

Rocky Mountain Paranormal investigation into the history and reported paranormal activity at the Grant Humphreys Mansion

November, 2009

History of the Grant Humphreys Mansion

Location: 770 Grant St, Denver Colorado 80202-3553, Parcel: 0503916015000
Arlington Heights ADD B18 DIF Book 1291-173

Mary Goodell Grant purchased the property (30 lots) in 1886 and built the home at 770 Pearl St.

Built around 1902-1903 records vary in the recorded dates and show the permit issued as late as 1903. For a cost of \$35,000 to more than \$75,000 depending on the records.

Architects Theodore Davis Boal & F.I. Harnios designed the Mansion for James Grant.

In 1903 there was an addition of a brick garage to the property.

The location featured a bowling alley, a theatre/dance hall, an intercom and bell system to communicate with servants and the kitchen. Modifications have been made to the building over the years such as the South patio has been converted into an atrium dining area, central heat and air conditioning have been added, a mechanical lift and elevator have also been added.



Part of the original intercom system.

Mr. James B. Grant (1848–1911 bn: Alabama)
Studied mining in Germany at the Freiberg
Institute.

Started the Omaha & Grant Smelting Co in
Leadville (1877)

Married Mary Matteson Goodell (1881)

Moved family and office to Denver from
Leadville (1881)

Grant was the Colorado's third Governor from
1883–1885

Their son Lester Eams Grant lived in the home
from 1902–1908

Their son James Benton Grant, JR. lived in the
home from 1902–1914

Mr. Grant died in Excelsior Springs Missouri.
He was seeking a health remedy at a “world
famous spa”.

Mary sold the mansion to Albert E. Humphreys
and his wife Alice Boyd Humphreys (September
8, 1917)

Their son Albert Edmund Humphreys, JR. lived
in the home from 1918–1919

Their son Ira Boyd Humphreys lived in the
home from 1917–1976 His wife Lucille
Pattison Humphries lived in the home from
1917–1961

Ira's son Albert Putnam Humphreys lived in
the home from 1917–1933

Ira's daughter Alice Lucille Humphreys lived in
the home from 1917–1938

Ira's second wife Lu-Gray Brown Humphreys
lived in the home from 1962–1972



The Library



*Main Staircase to
the second floor*



*Basement Bowling alley
- Shooting range*



Brides Dressing room

While in the home they made many changes including the conversion of the bowling alley to an indoor shooting range.

Mr. Humphries was a well know oil man who was connected to banking and railroads as well as the oil business. He was called the “King of the Wildcatters” because of his success.

Mr. Humphries was involved in a major scandal of the times. He had sold 333,333,333 barrels of oil to Continental Oil of Canada (a fake company set up by Mr. Humphries, Harry M. Blackmer, Harry Ford and Robert W. Stewart to launder the sales of Oil).



“imperfect” ceiling corner

The Continental Oil company purchased (from themselves) the 333,333,333 barrels of oil at 1.50 per barrel and then turned around and sold it for 1.75 per barrel.

Not only was this part of the operation illegal, some of the profits were used to help elect the 1920 President Warren G. Harding. Once this was found out it started the “Teapot Dome Scandal” (1926) Mr. Humphries was summoned to testify before a Congressional hearing against Albert Fall (former Secretary of the Interior). The initial date of the hearing had to be rescheduled due to Mr. Humphries being ill.

There are two versions of the “accident” that Mr. Humphries had after being summoned;

As Mr. Humphries was preparing to leave for his testimony he held a dinner for some of his friends. He excused himself from the Dinner table to “Clean his gun”. The group heard a shot come from the room where he had gone. They found Mr. Humphries alive however he had shot himself in the head with his hunting rifle and blown off his lower

jaw. Medical help was called and Mr. Humphries was taken to the hospital, he died of his wounds the following day. There is a rumor that a note was found in Mr. Humphries handwriting stating "Please Doctor, let me cash in".

Another account is that Mr. Humphries was packing to visit his mountain lodge and went to finish packing when the incident took place.

The location of the shooting is in question. There are two possible location where the vent took place, one is the Library located just to the south of the Dining room or the Bathroom located on the third floor in the middle of the north side of the building.

On May 8, 1927 Mr. Humphries had what was reported as an "accident" by the local papers. Most of the people that knew him thought that he had taken his own life due to the summons to testify against his friends and associates. Mr. Humphries was a practiced hunter and it seemed hard to understand how the shooting could have been an "accident".

A.A. King stated at the Congressional investigation "I know he (A.E. Humphries) took his life brooding over this affair to shield some men of affairs."

The local papers stated:

Denver-Col. A. E. Humphrey multimillionaire financier, accidentally killed himself by a gunshot wound. "left his house in order," It was learned here. Despite countless speculative projects. In which he was interested and the diversified properties he held in all parts of the country, Colonel Humphrey's business associates said they anticipated no difficulty in administering of his estate.

Mrs. Grant died on April 12, 1941

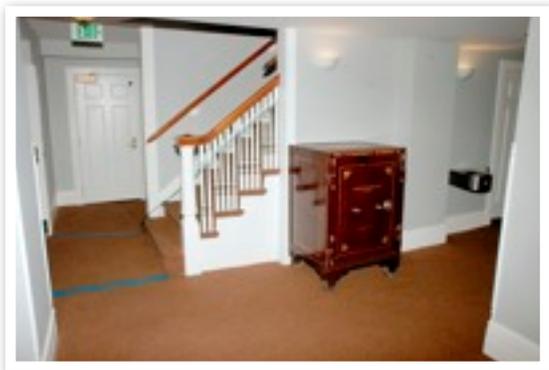
Mr. Humphries widow and two sons lived in the home after the "accident". Albert Jr. died in 1968, and when his brother died in 1976 the home was left to the Colorado Historical Society and the park to the City of Denver.

The building was put onto the list of National Historic Places in 1970.

The City of Denver designated the building as a Historic Landmark in 1976.

The remaining building is a 2 ½ story, 30 room mansion. It includes 7 – full bathrooms 2 – ½ baths, 10 Bedrooms, and a basement theatre.

The property is used primarily as a rental property for Weddings and Business meetings.



Entrance to basement Theatre



Stage in basement Theatre



Original view of the Pool room

Ghostly Reports:

Albert E. Humphries has been said to appear throughout the mansion telling of his innocence.

The ghost of Albert E. Humphries has been seen missing part of his head.

In the room that is now used as the Bridal Dressing Room there have been reports of a shape of a man being seen on the balcony to the north of the room. There have also been reports of reflections of people in the mirror who were not in the room.

Employees and guests have reported that they hear footsteps and sound of people talking coming from unoccupied areas of the building.

There are also reports of people who worked for Mr. Humphries haunting the location as payback for his treatment of his employees.

Employees have reported that they have seen "Shadows" walking throughout the Mansion.

Rumors of an accident in the area that was once a shooting range have stories of another victim of a gunshot haunting the basement of location.

One ghost hunting team that investigated the Mansion claims to have recorded an "E.V.P." in the bowling alley area of a little girl speaking French.

Rocky Mountain Paranormal investigation
11/28/2009

We scheduled this investigation with the Colorado Historical Society to let some of their donors see what a paranormal investigation entails.

We arrived at 5:00 and brought in the equipment to the location next to the main staircase where we determined the monitoring station should be.

The guests showed up at 5:30 and we let them tour the location and then discussed the equipment its uses and how we would be conducting the investigation.

The areas that we decided to monitor were the Bowling alley, the Theatre and the Bridal dressing room. These areas were picked because of the recent reported activity in the locations.

We started setting up the equipment at 6:00 and at the same time started recording baseline readings of E.M.F. (Natural and A/C) and Temperatures.

Equipment:

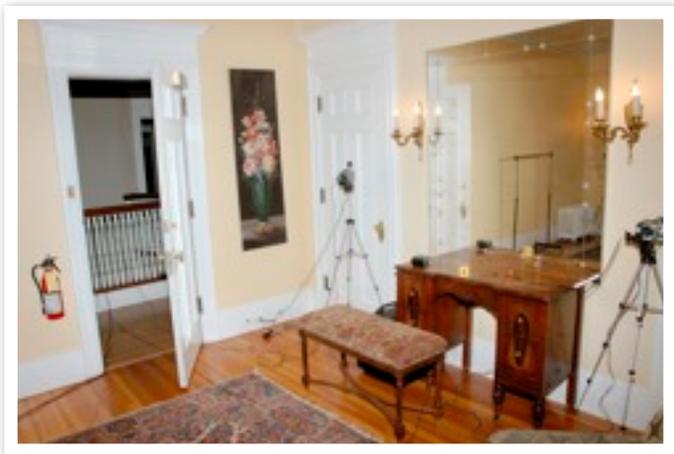
Bowling Alley:

1- I/R Video camera at the end of the room facing south

1 - I/R Video camera located at the mid entrance to the room facing north



View of the Mansion in 1904



Entrance to Bridal dressing room.



The upstairs bathroom. One of the rumored locations of the shooting



1 - Natural E.M.F. Meter located on the floor in view of the cameras

2 - Foam block control objects

Theatre:

1 - Microphone located at the entrance to Theatre

1 - Video camera at the base of the stairs facing south

1 - Video camera at the back of the Theatre facing east towards the stage

1 - control object (toy dinosaur)

Bridal Dressing Room:

1 - Video camera located at the main door facing n/w towards the bed

1 - Video camera on the edge of the bed monitoring two (foam block) control objects and a Natural E.M.F. Meter

1 - Video camera located at the n/e corner of the room facing s/w towards the entrance to the bathroom and the mirror

1 - Video camera located at the bathroom door facing north towards the bed and the balcony window

1 - microphone in the middle of the room

1 - Natural E.M.F. Meter located in the middle of the bed

1 - Control object (foam block) located on the chair located in the middle of the room just to the south of the bed

1 - control object located on the bench located in front of the vanity mirror on the south side of the room

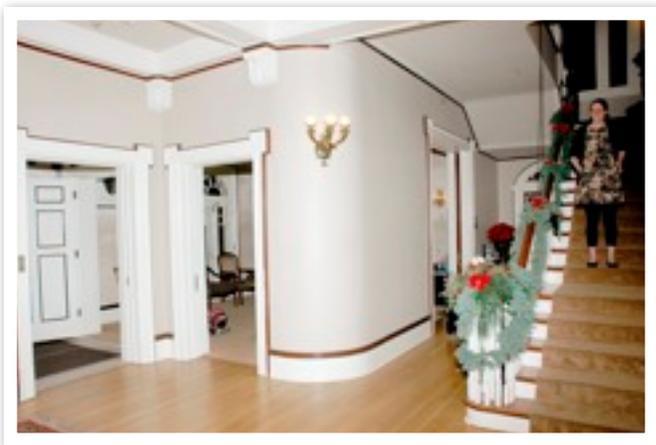
Guests:

The guests that we had stayed at the location until around 10:00pm and then we were at the location with just one representative from the Mansion.

Temperatures:

Temperature was monitored throughout the night. The only change of temperature that was noted was a drop of 2 degrees over the entire night that could be accounted for by the cold night.

E.M.F.:



First floor staircase

We conducted baseline readings with the Natural and the A/C E.M.F. Meters. Continuous readings were taken in the Bedroom on the bed as well as in the Bowling Alley. Hourly readings were taken at all locations and logged. There were no noticeable changes in E.M.F. or notable high baseline readings. Average readings were 0.0 – 1.5 milligauss.



Audio:

We did notice that the acoustics of the location are amazing and you can hear people talking and footsteps from several floors away. This is accentuated by the addition of the HVAC system. No notable sounds were recorded.

Seismic:

We monitored throughout the location to see if there was any low frequency hum or vibration. No unusual readings were recorded.

Photographic:

We documented the entire location with still photographs and no unusual images were found.

We concluded the investigation at 4:00 am.



Main staircase to the basement Theatre



Baxter at the main monitoring location and a view from the cameras

