



Investigation Summary Report

St. Landry Parish Courthouse Opelousas, LA



HISTORY

This site has been the seat of local government since 1806. There have been 5 courthouses that have stood on this square. During the Civil War, 1847, when New Orleans fell to the Union, this site served as a temporary capitol. In 1939 a grey-stoned, Art Deco structure was build and is what currently stands on the square. The 3rd floor of the building also served as a jail for many years. There were only three executions performed in the current court house. According to the Director of Administration, Mr. Bellard, two men (brothers) were hung and another individual was electrocuted.

CLAIMS

One of the staff claims she witnessed two men walking up the staircase late one evening after the building has been closed. When she investigated she found no one. Some individuals hear the old, broken elevator running late at night. Several people claim to hear bangs and knocks late at night. Mr. Donnie, the maintenance man for the court house said he was working one evening and felt a cold rush of air pass him.

INVESTIGATION

There were 4 investigators for this location; Jennifer, Elissa, Charles and myself. Our investigation started with a long walkthrough with Mr. Bellard and Mr. Donnie. During the walkthrough of the jail area two of our investigators heard a "growl" which later was caught on recorder. After our walkthrough we began to set up our equipment. We placed a camera shooting down the jail hallway, one was placed in the hanging room, another was set up in the courtroom and the last was placed in the old engine room for the broken elevator. While setting up the equipment several of the investigators heard banging sounds and knocks. These noises were investigated but nothing was found.

During our investigation we carried digital recorders, digital cameras, recorders, K-2 Meters, EMF/Temperature Meter. At one point while in the old elevator engine room, Jenn and myself heard footsteps in gravel outside the broken window. We all immediately headed for the door to the roof and investigated. There was nothing there and no way to reach the roof from the street. These footsteps were caught on our digital recorder.

EVIDENCE

There was an interesting audio clip recorded that evening of a strange and unknown grunt or growl. As you will hear, the sound was audible to the investigators and they were unknown to find its origin.

SUMMARY

This was a very interesting and exciting investigation. We experienced knocks, bangs, a growl, footsteps and several pieces of physical evidence. The building itself is absolutely beautiful. We would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Bellard for setting this investigation up and making us all feel at home. (Thanks for the fresh coffee) We would like to thank Mr. Donnie for all of his assistance.

FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

LaSpirits returned to the St. Landry Parish Courthouse in historic Opelousas, LA on July 24, 2010. Jennifer Broussard, Marci Lee and Elissa Lehnhardt were joined by Aaron Benoit, Danita Moreland, Abby Ford, and Martin Delatte. While investigating the main courtroom, we heard creaks, knocks, voices, whispers breaths and what sounded like the gavel being hit at the bench. We caught several EVPs in the main courtroom and have included them. They include a what

sounds like a gavel moving softly, a knock and a whistle, a very loud rap, and two knocks close together. Thanks again to Jesse Bellard and the St. Landry Parish Courthouse for letting us investigate the beautiful courthouse"