Nixon Landmark Plan Fizzles

La Habra, Orange county

Trustees of a foundation that bought former President Nixon's first law office here hoping to turn it into a historical landmark are now seeking a buyer for the building, it was learned yesterday.

George Rochester, president of the Nixon Law Foundation, Inc., which was established April, 1972, said the La Habra Chamber of Commerce has been asked to purchase the 3000 squarefoot building.

The Watergate scandals and the subsequent forced resignation of Mr. Nixon dried up contributions "so we have to sell. We just don't have the money to keep it up and finish paying for it," he said.

The chamber at the moment occupies the front of the building. The room that Mr. Nixon used as a law office from 1938 to 1941 after he was graduated from

Duke University is located in the rear of the same building.

For more than two years the foundation tried but failed to have the California State Landmark Advisory Committee designate the building as an official historical site.

A sign that had been placed in front of the building to mark it for tourists was torn down by vandals during the Watergate scandals but was later replaced by the chamber.

This becomes the second project marking the Nixon presidency to fail within the past six months. Last February trustees of the Richard Nixon Foundation gave up plans to build a library to house the former President's papers.

Instead, the foundation decided to dissolve and turn over its assets to Whittier College, his alma mater.

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