



# REPORT

ROYAL ELIZABETH BED AND BREAKFAST INN

INVESTIGATION



*Tucson  
Arizona*

AZ032

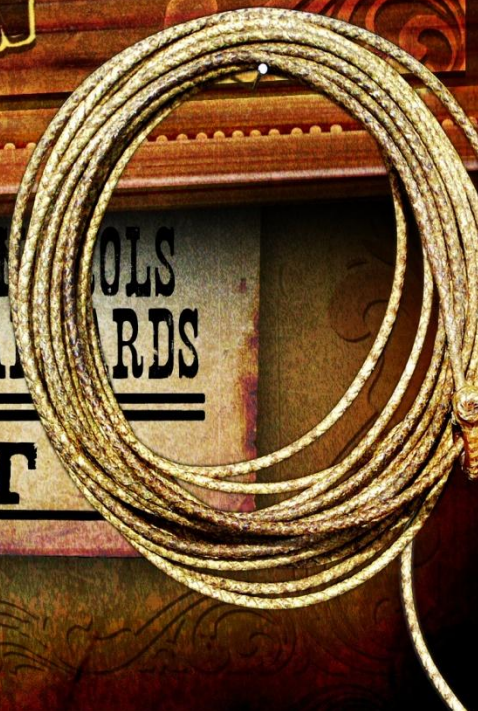
**SOUTHWEST  
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## Forward

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 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

Royal Elizabeth B & B

Tucson, AZ

## Part 2: Location History

As the Civil War came to an end, the Indian Wars raged in Southern Arizona well into the 1870s when Charles Rivers Drake, a former US Army officer, broke ground on this home.

Drake was commissioned to provide contract labor and supplies to the recently-organized Southern Pacific Railroad Company in the laying of track between Los Angeles, California and El Paso, Texas. He chose this particular home site because of its near equidistance along that 1,000 mile segment of track; the perennial fresh water supply offered by the nearby



Santa Cruz River which flowed northbound out of Mexico, and because of the safety and protection offered by Fort Lowell—an adjacent Army fort erected during the Civil War that continued in operation, charged with sheltering Tucson residents from Indian attacks.

Drake's additional responsibilities included helping out at neighboring Fort Lowell and the tent city of soldiers which occupied what is now Armory Park. With a basic knowledge of medicine, he assisted in primitive surgeries and prescribing of medicine to personnel injured during the Arizona Indian Wars of the turbulent 1870s.



Having been in the mercantile business in San Francisco prior to his arrival in Tucson, he purchased the lot on Scott Avenue and ordered the original fir woodwork, hardware, and two 200-pound leaded glass skylights to be shipped from San Francisco to the frontier settlement of Tucson on horse-drawn wagon—all to be used in the construction of his new home. While in Tucson, Drake opened a number of businesses and was responsible for the building of many commercial structures in the downtown area. Drake represented Hercules Powder Co. and was receiver for the land office, county recorder and member of the Territorial legislature. Drake married Agripina Moreno, whose family had moved from Hermosillo, Mexico some years before.



Drake sold the home in 1891 to Charles Blenman, an English attorney who had sailed around Cape Horn en route to San Francisco. Blenman practiced law in Tucson for more than 45 years and was affectionately known as “Judge” or “Barrister” throughout his career. The flagpole in the front yard of the Royal Elizabeth is the original one which Blenman erected. He was known for his patriotism, raising and lowering the flag on a daily basis. The “judge” entertained frequently at his home, being a brilliant



storyteller and was known for his hospitality and for having a wide circle of friends. His two sons, Charles Jr. and William, grew up in the house and both received appointments to the U.S. Naval Academy, both eventually retiring to Tucson, both earning the rank of Admiral.

When the last Blenman family member moved from the house in the early 1990s, the stipulation of the “Judge’s” will was that the home’s ownership be transferred to the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society, a private charitable organization.

The will written in the 1930s did not anticipate that by the 1990s so few members of this group survived that the house would have to be privately sold. The home which had been subdivided into apartments in the 1940s, stood vacant for several years before being purchased in the middle 1990s by Royal Henry, a Colorado contractor, and his wife Yvonne Elizabeth. The Royal Elizabeth Inn opened in 1999 after extensive remodeling and refurbishing, which included the restoring of all original woodwork, doors and trim which had been carefully packaged and stored in the carriage house since the home had been partially converted to apartments in the 1940s. Royal and Yvonne also completed the construction of the outdoor pool and spa, and also fully restored the historic outbuildings.<sup>1</sup>

### **Part 3: Witnesses**

See reported phenomenon.

### **Part 4: Reported Phenomenon**

Judge Blenman's ghost and presence are said to occupy the Sydney Marie Suite. This regal 500 square foot, two-room suite was historically Judge Blenman's law office. His apparition is more of a shadow and is most often spotted at the private entrance to the patio that adjoins the room, although he has also been seen, very briefly, in the grand main hall. He also turns lights on and off in the suite and the main hall and occasionally visits the Rose Room.

Another reported occurrence has to do with the back door.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://royalelizabeth.com/a-true-historic-landmark/>



"The back door would open by itself all the time. Really strange. We'd go and we'd close it and we'd leave and it would open again. Also our dog Lucy who is walking around here at the moment would all of a sudden run to this door and sit there and bark when no one was clearly in the house."

## Part 5: Investigation

Historical records were searched to check for any indications of unusual occurrences prior to 1998. Nothing could be located.



We looked at the backdoor. the lock and striker plate were loose. There was also some minor warping of the door itself. This, along with changing air pressure inside the building, could explain why the door opens even if it appears to be locked.

The majority of reports center around a "shadow

figure" that is seen in the Peripheral vision of the witnesses.

One possible explanation for the "shadow ghost" seen in direct vision is actual shadows! If people are convinced that they are living in a haunted house, they may notice such natural phenomena more acutely than usual, sensitized to the idea by psychological suggestion.

An interesting point about "shadow ghosts" is that many are typically seen to be moving (if they weren't they probably wouldn't be noticed). There are motion illusions, related to peripheral vision, that may account for certain specific sightings. The 'peripheral drift illusion' occurs when you observe an object with alternating black and white (and sometimes grey) lines (or rectangles), or something resembling that situation.

When such objects are observed in the peripheral vision, anomalous motion may appear. In 'real life' cases this might occur in a semi-dark situation with fence posts, railings, stair banister spindles or wheels,



particularly if they are painted white. The illusion is thought to be caused by the way our brains detect motion in our visual fields.<sup>2</sup>

## Part 6: Conclusion

The location fails the Gurney/Myers Standard on several counts. First, there are several possible explanations for the reported activity. Secondly, there is no longevity (in relation to reported accounts) or apparent repeating patterns. There are no reports mentioned by guests on Trip Advisor or other review sites. Typically, when a location is experiencing unusual phenomenon, the guests will comment about it on these types of websites.

**SOLVED**

## Part 7: Photographs



<sup>2</sup> <http://www.assap.ac.uk/>







