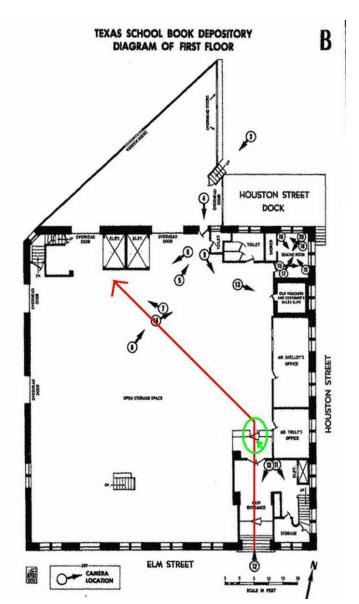
The following Walkthrough of the Texas School Book Depository was written for the March, 2008 volume of <u>The Dealey Plaza Echo</u>, the journal of the British Assassination Research group: Dealey Plaza UK. It ran exclusively in that journal, and many months later put, this version was put on-line by Jerry Dealey. Back issues of <u>The Dealey Plaza Echo</u> are available at the Mary Farrell Foundation web site: <u>www.MaryFerrell.org</u>. (To find this article, do a search on the term "Elevator".

## The Ups and Downs of the TSBD

The entrances and exits of the Texas School Book Depository in November 22, 1963, along with the stairs and elevators, have always been an interesting sub-topic to me. IF, as many contend, there were other shooters in the TSBD, they would have had to enter and exit the building. Presumably, these would be strangers to the normal workers in the building, and they ran the risk of being seen.

In the movie, "JFK", Director Oliver Stone contends that strangers were in the building, laying the floors of the sixth floor. However, the workers that were doing the floor work were actual employees of the Texas School Book company. These included Bonnie Ray Williams, Danny Arce, Bill Lovelady, and Charles Givens. The contention that there were 'strangers' in the building doing the floor work, is not supported anywhere. (There was one elderly gentleman that went into the front of the building a little while before the Motorcade, to use a restroom. However, he left soon after, according to Danny Arce. -wc vol 6, Pg 366)



First, a quick discussion about "time" and memory. This document is being written in 2007, where we are in the computer age. In addition to computers, we have digital watches and clocks, cell phones that automatically set the time, and watches and clocks that are set by radio wave from the National Institute. Back in 1963, it was a much different world. These capabilities were not available to the average person, and they generally estimated time, based on when TV shows started, or other criteria. Additionally, when they looked at a clock, they tended to estimate the time on the face. It is not uncommon for someone to say that they did something at 12:30, when in reality they probably did it around 12:15 and 12:20. Additionally, they did not

know at the time of these events (such as leaving the lunchroom) that the time would later become a critical factor. Of course, memory of these events will naturally be "fuzzy", and it is unreasonable to assume that if someone says a time that conflicts with other motions, that person is automatically lying or trying to hide something. These were real world events, and the average person in 1963, was not operating by a stopwatch.

This document will attempt to follow the movements on the freight elevators and stairs according to the testimony given the Warren Commission by the employees. Of course, the FBI, Secret Service and Dallas Police also interviewed these employees, and I hope to supplement these movements from those reports at a later date. It should be remembered that the Warren Commission talked to these employees in the spring of 1964, and by that time they could easily have modified or been influenced in their recall of the events.

First, let us start with a floorplan of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository, and discuss all of the features.

The primary outside entrance into the Depository, were the 2 sets of double glass doors on the south side of the building. Immediately east (right) of this entrance was a set of stairs that only went from the first to the second floor. In this lobby area by the entrance, there was also a small passenger elevator, which only went as high as the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. (The TSBD was originally built in 1895 as a 5 story building. This elevator was installed with the lift equipment on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. After the building burned in 1901, they rebuilt it and added the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floor.) The passenger elevator serviced the office personnel who worked on the first through fourth floors. Although they would use the other elevators on occasion, these were generally left for the order fillers' use. All employees used the stairs.

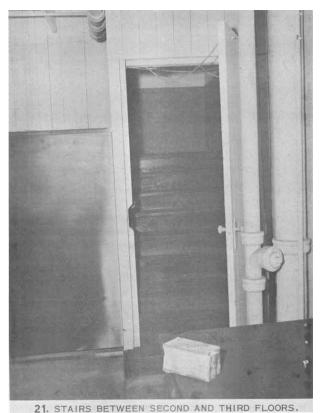
In the second glass doors from this lobby area, there is a "Will Call" counter (circle), with a half door and a latch which swings towards the entrance. To the left of this lobby area, were a set of stairs that went into the basement. There was no outside access to the basement.

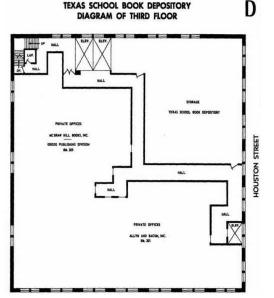
There was also a door on the north side of the building, which opened out onto the dock area. In addition, there were a series of 4 'overhead' doors on the north and west walls. These would be locked from inside, but would be opened as needed to reach the dock, and the "TSBD Annex" building on the west side. This annex building was originally used to offload/load from the railroad tracks which curved around the north

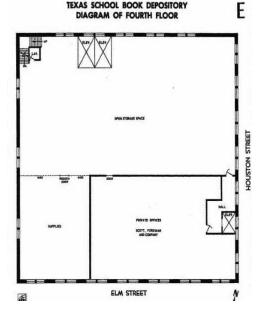
and west side of the building.

The only access to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors of the building were by the pair of freight elevators on the north side of the building, and the steps in the northwest corner. The stairway was very narrow. It was a 'one-way' type of stairway, in that it only went between 2 floors, and then you had to exit the stairway, and walk across the floor to reaccess the stairway again for the next level. The north wall entrance would be going up, you would turn mid-way, and then reach the next highest floor on the west wall.

The photo shows the door on the north wall of the second floor. You would take these steps up, turn midway, and then go up to the







3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Then you would have to cross about 20

feet of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, to go up to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, etc. Any strangers in the building using these stairs would have to cross the floors at each level, risking being seen by the workers in the building. Some floors had hallways and walls that would hide this area of the building (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors did, and the 4<sup>th</sup> floor had walls between this area and the offices in the front of the building). Stacks of books could also block the view of these areas.

There were also 2 freight elevators on the north side of the building.

The EAST elevator was hand controlled and you had to be in the elevator to hold the up or down direction switch. The WEST elevator could be called, provided the gate at each floor, and the gate on the elevator itself was closed (double gated). You would then push the button for the floor you wish to move to.

It is the movements of these freight elevators, and known movements on the stairs that this document will attempt to track, as these are the only access points to the  $6^{th}$  floor, which is the floor of Lee Harvey Oswald's "snipers nest". We will not address the movements up the front stairs and passenger elevators, as these were not readily important to the Warren Commission and other investigators. We can assume that the office personnel used these front elevators and steps as needed.

We will start our timeline with the movement of the "floor installation" crew down the freight elevators, when they broke for lunch at around 11:45-11:50 AM. Bonne Ray Williams, Harold Norman, Danny Arce, Bill Lovelady, and Charles Givens all stated that they raced the elevators down from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. (Williams v3 p167, Lovelady v6 p336, Arce v6 p364) (Nobody ever says which elevator won in the race.)

As they passed Oswald on the  $5^{th}$  floor (Givens v6 p349), he asked them to put the gates back down, so that he could call the west elevator when he was ready to come down. (Arce v6 p364).

Charles Givens gets to the first floor, and soon realizes that he had left his cigarettes in his jacket, in the northwest corner of the  $6^{th}$  floor, where they were laying floor all morning. He takes the east elevator back up to the  $6^{th}$  floor, and gets his jacket and cigarettes. (Givens v6 p349)

He says that as he returns to the east elevator, he sees Oswald walking up the east side of the floor carrying his clipboard. He is about 10 ft from the east wall, walking away from the south (front) side of the building, the general area of the 'sniper's nest'. Givens states that he had not paid any particular attention to that corner. Givens asked if Oswald is going downstairs, as it is near lunchtime. Oswald says no, but again asks that Givens lowers the gates on the west elevator, so that Oswald can call it back up when he needs it.

Givens then goes back down the east elevator (hand operated) to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, and walks around to the west elevator to close the gate. He states that the elevator was not there when he checks it. The time is about 11:55. (y6 p351) Givens then joins James Jarman

and Harold Norman on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor by the window, and they discuss going out front to watch the motorcade. Charles Givens eats his lunch while standing in front of the building, and decides to go see a friend of his that works at a parking lot at Main and Record streets. This is where he will be when the motorcade comes by. (He, and Oswald, will later be the 2 warehouse employees that are missing from the building, after the shooting.)

While Givens had gone back upstairs, Harold Norman (v3 p188) had washed up and eaten his lunch in the "Domino room", in the northeast corner of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.

James Jarman (v3 p201) says they quit for lunch about 11:55, and after going down he washed up and got a pop from the second floor lounge/lunchroom, then went down to the front window on the first floor. He ate his lunch standing there, while he was watching the crowd gather out front. Presumably, this is where he was joined by Charles Givens and Harold Norman.

Danny Arce states that he had his lunch with Jack Dougherty, in the Domino room. (v6 p365) He then went out with Bill Shelley and Bill Lovelady, and joined James "Junior" Jarman, and was standing outside in front of the building awaiting the motorcade. It was

**Commission Exhibit 1381** was put together by the FBI, at the request of General Counsel J. Lee Rankin. It contains statements from the 73 TSBD employees that were in the building that day. (And even the statement of Franklin Emmett Wester, who said he was in the north Houston warehouse, and did NOT step foot into the 411 Elm St. building that day.) It excluded 3 employees that were absent that day.

Mrs. Robert Reid, and Pauline Sanders both state they were in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lunchroom that day, and left around 12:15 – 12:20. They do not say who else was in that lunchroom, but Mrs, Donald Walker, Betty Dragoo, Carolyn Arnold, Judy Johnson, Bonnie Richey, Virginia Baker, Georgia Ruth Hendrix, Gloria Holt, Delores Andrews, and Joyce Stansbury all state that they left around 12:15 to 12:20 to watch the Motorcade. Some left the building, while others stayed in the building, so "left" could refer to the lunchroom. How many of these were the "general ones that usually eat there with me every day" that Mrs. Reid refers to in her Warren Commission testimony is anyone's guess.

There were a number of people who reported staying in the building:

- 1<sup>st</sup> floor: Eddie Piper, Roy Edward Lewis (front window) and Troy Eugene West (the shipping wrapper) by back doors.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor: Geneva L Hines (desk), Carol Hughes (desk)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> floor: Stephen Wilson (desk), Doris Ray Burns (walking), Edna Case (desk), Sandra Sue Elerson (window watching Motorcade)
- **4th floor:** Vickie Adams, Sandra Styles, Elsie Dorman (together at windows watching Motorcade), Dorothy Garner (at her desk by window, with Adams, Styles and Dorman), Mary Hollies and Bettie Foster (together at window watching Motorcade), Yola D. Hopson and Ruth Nelson (together at window watching Motorcade), Ruth Willis (?)
- 5<sup>th</sup> floor: Bonnie Ray Williams, Harold Norman and James Jarman Jr.
- **6<sup>th</sup> floor:** Jack Dougherty (also on 5<sup>th</sup> floor)

Most of the other employees report that they were outside, in front of the building, or in other locations throughout Dallas.

All of these statements, with the single exception of Danny Arce, say that they did not see any strangers in the building that day. They also discuss if they knew Oswald, and whether they had seen him during that day at any time.

at this time that he saw the older gentleman with the "kidney problem", gave him directions to the restroom inside, watched him come into the building and saw him leaving a couple of minutes later.

Oswald himself claimed that he was eating lunch in the lunchroom. This was supposedly later confirmed in 1978 by Carolyn Arnold, who was not interviewed by the Warren Commission. Ms Arnold's FBI statement of April 18, 1964 makes no such claim. No other person states that Oswald was in the lunchroom.

Bonnie Ray Williams says they quit about 5 or 10 minutes before 12:00, and he went down in the west elevator. (v3 p167) He also recalls hearing Oswald yell for the elevator, but being on the west elevator; he could not see Oswald and was uncertain which floor Oswald was on. On the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, he washed up, then got his lunch from the Domino room. He then returned to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, presumably on the west elevator, which would

explain why it was no longer on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor when Charles Givens looked to lower the gate on it. Williams had earlier heard Bill Lovelady and Danny Arce discuss eating lunch on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, where they would have a good view of the motorcade. So he assumed that is where everyone was going to meet.

Bonnie Ray Williams finishes his lunch on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, in the area just west of the 'sniper's nest'. The lunch consists of a bag of Fritos, a chicken sandwich, and a Dr Pepper from the vending machine on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor (v3 p169). He leaves his lunch bag, bottle and trash on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, which is later found and photographed by investigators.

About 12:20 (v3 p173) Williams finishes his lunch, and takes the west elevator down to look for his friends. He stops on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, where he finds them.

Harold Norman and James Jarman hear that the motorcade has reached Main St., so they decide that the 5<sup>th</sup> floor would be a better vantage point to watch the motorcade. (Jarman v3 p202, Norman v3 p190). (Presumably, they hear this on the Police radio of a nearby officer. The first mention of Main St. is at 12:21 on the police channel 2. Based on this Williams estimate of 12:20 is probably a little early, if they had to go around the building, and up to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor first.) They go around the building, because there are too many people blocking the front door. They take the east elevator back up to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. They raise the windows on the northeast corner of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Here they are joined by Bonnie Ray Williams, and they will remain here until after the shooting.

Officer Baker and Roy Truly would later say that both elevators were on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, and we are at that position at this point in time. However, there is also some limited use of the elevators by Jack Dougherty.

Jack Dougherty was a stock worker, who supposedly saw and spoke to Oswald when he came in that morning. (v6 p377) He seems extremely positive that Oswald had nothing in his hands when he spoke to him, but only after Mr. Ball questions him multiple times. However, in his WC testimony, (v6 p381) he later claims that "some of the fellows" saw Oswald with a large package. He cites Bill Shelley saying this "the day after it happened". (Shelley does not say this in his testimony.)

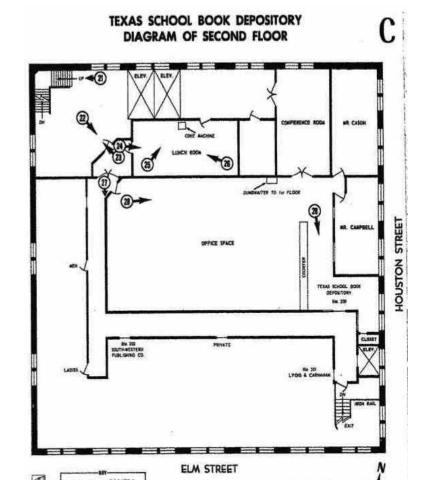
Dougherty's testimony is rather confused, and Mr Ball has to constantly remind him of his earlier FBI testimony. He eventually states (v6 p377-379) that he quit working for lunch about 12:00 noon, ate his lunch in the Domino room (Arce v6 p364)., and returned to work about 12:30. He was doing his normal order filling duties that day, and not assisting with the laying of the new floor. At around 12:30, he went briefly to the 6<sup>th</sup> floor, using the west elevator, to get some stock, and then returned to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor on that elevator. (v6 p379)

He was standing about 10 feet away from the elevator, when he heard one shot. He insists he only heard one, and it sounded like a car backfiring; however, he does say it sounded like it was from overhead. (Mr Ball then points out that in the FBI testimony, Dougherty said it sounded like a "loud explosion".) (v6 p380)

Dougherty says that he heard no call for the elevator, nor heard anyone going up the stairs. He also never saw Officer Baker and Roy Truly. (below)

He says that he continues to pick up his stock on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, and then takes the west elevator down to the first floor. It is here that he speaks to janitor Eddie Piper, and is told that the President had been shot.

Eddie Piper had spoken to Oswald about going to lunch about 12, but Oswald just said "Yeah." and then mumbled something Piper did not catch. (v6 p383) Piper sat inside the 2<sup>nd</sup> window on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, but could not really see the motorcade because of the crowd blocking his view. Piper moved his position after the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot, to a better vantage point, and then heard the 3<sup>rd</sup> shot. He still could not readily see anything, because of the crowd. He could not tell where the sound of the shots came from. He estimates it was about 12:27. (v6 p385) Eddie does not recall Baker's uniform and helmet, as he states he was not sure if it was an FBI man or policeman, but he hears him ask where the elevators were, and says he says, "I don't know, sir, Mr. Truly."



Officer Marion Baker's timeline of getting off his motorcycle, and coming into the building with building Supervisor Roy Truly, is being covered by Richard Van Noord, Sean Murphy, Jeff Rollins and Chris Davidson (with me assisting by staying out of their way) for a presentation for JFK Lancer. I will cover Baker and Truly's path through the building.

Baker runs into the front door of the building, on his way to the roof, where Baker has seen pigeons take wing at the sound of the shots. Building supervisor Roy Truly sees him and follows

him. They make connections somewhere in the front, or in the entryway (Arce V6 p385). Truly then leads the way, to show Baker the way to the roof.

Truly runs into the half-door at the Will Call counter, which is latched. (v3 p222) Baker then runs into the back of Roy Truly. Baker and Truly then back up, so that they can swing the door open, and enter. They then proceed from the southeast entrance to the north wall, for the freight elevators (the only access to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors, and the roof). (see red line on 1<sup>st</sup> floor diagram above).

Truly sees that both elevators are apparently on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor (v3 p 223). Presumably the west one (callable) is in use by Jack Dougherty, or left there when Jarman and Norman took it back to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The east elevator (manual), was taken to the 5<sup>th</sup> by Bonnie Ray Williams, when he took it down from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

Truly pushes the button, and call bell, and shouts for someone to "release the elevator" by lowering the gate. According to both Baker and Truly, he does this at least twice. (Baker v3 p249, Truly v3 p223). Jack Dougherty states that he never heard them. (v6 p381)

Baker and Truly then proceed up the stairs, in the northwest corner of the building. The proceed into the stairs on the north wall of the  $1^{st}$  floor, and come out on the west wall of the  $2^{nd}$ .

As Baker is following Roy Truly across the 20 feet (or so) of the  $2^{nd}$  floor, Baker notices a man through the glass window in the vestibule door in front of the  $2^{nd}$  floor lunchroom, walking away from him. He opens the door and yells for the man (about 20 feet away - v3 p250) to stop.

Baker asks Truly, who has turned back to find out where Baker was delayed, "Do you know this man? Does he work here?" Truly yells, "Yes!", and the two simply continue up the stairs.

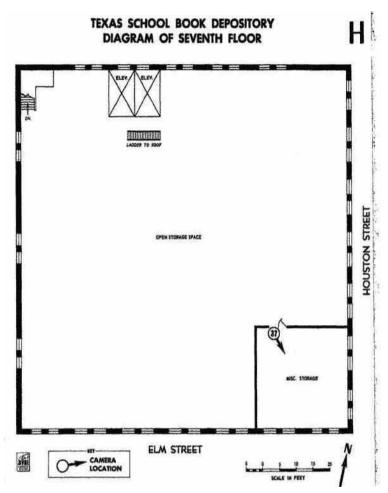
Two re-enactments done for the investigators take 1 minute 30 seconds, and 1 minute 15 seconds to reach the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lunchroom. (v3 p252-253) Baker says that there was no time taken during the re-enactments for his scan of the crowds down Elm St, nor for his

having to work his way through the crowds on the front steps/entryway/lobby. (We do not know about time for the half-door collision, or any other delay of Baker looking for suspicious people as he travels through the building.) He states that the actual time was probably longer, and that these times were most likely the minimum times it would take to reach the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lunchroom.

Of course, the man Baker encountered is Lee Harvey Oswald, who has (according to the Warren Commission) taken 3 shots at the motorcade, taken his rifle from the southeast corner, dodging rows of books, to a location just south of the down stairway on the west wall, towards the northwest corner, and stashed it under a number of cartons. He has then proceeded down the stairs on the west wall, emerging on the north wall of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. He has crossed the 20 feet of the 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors, and has ended up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. He has entered the lunch room, just prior to Baker and Truly emerging from the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, and is seen walking away through the glass window in the vestibule door.

Oswald is not seen crossing any of the floors, including the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, where Jack Dougherty is getting stock and putting it on the west elevator. The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor has the stairway area readily blocked from view (see layouts above), and the 4<sup>th</sup> floor is similarly blocked, if you are standing in the office area at the front of the building.

Baker and Truly continue up all flights of stairs, until they reach the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, and Truly spots the east elevator. By this time the west elevator is no longer on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, or Truly would have been unable to see the east one on the other side of the west elevator shaft from the stairway. (Truly v3 p229, Baker v3 p255) Presumably, Jack Dougherty has taken the west elevator back down to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, during their race up the steps or encounter with Oswald. They then proceed to take the east elevator and continue up to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.



Baker states that he had his pistol drawn the entire time, and was alert to any movement by any individual. He recalls having seen people on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, and Eddie Piper is one of the employees who recall seeing Truly and Baker come through (v6 p384).

Baker and Truly then take the ladder to the roof. On the roof, both men lift themselves up onto the wall that surrounds the roof, which requires them to stick their toes in a crack and lift themselves up to peer over. Baker decides that it is unlikely that a rifleman could hold himself up in that position, while shooting a rifle.

He also climbs about 10 feet of the ladder that

goes up onto the Hertz sign, as well as checks out the elevator control shed on the roof. (v3 n260)

Baker and Truly then come back down the ladder, and take the east elevator back down. (Baker is a little vague in his testimony here, insisting that the elevators did not go to the 7<sup>th</sup> floor, and that they had to go down a level of stairs. However, he later says they got on the elevator on the top floor. -v3 p260-261) On their way down in the east elevator, they pause at the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, where Baker reports to Inspector Sawyer that he had checked out the roof. However, they do not actually get off the elevator, and after talking to Sawyer, they proceed down to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Baker leaves the building, and later estimates that he had spent approximately 15 minutes in the building (v3 p262).

Baker then follows the motorcade to the Trade Mart, then Parkland where he helps with crowd control, and later Love Field.

At this time, we lose all reference to the freight elevators. We had lost the placement of the west elevator when Jack Dougherty got off, and now lose track of the east elevator when Baker and Truly are through with it. However, at this time the building is also filling up with Policemen and other investigators, as they begin their searches for suspects and evidence.

Stairway: At the time of the shooting, Bonnie Ray Williams, James Jarman and Harold Norman on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor hear the sounds of the shots right above them. They run to the west side of the building, because they see a number of people in Dealey Plaza going up the steps to the railroad yard. They linger on the west side of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for a few minutes, and do not see anyone in the stairway area of the building. This area is actually blocked from view from the west wall by a number of boxes and a short wall. They never hear any running from the floors above them, nor running on the stairway; although, while at the open west window, they were probably subjected to the noise from outside.

They move to the area next to the stairway on the north wall, to see if they can see anything out that direction. Only Bonnie Ray Williams recalls seeing Baker come across the floor, to go to the east elevator. (v3 p180) The other 2 do not recall seeing either. (Jarman v3 p206, Norman v3 p193). They then proceed down the stairs. (Norman v3 p194)



View down the west wall on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Stairway would be behind the stack on the far end of the aisle.

In the movie "JFK", Oliver Stone discusses the travels of Victoria Adams and Sandra Styles down the stairs immediately after the shooting. He places their movements in the

time that Oswald would have had to come down the stairs, stating that they do not see him or hear him.

Vickie Adams and Sandra Styles watched the motorcade from a front window on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. They were there with Dorothy Garner and Elsie Dorman (who attempted to film the motorcade from the front windows, but filmed too high as she didn't want to look through the small viewfinder and miss seeing the President and First Lady in person). (Adams v6 p386) From that point at the front of the building, they could not see the stairs area, as there is a wall (see 4<sup>th</sup> floor diagram).

Adams is initially unwilling to state a length of time between the last shot and when she went down the stairs. (v6 p392) However, Mr. Belin gets her to estimate that it was about 30 seconds after the last shot until she "start(ed) toward the stairway". He then gets her to say it was less than a minute after leaving the window that she was down on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. (In 3" heels, no less. -v6 p389) She also states that the elevators were not moving.

However, she then states that immediately after arriving on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, she sees Bill Shelley and Bill Lovelady by the "Houston Street dock" (v6 p389-390). Bill Shelley and Bill Lovelady say that they "didn't do anything for a minute" (Shelley v6 p329). They state that they saw Truly and Baker go in, but state it was "3 or 4 minutes" (p329). They then went to the railroad yards (Lovelady v6 p339, Shelley v6 p330), and worked their way to the back of the building, where they entered into one of the overhead doors on the west side. Lovelady does say that is when they saw Vickie Adams (Lovelady v6 p340, Shelley v6 p330). (I have not been able to pick out Shelley and Lovelady in the photos and films of the crowds in the railroad yards.) It appears that someone is confused somewhere, as that is a lot of ground for Shelley and Lovelady to cover in the 1½ minutes that Adams says she made it down to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. It is questionable whether Adams and Styles came down the stairs that quickly. **In 2008, researcher Sean Murphy had a telephone interview with Sandra, in which she says it was more time. She was surprised at Vickie's estimate.** 

The last witness to movement inside the building is Mrs. Robert Reid.

Mrs. Reid ate her lunch in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lunchroom, starting around noon. (v3 p271) She ate it "rather hurriedly" so that she could go find a good position for the motorcade. She estimates that she left the lunchroom around 12:15-12:20. She remembers that the "usual girls" were there, and they left before she did. She could not recall if anyone was left in the lunchroom when she left. Mrs. Reid says she was standing almost directly in front of the entrance to the TSBD during the motorcade. (v3 p272)

After the shots, Mrs. Reid went into the building, up the stairs by the entrance, and to her desk. (v3 p274) Her desk was located close to the dumbwaiter on the north wall of the office area on the second floor. (see diagram) Oswald came into the office area from the door on the northwest corner (diagram by circle 27 & 28). Mrs. Reid told him the President had been shot, and he was calm and mumbled something she did not catch. Oswald had a coke in his right hand, and proceeded out of the building. Mrs. Reid did not notice his path out of the building, as she was not watching him. In a re-enactment, they estimated Mrs. Reid was at her desk approximately 2 minutes after the final shot. (v3 p275)

Oswald apparently went down the front steps, or front passenger elevator. He supposedly gave a couple of people directions to a phone, and left the building. (Newsman Pierce Allman, and Robert McNeil both later state they got directions from Oswald, but Oswald thought it was a Secret Service agent he gave directions to.)

Ochus V. Campbell was quoted in the NY Herald Tribune Times on Nov 23 that he saw Oswald in the ground floor storage room immediately after the shooting, but this statement was not made in the CE 1381 FBI signed statement, and Mr. Campbell was not interviewed by the Warren Commission. He also told the Dallas Morning News on Nov 23, that it was at the 1<sup>st</sup> floor storage room that an officer with a drawn gun encountered Oswald. (It is uncertain if he was talking about Truly, or someone else Oswald encountered.)

The study of the stairways, elevators and movements inside the building are highly interesting to me. If there were more than just Lee Harvey Oswald shooting from inside the Texas School Book Depository, they would have to use these stairs and elevators to get access to, and escape from the building. This naturally puts them at risk of being seen by the regular employees of the building, or even being trapped without a means of escape. If they are setting Oswald up as a patsy without his knowledge, they also run the risk of being seen by Oswald himself.

Of course, the witnesses that made statements about movements within the building could be mistaken or lying about when these movements occurred. Additionally, there are natural gaps in time where the stairways and elevators could not be seen by employees, and others. The stairs have a gap from when most employees left the building at 12:15-12:20, to when Baker and Truly ascended at about 12:32. The elevators appear to have a gap between 12:15-20, when the 3 men convened on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, and when Jack Dougherty used them around 12:28 or so. A large team of conspirators accessing and escaping the building would naturally take time and planning. The stairs and elevators are not easily seen from most floors, but there is always the risk. Only one stranger was reported in the building that day, by Danny Arce. These are all factors that must be considered.

Naturally, all testimony can be influenced by both the person asking the questions, as well as conversations the witness has heard and had between the time of the event and the time of making the statements. None of this evidence is cast in stone, and should be taken with proper skepticism.

This is a first swing at this topic, and I feel it is very important to include HSCA statements, press statements, and other statements that could fill the gaps and further clarify the access, egress and movement within the TSBD.