

Blast survivor says she saw McVeigh

Testimony: He was with a second man

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DENVER — A woman who survived the Oklahoma City bombing testified Friday that she saw Timothy McVeigh with another man near the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on the morning of the blast.

Terry Nichols, who is on trial as McVeigh's accomplice, was at home with his family in Herington, Kan., that morning. But the government says he conspired in the terrorist attack that killed 168 people by helping to plan and build the bomb.

Nichols' defense contends that the mystery man popularly known as John Doe 2 — rather than Nichols — is McVeigh's true accomplice in the April 19, 1995 bombing.

Moving swiftly through its witness list, the defense in its first week called 55 people to the stand and could wrap up next week.

The woman who was in the Murrah building, Germaine Johnston, said she encountered the two men about two blocks from the bomb site after making her way

outside. Her best guess, she said, was that she saw them around 9:30 a.m., almost half an hour after the blast.

"Did you read in the media that he McVeigh was arrested 70 miles away at 10:20 a.m.?" prosecutor Patrick Ryan asked her — implying that the bomber could hardly have gotten so far if he were still in downtown Oklahoma at 9:30.

"Yes," Johnston said.

"You were in shock" from the bombing? the prosecutor asked.

"Yes, I was in shock," she replied.

Johnston said the men were beside an old yellow Mercury similar to McVeigh's getaway car. She said she recognized neither as John Doe 2, whose sketch she later saw on television.

The FBI, after releasing the sketch, eventually concluded that the man dubbed John Doe 2 was an innocent bystander.

McVeigh was convicted by a different jury earlier this year and sentenced to die. Nichols faces identical murder and conspiracy charges. He, too, could be condemned to death if found guilty.