



REPORT

VICTORIAN HOUSE INN

INVESTIGATION



Weatherford
Texas

TX012

SOUTHWEST GHOST HUNTERS ASSOCIATION



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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 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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Part 1: Location Information

Victorian House Inn

Weatherford Texas

Part 2: Location History

The Victorian House Inn was built 107 years ago by a wealthy grocery supplier in Weatherford Texas. The house was transformed into a bed and breakfast in 1982 and has been a popular location for weddings and get-togethers ever since.



In September 1861, after the beginning of the Civil War, many young men from Parker County enlisted in Parsons' Brigade. Nine companies of eighty men each left the county to serve the Confederate cause during the war. Their absence contributed to population decline and disrupted the county economy and society. Since most of the men under forty-five had left to

fight in the war, fears of Indian raids increased. In an effort to protect residents, a police force was appointed to patrol Weatherford, and many ranchers moved their families to more secure lodging in the county seat. By the end of the war many properties were in disrepair and much of the area's livestock was scattered.

The building changed hands several times before becoming a bed and breakfast.

Part 3: Witnesses

We were not able to find any actual witnesses. The stories of the "haunting" here are all second or third hand accounts.

Part 4: Reported Phenomenon

Strangely the details are vague and are told as second hand accounts from previous customers who had stayed at the B & B. The staff that we talked with had not experienced anything that they would call paranormal themselves.

According to several guests, the ghost of a young woman in a wedding dress is seen downstairs and on the stairs. Many people have also seen strange orbs of light floating around the house. Footsteps are often heard on the steps when there is no one walking on them. Furniture in the upstairs rooms is often moved around. In several rooms people have claimed that something jerks the covers off you in the night.

Part 5: Investigation

The investigation was conducted on August 5th, 2001. From the interviews we conducted with the staff we determined that the main focus should be on the ground floor where the guest have seen the "orbs" and apparition.

An observation team of two investigators were stationed in the lobby overnight to search for alternative explanations. The second night was utilized to test hypotheses formed from the first night's observations.

Part 6: Hypotheses

Alternative explanation for the phantom footsteps

As with any old building, the Victorian House Inn has its share of creaks and raps. Most of the unusual sounds occur after dusk when the building is settling. We were able to witness the "footsteps" on the stairs and our rationale is that the sound is caused by the settling of the foundation as the house's frame contacts.

Furniture in the upstairs rooms is moved around

From the interviews we discover that the "movement" of the furniture upstairs is not something that is seen, it was only heard by the guests. Further questioning reveal that the staff never actually noticed that any of the furniture had actually moved, making this an audio phenomenon. The observation team identified several possible explanations that also include

the sounds generated by the house settling and noise coming from the highway 180 just outside of the house. the sound of semi-trucks passing often generated noises inside the building that could be interpreted as the sound of a large piece of furniture being moved slightly.

Orbs of light and the apparition of a bride

The first thing the observation team noticed is that there are mirrors and reflective surfaces everywhere. In the lobby alone they identified 37 sources. Lights from cars on Highway 180 and North Boundary street enter the lobby through the windows and are reflected off these surfaces. As the car moves, the reflected light moves as well. This was especially apparent on the staircase where the light was reflected off multiple surfaces causing a sphere of light to move up the south wall of the staircase, exactly where the "orbs of light" were reported by guests.

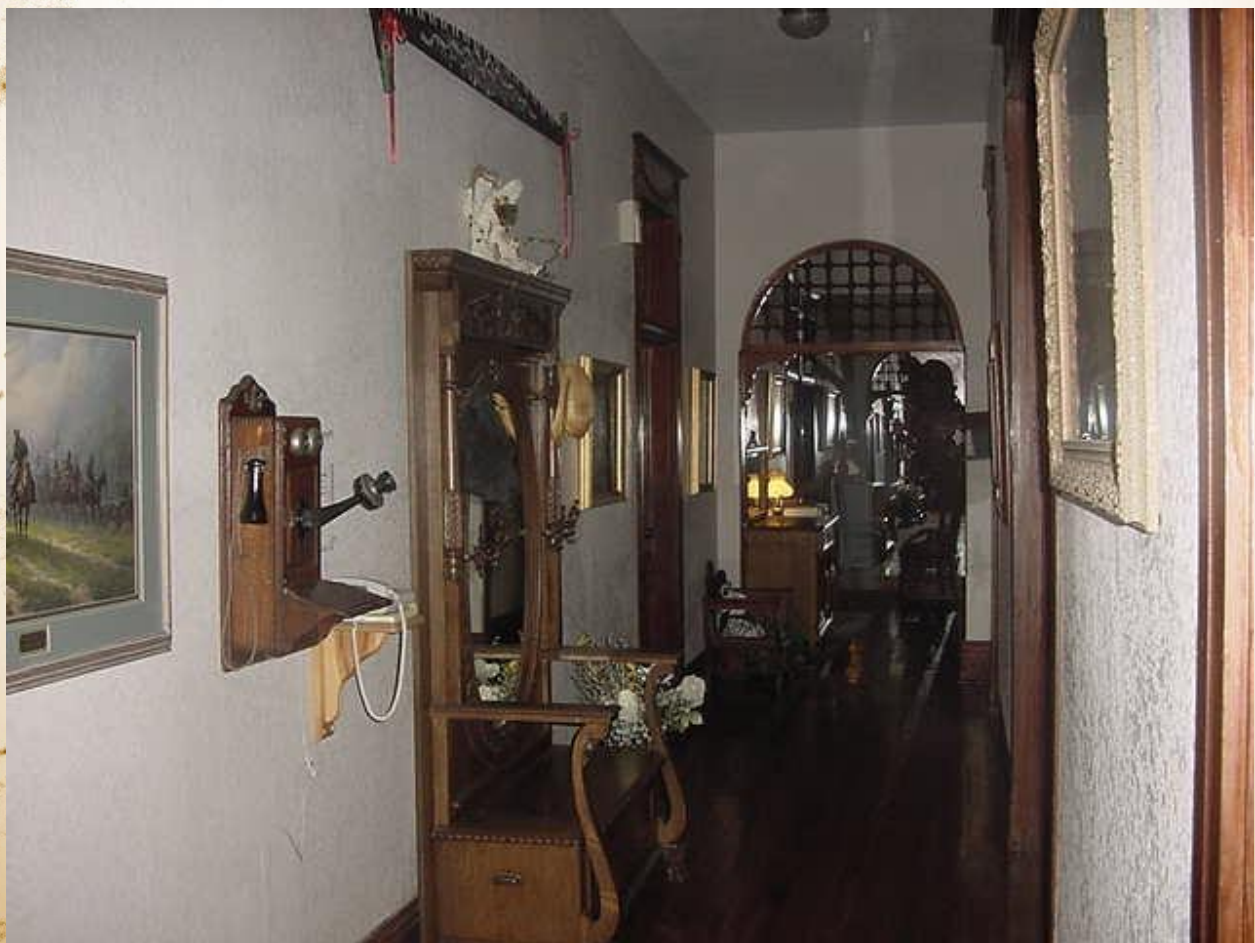


Photo of the hallway show reflections (streak in center of photo) and the black lit artificial plant at the end of the hall that resembles a human form.

While photographing the site, it was noticed that a artificial plant at the end of the hall resembles a human figure when back lit. This is also the location where the previous guests had claimed to have seen the apparition of a woman in a wedding gown.

On the second evening the team attempted to replicate the "apparition" by driving their car on Highway 312 where it merges with Highway 180. After several attempts it was discovered that if the car had its high beams on, the window at the end of the hallway was sufficiently illuminated to reveal the outline of what looks like a woman in a dress.

This left one other visitation of the ghost where a guest woke up and saw her at the foot of his bed. He claims to have watched her for several seconds and then she simply vanished. Again there is only one known instance of this occurring.

This is a typical example of sleep paralysis.

"The feeling of something climbing on your bed, feeling your bed being pressed down by some kind of weight, then the weight of something holding you down, not being able to scream or move at all, feeling like you are awake and aware of your surroundings maybe even sometime seeing a figure at the foot of the bed or in the corner of the room, also sometimes hearing noises or voices."

Given the single instance, this seems to be the most logical cause. Many people who experience sleep paralysis are struck with a deep sense of terror when they sense a menacing presence in the room while paralyzed.

Covers being jerked off of guests

During the interviews we discovered that there was actually only one instance of this occurring. However the ghost story makes it seem like it is a quite common event.

This particular phenomena is also explainable as it is a symptom of isolated sleep paralysis.

Part 7: Conclusion

All of the phenomenon that was considered to be paranormal was identified and explained.

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Part 8 : Photographs



