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Helipad, Anybody?

One Goes Begging On a Nixon Estate

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KEY BISCAVNE, Fla., Jan. 22 (UPI)—The General Services Administration says it sold Richard M. Nixon's guardhouse to a Miami parking lot, but cannot find a buyer for the former President's \$418,000 helicopter landing pad.

The steel helipad was costly because it was built on pilings over Biscayne Bay at the edge of the beach at the Nixon compound.

Quincy Culpepper of the G.S.A.'s regional office at Atlanta said the agency had offered the helipad to other Federal agencies, to Dade County and to Miami's Mercy Hospital but found no takers.

"We'll check its condition, draw up some specifications and see if it's worth putting up for bids," Mr. Culpepper said.

He said the tiny guardhouse that formerly stood at the entrance to the blocked-off section of Bay Lane was sold some time ago. It controlled the approach to the two homes stilled owned by Mr. Nixon, as well as a residence occupied by the Secret Service agents who guarded him and the adjacent homes of C. G. Rebozo and Robert H. Abplanalp, friends of Mr. Nixon. The price paid by the parking lot owner was not disclosed.

The helipad is owned by the Defense Department and maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. It was used by the helicopters that shuttled the then President back and forth to Homestead Air Force Base, where Air Force One made its landings and take-offs.

"We may have to demolish it if we find it's a hazard to navigation or a nuisance to the neighborhood," Mr. Culpepper said.

Dade County rejected the helipad as a landing site for police and rescue helicopters because, it said, there are better sites available in nearby Crandon Park.