depository building should become a state-owned site, honoring the memo-

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ry of slain President John F. Kennedy, or a privately-owned tourist attraction.

Dallas State Sen. Mike McKool says the state should acquire the building, which has been purchased by Aubrey Mayhew of Nashville, Tenn.

A Times Herald "man on the street" survey shows those who oppose ownership by an individual say the dignity of the site might not be maintained. They fear the building would become a "tourist trap."

OTHERS criticized the state for failing to acquire the building when it was on the auction block. And some feel Mayhew is legally entitled to use the building in any manner he pleases.

"I don't think the man would turn the building into a tourist trap. The Kennedy family is too popular. A trashy, junky place would lessen the dignity of the Kennedys and make people mad. If he's a good businessman he won't do that," believes

1 - The Dallas Times Herald
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Steve Boyast, a Southern Methodist University senior.

"The high reputation and respect given the Kennedys," he continued, "is an incentive for this man to put lots of money into the museum and make it equally respectable."

DAVE FLEISCHER, owner of Hub Bar-B-Que, does not think private ownership would make any difference.

"The state," he says, "should have bought the building when it had the opportunity. Since it didn't, it should leave well enough alone. How could the state acquire all the Kennedy objects this man has gathered?"

Willie J. Simpson, 2611 Guilford, has a differing view: "I think the state should try to run it. Just one individual would

have one opinion how the museum would be operated, just one opinion how the Kennedy assassination should be presented."

"The man bought and paid for it. It's his building," says Mark Snyder, 307 N. Ervay.

"THE STATE should have done something about it sooner. He had the idea. He's entitled to it," he added emphatically.

Maurice Printing Co. employe Keith Graham agrees with Snyder.

"He (Mayhew) bought the building because he had the money. If a man has enough initiative to turn the building into a museum, if that's what he wants to do, it's his business. Texas would make a museum out of it, too, only gloriously. I don't believe we should try to take it away from him."

Graham's brother, Steve, dis-

agrees, saying, "Texas should make a museum out of it. Mayhew is not from Dallas. He might present the city in a bad way. People from out of state don't like Dallas. This man might put us down."