



REPORT

ANCHO GHOST TOWN

INVESTIGATION



*Ancho
New Mexico*

NM047A

SOUTHWEST GHOST HUNTERS ASSOCIATION



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2001

COMPLAINTS
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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

Ancho Ghost Town

Ancho, NM

Part 2: Location History

The railroad and gold were often the beginnings of these towns. 1899 was Ancho's year of birth due to railroad and gold in the Jicarilla Mountains. But Ancho developed another product. A brick factory made cream colored bricks and were used on homes throughout central New Mexico. After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, trainloads of Ancho bricks traveled almost 1,500 miles to the city by the bay to help in its reconstruction. This business closed too and Ancho's population diminished considerably.



Ancho's history is brief. A plaster mill was constructed to make plaster and fertilizer after a gypsum deposit was discovered. Later fire clay was discovered and a brick plant was built. After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, trainloads of Ancho brick were sent 1,460 miles to reconstruct that city.

But when U. S. Highway 54 was paved and rerouted two miles to the west, bypassing Ancho, it spelled disaster to the town. The school closed, as did the brick plant, and the railroad canceled its stops there in 1959.

Part 3: Witnesses

This section identifies the witnesses to the reported activity.

Name	Sex	Connection with reported incident	Interviewed
Jackie	F	Witness	07 Aug 2001

*Witnesses given aliases are noted by a **

Jackie reported experiences that ranged from the sound of "something" following you, doors and windows closing by themselves. While she was not overly concerned about it, she suggested that we take a look.

Part 4: Reported Phenomenon

A ghost hunter forum on-line suggested that this town was very haunted, although the "phenomenon" that was being discussed was very vague. The site caught our attention so we decided to drive to Ancho to take a look.

Part 5: Investigation

We spent several hours looking through the ruins of the town. It is quite creepy. In several houses it looks like the people just got up and left as many possessions and furniture are still present.

However, the phenomenon that was talked about has a multitude of rational explanations. Broken windows, doors lacking latches and wildlife (that have moved into the deserted buildings) more than account for the noises that had been reported.

The scariest thing we had to contend with was the rattlesnakes.



Part 6: Conclusion

Alternative explanations for the reported phenomenon were identified.

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Part 7: Photographs







