

Dallas Memorial Marker Up at Last

DALLAS — (AP) — There are fewer flowers and wreaths, and tears are shed rarely, if at all, but most first-time visitors to Dallas still make their way to the foot of Main street.

There they walk around the roughly triangular grassy plots of Dealey Plaza, inspect the orange brick Texas School Book depository across Elm street, and point to the sixth floor window at the southeast corner. For it was here on Nov. 22, 1963, that an assassin ended the life of President John F. Kennedy.

Following the assassination, there was a flood of suggestions for memorials to honor Kennedy and mark the site of the tragedy. These were narrowed to two — a simple marker at the Plaza relating the events of the day and a memorial to Kennedy one block north on a plot owned by Dallas county and already intended for a park.

ACTION LAGGED

But if decision on the memorials was simple, bringing them to reality wasn't. While memorials were built around the world for John Fitzgerald Kennedy, plans remained just plans in the city where he was slain.

Finally, more than one thousand days later, the city of Dallas rushed to complete in time for the third anniversary of the assassination the bronze historical marker at the shooting site.

The two large plaques were hoisted into place on a slab of granite last Wednesday. Mayor Erik Jonsson said the city plans no ceremony, adding that persons close to the Kennedy family had indicated the Kennedys preferred it that way.

However, a leader of the campaign to get the city to erect the \$8,000 marker, Mrs. Harry Langley of suburban Richardson, said she planned a short memorial service.

OUTRAGE

The city council first approved a marker of four panels, two of them telling the history of Dallas.

Many Dallas residents were outraged.

A spokesman for the Committee for a Kennedy Assassination Site Memorial said visitors would be "stunned and indignant."

The council retreated and adopted the two-panel marker.

Progress on the Memorial Plaza has been even slower.