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## Department of Archives and Manuscripts

### **Alabama. Tenth Judicial Circuit Court** *State of Alabama vs. Robert E. Chambliss Trial Transcript,* **1977**

#### **Background:**

On the morning of Sunday, September 15, 1963 a bomb planted by members of the Ku Klux Klan exploded outside the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, an African American church in Birmingham, Alabama. The blast did extensive damage to the church building and killed four girls inside. Several other members of the congregation also suffered injuries.

In 1977 Robert E. Chambliss was tried and convicted for his role in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing. Chambliss died in prison in 1985.

#### **Scope and Content:**

This collection contains the transcript for Robert E. Chambliss' 1977 trial, 15 photographs showing bomb damage to the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and surrounding area, and trial notes and dispatches produced by Associated Press reporter Garry Mitchell. This guide includes an appendix listing witnesses and the page on which their testimony begins.

#### **Related Collections:**

Birmingham, Ala. Police Department Surveillance Files  
United States. Federal Bureau of Investigation Sixteenth Street Baptist  
Church Bombing Investigation Files

#### **Subject Areas:**

Bombings – Alabama – Birmingham.  
Sixteenth Street Baptist Church (Birmingham, Ala.)

**Size:** 1/3 linear foot (1 box)

**Source:** Alabama. Tenth Judicial Circuit Court

**Restrictions:** Standard preservation and copyright restrictions.

<b>File Number:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
85.1.1-85.1.7	Trial Transcript (see appendix). Pages 473 and 677 are missing.
85.1.8	Photograph showing damage to a parked automobile and debris in the street.
85.1.9	Photograph showing damage to exterior of church.
85.1.10	Photograph showing damage to an interior room of the church and an unidentified man talking on a telephone.
85.1.11	Photograph showing damage to parked automobiles, damage to a building across the street from the church, and debris in the street.
85.1.12	Photograph showing same scene as 85.1.11 from a different angle.
85.1.13	Photograph showing damage to the windows of the church, debris in the street, and armed police officers guarding the scene.
85.1.14	Photograph showing a close up view of damage to an automobile.
85.1.15	Photograph showing a close up view of damage to an automobile with damage to a building across the the street visible in the background.
85.1.16	Photograph showing the church's stained glass window, an image of Christ, with the face blown out by the explosion.
85.1.17	Photograph showing a close up view of interior damage, apparently of the church.
85.1.18	Photograph showing exterior damage to the church.
85.1.19	Photograph showing interior damage to the church sanctuary in the area of the pulpit.

- 85.1.20 Photograph showing interior damage to the church sanctuary in the areas of the pews.
- 85.1.21 Photograph showing exterior damage to the church building.
- 85.1.22 Photograph taken from the interior of the church showing a large hole in the wall.
- 85.1.23 Associated Press reporter Garry Mitchell's notes and dispatches from the Chambliss trial.

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## APPENDIX

This appendix lists the witnesses who testified at trial and the page on which the testimony begins. Witnesses are listed in order of appearance. Also listed are page numbers for the judge's instructions to the jury, the announcement of the verdict, and the imposition of sentence.

<b>Witnesses for Prosecution:</b>	<b>Testimony Begins on Page:</b>
E. H. Cantrell (Birmingham, Ala. police sergeant)	7
Glenn Norman Collins, Sr. (informant for the Birmingham, Ala. police department and the F.B.I.)	12
Edward K. Alley (Birmingham, Ala. police sergeant)	21
Jack E. LeGrand (Birmingham, Ala. police captain)	24
John Haywood Cross (pastor of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church)	61
Sarah Collins Riley (member of the congregation at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church)	91
William E. Berry	98

(Birmingham, Ala. assistant fire marshal)	
Joe Donald (physician who examined the victims' bodies at Hillman Hospital)	136
J. O. Butler, Sr. (Jefferson County, Ala. Coroner)	145
W. L. Allen (Jefferson County, Ala. Chief Deputy Coroner)	157
Jewel Christopher (Chris) McNair (father of bombing victim Denise McNair)	181
Thomas H. Cook (Birmingham, Ala. police officer)	187
E. H. Cantrell (Birmingham, Ala. police officer)	202
Jack LeGrand (Birmingham, Ala. police captain)	231
E. H. Cantrell (Birmingham, Ala. police officer)	240
Elizabeth H. Cobbs (niece of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	254
William Jackson (acquaintance of Robert E. Chambliss)	299
Gertrude Glenn (witness to events on night before bombing)	312
Jack Shows (Alabama Attorney General's chief investigator)	375
Gertrude Glenn (witness to events on night before bombing)	405
Timothy Michael Casey, Jr. (F.B.I. agent)	447

Yvonne Young (acquaintance of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	468
Aaron Rosenfeld (Birmingham, Ala. fire marshal)	489
E. H. Cantrell (Birmingham, Ala. police officer)	498
John McCormick (F.B.I. agent)	518

**Witnesses for Defense:**

**Testimony Begins on Page:**

Billy D. Webb (Birmingham, Ala. police officer)	556
Paul Hurst (Birmingham, Ala. police officer)	562
Floyd C. Garrett (Birmingham, Ala. police officer and nephew of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	565
Raymond Wells (acquaintance of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	578
Juanita Winston (neighbor of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	591
Chris E. Poe (member of same church as defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	596
Lucian Troulias (acquaintance of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	605
Robert Louis Gifford (acquaintance of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	607
John W. Lowery (acquaintance of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	611
E. L. Caswell (acquaintance of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	614

F. J. Feltman (Birmingham, Ala. police officer and acquaintance of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	616
James E. Sparks (acquaintance of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	620
Bennie Mae Brown (sister of defendant Robert E. Chambliss)	629
Edward Thilt Walker (expert witness regarding automobiles)	642
Maurice H. House (Birmingham, Ala. police detective)	645
Judge's Oral Charge to Jury	666
Verdict Announced	698
Sentence Imposed	700