SHOW ME PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS

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Investigation Report
In Regard to:



The Payne-Gentry Historic Site

4211 Fee Fee Road
Bridgeton, Missouri 63044

Investigation Date:
08/20/2005
Report Date:
10/01/2005

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INTRODUCTION

On August 20th, 2005 six members of Show Me Paranormal Investigations performed an investigation of the property located at 4211 Fee Fee Road in Bridgeton, 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

There has been a wide variety of activity and experiences reported at this property. Tour guides have reportedly seen apparitions both within the house and on the grounds. Multiple individuals have also reported seeing an apparition in the attic, an area once used as a room for servant help. A local psychic has made several visits to the location and reported interacting with multiple spirits. Most recently, 3-4 months ago, she reported communicating with the spirit of a child within the home.

B. Verified History

The house was built in 1870 by Mary Elizabeth Payne and Elbridge Payne to be a summer home, as the family spent a great deal of time traveling between St. Louis and Memphis. Elbridge Payne died in 1874, leaving Mary Elizabeth and their two children, Willie and Mary Lee to care for the home. William “Willie” Payne went on to become a doctor, and practiced medicine from the basement office until is death from morphine addiction in 1897. It is uncertain how many individuals may have passed away in the home while seeking medical care. His mother, Mary Elizabeth, had passed away the year before. Mary Lee Payne-Gentry married William Gentry and the couple lived in the home for several years. Mary Lee Payne-Gentry had one son, William Gentry Jr., and a daughter that died at birth in 1901. Mary died shortly after from complications of the birth. After his wife’s death, William Gentry left the house.

C. Current Presentation

The Payne-Gentry Home was sold to the City of Bridgeton in 1968. With the family's assistance it was restored as closely as possible to it's original condition, and contains many artifacts and family possessions. The home opened as a museum in 1974, and is operated by the Bridgeton Historic Commission and Bridgeton Historical Society.

Show Me Paranormal Investigations arrived at the site at 6:00 pm, and initiated the on-site investigation at 6:20 pm. At the start of the investigation the external temperature was approximately 85 degrees. Skies were clear, and no 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, and Chris Murphy (Investigators)

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 representatives from the home. As stated above, they reported that over the years several individuals, including tour guides, had seen apparitions at the property. One of the specific experiences that was reported was the sighting of an apparition, reported as ‘a woman in white’ walking across the grounds. It was also reported that the sight has previously been investigated and cleansed by a local psychic. This psychic reported that she has communicated with nearly a hundred spirits within the house and on the grounds.

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.	75-79 deg.
B.	72-76 deg.
C.	74-77 deg.
D.	71-75 deg.
E.	70-73 deg.
F.	71-75 deg.
G.	71-79 deg.
H.	71-74 deg.
Dr. Off.	72-76 deg.
Cellar	68-70 deg.

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

Final Readings with Instruments

No Anomalous electro-magnetic or temperature readings were captured during the course of the investigation. However, a constant electro-magnetic field of up to 8 milliguass was located around the home. This was determined to most likely be a product of the security system and exterior lighting.

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 three 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 (Refer to CD for audio files). The first of these was captured in the cellar area only a few minutes after the initiation of the first active sweep of the property. While actively trying to elicit EVP communication, investigators recorded what appears to be the voice of a man stating, “You’ll be mine…always will.” The statement does not seem to be in response to any questions being asked by investigators.

Two other EVPs were captured while continuing the active sweep of the home upstairs. These two recordings were captured in rooms E and F. The first of these seems to be the voice of a man, stating, “Help Me”. The other appears to be a direct response to a question asked by one of the investigators. Immediately following the investigator asking, “How old are you”, what appears to be the voice of a child responses, “Ten.” A specific response to a direct question asked by an investigator, as in this case, is considered to be one the strongest forms of evidence that can be captured. It may indicate the presence of a surviving intelligence, a true ghost that continues to exist beyond its psychic body with a will and personality much as it had in life.

VIDEO RECORDINGS

Video recordings using lowlight settings were taken in Rooms E, H, and the doctor’s office. A total of four hours of video was recorded, but nothing of interest was located on any of these recordings.

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. A high level of dust was evident within the site, and it could be clearly seen being blown about by the air conditioning system. The vast majority of photos containing orbs were considered to be no more than dust particles reflecting the light of the photographic flash or other light sources. However, one photograph containing an orb anomaly that could not be as easily discharged remains. This photo (A-Below) was taken in room E during the active sweep of the property, and contains a large apparently self-illuminating orb anomaly above the spinning wheel in the room. 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.

Photograph A.



Investigative Impressions

During the course of the investigation one investigator reported sensing the presence of a man, she believed to be called Francis. She reported him has being a middle-aged gentleman, and felt that he was there to watch over the home. This investigator also reported the impression of a young lady named Laura. She reported that individual did not seem to be connected to the home, but to the piano in room H. That she was a pianist and a music teacher, and the piano now in the Payne-Gentry Home had been hers in life. It should be noted that this particular investigator's impressions have in the past been verified by historical record. However, thus far no documentation has been located that would substantiate her feelings. Show Me Paranormal Investigations does not consider extra-sensory perceptions as a primary form of evidence.

Conclusions

Considering the strong nature of the audio evidence recorded, the photographic evidence captured, and the number of witness accounts of activity at this location we feel that it is reasonable to believe that paranormal activity may be occurring at this property. Furthermore, based on the nature of the audio evidence captured we feel that this location is potentially the host to an intelligent haunting, or what is also known as a surviving spirit.

Investigation Status

This investigation will remain open, but no follow-up investigations have been scheduled for the property.

Show Me Paranormal Investigations,

William Houser, Investigation Coordinator

Reviewed by_____
Kim Lovelace, Investigator