

Dallas Opens Its Memorial To Kennedy

DALLAS, June 24 (UPI)—A

simple concrete memorial "to the joy of one man's life" was dedicated to John F. Kennedy today 200 yards from the spot where the 35th U.S. President was assassinated.

"The joy and sorrow of John Fitzgerald Kennedy's life belonged to all men. So did the pain and sorrow of his death," read an inscription in black granite.

"It is not a memorial to the pain and sorrow of death but stands as a permanent tribute to the joy of one man's life."

No member of the Kennedy family attended the 20-minute ceremony in downtown Dallas. The former President's widow, Jacqueline, spent the day with her two children, Carolyn and John Jr., and her husband, Aristotle Onassis, on the island of Skorpios of the coast of Greece.

An estimated 250 persons watched the dedication of the three-story memorial. The closest friend of the former President at the ceremony was Philip Johnson of New York, the architect who designed the 59-foot-square, cream-colored structure.

The assassination site is not visible from Kennedy plaza, in which the memorial sits. Another building hides the Texas School Book Depository from which Lee Harvey Oswald fired down on Kennedy Nov. 22, 1963.

Since April of 1964, about 50,000 persons have contributed 200,000 to build the memorial. Construction was delayed by a county project to put a \$3-million parking garage under Kennedy Plaza.

The west end of downtown Dallas ran down rapidly after World War II and there has been a recent effort to revitalize it. Dallas County Judge W. L. Sterrett, 68, speaking at the ceremony, invited the crowd to look at the new buildings and county government complex around the Kennedy memorial.

"We destroyed 37 flop houses, beer joints and whiskey stores to build it," the Judge said.