



AFTER-CLOSING INQUIRY

Rook Street Death Inquiry

File RW-17-001: Celia Wren

Original finding: accidental death / Current finding: probable
homicide

AN ORIGINAL FICTIONAL INVESTIGATION BY ULYSESS ORTIZ

Fictional case record. Not affiliated with a real police, fire, medical, postal, or government
agency.

Rook Street Death Inquiry

CURRENT CLASSIFICATION: SUSPICIOUS DEATH

This inquiry was assembled from surviving annex records, witness statements, medical findings, fire-inspection materials, and documents received after the original investigation was closed. Several records conflict. One appears to have been altered after Celia Wren's death.

Incident Overview

At approximately 12:44 a.m., an automatic fire alarm activated inside the Rook Street Undeliverable Mail Annex. The building was closed to the public. Celia Wren, the night records clerk, was believed to be the only employee inside.

Fire personnel entered through the east loading entrance after discovering the main employee door chained from within. Celia was found between a filing cabinet and an overturned office chair. Her coat lay several feet away, partially covering a damaged electrical cabinet.

The preliminary inquiry concluded that an electrical malfunction caused the fire and that Celia collapsed from smoke inhalation. That finding no longer accounts for the surviving evidence.

Subject Profile: Celia Wren

Age: 32

Occupation: Night records clerk

Employment: Six years, four months

Shift: 9:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.

Celia reconciled destruction ledgers, verified storage locations, documented damaged parcels, and prepared undeliverable records for disposal. She had no disciplinary history. Prior reviews praised her ability to identify small discrepancies after other staff accepted a balance.

Location Summary

The Rook Street Annex stored mail that could not be delivered, returned, claimed, or immediately destroyed. Its interior included a records office, restricted sorting room, disposal cage, damaged-parcel storage, maintenance corridor, and east loading entrance.

Return Chute 7 was an obsolete iron chute behind the old sorting cages. Its plate read: NO ACTIVE ROUTE. Maintenance records state that it ended inside a sealed wall cavity and had no operational connection.

Preliminary Timeline

Time	Recorded event	Credential
9:24 p.m.	Celia enters employee door	CW-14
10:08 p.m.	Gideon signs destruction ledger	GV-02
10:46 p.m.	Calder Rook leaves annex grounds	ER-09
11:18 p.m.	Celia opens restricted ledger storage	CW-14
11:41 p.m.	Office phone attempts outgoing call	-
11:47 p.m.	Gideon claims departure	GV-02
11:58 p.m.	Expense card used near annex	GV-02
12:17 a.m.	Restricted sorting room opens	GV-02
12:23 a.m.	Disposal cage opens	GV-02
12:29-12:36	Estimated ignition window	-
12:41 a.m.	East loading exit	GV-02
12:44 a.m.	Fire alarm activates	-

The supervisor-access event at 12:17 a.m. was not included in the original incident summary.

Annex Layout



The front employee entrance remained chained from within. A supervisor credential could secure the east loading door from outside, allowing the scene to appear sealed after departure.

Fire-Origin Reassessment

A later inspection found that the electrical cabinet had been manually placed in the off position before the fire. Its internal components lacked the arc damage expected from the alleged malfunction.

Concentrated burning began outside the cabinet. Residue consistent with label-removal solvent formed a pour pattern toward the records-room threshold.

Revised finding: the cabinet did not ignite the fire. It was used to support the appearance of an accidental electrical event.

Medical Reassessment

The first medical summary listed smoke inhalation as the probable cause of death. A later review identified neck compression injuries, bruising beneath the jaw, waxed fibers beneath one fingernail, little soot in the lower airway, and an estimated time of death before the ignition window.

Inquiry reversal: Celia Wren was dead, or no longer breathing effectively, before the annex began to burn.

Person of Interest: Gideon Vey

Position: Annex site supervisor

Access: Full building and restricted-record credentials

Gideon stated that he left at 11:47 p.m., did not return, and knew nothing about missing disposal records. His supervisor credential opened the restricted sorting room at 12:17 a.m. and exited through the east loading door at 12:41 a.m.

He also minimized Celia's record access and described her as confused despite the absence of any such concern in her employment history.

Other Persons Connected to the Record

Ana Wren: Celia's older sister. Their estrangement supplied an emotional motive to conceal information, but travel and telephone records place Ana elsewhere during the death window.

Calder Rook: Maintenance contractor and descendant of the building's original owner. He had warned that the electrical cabinet was unreliable and had legitimate access to solvent during scheduled work. His vehicle left before Celia accessed the restricted records, and he lacked supervisor credentials.

Record Discrepancies

A private inventory fragment lists valuable mail as destroyed while noting that watches, jewelry, registered cash, legal papers, and a property deed were retained. Gideon Vey's initials appear beside the disputed entries.

One copied ledger page disappeared around the time of Celia's death. The killer appears to have searched the records area and Return Chute 7 for that copy.

Current Findings

1. The electrical cabinet did not start the fire.
2. The fire was deliberately staged.
3. Celia died before the ignition window.
4. Her injuries are consistent with strangulation using waxed cord.
5. Someone used Gideon Vey's credential after his claimed departure.
6. Celia had discovered theft and altered destruction records.
7. Return Chute 7 and the warning placard were disturbed after the confrontation.

Revised classification: probable homicide concealed by deliberate fire.

Matters for Determination

The inquiry file does not, by itself, formally establish who used the supervisor credential, who removed the parcel cord, where the copied ledger page was hidden, or how an unaddressed envelope left a sealed annex.

Those findings require the recovered correspondence and supplementary evidence packet.

RECORD REMAINS OPEN PENDING ACCUSATION