

Puzzling Features of Crooks Crime Scene

Did Crooks toss his rifle aside? If so, was he hoping that counter-snipers would refrain from shooting him to preserve him as a witness?

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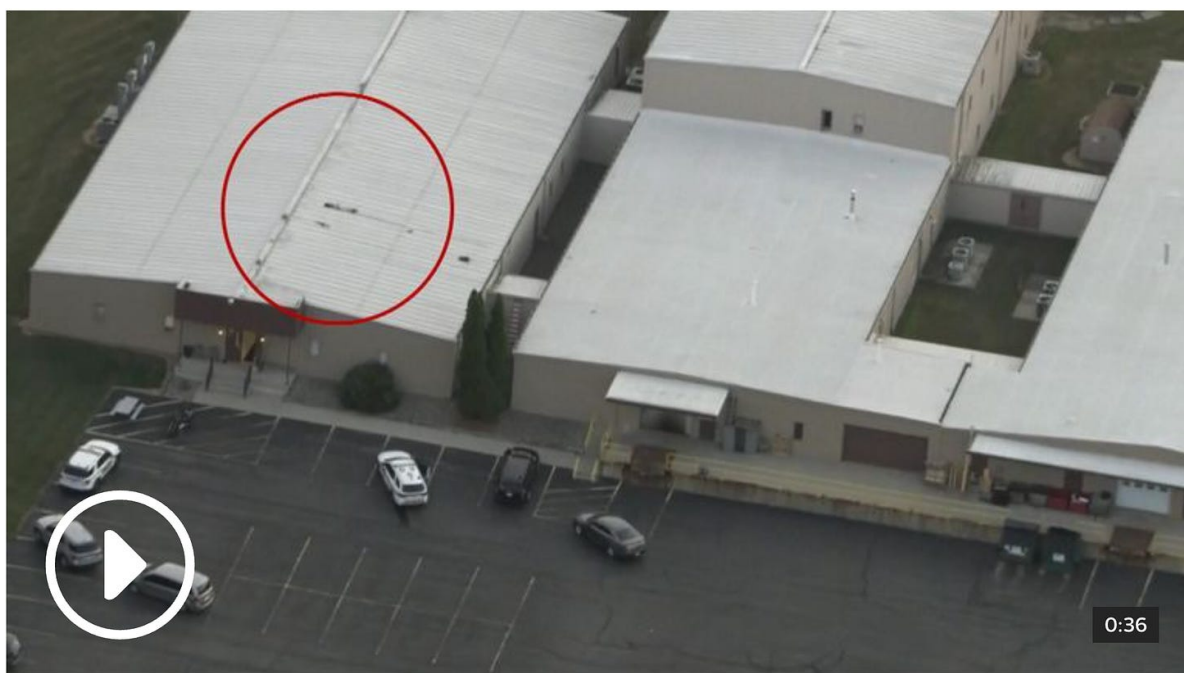
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The following still images from aerial video footage of the dead would-be assassin on the rooftop strike me as puzzling.



Note the large flow of blood downslope of his body in the following closeup. The position of

his body marks the position at which he was shot in the head.



I initially wondered if the photo was taken after law officers checked Crooks's body to make sure he was dead, **then separated the weapon from his body**, and then left the scene. Perhaps initial responders were told to leave the roof to minimize contamination of the crime scene, and to wait in the parking lot below for the coroner and crime scene investigators to arrive.

However, I still believe it is worth trying to ascertain if it was Crooks who tossed the weapon far to his left after he finished shooting. It appears that the weapon's magazine is still seated in the weapon. Did the responders check to make sure the chamber and magazine were empty, and then reinsert the magazine?

The position of Crooks's body—a few feet below the roof's ridge—suggest that he was trying to crawl in reverse, back down the roof, but was unable to keep his head low enough to avoid getting shot by a counter-sniper.

I wonder if he believed—or **was led to believe**—that if he made a show of tossing his rifle far to the side, the counter-snipers would refrain from shooting him to preserve him as a witness.

Obviously, the time to shoot Crooks was the second he aimed his weapon from the roof's ridge, not after he'd finished shooting and was crawling in retreat back down the roof's slope.

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