

Zapruder Film Copies at National Archives

March 31, 1997

DRAFT by Doug Horne, Senior Analyst, ARRB

Number Format	Name	Printed "0183" (1)	Perf. in leader (2)	Which side up (3)	Remarks
87.010; 1 MPPSK (P) 8 mm	Secret Service Copy No. 1	Yes	No	Emulsion (dull) side	Written note in can on blue paper stating "original Secret Service copy of Zapruder film." 3 completely burned-through frames, 2 partially burned-through frames, and many ripped sprocket holes were noted in the assassination sequence. The home movie portion (approx. 32' 7" in length) appears first on this reel, after 0183 is optically printed; unlike the assassination sequence, the home movie portion does contain image content between the sprocket holes, although that image content is degraded, and is separated from the projected portion of each image (the image frame) by a distinct black line about 1 mm in width--i.e., the images between the sprocket holes are not contiguous with the projected frames, as they are on the original Zapruder film. The assassination sequence is approx. 12' 3" in length, and contains the expanded Dealey Plaza bystander sequence, and the footage of a green chair which precedes it, which are absent from the original film now in the archives. (The original film now in the Archives does not contain any of the green chair footage, and only contains 14 frames of the Dealey Plaza bystander sequence.) Correct orientation of home movie is not known; however, to read printed number 0183 and edge print info "Processed by Kodak Nov 63 (Blue Lettering)" on home movie correctly, images must be viewed with base (shiny side) up. On the assassination sequence, when the frames are viewed correctly, the edge print information (Kodachrome IIA--"date code" of dot, triangle--Safety Film) is read backwards.
87.010; 1 MPPSK (P) 8 mm	Secret Service Copy No. 2	Yes	Yes: 0186	Emulsion (dull) side	In red can. Timing notches are present on the edges of this film, indicating that this film was used as a master for subsequent copies. The assassination sequence on this film appears before the home movie portion, and is split into two different sections, as follows: (1) the first section is only about 55" in length, and contains only the last two frames of the lead motorcycle sequence before the jump cut to the limousine is seen; and (2) the second section, about 6' 9" in length, commences with the number 0186 punched into black film, which gives way to clear film (and which appears to be photographically copied leader), and transitions, without any physical splice, to the first three scene changes in the assassination sequence--about 60 frames of what appears to be a green chair, about 117 frames of Marilyn Sitzman and Dealey Plaza bystanders, and what appears to be all of the lead motorcycle sequence, except for its last two frames, which appeared earlier on the first section of the assassination sequence. The home movie portion of Zapruder's film on this Secret Service copy appears after the assassination sequences, and is about 32' long; as in Secret Service copy # 1, it also has images between the sprocket holes, and these images between the perforations, in addition to appearing degraded, are not contiguous with the projected frames, but are separated by a black line about 1 mm wide. The home movie portion consists of four scenes: "kid playing, baby in green grass, kid behind tree, and lady in blue on telephone." The Dealey Plaza bystander sequence is much longer than on the original Zapruder film, indicating that some of the original film is missing. There are no images between the perforations on the assassination sequence. The optically printed 0183 appears on film contiguous with the home movie sequence. Correct orientation of home movie sequence is not known.

- (1) Is the number "0183" printed onto the copy? (It was punched in the camera original on 11/22/63 but it is not present today.)
- (2) Is the unique, perforated number from 11/22/63 (0185, 0186, or 0187) present on the processed film and carrier strip?
- (3) When the image on the copy is viewed "correctly," is the base (shiny) side "up" or is the emulsion (dull) side "up"?

Number Format	Name	Printed "0183" (1)	Perf. in leader (2)	Which side up (3)	Remarks
200.436; 1 MPPSK (P) 8 mm	Time-Life Copy No. 1	No	No	Base (shiny) side	No home movie present. This copy appears faded and washed-out in comparison to the rather vivid dyes in the two Secret Service copies. No images between sprocket holes on assassination sequence. This film contains photographically printed renditions of the physical splices which are found at the two damaged spots in the original Zapruder film, and like the original, has only has 14 frames of Dealey Plaza bystanders preceding the lead motorcycle sequence. Conclusion: this cannot be a first generation copy, and is instead a copy of the original Zapruder film as it exists today, with its two splices and limited amount of Dealey Plaza bystander footage at the beginning. (No film which exhibits photographically printed splices during the motorcade sequence can be first generation, since the first generation copies were made from the original before <i>Life</i> personnel damaged the film.) The following edge print information appears on the film: "Safety Film 71-- date code (plus sign and circle)--Eastman." When the frames are viewed correctly, this lettering can be read normally (i.e., left to right).
200.436; 1 MPPSK (P) 8 mm	Time-Life Copy No. 2	No	No	Base (shiny) side	No home movie present. This second Time-Life copy also appears inferior to Secret Service copies no. 1 and 2. No images between sprocket holes on assassination sequence. Following appears on leader at the tail of the film: "Don't use this start--heads * tail." Contains same photographically printed splices during the motorcade sequence, and the same 14 frames of Dealey Plaza bystanders, as Time-Life copy no. 1. Thus, this represents a copy (generation unknown) of the damaged original, and cannot be one of the 11/22/63 first-generation copies. It is unclear whether or not this is the same generation as Time-Life copy no. 1, but it should be noted that on both of these films, when the frames are viewed correctly, the base (shiny) side is "up," towards the viewer, implying that both Time-Life copies may be of the same generation.
272E42.9; 1 MPPSK (P) 8 mm	FBI (?)	No	No	Base (shiny) side	CE 904, Copy No. 1. No home movie present. No images between sprocket holes on assassination sequence. Following appears on leader: "Huemark 1-27."
272E42.9; 1 MPPSK (P) 8 mm	FBI (?)	No	No	Base (shiny) side	CE 904, Copy No. 2. No home movie present. No images between sprocket holes on assassination sequence. Following appears on leader: "Do not use. Scratched and poor quality. 3518 18 K88 400R BX."
272E42. 14; 1 MPPSK (P) 8 mm	(6A-1)	No	No	Emulsion (dull) side	No home movie present. No images between perforations on assassination sequence.
272E42. 14; 1 MPPSK (P) 8 mm	(6A-2)	No	No	Emulsion (dull) side	No home movie present. No images between perforations on assassination sequence.
JFK.024; 1 MPPSK	"FBI"	No	No; See	Base (shiny)	The number 0186 has been photographically printed onto this film, but is not punched into the film, as it is in Secret Service copy # 2. This film contains the intact and complete assassination sequence and the home

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(P) 8 mm	Rcvd at NARA from FBI in 1995.		Remarks	side	movie sequence, and there are no splices between them. There are no images between the sprocket holes in any portion of this film. It is certain, therefore, that this film is a print made from Secret Service copy # 2 before the assassination sequence in that film was cut in half and repositioned. On October 30, 1996, Les Waffin of the National Archives wrote a memo about the examination of various Zapruder films by DOJ's hired film examiners, Dr. Rose and Mr. McCauley, in which he said the following about this film: "Textual information indicates this as copy made from 1st copy borrowed from Secret Service...overall quality poor, color faded, washed out." I concur with Mr. Waffin's evaluation of the overall poor image quality of this film. Anyone wishing to study the best available copy of the "home movie" sequence should utilize Secret Service copies 1 or 2, rather than this film; the absence of image content between the sprocket holes of the home movie portion on this film clearly indicates that this home movie sequence is a later generation, in which the images between the perforations were masked out during the copying process. Furthermore, the Elm Street sequence on Secret Service copy # 2, although split into two parts, appears superior to the assassination sequence on this film because its colors appear much more vivid and true. My conclusion is that Secret Service copy #2 was the Dallas Secret Service copy which was loaned to the FBI for copying on 11/23/63: this is one such copy.

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