CUYAHOGA COUNTY
CORONER'S OFFICE

CLEVELAND, OHIO • U.S.A.
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
CORONERS OFFICE LABORATORY
1957
RAY L. LAMB - CHAIRMAN
FRANK P. CELESTE - JOHN F. CURRY
SAMUEL H. DEUTSCH - JOSEPH EGORIAN
GEORGE O. ROWH - HENRY W. SPEETH
CARL M. HALKE - SECRETARY
SAMUEL P. GERSON - CORONER
RAYMOND D. DEVNEY
CARTELL HARSH & ROBINSON & SCHAFF - ARCHITECTS
COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA
CORONER'S OFFICE
CLEVELAND, OHIO

This volume has been prepared as a tribute to all citizens of Cuyahoga County whose interest and support made it possible to erect, equip and staff this modern efficient Coroner's Office, Laboratories and Mortuary to serve this community and attain a prominent position in advancing medicolegal practices.

Many citizens of Cuyahoga County and individuals and official committees throughout the United States and other countries frequently request descriptions of this building. It is hoped that the pictures and legends on the following pages will be a satisfactory reply to such requests.

S. R. Gerber, M.D.
Coroner
The Architectural problems of the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office and Laboratory were unique in that there had not been any such building erected in the United States in recent years. Moreover the concept of the function of this building was to be based on the latest developments in the field of Police, crime, and accident detection. This required a totally new approach to the problem.

Under Dr. Gerber's direction and guidance the plans were developed incorporating the latest ideas of what such a building should be, and to provide the maximum efficiency in operation and maintenance.

The building is compact and simple in design and appearance. A minimum of ornament or elaboration was used – on the other hand, no expense was spared in the most modern and fine equipment available.

Cuyahoga County can be proud of the fact that this building expresses the latest and best thinking in this field.

GARFIELD, HARRIS, ROBINSON & SCHAFER

Architects for the Building
Roediger Construction, Inc., was proud to have played their part in the building of the new County Coroner's Office, Mortuary and Laboratory Building.

It gave us great pleasure to work with Doctor Gerber, County Coroner, and Garfield, Harris, Robinson and Schafer, Architects, who in their combined efforts, did a superb job in the designing and engineering of the project.

ROEDIGER CONSTRUCTION, INC.

[Signature]

Stanley L. Roediger,
President
Completed and occupied in June 1953. Located at 2121 Adelbert Road, Cleveland, Ohio. All offices, laboratories and mortuary facilities essential to a modern medicolegal department are provided in this one unit.

Simple in design and furnishings, the lobby presents a pleasant first impression as one enters the building.
Personal property of decedents is recorded and safeguarded until persons designated by Probate Court present themselves at this office with legal authorization to claim such property.

First information regarding cases is recorded in this office. The custodians are charged with the responsibility of receiving the deceased individuals and completing the required admission records and the release of the bodies to the funeral directors upon proper authorization.
Bodies are weighed, measured, undressed and detailed descriptions recorded immediately upon admission. The mirror at the ceiling permits the custodian at his desk to observe activity at the ambulance dock outside the admitting room.
Mirropane-thermopane windows separate the view room from the corridor where people may view unidentified deceased persons. Until the proper lighting is effected, only the mirror surfaces are apparent.
On the first floor there are 28 crypts, shown here, for storage of bodies. There are 32 additional crypts in the basement.
Refrigeration for body storage spaces is provided by 10 compressors. Separate compressors for 4, 6, or 8 crypts provide for maximum efficiency and economy.
Putrefying bodies are placed in a special storage room adjacent to the receiving room and connecting with this autopsy room for necropsies on such bodies.
In this well equipped room, 1045 autopsies were performed in 1954. Special features include a dictation room, sterilizer, and dumb waiter to transport specimens directly to the laboratories.
The amphitheater with 42 comfortable seats, has facilities for demonstrations and consultations and has been used by numerous groups for special meetings.
Color photography is utilized to record evidence and aid in court presentation. A well equipped dark room connects with the room shown here through a maze. Additional photographic equipment not shown here includes the most modern equipment for photomicrography.
X-ray unit (200-MA) provides for recording fractures and foreign bodies which also may be visualized by fluoroscopy.

Every convenience is provided for maximum efficiency in developing x-ray films.
Here the Coroner meets the public and directs the many medical, legal and administrative duties of his office.
In this pleasant office the Chief Deputy Coroner interviews and consults with relatives of deceased persons and otherwise assists the Coroner.
In this office, records are completed and information released to the public.

Official records of cases brought to the Coroner's office within the past three years are kept in these active files. Records of Cuyahoga County Coroner's cases are complete back to 1830 and are preserved on microfilm.
A reference library of medico-legal literature is maintained for use of the staff of the Coroner's Office. Here, also, complete statistical information on all cases is recorded and compiled.

This room was designed to be used for all types of conferences as well as for inquests when necessary.
The pathologists are provided with facilities for performing tests in conjunction with their routine study of microscopic slides prepared from material to aid in autopsy diagnosis.
The most modern facilities are provided for maximum efficiency in preparation of autopsy tissues for microscopic study.
A wide variety of chemical analyses are conducted to aid in diagnoses. Routinely, alcohol determinations are conducted on blood of all decedents over 16 years of age who survive less than 12 hours after the onset of the cause of death.
This room is equipped for diversified techniques required in examining stains, hairs, fibers and various types of physical evidence.
Equipment for x-ray diffraction, x-ray spectrography and infrared spectrophotometry provides for the most modern technics in detecting and identifying organic and inorganic substances.
Erected in 1898 at 712 Lakeside Avenue, N.E. Alterations made to adapt the building to meet demands of progress in medicolegal investigations included: Refrigerated storage space for 22 bodies, installation of 2 laboratories, 1 x-ray room, 1 autopsy room, and offices in former storage spaces.