

Assassination of John F. Kennedy

Dealey Plaza in Dallas, TX, is known as the “Front Door to Dallas,” because it is a major gateway for people coming in from the west. It was named after civic leader, George Bannerman Dealey, who was key in creating the overall design of the plaza. Dealey organized the development of the triple underpass and concrete colonnades located in the plaza. However, Dealey Plaza is not often noted for its design elements; it will forever be known as the place that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

In November 22, 1962, at 12:30 in the afternoon, as the Presidential motorcade passed along Elm Street in Dealey Plaza and approached the Texas School Book Depository, President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed.

Following the aftermath of the assassination there were intense investigations by the Warren Commission, United States Select House Committee on Assassinations, FBI, and many others to establish who committed the crime, and if the assassin was working alone. The investigating organizations determined that Lee Harvey Oswald alone was the man responsible. Before Oswald could stand trial, he was murdered by a man named Jack Ruby.

Public surveys conducted after the investigations showed that 80% of Americans felt there was more to the story than what they were told from the investigations. Today there are still conspiracy stories behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, but one fact has been undisputed. Evidence was found during the investigation that the shots which killed President Kennedy were fired from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, and the shooter was an employee named Lee Harvey Oswald. When the Book Depository became the Dallas County Administration Building, the county dedicated the sixth floor to become a museum to honor the President’s life and legacy.

The train will pass close to Dealey Plaza and allow you a view of the red brick Sixth Floor Museum, located on the far side of the Plaza. The museum has since expanded to the seventh floor to add additional space for educational programming. From the train you can also see a small “x” placed on the pavement of Elm Street where President Kennedy was shot. Dealey Plaza still functions as a gateway for the city, but it holds far greater importance for our nation in remembering the life, death and legacy President John F. Kennedy.

Source(s):

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