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Book Depository To Be Auctioned

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — The Texas School Book Depository, a drab, seven-story building that entered American history the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, goes on the auction block April 16.

The Warren Commission report found that it was from the sixth-floor corner window of the 62-year-old structure that Lee Harvey Oswald fired three shots from a mail-order rifle at the back of Kennedy's head as the President rode slowly by in a motorcade, Nov. 22, 1963.

Six years haven't changed the appearance of the solid tan brick building except for the addition of a black and white sign lettered on the glass front door, reading: "No admittance except on official business."

O. V. Campbell, the vice president of the depository, which is

a private warehouse with no official ties to the State of Texas, said curiosity on the part of visitors and local residents prompted posting of the sign.

"For three months after the assassination, we had a guard posted at the door to discourage visitors," said Campbell.

"We're trying to conduct a business here."

On any weekend, even now, dozens of persons can be observed strolling about Dealey Plaza outside, pointing up at the sixth-floor corner window.

A man in Florida has asked for the entire window and frame, Campbell said. Others want bits of the floor and chips of the frame.

The 100-foot-square sixth floor now is vacant save for a few empty book cartons near the elevator.

In the southeast corner is the window where the Warren Commission report said Oswald lay in wait for the presidential motorcade.

The cracked white-brick window ledge is only a foot from the floor. When the venetian blinds are pulled up and the tall, creaking window is raised, a clear panorama of the plaza below is revealed.

The building is owned by the Dallas Trust Corp. The majority stockholder, Col. D. Harold Byrd, decided to sell.

A spokesman for Byrd said the colonel, who will be 70 next month, simply wanted to liquidate some of his holdings.

G. C. Walters and Associates, auctioneers headquartered here, will open the sale at the North Park Inn in Dallas.

No stipulations have been made as to who may buy the building or what may be done with it, Walters said.