

# Basic Detail Report

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## Elsie Dorman film

### Date

11/22/1963 - 11/25/1963

### Primary Maker

Elsie Dorman

### Medium

Film

### Dimensions

Gauge: 8mm; Camera Speed: 16 fps

### Object number

1995.020.0001

### Description

8mm color home movie taken by Elsie Dorman on November 22, 1963. This is the only known imagery of the presidential motorcade taken from the Texas School Book Depository building. This edited reel begins with Elsie Dorman stepping off a bus near her home in suburban Oak Cliff. Next is the Kennedy motorcade entering Dealey Plaza as seen from Dorman's office on the fourth floor of the Depository. Dorman filmed short sequences with her husband's camera that show the limousine approaching the Depository and turning onto Elm Street. Because Dorman had little experience with the camera, she held it next to her face rather than looking through the view-finder. The result was that the camera didn't point directly at the Kennedys, so most of her film shows just the crowd before, during and immediately after the shots were fired. Later that weekend, at the Dorman home, her husband filmed some of the Kennedy funeral scenes on their TV screen and then finished the reel by filming the neighborhood outside their house. The video attached to this record is an excerpt. The entire film is available in our Reading Room to on-site researchers or by submitting a Rights & Reproductions Request Form.