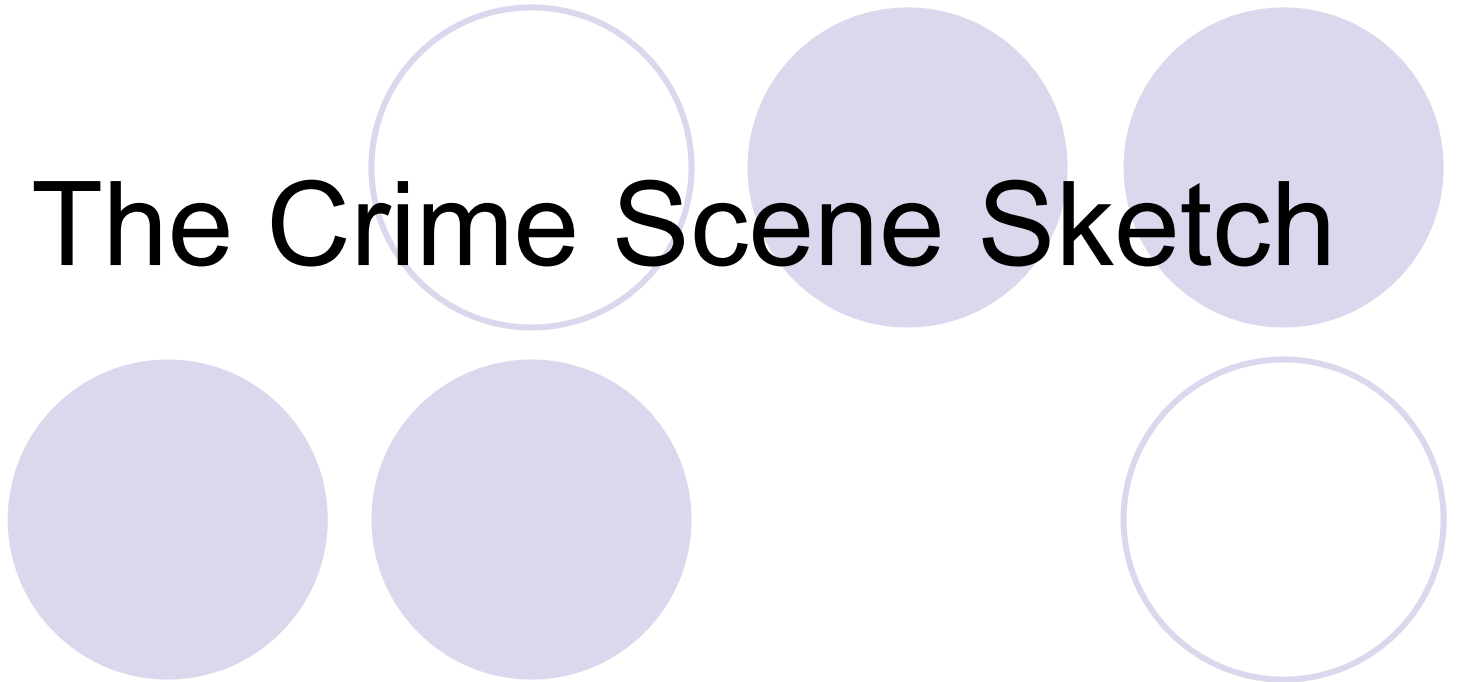


# The Crime Scene Sketch



# Introduction



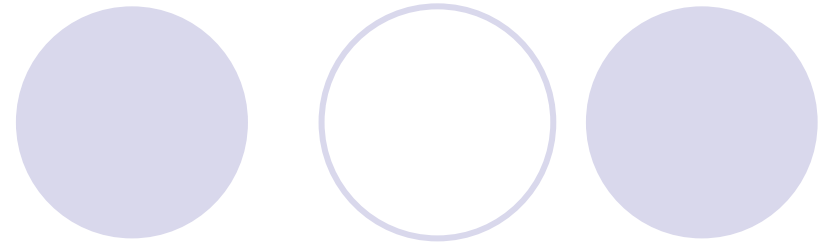
- The crime scene sketch:
- Accurately portrays the physical facts
- Relates the sequence of events at the scene
- Establishes the precise location and relationship of objects and evidence at the scene
- Creates a mental picture of the scene for those not present
- Is a permanent record of the scene

# Overview



- A crime scene sketch assists in:
  - 1) Interviewing and interrogating persons
  - 2) Preparing an investigative report
  - 3) Presenting the case in court
- The sketch supplements photographs, notes, plaster casts and other investigative techniques.
- Two types of sketches
  - Rough sketch
  - Finished or scale sketch

# The Rough Sketch



- The rough sketch is the first pencil-drawn outline of the scene and the location of objects and evidence within this outline.
- Usually not drawn to scale
  - Although distances are measured and indicated in the sketch
- Sketch after photographs are taken and before anything is moved.
- Sketch as much as possible.

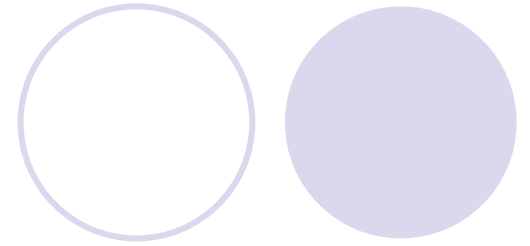
# Sketching Materials

- Paper
- Pencil
- Measuring tape
- Ruler
- Clipboard
- Eraser
- Compass

# Steps in Sketching the Crime Scene

- Observe and plan
- Measure distances
- Outline the area
- Locate objects and evidence within the outline
- Record details
- Make notes
- Identify the sketch with a legend and a scale

# Measure and Outline Area



- A steel tape is best
  - It doesn't stretch
- Use conventional units of measurement
  - Inches
  - Feet
  - Centimeters
  - Meters

# Measure and Outline Area



- **North should be at the top of the paper.**
- **Determine Scale**
  - Take the longest measurement at the scene and divide it by the longest measurement of the paper used for sketching.
  - $1/2'' = 1'$  small rooms
  - $1/4'' = 1'$  large rooms
  - $1/8'' = 1'$  very large rooms
  - $1/2'' = 10'$  large buildings
  - $1/8'' = 10'$  large land area





# Measure and Outline Area

- **Measure from fixed locations**

- Walls

- Trees

- Telephone poles

- Corners

- Curbs

- Outlets

- Any Immovable Object

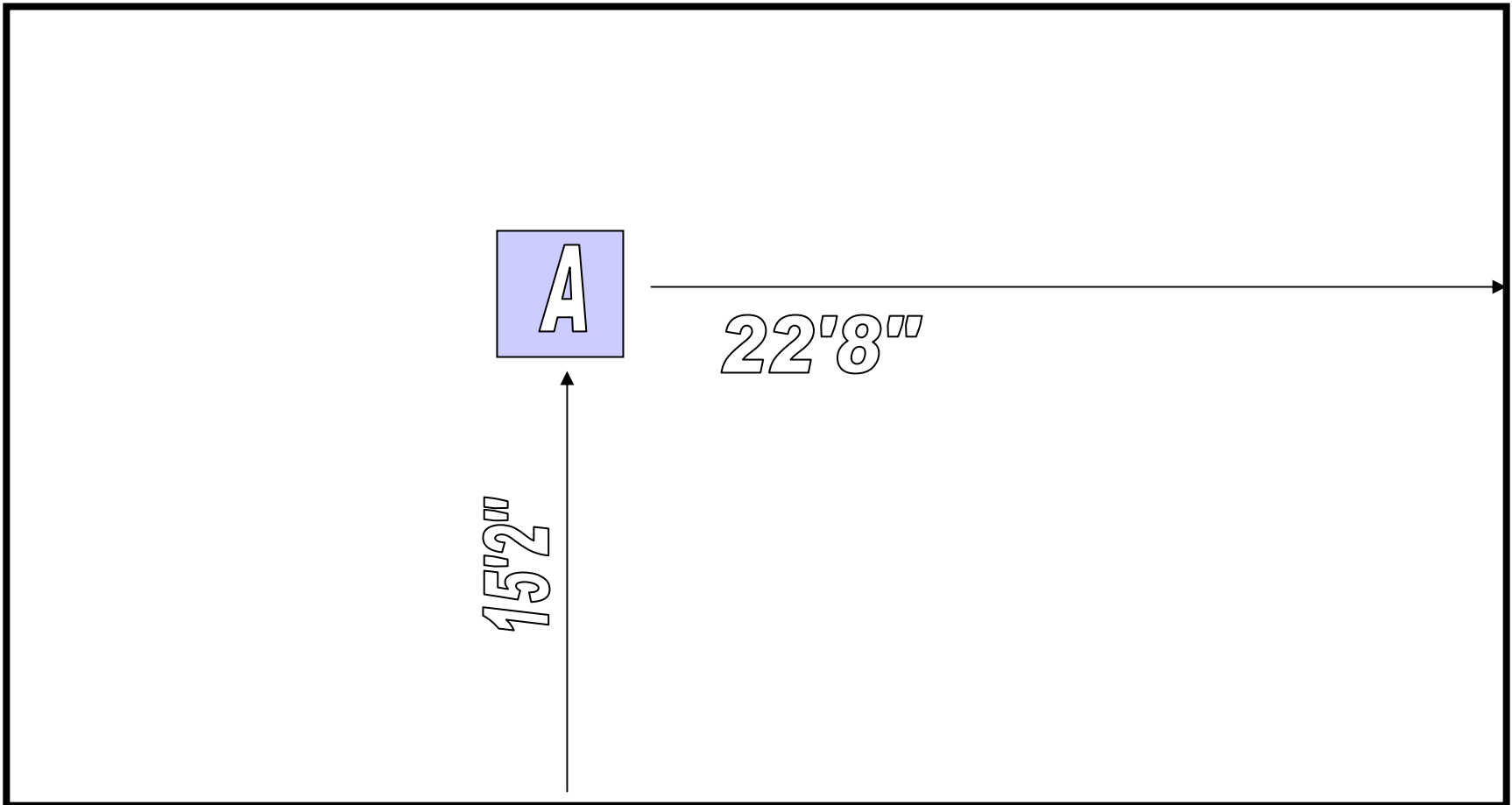
# Plot Objects and Evidence



- Plotting methods are used to locate objects and evidence on the sketch.
- They include the use of:
  - Rectangular coordinates
  - A baseline
  - Triangulation
  - Compass points.

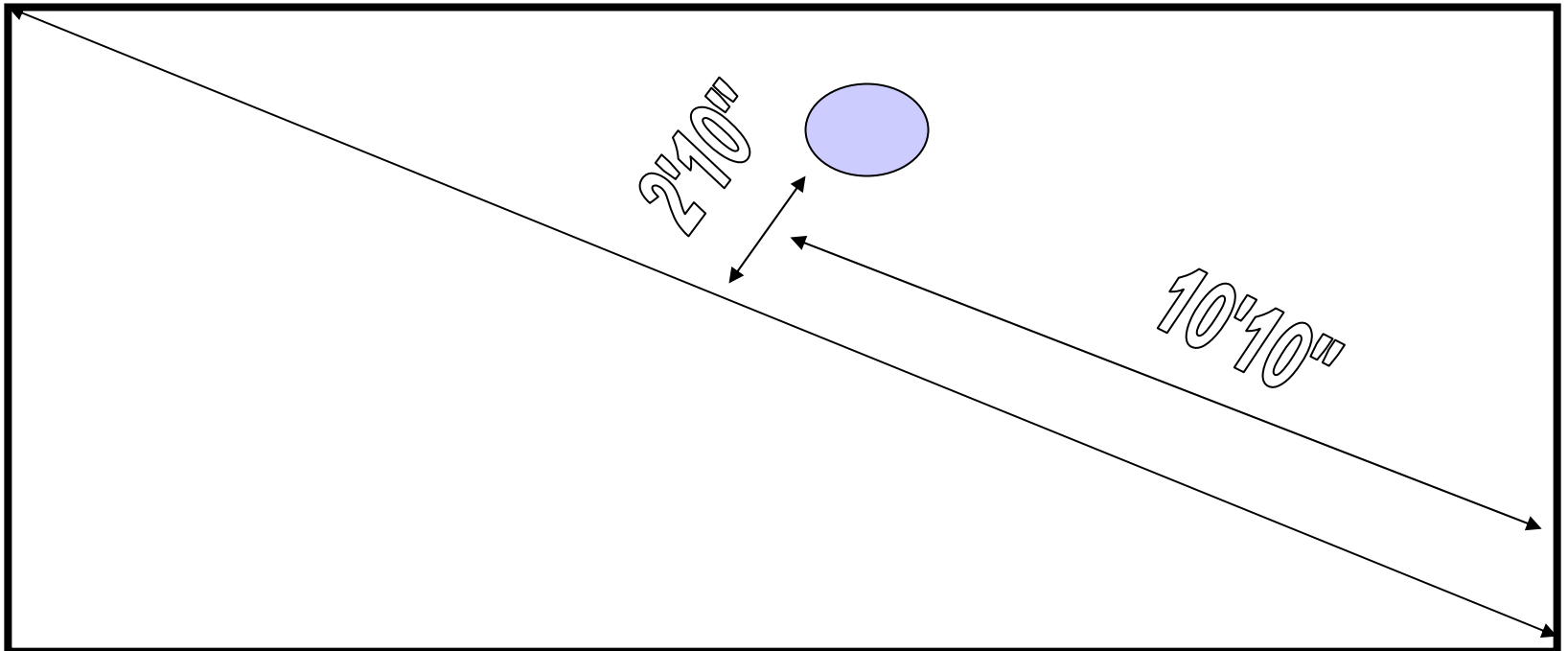
# Rectangular Coordinates

Uses two adjacent walls as fixed points as distances are measured at right angles



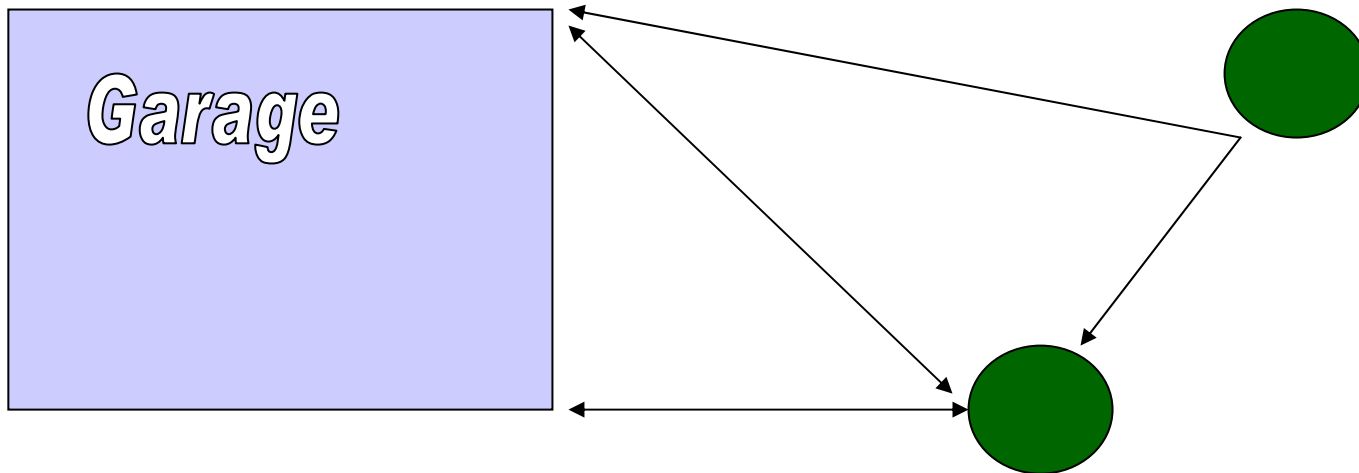
# Baseline Method

- Run a baseline from one fixed point to another, from which measurements are taken at right angles.



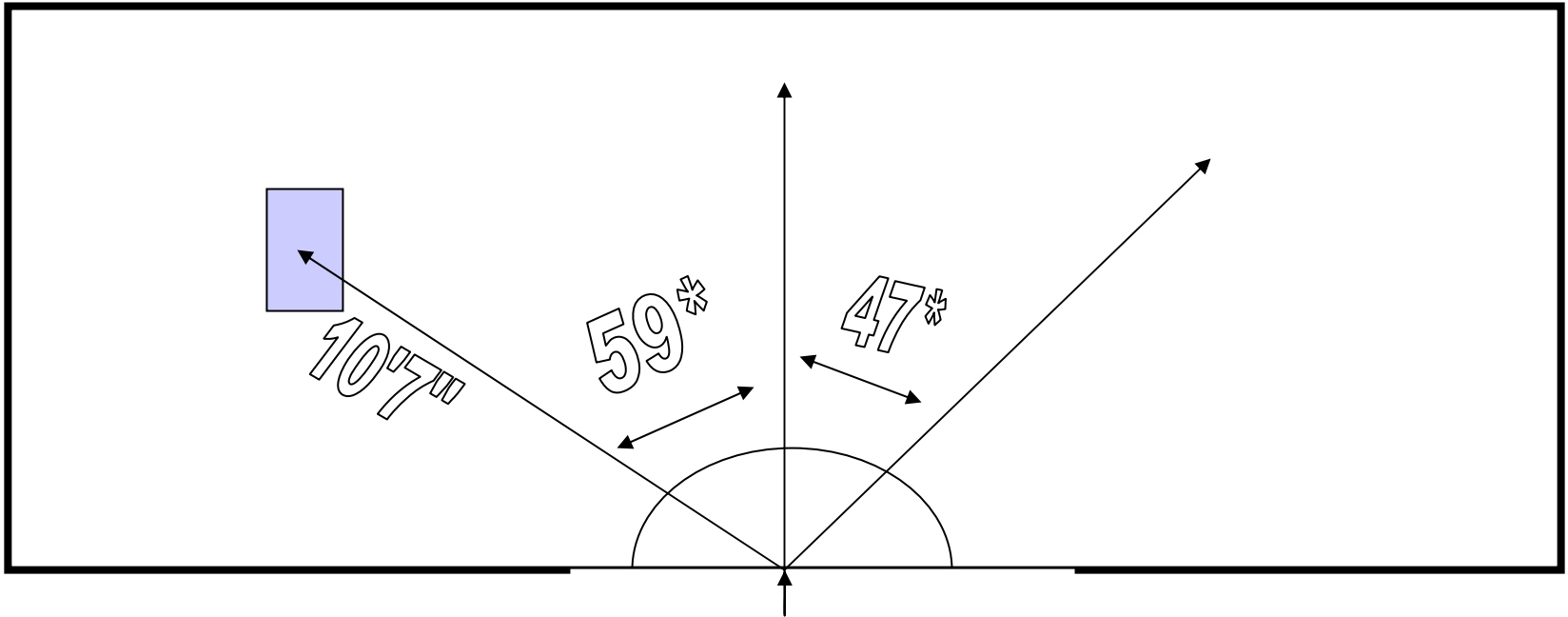
# Triangulation

- Common in outdoor scenes
- Uses straight-line measurements from two fixed objects to the evidence to create a triangle with evidence in the angle formed by two straight lines.



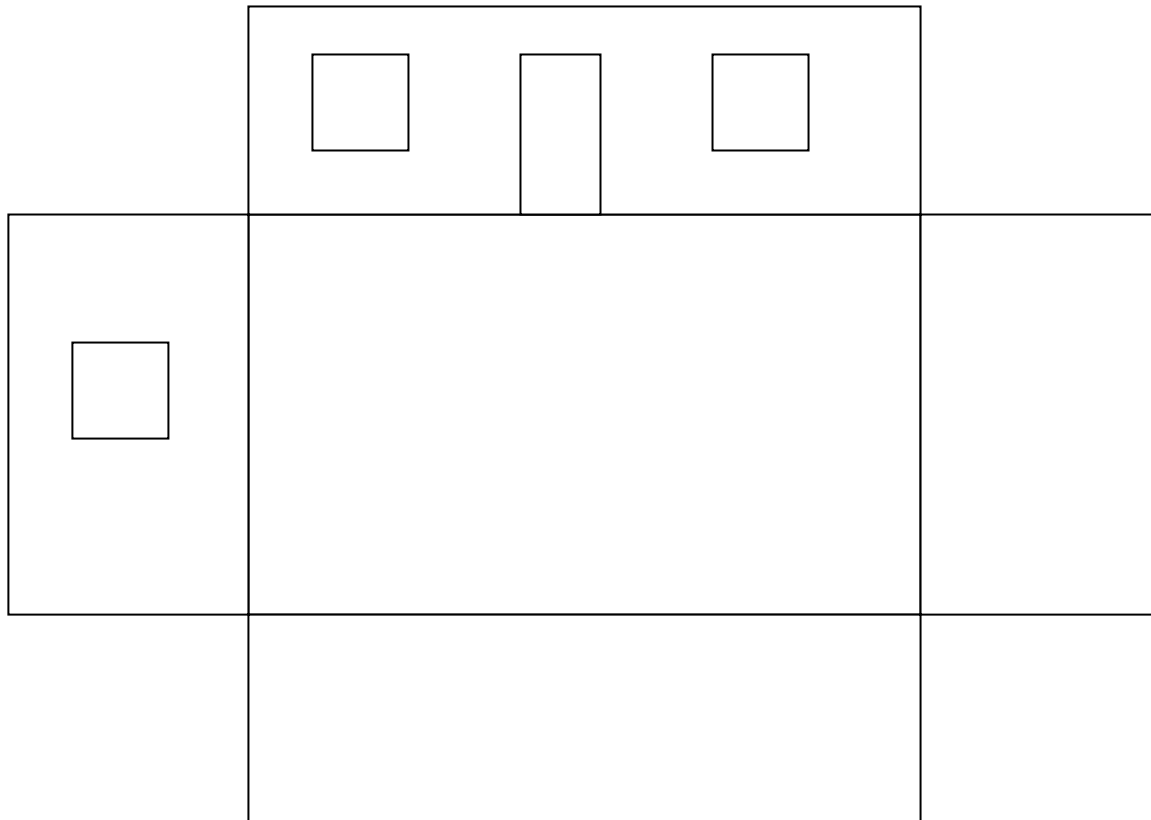
# Compass Point Method

- Uses a protractor to measure the angle formed by two lines

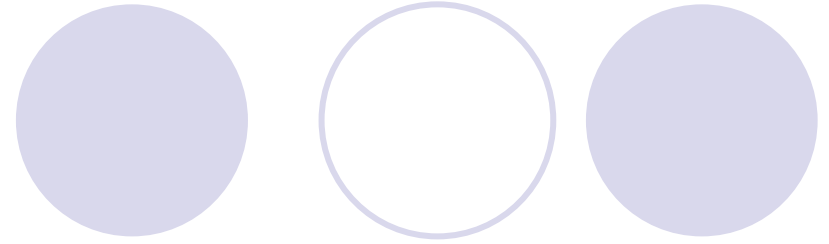


# Cross-Projection Method

- Presents floors and walls as the were on one surface.



# Make a Legend



- Contains:

- Case number
- Type of crime
- Investigator
- Persons assisting
- Direction of North
- Identifying information in sketch - Key
- Scale