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**This document may contain graphic information
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Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

CB # 7580 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7580

Telephone 9199662253

REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

DECEDENT

Document Identifier B200904967

Autopsy Type ME Autopsy

Name Kathryn Fox Maxwell

Age 43 yrs

Race White

Sex F

AUTHORIZATION

Authorized By Damon K. Arrington MSN

Received From Cumberland

ENVIRONMENT

Date of Exam 11/03/2009

Time of Exam 11:17

Autopsy Facility Office of the Chief Medical Examiner **Persons Present** Dr. Clark, Clyde Gibbs, Hiliary Sheaves, Molly Hupp, Bill Holloman

CERTIFICATION

Cause of Death

Gunshot wounds to head

The facts stated herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Digitally signed by

John D. Butts MD 29 November 2009 21:45

DIAGNOSES

Close-range gunshot wound, right posterolateral head with injury to skull and brain

Gunshot wound of right hand with exit and re-entry right side of head

IDENTIFICATION

Body Identified By

Papers/ID Tag

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Length 67.5 inches

Weight 128 pounds

Body Condition Intact

Rigor Present

Livor Posterior

Hair Brownish, fastened in back with elastic

Eyes Hazel, 5 mm pupils

Teeth Natural

These are the remains of a slender, normally-developed and nourished-appearing female. She is clothed in white athletic shoes with white socks. She has on black jogging pants that are partly down to the mid-thigh region over white panties, which are in place. On the upper part of the body is a zip-front, white and black jacket over a white t-shirt and bra.

EKG electrodes are present on the body. There are ID tags on the right wrist and left ankle. Reddish polish is noted on the toenails. There is an oval scar in the small of the back in the presacral region.

INJURIES

1. This is a gunshot wound whose entrance is located on the right posterolateral head in the parietal-occipital region approximately 2" posterior to and 1" up from the right external auditory meatus. The wound is rounded with a radiating tear at approximately 1 o'clock. It is 0.4" in diameter. Surrounding it is an area of loose powder stippling

approximately 1.5" in overall diameter. The wound track passes through the scalp to the right parietal bone. There is a round inshoot in the skull with beveling directed inwards. The track extends through the right parietal lobe of the brain, crosses the midline into the left parietal frontal region and strikes the left inner surface of the skull at the coronal suture. There is considerable fracturing. The bullet is partly imbedded in the skull fragments. There is an extensive track of destruction through the brain with some subarachnoid hemorrhage, as well. A flattened large/intermediate-caliber lead core is recovered in the left frontal-parietal region superiorly. Also recovered from the substance of the brain is the separated copper jacket, which has a base diameter of approximately 0.4" The overall direction of this wound is from the right to the left, forward, and upwards.

2. This is a gunshot wound that involves the right hand and head. The initial entrance is in the first phalange of the index finger. It is rounded, approximately 0.4" in diameter with several radiating tears. Surrounding it is an approximately 3.5" in overall diameter area of stippling that involves the back of the hand, middle finger, and portions of the thumb. The bullet passes through the finger after fracturing the phalange, and on the back of the index finger is a 2.6" in overall length irregular laceration. The bullet has passed out of the finger through the area of the nail on the index finger. The nail is absent. The bullet also grazes the thumb just at the base of the nail where there is a 1" x 0.5" area of laceration. The bullet then apparently re-enters the body in the right ear. This entrance is 1.5" in length x 0.75" in overall width and lies just above the auditory meatus. There is tearing and laceration of the back of the pinna. The bullet passes through the petrous portion of the right temporal bone at the base of the skull and enters into the oral cavity, chipping at least 1 molar tooth. The bullet strikes the back of the tongue, passes through it, and comes to rest in the soft tissues at the base of the tongue on the left. The bullet recovered is similar in size and appearance to the one previously described, approximately 0.4" in overall diameter with anterior mushrooming and a copper jacket. The overall direction of this wound through the head is from the right to the left, downwards, and slightly forwards.

DISPOSITION OF CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

The following items are released with the body

None.

The following items are preserved as evidence

All.

PROCEDURES

Radiographs

X-rays reveal bullets within the cranial cavity, as described.

Special Evidence Collection

Blood stain sample obtained. Both bullets collected and saved. These, plus clothing are turned over to law enforcement, Det. J. Locklear on 11-9-09.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Body Cavities

The pleural, peritoneal, and pericardial cavities are unremarkable without evidence of inflammation, exudation, or hemorrhage.

Cardiovascular System

Heart Weight 260 grams

The coronary arteries show normal distribution and no atherosclerosis. The myocardium is reddish brown without areas of discoloration or thinning. The valves are normally formed. The aorta and its major branches are intact with minimal atherosclerotic streaking. There is relatively little blood remaining in the vascular system.

Respiratory System

Right Lung Weight 230 grams

Left Lung Weight 250 grams

The lungs are both light and airy. There are some areas of aspirated blood on the left. No space-occupying lesions are noted. The pulmonary arteries are free of clot. A small amount of bloody fluid is present in the trachea and bronchi. There is no abnormality of the epiglottis or larynx. The hyoid bone and thyroid cartilages are intact. The tongue shows injury, as described.

Gastrointestinal System

The GI tract is intact throughout its length. The appendix is present. The stomach contains several tablespoons of dark fluid and a few soft, tan food fragments.

Liver

Liver Weight 1080 grams

The liver is pale reddish-brown without accentuation of the lobular architecture. The gallbladder contains bile and the extrahepatic system is intact.

Spleen

Spleen Weight 100 grams

Unremarkable.

Pancreas

Unremarkable.

Urinary

Right Kidney Weight 120 grams

Left Kidney Weight 120 grams

The cortical surfaces of both kidneys are smooth. The ureters are intact. The bladder contains approximately 40 cc of clear urine.

Reproductive

The uterus is absent. Ovaries and tubes are present and appear unremarkable.

Endocrine

The thyroid gland is normal in size and configuration.

The adrenal glands are unremarkable.

Neurologic

Brain Weight 1250 grams

There is marked injury present, as described. Multiple coronal sections reveal no evidence of pre-existing abnormalities.

Skin

Abnormalities, as noted.

Immunologic System

No lymphadenopathy is noted.

Musculoskeletal System

Injuries, as described.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Cardiovascular

Heart is unremarkable.

Respiratory

Lung is unremarkable.

Liver

Scattered foci of fatty change noted.

Genitourinary

Kidney is unremarkable.

Neurologic

Section of brain taken shows areas of intraparenchymal hemorrhage.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

This was a 43-year-old woman who apparently, with her 2 children, was shot by her husband, who then killed himself.

Autopsy examination revealed 2 gunshot wounds. One was located on the right posterior head. The bullet passed through the skull, causing marked damage to the brain. The second wound involved the right hand and right ear, with the bullet striking the hand at close range, passing through it, and then re-entering the head through the area of the ear, causing damage to the base of the skull and tongue. In my opinion, this woman died as a result of these gunshot wounds.

DIAGRAMS

1. 1. Adult (front/back)
2. 2. Head (left/right)
3. 3. Hands

State of North Carolina

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

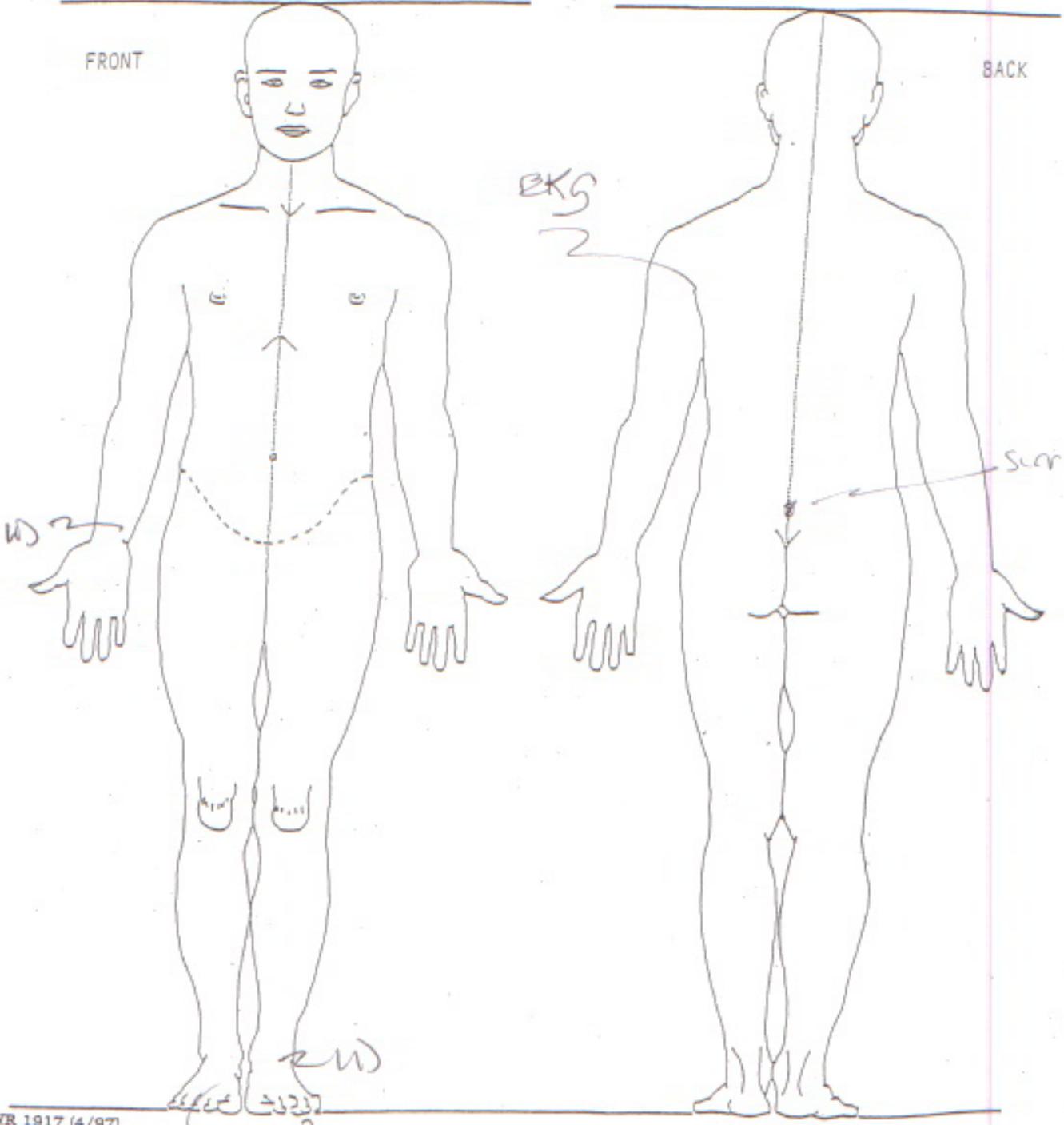
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Name of Decedent: Kathryn Maxwell

Autopsy # BOG. 4967

Examined By: PB Date: 11/15/09

BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (Front/Back)



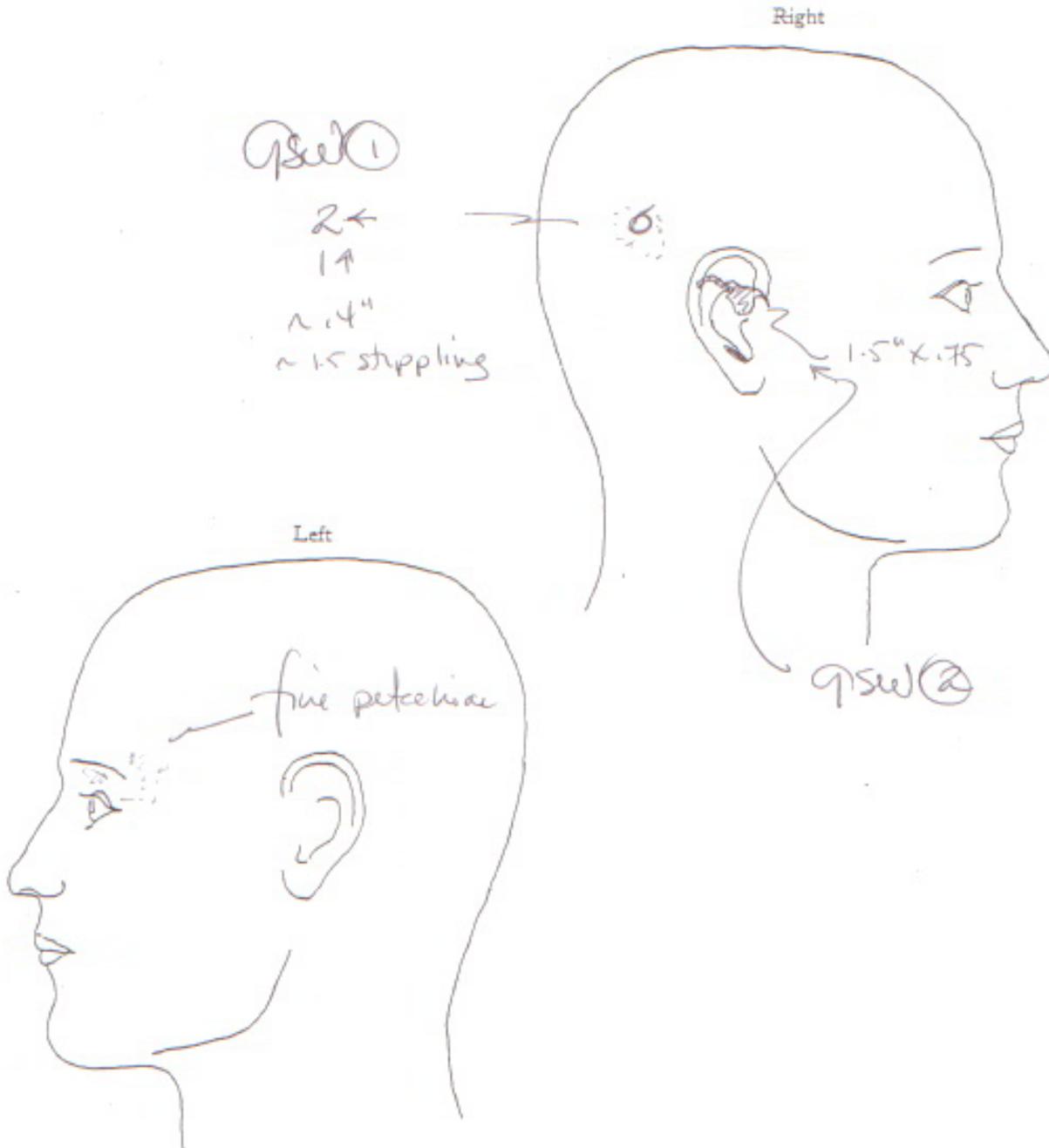
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PAGE ___ OF ___

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BODY DIAGRAM: HEAD (left/right)



State of North Carolina

Name of Decedent: Kathryn Maxwell

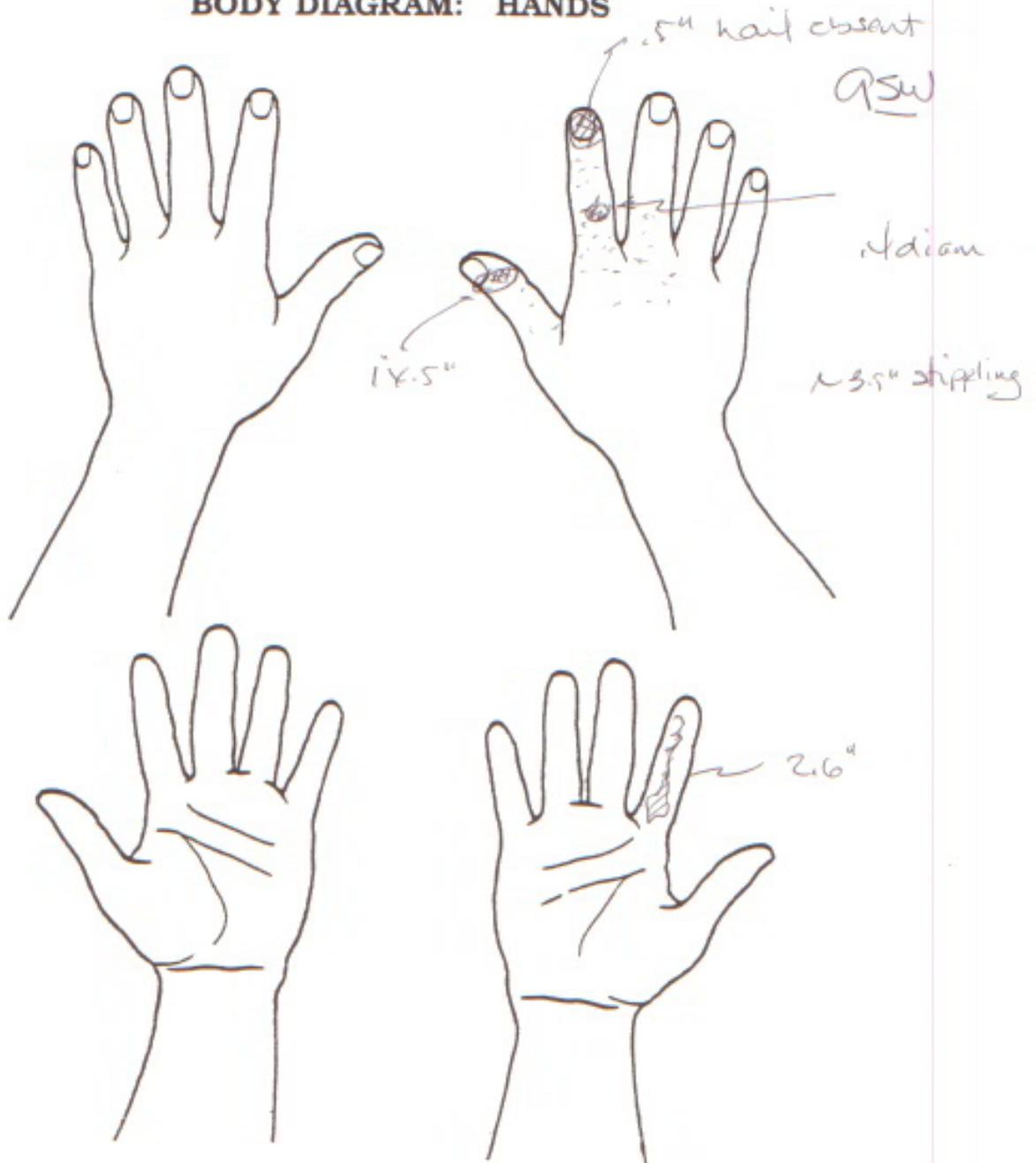
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Autopsy # B09-4967

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Examined By: JB Date: 11/3/09

BODY DIAGRAM: HANDS



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PAGE ___ OF ___