



CRIME SCENE HOUSE

In 2006, the Marshall University Forensic Science Center recognized the need for a dedicated mock crime scene facility to augment its training and educational services. The MUFSC Crime Scene House meets this need and is utilized for practical exercises in crime scene investigation as part of both MUFSC's training programs and its Master of Science degree program.

Built during the turn of the 20th century, the house is three-stories and contains approximately 5,000 square feet of usable space. The house features nine rooms, a garage with attached two room apartment, a side-yard, gazebo, porches, and an unfinished basement. A room on the third floor serves as a classroom and can be utilized as a mock courtroom.

The entire first floor of the home is wired with closed circuit audio and video equipment used to monitor trainees. The training sessions can be recorded onto a hard drive for later presentation or review. This gives instructors the ability to critique practical exercises while instilling independence in the trainees. Four rooms are equipped with 360 degree motorized cameras with panning and zooming capabilities along with two fixed cameras. These cameras give the instructor an unobstructed remote view of each room.



FORENSIC SCIENCE

In order to provide the most practical experience possible, each room in the house is set up to mimic realistic crime scene environments, including a furnished living room and dining room, furnished bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchen. Furniture may be rearranged to provide instructors with countless possible crime scene scenarios. One room has been modified to accommodate blood stain pattern experimentation, painted with industrial strength high gloss enamel which allows simulated blood spatter to be washed off easily.



The gazebo, garage, apartment, and side-yard dramatically expand the scope of the crime scene house and present real world challenges to students. The outside workspace introduces environmental conditions on a crime scene investigation, while the inclusion of the garage and apartment provide trainees with experience in processing multiple events at a single scene. The array of environments offer students the ability to conduct extensive practical exercises in virtually every aspect of crime scene investigation including large grid searches, clandestine grave excavations, mock shooting incidences, home invasions, and death investigations.

The Crime Scene House facilitates hands-on training and research in various investigative sciences including: bloodstain pattern analysis, bullet trajectory analysis, forensic entomology, impression evidence analysis, and crime scene photography.