

Red Rocks Trading Post



We were contacted by Local channel 7 about reports of paranormal activity at the Trading Post.

History:



Model of the Trading Post

The rock formations were formed around 300 million years ago as part of an inland sea.

The Ute Indians were known to frequent the area. One Ute Chief named Colorow is famous for camping in what is now known as Colorow cave, which is located in the Willow Creek subdivision just south of Red Rocks Park.

In the 1920's an Army expedition being conducted by Stephen H. Long, Edwin James another member of the expedition was quoted as saying Red Rocks had a "striking resemblance to colossal ruins."



The Trading Post in the 1930's

Whitman Cross discussed the area in the 1849 U.S. Geological Survey when he named the uplifted rocks the "Fountain Formation."

The people of Morrison named the area "Garden of the Angels" and dedicated the name by holding a parade on July 4, 1870 led by Jefferson County Judge and farmer Martin Van-Buren.

The start of the current concept of Red Rocks was started by John Brisben Walker and his son John Jr. and they held events in the area including baseball games and races. After years of negotiations, Mayor Stapleton purchased the area from John Walker Jr. for \$50,000 this allowed for the creation of a city park.

The Trading Post was constructed from 1930 – 1931 for the cost of \$18,000. When the Trading post was opened, a caretaker who had a residence in the lower level of the building staffed it. This residence was in use until 1983 when it was converted to offices and storage.



Coffee Bar

Reported Paranormal Activity:

The story of the “Hatchet Lady” who is said to roam the park has several different variations –

1. Cill Carle a former concessions worker said that it might be the ghost of “old Mrs. Johnson of the Johnson Clan.” He said that she used to gallop around the area on her horse to stop couples from using the area as a “courting area.” She was said to pull her jacket up to appear headless and carried a hatchet.
2. The Hatchet Lady is said to be a “homeless woman living in the Red Rocks Canyon during the 1950’s. Since her death, her spirit has been seen walking in the Canyon with a hatchet. She is reported to chase away visitors.
3. The Hatchet Lady is said to be a woman who is naked and carrying a hatchet. She is rumored to kill children who come too close to the cave that she used to live in and then she will hide the bodies and severed appendages under rocks in the area.

There are reports of a “Grizzled looking old man” described as being around 5’5 tall with a beard, dirty brownish hair and a bottle in his hand. He shows himself very briefly and then disappears. He is rumored to be a miner who frequented the area looking for treasure.

Many sightings of Native Americans have been reported in the area ranging from seeing a single person on horseback to witnessing entire ceremonial dances.

Current activity at the Trading Post has been missing or moving merchandise.



Ramp where “boot steps” have been reported

A coffee cup with the name “Randy” has been reported to be falling off the same shelf every day.

Employees have been reporting what they describe as “the sound of a dog scratching at the door” at all of the exterior doors.



Laundry Room

Several employees have reported that a door that leads to the back storage area will lock by itself. One employee claims to have witnessed the lock move on its own. The last time that this happened, they could not open the door and had to have maintenance break the handle to get in. the handle on the door was never repaired after this.

Nine years ago a staff member reported that around two in the morning they heard “Loud boot steps” coming his way, then felt a chill and something brush on his back.

In 2005 a staff member reports seeing the large door to the old cold storage room open. This included the handle on the door moving.



Main electrical panel in basement

A staff member decided to run an experiment by leaving an audio recorder in the basement one evening. He said that when he listened to the recording there were the sounds of breathing and boxes moving around.

In an adjacent basement, room and employee reported that while she was stocking shelves, she saw what she reported a “box coming right at her across the room”

Before the current layout of the merchandise was moved, the cock wind chimes that tare on the sales floor were located in the main room of the Trading Post near the back by the fireplace. When an employee was in the room, they reported that the chimes started to move on their own and there was no breeze.



Stairs leading up from basement

Employees have reported the sound of footsteps going up to the office on the second floor, but they never make it to the top of the stairs.

One employee reported hearing their name being called while working in the laundry room when there was no one else in the basement with them.

The sounds of footsteps have been reported on the ramp in front of the candy counter.

The majority of the claims seem to happen from dusk to around 2:00 a.m. in the morning when the employees are picking up supplies for the following day.

Investigation:

We decided to look into the geology of the area to determine the possibility of any seismic activity that could cause a potential low frequency that could influence people's perception while at the Trading Post



Basement storage entrance

The report from the N.C.R.S. – U.S.G.S. Concluded that the area has an amazing array of features, however it has nothing that would seem to promote a cause for perceived paranormal activity.

We arrived around 5:30 to conduct interviews and set up equipment

The base monitoring location was set up at the back of the building near the coffee bar

Equipment and locations:

- Two camcorders in the main room pointing towards each other in the location that the wind chimes had been reported to be moving
- A microphone in the main room
- Two video cameras in the back room where the “boot steps” had been heard

- One microphone on the ramp where “boot steps” had been heard
- One video camera located in the basement where the Managers office had been located
- One video camera located in the basement storage area where the breathing had been heard and the boxes were reported to move
- One video camera in the basement laundry room
- One video camera in the basement storage room
- One Natural Tri-Field EMF meter located in the basement back storage area
- One Natural Tri-Field EMF meter located in the employee recorded breathing and the sounds of boxes being moved around
- One standard A/C EMF meter used to sweep the entire location
- Two temperature sensors moved to various location during the investigation
- 2 seismometers moved to various locations throughout the building during the investigation



Visitors Center

During the initial sweeps of EMF, we discovered a few places that had higher than normal readings:

- The area around the cash register and the computer on the opposite wall. Caused by the equipment.
- The main room just under the stuffed buffalo. A large power line running through the wall caused this.
- The kitchen and coffee bar. Caused by all of the equipment.
- The crawlspace with the heater. We determined this was caused by the electrical components of the heater.
- The back basement storage area near the main breaker panel. This was unusually high, but caused by the breaker panel.

The EMF readings were stable during the investigation and showed no variance that was outside of the norm

Temperatures were stable throughout the investigation. The only changes were due to the dropping temperature outside.

After reviewing the video, it was determined that there was not unusual activity video recorded

Due to the randomness of the reported activity and our short visit, we cannot determine any causes of the reports.