



REPORT

PROSTITUTION ROW, HUSBAND'S ALLEY

INVESTIGATION



*Jerome
Arizona*

AZ023

**SOUTHWEST
GHOST HUNTERS
ASSOCIATION**



**UNSOLVED
CLOSED**

**2005
2007**

**COMPLAINTS
STANDARD**

WWW.SGHA.NET



Forward

The word “investigation” is defined as
“a searching inquiry for ascertaining facts; detailed or careful examination.”

The key word here is “facts”. Do ghosts exist? No, it has not been proven.
Therefore are no facts to investigate.

What we do have is the testimony of the witnesses and this is where an investigational process will work. Investigations are often viewed as a skeptical activity because the main goal is trying to determine what the witness actually saw. Is it explainable or not? This is done through critical thinking and an event replication process developed by SGHA. This is an important concept because what defines a haunting or ghost sighting is “Multiple witnesses reporting unusual phenomena over a period of time”. If these phenomena can be explained, the witness reports are no longer validating paranormal activity as a cause and thus there is no ghost or haunting. Additionally historical research may be done in an attempt to validate facts.

It is important to understand that the goal of an investigation is not to find evidence of the paranormal but to attempt to identify any natural or manmade causes of the reported phenomena

Definition of Terms

Investigation Status: Unsolved investigations will have either an open or closed status. An investigation is given an “Open” status if:

The investigators were unable to replicate all of the witness events. Something significant remains that is still unsolved.

It is important to understand that an “open” investigation does not mean that the unsolved facts are paranormal in nature. It simply means that we have exhausted our resources and cannot solve the “open” items/events.

A “Closed” status indicates that there is insufficient data or confounding variables that prevents replication or identifying possible explanations. This often occurs when investigators do not have direct access to witnesses or some other environmental change has occurred that creates confounding variables.

Confidentiality Notice

Many of the witnesses interviewed have wished to remain anonymous in exchange for presenting their accounts of paranormal experiences. We honor that request and thus witnesses will often be identified by aliases. Any coincidence between aliases and actual persons is unintentional.

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Part 1: Location Information

Prostitution row, Husband's alley

Jerome, AZ

Part 2: Location History

Jerome is an enchanting town, and a photographer's paradise. From its external appearances it hasn't changed much in nearly 100 years. Many of the buildings used by present-day business folks are those built after the fires of 1894 and 1899. A number of the buildings have been restored and more are planned for restoration. Due to the 30-degree incline of the mountainside, gravity has pulled a number of buildings down the slope.



Nora "Butter" Brown

To the delight of some, one of those buildings was the town's jail. Those buildings still standing make for interesting visiting and with a little research you can find their historical significance. One notable section is the "Cribs District." You will find this area across the street from the English Kitchen, in a back alley where all the buildings were are part of Jerome's ill-famed "prostitution row."

As the 20th century grew older, Jerome became an around the clock, three shift town boasting 13 hotels, 21 bars, and 8 houses of prostitution with names like "The Cuban Queen," and the less elegant "Cribs."

The Madame, Nora "Butter" Brown, was already in residence, overseeing the workmen. She was a no-nonsense business woman when it came to the work

at hand, but lord, she could drink most of the men in camp right under the table when she was feeling feisty.

Back in those days she was fond of saying, "I know I'm not much to look at boys, but wait until you see the girls. You're really going to love me then." She would then let out a loud horse laugh. She was right about her not being much to look at. he had a face plainer than a pine board, but the figure under all the clothes they wore in that period surely promised to give a man comfort on a cold night. Her brothel was the first wooden building built in Jerome and was two stories high. Located where the Sullivan Building is today, it actually had its own wooden sidewalk and second story porch above that. Butter gained renown for being the Madam who first



introduced Jennie Banters to the profession. In history books, it is Jennie who is credited with being Jerome's first Madam, but truth be told - it was that Jennie was just a better self-promoter.

Prostitutes were the first women to arrive in Jerome. With women in the minority (22% in 1900), "soiled doves" found plenty of hardworking miners willing to pay for female companionship.

Jennie's brothel was located on Main Street where "Nellie Bly" now stands. At one point, the women were forced to move

their business off Main street and Husband's alley was born. This area consisted mostly of small "cribs" that catered to the miners.

Although a woman could make money selling her services, the profession was plagued with violence and disease. Some, like Jennie, were killed by clients, others wasted away with drugs and alcohol.

Only a lucky few escaped the profession, usually through marrying a good man. Although prostitution was illegal, enforcement was inconsistent so prostitution remained an integral part of life in Jerome until the 1940s.¹

Part 3: Witnesses

We were unable to locate any direct witnesses. All of the stories are "friend of a friend" type of accounts.

Part 4: Reported Phenomenon

The phenomena often reported in this alley includes the feeling of being watched, the sound of footsteps walking up behind you and an unexplainable odor of perfume. There have also been reports of strange shadows that "move" about in the alley after dark. An apparition of a young woman has been repeatedly seen near the town's community center, called Spook Hall, which sits just to the east of prostitute row.

Part 5: Investigation

16 July 2005: The primary focus of the 2005 investigation was to attempt to locate any actual witnesses and to observe the area where the sightings of an apparition have been reported. Bob and Kat were sent over to Spook



Hall to watch for any possible activity in that area while Cody, David and Kristin remained in Prostitute row.

The group in Prostitution row heard something behind them that resembled footsteps but were unable to identify the source. Nothing else of interest was reported by either team.

¹ <http://jeromehistoricalsociety.com/>

17 August 2007: Observation teams were deployed in the same areas as before. Nothing of interest was reported by either team. The next day was spent trying to find an actual witness to the apparition. Most people knew of the legend but did not know of anyone that actually witnessed the ghost of a prostitute. Historical research was also unproductive in finding an actual event that could be linked to the origin of the reported account.



Part 6: Conclusion

The haunting of this part of Jerome appears to be an urban legend. With no witnesses to provide detailed information we are not able to determine who or what was actually being seen.

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Part 7: Photographs



