

TESTIMONIAL EVIDENCE

Investigators had the monumental task of following up on all eyewitness and survivor accounts and proving which ones were credible. Some of the statements provided proved to be unreliable; however, some testimonial evidence helped find and convict the perpetrators.

Eyewitness testimony that proved to be false

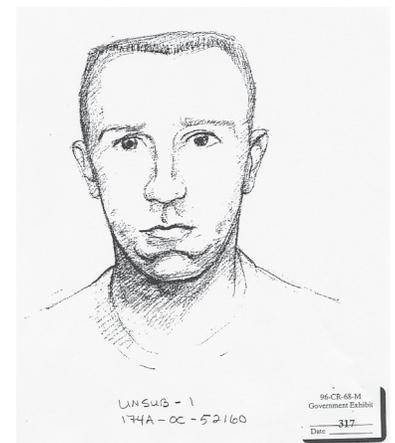
- One witness told investigators that McVeigh stopped by his business to ask directions to the Murrah Building the morning of the bombing. The idea of McVeigh not being familiar with his target was not plausible and evidence from Terry Nichols and Michael Fortier contradicted this.
- A witness stated that he saw McVeigh in an alleyway near the Murrah building 20-25 minutes after the bombing. McVeigh was arrested 80 miles from the Murrah building, only 78 minutes after the bombing, making this sighting impossible.
- Shortly after the bombing, a witness reported he saw two Middle Eastern men running from the Murrah Building and getting into a brown Chevrolet pickup about 5 minutes prior to the explosion. The FBI quickly issued a bulletin to be on the lookout for a brown pickup carrying two Middle Eastern males. The media broadcast that information and soon the public thought the bombing was work of Arab nationalists or a Muslim fundamentalist group, as in the case of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. No one ever thought that the terrorist could be an American.



This fear led to the detainment of a Jordanian-American man who lived in Oklahoma City and was traveling to Amman, Jordan, on the day of the bombing. He was held and questioned at the Chicago O'Hare Airport and was released and traveled to London. In London, he was detained again and sent to Washington, D.C., for questioning. It became apparent he had nothing to do with the bombing and was released on April 20.

Eyewitness testimony that helped investigators solve the crime and prosecutors win convictions

- Employees at Elliott's Body Shop provided eyewitness accounts of the person who rented the truck that was used in the bombing and from those descriptions, sketches were made and dispersed. John Doe #1 was soon identified as Timothy McVeigh.
- After sketches of John Doe #1 and John Doe #2 were released, investigators canvassed the area motels to see if anyone recognized the individuals. Dreamland Motel owner Lea McGown recognized John Doe #1 as Timothy McVeigh, a guest who rented room #25 from April 14-April 17, drove a yellow Mercury and parked a moving truck.



SOURCE - Hersley, Jon, Larry Tongate and Bob Burke. *Simple Truths*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2004

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Over 7,000 pounds of physical evidence was collected in the course of the Oklahoma City investigation. This evidence led investigators to the perpetrators of the crime, and ultimately helped in their conviction.

Rear Axle

The rear axle of a large truck was found about a block from the Murrah Building. A partial Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), which is unique to every vehicle, was found on the axle. A trace through the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) revealed the full VIN number and that the truck was registered to Ryder Rental, Incorporated, in Miami, Florida. This evidence led investigators to Elliott’s Body Shop in Junction City, Kansas. Employees provided descriptions of the individuals that rented the truck and then sketches were made and John Doe #1 was identified as Timothy McVeigh. The truck was rented under the name Robert Kling.



Dreamland Motel Registration Card

After sketches of John Doe #1 and John Doe #2 were released, investigators canvassed the area motels to see if anyone recognized the individuals. Dreamland Motel owner Lea McGown recognized John Doe #1 as someone who rented room #25 from April 14-April 17. She said he asked if he could park a moving truck there during his stay. The name on the registration card was Timothy McVeigh and the car he listed was a Mercury, the same type of car he was driving when he was arrested.

Hunam Palace Delivery Receipt

On April 15, an order was placed from room #25, registered to McVeigh, at the Dreamland Motel under the name Kling, the same name used to rent the moving truck. The description provided by the delivery person matched McVeigh’s features.

Residue

Chemical residue was found on McVeigh’s clothing and earplugs, indicating recent handling of explosives.

McVeigh’s pant pockets and shirt had PETN residue on them, which is found in detonation cord.

McVeigh had a set of earplugs in his pants pocket which had EGDN residue, which is found in dynamite.

McVeigh's Personal Effects - High Explosives Examination

Exhibit Number	Item	Results
431	Q19 Jacket	None detected
428	Q20 Jeans	Left Pocket - Nitroglycerine Identified PETN Consistent for the presence of Right Pocket - Nitroglycerine Identified PETN Identified
432	Q21 Left Boot	None Detected
433	Q22 Right Boot	None Detected
430	Q23 T-Shirt (Blue Arms)	PETN Identified
429	Q24 T-Shirt	PETN Identified
426	AS (Ear Plugs)	Nitroglycerine and EGDN Identified PETN Consistent for the presence of
434	Q26 Blanket	None Detected
436	Q27 Cloth Bag	None Detected

96-CR-68-M
Government Exhibit
437
Date

Makita Cordless Drill

McVeigh had told Michael Fortier that he and Terry Nichols had used a cordless drill to drill the locks from the storage buildings that housed the explosives they stole at a rock quarry near Nichols' home. A Makita cordless drill was found at Nichols' home along with drill bits. When the drill bit impressions were compared to those left on the locks, one of the bits matched.



Mid-Kansas Cooperative Association Receipt

A purchase of 2,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, one of the components of the bomb, was made at Mid-Kansas Co-op in McPherson, Kansas, on September 30, 1994. The receipt showed it was purchased by Mike Havens. Two of McVeigh's fingerprints were identified on the receipt for this purchase, found at Terry Nichols' home in Herington, Kansas.

SOURCE - Hersley, Jon, Larry Tongate and Bob Burke. *Simple Truths*. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Heritage Association, 2004

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) STATISTICS

Statistics of the Investigation of the Oklahoma City bombing, known as OKBOMB, as of February 13, 1998

- Over 1,008,000 hours of investigation was conducted by the OKBOMB Task Force
- More than 1,400 FBI employees rotated through the OKBOMB Task Force from April 19, 1995 until the conclusion of Terry Nichols' federal trial
- More than 43,450 investigative leads were generated
- 15,664 John Doe leads were reported
- 900 videotapes were reviewed
- More than 238,000 photographs taken
- More than 7,000 pounds of evidence was collected resulting in over 23,290 pieces of evidence
- 1,506 subpoenas for telephone records issued resulting in the collection of 444,026 records
- More than 1 billion records searched in 26 databases

Computer Records

- 682,187 records of people who made airline reservations
- 3,100,000 records of people who rented Ryder trucks
- 13,200,000 hotel registration records collected; 2,613,852 were entered into the computer
- From the hotel records, 44 identifications of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols from 32 different hotels were discovered, 9 different aliases, 13 different address variations, and 18 different license plate variations
- 19 combinations of aliases used by Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols were compared to nationwide driver's licenses generating 7,156 people who had to be eliminated from being identical to McVeigh and Nichols
- 617 military associates of Timothy McVeigh were run against the 26 databases

