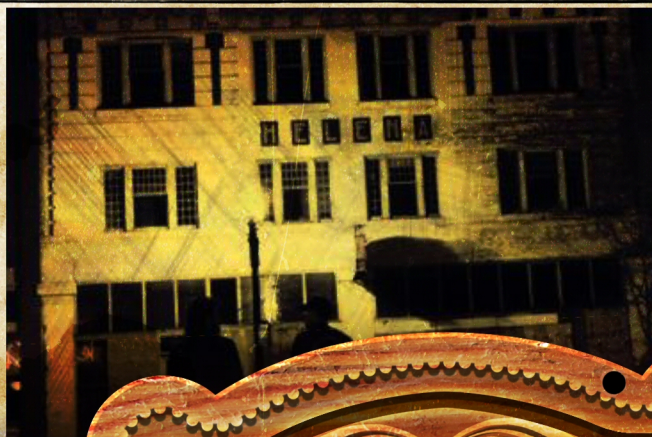




REPORT

HELENA HOTEL

INVESTIGATION



*Ogden
Utah*

UT001

SOUTHWEST GHOST HUNTERS ASSOCIATION



SOLVED

1987

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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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Part 1: Location Information

Helena Hotel, Ogden, Utah

Part 2: Location History:

Built 1910, the Helena Building housed Ogden's largest brothel back in its day. It is also connected to a series of underground tunnels that spider beneath 25th street and connect to the Union Station. They were used during prohibition to smuggle alcohol from the trains into various business establishments. The tunnels are all still there. The hotel was closed in 1972 by a fire which occurred on the top floor.

Part 3: Reported Phenomena (General)



Aside from a multitude of bumps in the night, kitchen utensils that transport themselves, and the presence of people (with no bodies to accompany them), they're the following stories:

One of the hotel's former maids, a woman named Maria, was murdered by her husband in the hotel after she was found there cheating on him. Her apparition has been seen walking in the hotel corridors, especially at night for many years. She is clad in an old, long gray skirt with a bandana around her forehead and is generally carrying towels, which she never delivers.

Another ghost is believed to be a man that committed suicide upstairs. His ghost can be seen wandering through the building as well. The two ghosts are mischievous and throw things around the first floor bar and lobby.

Part 4: Our Investigation

Right after we the hotel, we heard a loud banging noise coming from the second floor. We ignored it for a little while and then decided it was time to investigate. We went up the stairs walked out into the hallway. We turned the corner and looked down the other side of the hall and realized that the noise was coming from the spooky, dark entrance of a room down at the far end of the hall. As we walked down the hallway towards that area, the banging got louder. We paused for a moment and whispered among ourselves as to the possible origin of these sounds. Where homeless people staying there or was it something else? Who or What would be making all of that noise at this hour in the dark. We walked further down the hall, roughly fifty feet or so when suddenly all of our lights went out. We checked through our equipment and strangely, all of the batteries in every flashlight had gone dead. Despite this, we decided to move on and investigate the origin of the banging noises. It was difficult to see so we kind of



felt our way around. All we could feel were doors with padlocks on them. Then the banging stopped and we heard footsteps stomping towards us. Carl lifted his camera and quickly took photograph. The flash illuminated and temporarily blinded a large man that was running towards

us. With a bit of wit, an awkward situation was quickly stabilized. As it turns out, the man (whose name was Benjamin) was indeed homeless and had been staying in the attic of the old hotel for several years. Teenagers would constantly break into the building and vandalize it, often waking Benjamin up. He discovered that by making loud noises and throwing things down the stairs, he would often scare them off. We asked him if he had encountered anything unusual in the hotel. He stated that there was a strange group of people that

used to come here and do "Satanic rites" but they have since moved on. He has not seen or experienced anything of a "ghostly" nature.

With Benjamin in tow, we finished searching the rest of the building, finding nothing unusual.

Part 5: Historical Research

We looked through the archives of the local newspaper to see if we could find anything on a murder occurring in the hotel. Nothing tangible was found.

Part 6: Conclusion

We believe that the ghost stories originating from this location are made up and have been expanded upon by the local teenagers. No sign of anything unusual that relates to ghostly phenomena was found during either visit to the hotel.

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