

SUPPLEMENT # 2
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MC, 39
Homicide No. 3357
Thursday, April 4, 1968, 6:00 P.M.

RE: Scene of the shooting, Lorraine Motel,
and 422 1/2 S. Main

REPORTED BY: LT. T. W. SMITH
LT. CLYDE KING
DET. R. R. DAVIS

CAPT. R. A. COCHRAN
CAPT. E. L. WILLIAMS

Thursday, April 4, 1968, at 6:00 p.m., the investigating officers named above, received a call from the Dispatcher, to the Homicide Bureau, informing us of the shooting of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., that occurred at the Lorraine Hotel on Mulberry Street. At 6:08 p.m., Lt. T. H. Smith and Det. R. R. Davis acknowledged the call on our Cruiser radio, while proceeding to the Lorraine Hotel. At the time of the arrival, 6:13 p.m., we parked the cruiser on Mulberry Street, facing south on the west side of the street, across from the Lorraine Hotel. It was noted that at this time, the area was saturated with police and deputies, that had secured the area.

It was noted that the Lorraine Hotel had been the scene of the shooting of Martin Luther King, and that this shooting had occurred on the second floor balcony in front of Room #306, that had been occupied by Dr. King and Rev. Abernathy. We were notified by Deputy Sheriff W. A. Dufour, who had been assigned to Tack Unit 10, that he had observed Dr. King's body on the second floor balcony in front of Room 306.

It should be noted that both the Lorraine Hotel, and Motel, are located on the east side of Mulberry between Huling and Butler. The Lorraine Hotel, abuts the sidewalk on Mulberry Street, with the north end abutting Huling. At the south end of the Lorraine Hotel, is a driveway, then south of this drive, is a retaining wall, running east and west, made of brick, that has open designs in the brick work. This brick wall continues south on Mulberry Street, for the purpose of protecting a swimming pool. This brick wall was determined to be 6'3 1/2" high, from sidewalk level to top of wall.

Directly behind the Lorraine Hotel, with an exit and entrance off Huling Street, running north and south, is an alley that runs the length of the Lorraine Hotel into a parking area, for guests of the Lorraine Hotel. Adjoining Huling on the north, the rear of some units of the Lorraine Hotel on the south, and some more units of the Lorraine Hotel on the east, is another parking area, for guests of the Lorraine Hotel and Motel. The office for both the Lorraine Hotel and Motel, is located in the south end of the Lorraine Hotel, and faces south. South of the parking area behind the Lorraine hotel are the new units of the Lorraine Motel, also East of this parking area are new units of the Motel.

The units of the Lorraine motel where the fatal shooting occurred run in a North-south direction, facing West toward Mulberry street. This motel units are joined on the north end by a number of units that run East and West ending at the alley between the hotel and the units.

Dr. King was standing at the railing of the second floor balcony in front of room number 306 at the time that he was shot. The height of the floor of the balcony to the ground of the courtyard was measured at 9 feet 3 inches. This second floor balcony services all the entrances to the units facing West and North. On the second floor balcony a large pool of blood running Southwest from the corner of the building just south of room 306 was found and measured to be 3 feet 2 inches long 1 foot 3 inches wide at the widest point and five inches across at the narrowest point. This pool of blood resembled two circles pool of blood joined together in the middle by a five inch wide strip of blood. The south western most part of this pool measured one foot across. This blood pool began one foot south of the south wall of the unit.

There was a piece of bone found on the floor of this second floor balcony two feet three inches West of the wall of the unit and two feet four inches South of the wall to the units

There was a Salem cigarettes filter tip variety with the front end of the cigarette being torn and having some blood on the front part of the cigarette was found in the area of the blood pool one foot south of the wall of the unit and six inches east of the wall.

There was noticed a small spot of blood on the ceiling of the second story balcony that was eight foot three inches above the walkway floor two feet eight inches west of the wall and five inches south of the wall.

According to the Officer guarding the scene Dr. King was laying on his back with his head facing South, feet facing North, which was measured and found his head to be one foot North of the South rail of the balcony and two feet six inches of the West balcony. According to measurements the blood spot at the top or Southern most part measured six feet seven inches from the North side of the door facing to room # 306. It was noted that the door to room #306 is on the South end of the apartment and opens to the inside and to the right as you face it. The apartment #306 has two glass windows North of the door that measured four feet each and separated by a three inch aluminum strip. These windows were framed in aluminum and were covered on the inside by reddish colored drapes.

The distance from the stairs facing North southward to the point where Dr. King was shot measured thirty nine feet six inches. The distance was measured from the East curb of Mulberry Street to the beginning of the balcony where Dr. King had been shot measured seventy one feet one inch. There was a distance across the parking lot from the Motel unit to the East edge of the swimming pool that measured thirty feet one inch, the distance from the East edge of the swimming pool to the East curb of Mulberry Street measured forty one feet.

This entire area was photographed by Lt. T.H. Smith, showing the units occupied by Dr. King, the balcony where the shooting occurred and the relations to this point from Mulberry Street. Photographs were also made of the blood spot where Dr. King fell on the second story balcony. A orange colored bed spread that had been used to cover Dr. King as well as the light fixture attached to the ceiling of the hallway directly above where Dr. King had fallen that had been pulled loose from the North side hanging down approximately two inches from the ceiling was still attached at the South end. This fixture was also examined to see if it had been hit and for a projectile if it had made an exit from the body. This examination revealed that the fixture had not been hit or tampered with but had come loose from the ceiling from the North side. A photograph was also made of a wastebasket sitting in the Southeast corner of the units on the second floor hallway that had a broken ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ broom behind it. This trash can was emptied of its contents ~~fix~~ of bottles and searched for a projector with negative results. A photograph was taken from the point where Dr. King fell looking West toward Main street and covering the rear of the buildings that faced Mulberry street. ~~XXXXXX~~ This photograph should also show the retaining wall on the west side of Mulberry, the rear yards of the buildings and the leafless shrubs along the top of the retaining wall.

This retaining wall on the west side of Mulberry was found to be eight feet tall from the sidewalk to the top. This wall ran south from a point directly across the street from the entrance to the Lorraine hotel to the first station located at Buller st. The top of the wall had a sloping area approximately 4 to 4½ feet upward to a level of the rear yards at the rear of the buildings that face Mulberry. At the top of this slope was a row of shrub trees barren of leaves that ran north and south the entire width of the rear yards.

While completing the investigation in front of the Lorraine Motel we were notified by Patrolman T.H. Landers who was standing in the rear yard of the buildings along Mulberry that he had found some footprints that he thought might be of value. Being unable to attain the rear yards due to the retaining wall Lt. Glynn King and Copt. E. L. Williams proceeded around to Main Street where observed a uniform officer guarding a bundle lying outside the doorway of the Caspe amusement co. at 424 So. Main. This bundle consisted of a piece of luggage described as about 18 inches square and approximately 6 inches deep being covered by a imitation leather material blue in color. It was noted that this piece of luggage could be opened and closed by a zipper. Across this piece of luggage was a box with the name Browning on the top that contained a rifle, the top of this box was opened and showed back approximately 6 inches revealing the front part of a rifle barrel. Over the top of this box was folded a green bed spread that hung loosely down the sides. Insp. N. E. Zachary removed the bed spread from the top of the box carefully slid the bed spread under the piece of luggage and picked up the luggage rifle box and rifle in the bed spread to be retained as evidence.

On arriving at 424 So. Main Capt. Williams and Lt. King did observe that Det. E. J. Whitney and Det. Geo. Whitney of the Shelby City Sheriffs office were at the scene and interviewing Mr. Guy Warren Caspe Sr. owner of Caspe amusement co and who was later brought to headquarters where a written statement was taken regarding information that he had about the bundle found in front of his door and the subject that had left the bundle. Starting at the south end of the line of building of which 424 S. Main is on the extreme south end and going north the first door North of 424 is numbered 422½ S. Main. This door leads to a flight of stairs going up to a group of apartments which have separate numbers and being managed by Mrs. Essie Brown Pw. 44. Her apartment being number 2 which is also the office. The next floor going north is 422 S. Main and is Cohn dry goods co. Just north of this business is a door numbered 42 and the last numeral is illegible, but the occupants call this 422½. This door leads to a flight of stairs going to another group of apartments which joined the previous mentioned apartments and will be described later. The next door north of this doorway numbered 418 and is occupied by Jim Hill, owned by Lloyd Jones M7 41.

We were advised by uniform officers that the shot that had come from a bathroom window on the second floor of the apartment numbered as 422½ S. Main in the north ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ unit of these apts. On entering the door number 42 last number illegible there are 19 steps measuring from the sidewalk to the top landing 22 feet and 4 inches. The landing is 6 feet long and steps and landing are 4'9" wide. On the east wall of the landing is a window looking out into a small

opening between the north and south apartment units and is approximately 4 feet wide. The door with 3 steps leading up to it is on the south wall of this landing. A door with one step leading up to it leads off the north wall of the landing into a hall which is 6 feet and 4 inches wide and runs 18 feet and 3 inches to the north wall. The Hall then turns East and runs 70 feet 9 inches to extreme east wall. At a point 52 feet and 2 inches east of the west end of the hall south wall turns at about a 45 degree angle to the south and runs 3'5" east returns back due east making this part of the hall 6'6" wide. The north side of this hall is solid with no openings entrances to the apartments leading off the south wall. It should be pointed out that the apartments in this part of the building are designated by number and the letter "B" behind the number. Going east in the hall the first door leads to apartment 3 B and measuring from the west end of the hall to the west side of the door facing is 22 feet 5 inches. The second door on the south wall leads to apartment 4B and measuring from the west door facing to the west wall of the hall is 34'4". The third door is to apartment 5B, and is the apartment believed to have been occupied by the assailant and measuring from the west door facing is 47 feet 10 inches East of the West Wall of the hall. The door to apartment 6B is adjacent to the east end of the hall, and a window which is painted over is 6'7" west of this east wall. This hall widens at the east end and a stairway runs down on the north wall 18 steps for a distance of 26'4" from the top step to the ground. The steps are 3'2" wide and on the hallway floor is a railing 11 feet 2 inches long blocking the south side of the stairway. Sitting at the top of the stairs on the hallway floor was a 20 gallon/parts can full of assorted waste. At the east end of the hall is a common bath, used by the occupants of this rooming house. This bath measured 6'3" across at the widest point, and measured 10'4" long at the longest point. There was a door entering into this bath, opening to the inside and to the right as you face it in the southwest corner. After entering the bathroom and to the north was a closet that had a door opening facing the south. The width of the bath from the south side of this closet to the south wall measured 4'1". Along the north wall and 4'4" east of the closet was a porcelain type bathtub, supported by 4 legs that measured 5'5" long and 2'6" wide. Along the south wall of the bath, just east of the door was a commode, then east of the commode was a covered gas heater and east of this heater was a basin that had a mirror above it, that was not attached to the basin. The depth inside the tub was 1'4 1/2". On the east wall in the NE corner was a window that was 2'7" from outside facing to outside facing (north to south), the inside of the window 2'8". The height of the window was 3'7", this window had been raised 3 & 7/8 inches from the bottom sill. The window sill was measured from the floor to the top of the sill to be 4'11". On the sill of this window was noted an indented mark sort of a half moon shape, that appeared as if part of a metal object such as a rifle had been placed on the sill and this mark measured 1'4" from the north inside facing. The distance from the east end of the tub to the wall was measured at 7 1/2". The overall height of the bathtub from the floor to the top of the tub measured 1'10 3/4 inches. The east end of the bathtub sloped toward the east or to the window and the distance was measured from the bottom of the tub, up the slope to the top of the window sill and found to be a height of 4'11". The distance from the east end of the bathtub top to the top of the window sill measured 3'2". The ceiling of this bath was 10'1" from the floor. The closet in the north west corner of the bath measured 3'7" wide and 2'7" long.

The window in this bathroom was examined more closely and it was determined that it had an aluminum frame to hold an aluminum screen, however the screen had been knocked out and the frame along the inside of the north sill had been broken loose and was later found with the screen directly below the bathroom window on the ground in the rear of 422 1/2 So. Main. The bathtub was examined and in the bottom was noted several dirty smears that appeared as though someone had been standing in the bathtub in their shoes. In looking east out of the window it was determined that you could get a clear view from the window to the spot where Dr. King had been standing at the time he was shot. It was noted that the view from this window east was elevated several feet above the second floor balcony of the Lorraine Hotel, where Dr. King had been standing at the time he was shot.

The door to Apt. 5B which leads off the south hall was found to be 2 ft. and 11 in. wide measuring from the inside facing and 7 ft. 1 inch from the inside top facing to the floor the door has a 6 inch molding all way around on both the inside and outside. This is a wooden door with 6 thin wood panels separated by thicker panels and it opens to the inside to the right or west. The door has no knob and a flat hanger was run through the hole where the door knob should be and is used for opening and shutting the door. Measuring from the top to the bottom the third, fifth and sixth panels in the door were broken. There was no lock on the door, but there was a hasp on the outside of the door and the ~~sliding~~ keeper on the door facing. On the inside of the door was a sliding bolt type lock with the keeper of it on the inside east door facing. On the back or inside of the door is a 1960 calendar with the month of January on top, and a sign on the door saying "No drinking, no smoking in bed allowed".

This room measures 13 ft. 3 inches from east to west at its widest point and 13 ft. 8 inches north to south at its widest point. The ceiling is 10 ft. 1 inch from the floor. The north wall is 9 ft. 9 inches and at the east end of this wall the wall turns at approx. a 45 degree angle to the southeast and runs for 5 ft., the wall then turns at another 45 degree angle or due south and this east wall is 10 ft. ± 2 inches.

On the north wall 4 inches east of the outside door facing is a push button type light switch which is 4 ft. 5½ inches from the floor. Also on the north wall 6 ft. 3 inches east of the outside door facing is a dresser which measured 2 ft. 11 inches by 1 ft. 4½ inches. This dresser had the back board where a mirror once hung on the back of it. The east end of this dresser was 4 inches west of the point where the wall made a 45 degree angle and turned southeast. On the east wall at a point 5 inches south of where the wall turned back due south was a bed. This bed was metal with a rounded head board and foot board and it measured 6 ft. 6 inches in length and was 3 ft. 4 inches wide. The bed had open metal springs, a mattress on top the springs. A blue and white stripe blanket was on top the mattress and it was covered with a fitted sheet. There was a regular sheet on top and it was folded back one third the length of the bed, the sheet was tucked under the mattress at the foot and hanging loose on the sides. There was a pillow at the head of the bed and it was covered with a white pillow slip. Also on the east wall, one foot 4 inches south of the bed was a wooden dressing table which measured 3 ft. 6½ inches by one ft. 4½ inches and was flush against the east wall. There was a door in the east wall at the south end which measured one ft. 11 inches wide and 7 ft. 2 inches in height. The facing around this door was 6 inches wide and the outside facing on the south side was one ft. 1 inch north of the south wall.

The south wall is 13 ft. 3 inches in length and centered in this wall is a fireplace which measured 4 ft. 8 inches by one ft. 8 inches. The hearth in front of this fireplace also measures 4 ft and 8 inches in width and extends 4 ft. and one inch into the room from the south wall. There is a window 3 inches east of the east side of the fireplace and this window measures 2 ft. and 9 inches in width and 5 ft. one inch in height. The window sill measures 2 ft. 4½ inches from the top of the sill down to the floor. The window was raised 2 ft. 5 inches from the sill and was held up by a stick. The stick holding the window was under the west side of the window and the bottom of the stick was one ft. and 5½ inches east of the west side of the window. This window also had a 6 inch facing all the way around it. There is ~~no screen on this window~~ no screen on this window and on examining the view this window affords it was noted that you could see the Lorrains Hotel second floor balcony and the spot where Dr. King was standing when he was shot. There was also a straight back wooden chair which measured one ft. 4 inches from front to back and one ft. 5 inches from side to side. This chair was sitting at an angle to the window and it was noted by sitting in the chair at this angle the spot where Dr. King was standing was not visible but you must lean partially out the window to see the spot. There was also a window on the west side of the fireplace and it measured 2 ft. 9 inches wide by 6 ft. one inch tall and it also had a 6 inch facing around it. Both these windows had paper window shades which covered approx. the top half of the windows. There were green and gold flowered plastic drapes on these windows. Centered in front of the fireplace was a gas heater which measured 2 ft. one inch by 9½ inches. On the west wall 2½ inches north of the south wall was a red couch which measured 86 inches in length by 36 inches in width. One inch north of the couch was a chest of drawers which measured 2 ft. 3 inches by one ft. 5 inches and on the south end of this chest it was five inches east of the west wall and on the north end it was 3 inches east of the west wall. Four inches north of the chest was a chifferobe which measured 3½ ft. in width and one ft. 5 inches in depth. This chifferobe was in front of a door which was nailed shut and this door was 2 ft. 6 inches wide and 7 ft. one inch in height. It also had a 6 inch facing around it and the north facing was flush against the north wall. The chifferobe was 8 inches south of the north wall.

The distance from the west facing ~~the~~ of the hall door to the west wall of the room was noted to be one ft. 1 inch.

A dark green throw pillow was found on the couch and measurements were made to the center of the pillow and it was found it be 3 ft. north of the south end and one ft. 10 inches east of the back (or west side) of the couch. Also found on the couch, was a black plastic strap 37" long, with a buckle on one end and four holes in the other end. It was spread in a 14" half circle, and it was noted that it was 30" south of the north end of the couch, and 50" north of the south end of the couch. A burnt paper match was found on the couch, 34" north of the south end, and 27" east of the west, or back side of the couch.

This room is lighted by a bare lightbulb, in the approx. center of the ceiling, with a pull type switch, and it was found that this light was 6'5" south of the north wall, and 6'6" west of the east wall.

A black leather strap was found on the floor in front of the couch, and was measured 3'7" east of the west wall, and 7'10" south of the north wall. Also found on the floor, a burnt wood match, which was 1'7" north of the fireplace, and 1½" west of the east end of the fireplace. Another burnt wood match was found 3'4" north of the fireplace, and 1'7" west of the east end of the fireplace. Another wood match, which had not been burned, but had the head knocked off, was found against the front of the fireplace, 1'3" west of the east end of the fireplace.

From interviews at the scene, it was determined that the shot struck Dr. King had been fired from the previously described bathroom window and measurements were made which showed that it was 20'1" from the east outside door facing of apartment 5-B, to the bathroom door, and 30'9" from the east outside door facing of apartment 5-B, to the window in the east wall of the bathroom.

Measurements were made from the bathroom window where the shot was fired, west down the hall, then south as the hall turned, to the landing at the top of the front stairs, down the stairs to the Main Street sidewalk, then south on the sidewalk to the doorway at 424 S. Main, for an overall distance traveled by the assailant from the time the shot was fired to the point where he threw down the weapon, of 166'8". The above mentioned interviews will be written later in this supplement.

The hall mentioned in the above paragraph was lighted by two bare electric light bulbs, one being 23'11" east of the west end of the hall, and the other 4'5" west of the bathroom door, or east wall of the hall. Both these lights are centered in the hall, between the north and south walls.

Upon going out the rear entrance of 422½ S. Main, we did observe the aluminum screen that came from the bathroom window of the second floor, laying on the ground, and was measured and found that the west end of the screen was 2'9" from the east side of the building, and the north end of the screen was 1'2" from the north side of the building. The aluminum frame knocked from the north side of the bathroom window, was found to be 3'5" from the west end of the building, and 8'3" from the north side of the building. These items were photographed in the position found, and then removed from the area by Insp. McAdan, of the B of I, for processing.

Further examination of this rear yard revealed an alley between the south wall of 422½ and the north wall of 422 S. Main. This alley was measured and found to be 4'1" wide, and ran from east to west that ended in a deadend at the west end of the building. There were two footprints found in this alley, one having been made by the right foot, which was the easternmost print, and one by the left foot, which was farther west. The easternmost footprint was measured from the center to the south wall, and found to be 2'7½" south of the south wall, and 1'6" north from the north wall. This print was directly east and west with the toe to the east and the heel to the west. The westernmost print was measured, and found to be ~~2'10"~~ 2'5" north from the north wall and 1'10" south of the south wall. This print was measured from the instep, due to the fact it was pointing towards the southwest. The stride was measured from instep to instep between the two footprints, and found to be 2'10". The easternmost print was measured and found to be 1'1½" from heel to toe. Insp. McAdan, of the B of I, did make plaster casts of these prints.

The distance between the window where the shooting is alleged to have occurred, was measured with our tape, and found to be 74'10" from the east end of the building, across the partly level yard, containing much debris, to the sloped dropoff at the top of the yard, then 6'5" from the slope to the retaining wall on the west side of Mulberry, and 124' from this retaining wall to the front of the Lorraine Motel balcony, where Dr. King had been shot. This overall measurement was determined to be 205'3", from the east end of the building to the part of the balcony where Dr. King had been hit.

Photographs of this area, showing the window from the outside, the aluminum screen frame, the aluminum screen, the entire rear area of 422½ S. Main building, the footprints found in the alley, and the area from the rear of the building at 422½ S. Main eastward to the balcony at the point where Dr. King was shot, were made by Lt. T. E. Smith.