



REPORT

RED BUFFALO TRADING COMPANY

INVESTIGATION



*Tombstone
Arizona*

AZ008

**SOUTHWEST
GHOST HUNTERS
ASSOCIATION**

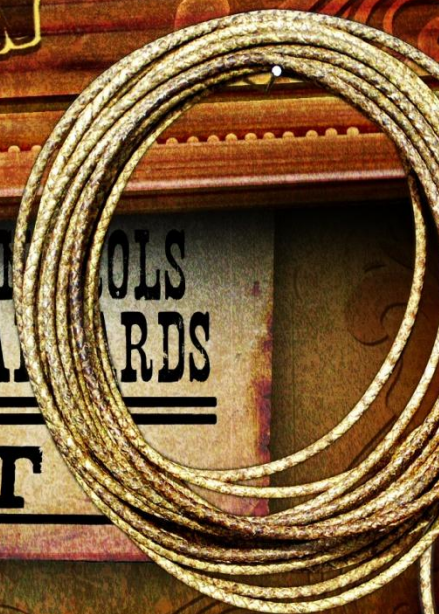


SOLVED

2005

COMPLAINTS
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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 have 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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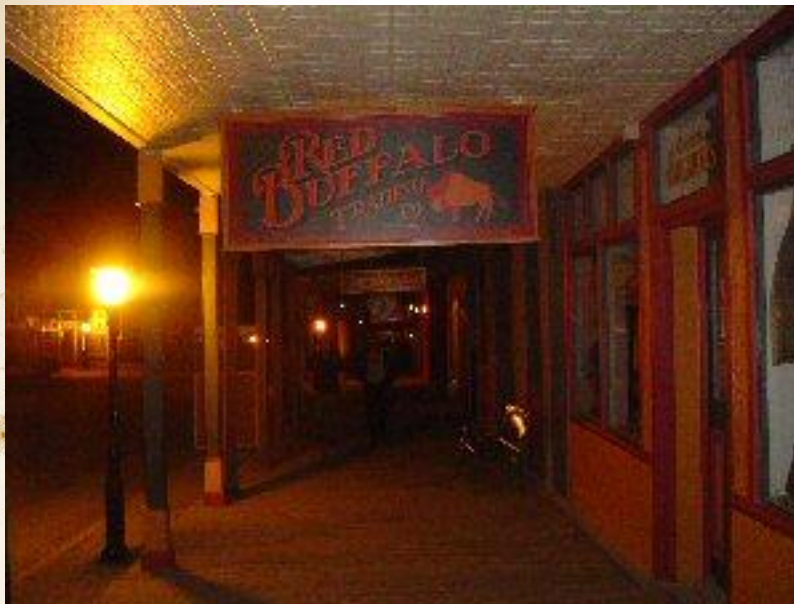
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Part 1: Location Information

Red Buffalo shop, Ghosts & Legends Tour

412 E Allen St, Tombstone, AZ

Part 2: Location History



Bob Hatch and John Campbell opened a billiard parlor in 1880. Bob Hatch was a colorful character and an amateur thespian. It was said he kept a jar of frogs on the counter as their croaking helped him predict the weather. He followed the Earp's to the famous gunfight, assisted in removing the

gun from dying Billy Clanton's hand, and testified at the hearing. A few months later, he was playing a game of billiards with Morgan Earp when the back window was shattered by a gunshot and Morgan fell, mortally wounded, and died within the hour. Hatch ran for sheriff in 1885, but was defeated by John Slaughter. Campbell ran several saloons in Tombstone and served as a city councilman for a number of years. The saloon and billiard parlor burned in the 1882 fire and was one of the first to rebuild. Prohibition closed all the saloons in 1914. This area deteriorated badly in the following years. In 1945, this old building was remodeled for a new business. This is one of Tombstone's historic buildings.

At 10:00 Saturday night while engaged in playing a game of billiards in Campbell & Hatch's Billiard parlor, on Allen between Fourth and Fifth, Morgan Earp was shot through the body by an unknown assassin. At the time the shot was fired he was playing a game with Bob Hatch, one of the proprietors of the house and was standing with his back to the glass door in the rear of the room that opens out upon the alley that leads straight through the block along the west side of A.D. Otis & Co.'s store to Fremont

Street. This door is the ordinary glass door with four panes in the top in place of panels. The two lower panes are painted, the upper ones being clear. Anyone standing outside can look over the painted glass and see anything going on in the room just as well as though standing in the open door. At the time the shot was fired the deceased must have been standing within ten feet of the door, and the assassin standing near enough to see his position, took aim for about the middle of his person, shooting through the upper portion of the whitened glass.

The bullet entered the right side of the abdomen, passing through the spinal column, completely shattering it, emerging on the left side, passing the length of the room and lodging in the thigh of Geo. A.B. Berry, who was standing by the stove, inflicting a painful flesh wound. Instantly after the first shot a second was fired through the top of the upper glass which passed across the room and lodged in the wall near the ceiling over the head of Wyatt Earp, who was sitting as a spectator of the game. Morgan fell instantly upon the first fire and lived only about one hour. His brother Wyatt, Tipton, and McMasters rushed to the side of the wounded man and tenderly picked him up and moved him some ten feet away near the door of the card room, where Drs. Matthews, Goodfellow and Millar, who were called, examined him and, after a brief consultation, pronounced the wound mortal.

He was then moved into the card room and placed on the lounge where in a few brief moments he breathed his last, surrounded by his brothers, Wyatt, Virgil, James and Warren with the wives of Virgil and James and a few of his most intimate friends. Notwithstanding the intensity of his mortal agony, not a word of complaint escaped his lips, and all that were heard, except those whispered into the ear of his brother and known only to him were, "Don't, I can't stand it. This is the last game of pool I'll ever play." The first part of the sentence being wrung from him by an attempt to place him upon his feet.¹

Part 3: Witnesses

Witness reports are second and third hand accounts.

¹ <http://www.tombstone1880.com/archives/morgan.htm>

Part 4: Reported Phenomenon

As with many of the haunted locations in Tombstone, the descriptions of paranormal activity here varies, depending on who you talk to.

Many people have sighted a female apparition which they believe is the ghost of Morgan Earp's wife, who is searching for her deceased husband even in death. This explanation seems impassible because she accompanied her husband's remains back to California, where he was buried. It is quite possible that there is a female specter here that people are simply misidentifying. Other witnesses claim that the ghost that haunts this building is actually Morgan Earp himself. He is commonly seen in the back corner of the building where he died.

Common phenomena, other than the occasional apparition, include the sound of footsteps walking around the rear of the Red Buffalo Trading Company and objects being moved or manipulated.

One story that is told to guests on the local ghost tour tells of the helpful ghost of Morgan Earp.

Employees of the store claim that Morgan Earp watches over the store in their absence. At night, when everyone has gone home for the evening, Earp will face shelves, incorrectly, and tidy up the place. One employee is said to have been unable to finish stocking shelves before the store closed. Planning on finishing the task in the morning, they left the box of wares still half-full. The last person there was the first at the shop in the morning, and when they went to finish emptying the box only found it empty.

Local photographer James Kidd claims to have unknowingly captured this image on 35mm film while photographing an empty stage in the back of Tombstone bar Legends of the West for insurance purposes.

The distorted images of two women and one man are visible at right, wearing clothing from Tombstone's heyday. The woman, in profile on the far right, might be wearing a large hat. The man may have sideburns and wears a buttoned-up coat.

The blurring in the image was confined to this one frame. The frames occurring before and after have no unusual qualities in them. The area

where this photograph was supposedly taken close to the place where Morgan Earp died.

The location of the negative for this photo is not known, preventing a full analysis of the photo. However, the effects seen in the photo suggest issues with the aperture settings and possibly development or camera malfunction issues.



Part 5: Investigation

Analysis of ghostly footsteps

A blind test was performed on the observation teams to determine if the source of the phantom footsteps are actually caused by people walking on the wooden sidewalk outside of the building.

The observers who were seated in the main section of the shop both reported hearing the footsteps. The one closest to the front of the shop misidentified the location of the noises as coming behind her. The observer that was placed in the rear of the shop thought the noises were coming from the area near the pool table.

The misinterpretation is due to the fact that the footsteps that were made outside are bouncing off the walls in the interior of the building, making them appear to be originating from somewhere inside.

If our observers misidentified the source and location of an explainable phenomenon, then it can also be assumed that the same misperceptions could have happened to the witnesses.

Apparitions of Morgan and "Unidentified female"

Further investigation into these claims revealed that the apparitions are based solely on the photos that have been taken by tourists, either on the ghost walk or strolling down the street in the evening. The photographers are taking pictures through the glass of the store's windows and are misidentifying normal phenomenon as "ghosts". The common misinterpretations are the reflections of the camera flash and other light sources in the glass combined with typical exposure issues.

We were not able to find any direct witnesses to either apparition.

One of the employees that we spoke to the following morning believes that the "stocking shelves incident" that is attributed to Morgan's ghost was a prank that was pulled on her fellow co-worker. She was not willing to tell us who she thought the prankster was. Other employees told us that they have never had anything unusual occur to them while in the building.

Part 6: Myth Building

Myth building is very apparent at this location. The ghost stories are being actively propagated by a ghost tour. This also seems to be the active source for most of the ghost sightings at the Red Buffalo store.

Historical research has not revealed anything about a ghost or anything paranormal being connected with this location until 2004. If the ghost of Morgan Earp was haunting (or helping the staff) there should be more of a historical record of that occurring.

Part 7: Conclusion

There is nothing paranormal occurring here but it is a good ghost story.

Part 8: Photographs





