

Nixon Papers To Be Moved To Archives

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Federal judges have ordered the bulk of former President Nixon's White House documents moved to air-conditioned National Archives vaults to prevent decay.

The three-judge panel Wednesday granted a request by U.S. Archivist James B. Rhodes to move the material to the Washington National Records Center in Suitland to preserve their "physical integrity."

The material, held under earlier court orders by the General Services Administration, has been stored in the Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House since Nixon resigned as President in 1974.

The orders, resulting from legal efforts by several groups to prevent Nixon from getting complete possession, allow Nixon or his representatives to have limited access to them.

By agreement, Nixon's personal papers, the publicized White House tapes, and documents connected with some of his top former aides, will remain at the Executive office Building.

"If it was squirreled away in Suitland that's a real impediment to Nixon agents having access," one Nixon attorney, Stanley Mortenson said. "It is all going to be consolidated in two storage rooms."

The Nixon White House material has been estimated to total 42 million documents and 920 reels of tape, but most of the documents are copies of papers on file in other government agencies that originated them.

Mortenson estimated the personal papers which are to be retained in the executive office building along with the tapes for easy access total about 1 million pages.