SHOW ME PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS

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Investigation Report
In Regard to:



The Hannibal Community Theatre

515 Lyon St.
Hannibal, Missouri 63401

Investigation Date:
05/14/ 2005
Report Date:
06/17/2005

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INTRODUCTION

On May 14th, 2005 seven members of Show Me Paranormal Investigations performed an investigation of the property located at 515 Lyon Street in Hannibal Missouri. This report provides the results of the investigation. The results and conclusions presented in this report are based on: 1) interview(s) with the occupants/owners of the above property, 2) the results of baseline and final readings with electromagnetic field (EMF) detectors, and infared thermometers, 3) audio tape recorded at the property, 4) video tape recorded at the property, and 5) photographs taken at the property. The results and conclusions presented in this report are the opinion of Show Me Paranormal Investigations. The methods used are generally accepted within the paranormal investigation community. However, there are no published standardized methods of investigation for phenomena of this type. This report is intended for the sole use of the occupant/owner of the site/property investigated. Show Me Paranormal Investigations does not make explicit or implicit warranty to any of the results and conclusions presented within this report.

BACKGROUND

A. Oral Tradition

Beyond vague rumors of the theatre being haunted, no stories regarding the activity at the building are known. One investigator had previously heard a story, supposedly conveyed from an actor, that while on stage he had witnessed an apparition of a man that walked behind the crowd and then disappeared.

B. Verified History

The building was original built in the 1930's as a Presbyterian church, but the church was not able to pay the final cost of the building and it was taken over by the local Catholic congregation. The building served as a Catholic Church until the 1960's when a new church was built. It then served for the next twenty years as the local veterans hall. After sitting dormant for several years it was revived as the Hannibal Community Theatre, and serves this function to this date.

C. Current Presentation

The theatre is located in the downtown area of the City of Hannibal, Missouri. Hannibal has an approximate population of 18,000 persons, and is the largest city in Marion County.

Show Me Paranormal Investigations arrived at the theatre at 5:00 pm, and initiated the on-site investigation at 5:20 pm. At the start of the investigation the external temperature was approximately 52 degrees. Skies were overcast, and mild precipitation occurred during the course of the investigation. Members of Show Me Paranormal Investigations present for the on-site investigation included: Bill Houser (Investigation Coordinator), Kim Lovelace (Case Manager), Lisa Newland, Tabitha Houser, Jim Knutelski (Investigators), Brandon Thomas (Trainee) and Rachel Johnston (Trainee).

INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

The following items constitute standard practices and procedures for Show Me Paranormal Investigations. Any exceptions to these standard practices should be noted below.

Investigative Procedures

1. Initial contact with the prospective client/site representative should be made by the case manager. This may include a brief phone interview or even e-mail contact. At this time a basic summary of the situation should be collected along with necessary contact information for the case (i.e. phone numbers, address, etc.) A time for a full personal interview should also be established at this time if the case manager feels that it is appropriate.

2. The full in-person interview should be conducted by the case manager either alone or with an assistant. This interview should be conducted in person, and at the site if possible. History of the location, chronology of events that have occurred there, and witnessed activity should be collected. Along with contact information for witnesses other than the client. If there are multiple witnesses, it is best to interview each separately. It is also best to map the location at this time (at least roughly), so that events can be better documented. It is also appropriate to establish a time and date for the initial on-site investigation during the interview process. All investigation permission forms and release should be signed at this time, and the clients should be given solid idea of what they can expect during the investigation. In most cases it is preferred that the clients are not present during the active investigation and this should be explained to them at this time so that they can make arrangements.

3. Prior to initiating the active on-site investigation the investigation coordinator will confirm with the case manager that the property owner or site representative has signed all permission forms.

4. The location will be accurately mapped to scale, including the structure's entire floor plan when possible. Graph paper is appropriate for this purpose. The scale used should be recorded a long with the actual dimensions of the structure or site. Mapping maybe conducted at the time of the full interview.

5. The investigation coordinator will prepare the investigation chronology and the photo logs. Team members will be given individual investigative assignments (i.e.. Investigation coordinator, Interviewer, Videographer, EMF tech, IR Thermometer Tech, Photographer, Experimental Research) and they will be documented in the investigation chronology prior to the beginning of the active investigation. This can be done as the first phase of the road-mapping process (see below). The investigation coordinator will record any change in investigative duties during the course of an active investigation. Furthermore, each piece of equipment to be used will be calibrated, tested, numbered, and documented in the investigation record. (i.e.. EMF Detector #2; Still Camera #4). It is also best if the loading of the film and audio tapes is recorded on video so that it can be confirmed that the material used were taken directly from the manufacturer's packaging. Red or yellow filters for flashlights are recommended so that accidental reflections can be discerned.

6. Accurate time will be kept throughout the on-site investigation. The time each phase is initiated will be documented as well as the time (i.e.. 12:45 pm) they are terminated. The time of any noteworthy events during the investigation will be documented as well as the general progress of the investigation (i.e.. "Moving to the second active sweep of the house, 8:35 pm.) or (i.e. 10:23 pm "Audio anomaly in hallway"). Official investigation chrono will begin at the initiation of the road mapping process, and is the responsibility of the investigation coordinator.

7: Photographic and videographic road mapping will be used to document the location. This process begins with wide range photos of the exterior area (i.e.. Block or street), moves on to exterior photos of the structure or specific location, and then photos moving through the structure in an orderly manner. During this process, and throughout the investigation, every photo will be documented. This documentation is to include: number of cameras, sequence number of photo, and time. The road mapping photos will be accompanied by a dictated description of the location including investigative impressions. If recording on video, audio dictation can be, included on that recording. However, photographic road mapping is still expected.

8. Initial Active Sweep-This phase will begin with a thorough documentation of the current weather (temperature, approximate wind speed, humidity, cloud cover, etc.) And lighting conditions. This will be immediately followed by a sweep of the exterior of the property, or the surrounding area if the investigation is of an outdoor location. During the exterior sweep, measurements will be taken with EMF detectors and IR thermometers. A base reading will be taken at the beginning of the sweep and every 20 minutes following. Audio recording, still photography, and video will also be utilized. The end of the exterior sweep will be documented in the chrono log and a final set of based readings will be taken. The team will then move through the structure in an orderly fashion following a preset route.

If the team divides into separate cells, each subgroup's course will be clearly documented. Each cell will check in with the investigation coordinator by radio at least every 30

minutes. Any significant activity will be reported immediately to the investigation coordinator. Base readings will be taken as stated above and upon entering each new area of the structure (i.e., each room). This process will be repeated while exiting the structure. Movement through the structure will be recorded on the logs (i.e. 9:26 pm, Cell 2 entering upper hallway). This is necessary so that simultaneous activity in separate locations can be properly documented. The initial active sweep should last at least 60 minutes, even if this means repeating the sweep multiple times. The close of the initial active sweep will be documented in the investigation log and team members will record individual impressions and report these to the investigation coordinator.

* Special Note Photographic Burst- As stated previously, all photos will be documented in both the photo log and the investigation log. If there is reason to believe that activity has been encountered (i.e.. EMF spike or cold spot) a photographic burst may be utilized in an attempt to capture photographic anomalies. A photographic burst should always consist of 3 rapid photos of the immediate area. This allows for the investigation coordinator to maintain the photo log. If necessary, double burst or even triple burst may be used, but always in sets of 3 photos.

Audio Recording- If the team is using questioning techniques in order to attempt to initiate spirit communication, EVP's, the following process should be followed. The audio tech states a simple question in basic language (i.e. "Is anyone here?" "Will you speak to us?"). The time of each question should be recorded on the chrono log. Then the audio tech should remain silent for at least a minute before asking another question. It is best if each question is repeated at least twice before moving on to another question. Anyone else in the area should remain silent throughout this process. It is best if all individuals in the structure, regardless of separation, remain silent through this process. A questioning sweep may be conducted near the close of the initial active sweep with only the phase of the investigation, the tapes should be removed, sealed in envelopes, and replace with new ones.

9. Dormant Observation- Following the conclusion of the initial active sweep, all team members and others should be removed from the majority of the locations. All unnecessary electrical equipment and lighting should be shut off, and camcorders and audio recorders should be set up throughout the location. This equipment should be located throughout the structure, but special attention should be given to areas where activity has previously been reported. The equipment should be allowed to record undisturbed for a minimum of 60 minutes, and longer periods should be considered when this is practical. No one should be allowed within the site during this period. However, if it is necessary to enter the site such movement should be documented in the chrono log with an exact time.

10. Final Sweep- After the conclusion of the Dormant Observation, a second active sweep should be conducted. This sweep should follow the same procedure as the interior initial sweep, except that the duration may be less than the recommended length of the initial sweep.

11. At the conclusion of the on-site investigation, the investigation coordinator should make sure that a final set of base readings are taken, especially from the exterior of the location, and should document the current weather conditions as was done at the beginning of the investigation. Final impressions from team members should be gathered, and a closing entry should be made in the investigation log. With this information and the time that the on-site investigation is concluded. The site should be left as it was found. Any equipment or other materials brought to the site should be removed. All tapes and film rolls should be sealed in secured envelopes until they can be properly reviewed.

12. Within 24 hours of the close of the on-site investigation, the case manager should contact the client or site representative to conduct an exit interview and gather questions they may have about the investigation.

13. After the investigation has been rested, and the final report has been approved by the team members, the client or site representative should be provided with a detailed summary of findings. This summary should be presented in person by the case manager and the investigation coordinator so that any further questions may be answered. It is also important to make sure the client is left with contact information.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Interviews

Just prior to the first active sweep of the property interviews were conducted with Margaret Northcraft, and other members of the Hannibal Community Theatre. However, the current theatre officials were only aware of rumors regarding activity at the building. Another individual that worked with the theatre extensively and rented a room upstairs in the building stated that he had never observed any odd activity at the theatre.

Baseline Readings with Instruments

Baseline temperature and electro-magnetic field readings were taken throughout the house prior to the first active sweep. Temperatures throughout the theatre were as follows:

ROOM:	TEMPERATURE:
A.	62-63 deg.
B.	63-64 deg.
C.	61-69 deg.

D.	68-70 deg.
E.	57-68 deg.
F.	62-64 deg.
G.	62-64 deg.
H.	59-63 deg.
I.	61-63 deg.
J.	59-63 deg.
K.	63-69 deg.
L.	60-68 deg
M.	60-69 deg

Base line electro-magnetic readings are listed on the floor plan that appears at the end of this report.

Final Readings with Instruments

Several areas of the theatre displayed high electro-magnetic levels in connection to the structures wiring and additional electrical equipment used in the stage productions. However, even with this considered other electro-magnetic spikes were identified that could not be connected to obvious environmental factors. While conducting the first active sweep of the building we tracked an electro-magnetic spike (from .03 base to 1.3). Investigators actually followed the energy through the auditorium (Room C), and recorded temperature increases of nearly ten degrees (63 deg. To 71 deg.) in the same area at the time as the EMF readings. During the time of this spike the EMF Tech actually believed he felt energy touching him and requested a photograph be taken. This photo showed a large orb anomaly within a few feet of the EMF Tech (see Photograph D below). It is extremely rare to record evidence of this nature simultaneously from multiple sources.

Audio Tape

A total of approximately eight hours of digital recording was taken during the active sweeps of the theatre and the hour dormant phase. From these recordings several audio anomalies were identified. Of these two were considered to be true EVPs (Electronic Voice Phenomenon), voices of persons not present at the time of the recording and likely to be surviving spirits, and were clear enough that human speech could be plainly understood. The first was recorded during the first active sweep of the building while investigators were attempting to elicit responses to open questions while on the stairs in the main entry (Room A). In between questions from the investigator what seems to be a male voice states, "Very busy…OK." Though not a direct response to the questions being asked, the comment is possibly a commentary about the repeated questions themselves. The second EVP was captured nearly forty-five minutes into the dormant phase of the investigation in the kitchen area (RM. E). At this time no one, including the investigation team, was present in the building. This time the voice seems to be a female, and comments, "No…(it's) fine…Nobody's hurtin' us." No explanation can be given for this voice or the nature of the comment. (Refer to CD for audio files)

VIDEO RECORDINGS

Video recordings using lowlight settings were taken in Rooms A, C, and L. Video anomalies were captured on the camera in Room C. These anomalies were very bright extremely fast moving streaks of light. Though dramatic they were concluded to most likely be common bugs flying quickly past the IR lights of the camera and reflecting the light. (See frame captures below)



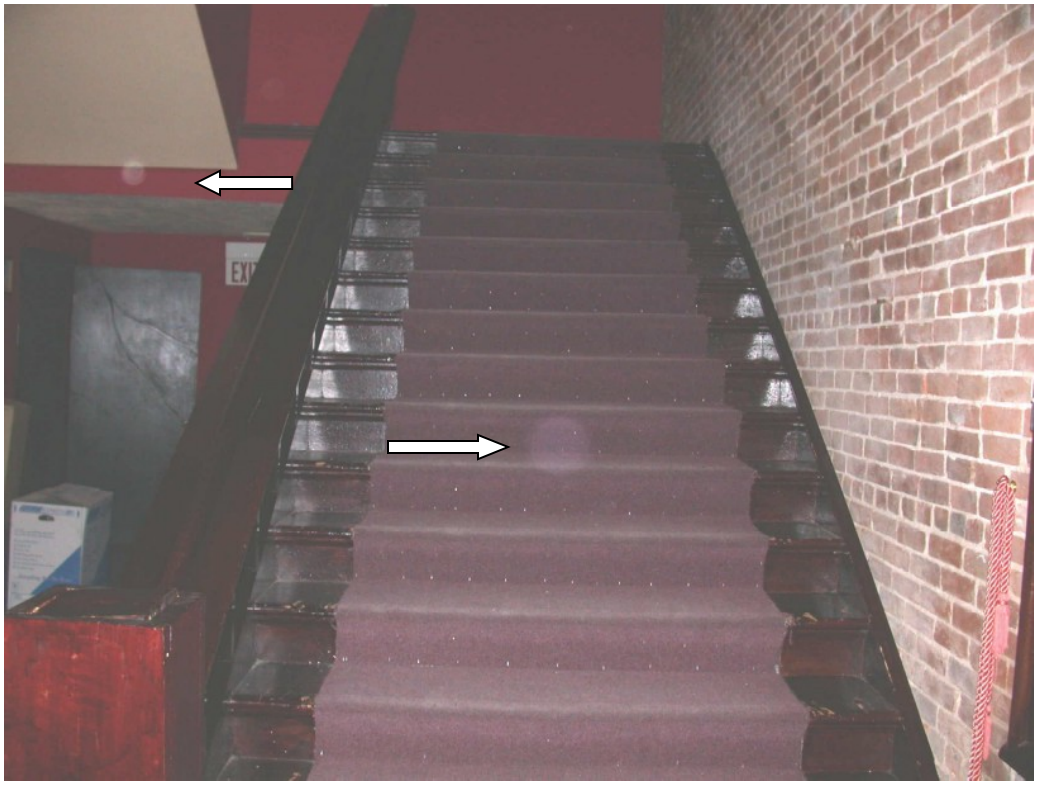




Photographs

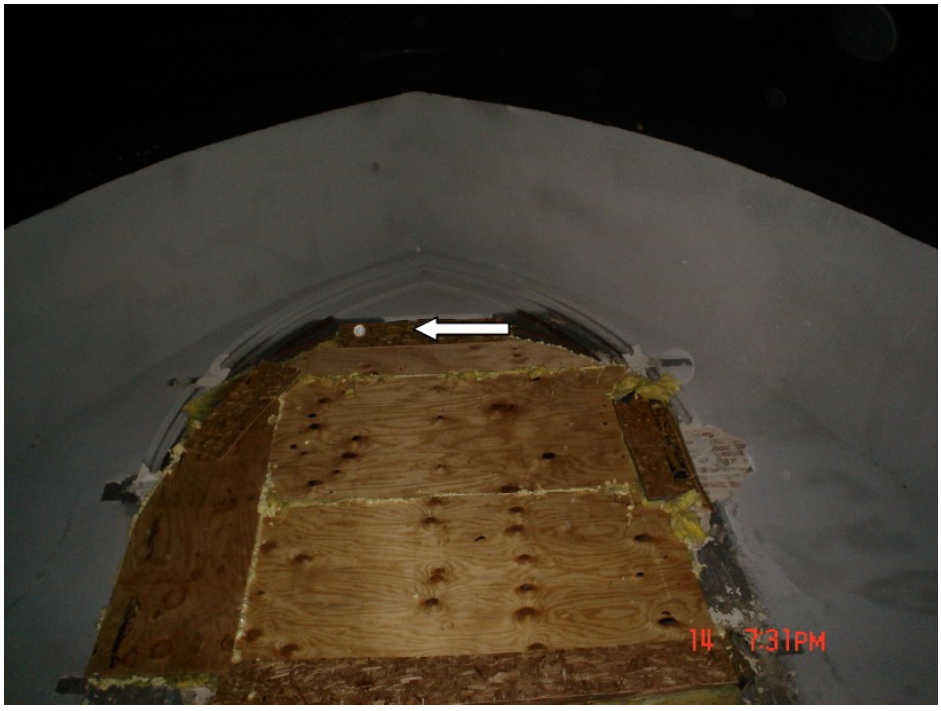
During the active sweeps of the property 136 photos were taken using both standard and digital cameras (4 mega-pixel). Multiple photos resulted in "orb" anomalies, including pictures taken with standard (high speed) film. Flash was used in most of the photos taken. Anomalous photos were carefully scrutinized for possible natural causes, and photos clearly representing dust or flash reflections were noted. However, other photos containing orb anomalies that could not be as easily discharged remain. Orb anomalies are considered by many to be positive signs of electro-magnetic energy at the location. Some paranormal researchers relate them directly to spirit energy or even spirits themselves. Show Me Paranormal Investigations, as a general rule, does not accept orb anomalies as proof of paranormal activity. However, when other evidence is present, they may be considered for their ability to support other findings. Below each of the pictures that follow is a brief description of these particular anomalies.

Photograph A.



The photo above is of a large orb midway up the stairs in Room A. & a small orb to the right.

Photograph B.



This photo shows a self-illuminating orb caught in motion in the old chapel. (RM. L)

Photograph C.



Photo of a large orb, which was photographed multiple times in the auditorium. (RM. C)

Photograph D.



Photo of large orb in the auditorium. Taken during an EMF spike. (RM. C)

Photograph E.



Photo of small orb captured in motion in Room C. (Close-up below)

Photograph E-1.



Investigative Impressions

During the course of the investigation multiple investigators had curious experiences or impressions. While in the kitchen area (RM. E) four investigators witnessed a paint tray move untouched from the edge of the sink where it was sitting. This event occurred as an investigator was aggressively attempting to elicit EVPs, and the tray moved directly toward this investigator. The tray was returned to the edge of the sink as it had been sitting, and attempts were made to cause it to naturally fall from that position, but it did not. However, moments later it again flew from the sink in the direction of the same investigator. Three investigators witnessed the movement of the tray on the second occasion. One of the investigators reported impressions of several spirits present within the building, and while this particular investigators impressions have in the past proven to be verifiable and accurate, no information which could be confirmed was gained from her impressions during this investigation.

Conclusions

Considering the impressions of the investigators from the on-site investigation, the strong nature of the audio evidence recorded, and the great number of photographic anomalies captured at this location we feel that it is reasonable to believe that paranormal activity may be occurring at this property.

Investigation Status

This investigation will remain open, and immediate attempts will be made to return to the property.

Show Me Paranormal Investigations,

William Houser, Investigation Coordinator

Reviewed by_____
Kim Lovelace, Investigator