

Rocky Mountain Paranormal investigation of private home

Residents:

Parents and two daughters

2 - Dogs

1 - Bird

1 – Cat

Original reports from client:

Youngest daughter was having problems sleeping and seemed to be afraid of the dark. She insisted on sleeping with the lights or the T.V. on.

She has reported seeing “figure” out of the corner of her eyes, sit on the edge of her bed at night.

She has also started going to sleep in her older sister’s room at night.

The mother reports that while alone in the house she has heard what sounded like a radio or T.V. on in another room, but when she attempted to find it she could not.

She has also reported hearing what sounds like a conversation but cannot hear it well enough to understand it.

Both the husband and the youngest daughter have reported hearing “footsteps” in the hallway and the sound of the door handles to their bedrooms rattling. The mother claims that she has seen the bedroom door handle moving.

After the initial consultation we decided to set up an on-site interview to discuss the situation and check out the location. They were asked to keep a “diary” of events that they could go over with us at the on-site interview.

Initial on-site interview:

Each of the family members had kept an individual diary of events and they had not discussed any of the contents until we were there to discuss it with them.

The family has lived at the house for approximately one year.

The family has all had some type of experience in the home. However, they have also had experiences at previous residences.

The father has heard footsteps and the sound of the door handle to his bedroom moving.

The mother has heard doors opening, footsteps and what she describes as a conversation that she could not hear well enough to understand.

The oldest daughter reported hearing the handles to the doors moving. She has admitted to sleeping in her sister's room at one point because she was scared of something in her room.

The youngest daughter reported footsteps, handles on multiple doors moving and seeing a "shadow figure" in a hallway to the kitchen and multiple encounters with the "shadow figure" in her bedroom. She is the most frightened about the happenings and has called her mother at work several times because she is afraid.

The mother stated that when she came home late from work one evening, she saw what looked like a person standing by the back door to the garage. When she turned on the lights there was nobody in the hallway.

Discovered that a few years ago the youngest daughter was frightened by a friend. This friend told her that "her lip would shake when the Devil was near" and that there were "ghosts that wanted to kill her under the stairs" of their old house. This has left quite an impression on her and we are working with her to understand that the friend was not telling the truth.

The home has had some odd vandalism in the past year: The knobs to the outdoor water faucet were removed, the lights on the outside of the house were all broken, the mail-box was shot at close range with what appeared to be a .45 and signs on the property had just the top of the signs supports cut allowing the signs to fall forward.

We discussed that some of the things that were being reported may be from natural causes and the family having the mindset that they have "ghosts".

We conducted a suggestibility test on the family and determined that they are above the average suggestibility; the youngest daughter was the most suggestible of the family.

We scheduled an overnight investigation for later and started to look into the background of the home

Property data:

Design: 1 Story ranch

Built: 1987

Elevation: 4,900ft

Mean annual precipitation: 12 to 18 inches

Mean annual air temperature: 48 to 52 degrees F

Frost-free period: 140 to 155 days

Calkins and similar soils: 85 percent

Minor components: 15 percent

20 to 40 inches to paralithic bedrock

Square Footage: 2302
Total rooms: 6
Bedrooms: 3
Full Baths: 1

Property Sales:
8/27/1980 \$180,000
12/29/1995 \$0
1/11/2007 \$0
1/25/2007 \$7,600
1/25/2007 \$0

The house and commercial buildings are located between two creeks (less than 50 yards to either)

On-site investigation:

We arrived at the location at 8:00 p.m.
The two daughters and a "house sitter" were present.
We went over new happenings at the home since the last visit.
They both reported more of the activity that had been previously been reported.
The only new activity reported was in the youngest daughter's room. She reported that a frame that is mounted to the right of the door started to swing by itself. She did state that she may have accidentally bumped it but was not sure.

We told the residents to go about the things that they normally would and we began setting up the equipment.

Location of equipment:

The base monitoring location was placed in the covered patio area where there had been no reported activity. This allowed us to stay away from the regular activity of the family.

Thermometer – at the base location

Thermometer – in the hallway near the entrance to the parents' bedroom

Seismometer – in front of the door to the parent's room

Seismometer – used randomly throughout the home to look for any odd vibrations

Microphone – in the main family room near the kitchen

Microphone – in the hallway near the parents' bedroom

Video camera – at the main entrance to the house looking into the family room

Video camera – in the family room looking down the hallway towards the parents' bedroom door

Video camera – in the family room looking towards the kitchen and garage door

Video camera – in the oldest daughter's room looking out the door to the family room

Video camera – in the parent's room in the far corner looking at the bed and door

Video camera – in the parent's room on the dresser looking at the bed and door

Video camera – focused on the inside of the parent's door (handle)

Video camera – in the youngest daughter’s room looking at the frame that had reportedly moved
Video camera – in the kitchen on the main countertop looking towards the family room
Video camera – in the youngest daughter’s room looking at the door from the other side of the room
Video camera – in the kitchen on the main counter looking towards the garage
Video camera – in the kitchen on the small counter looking into the family room
Natural Tri-field meter – used in pre-determined locations on hourly sweeps (and baselines)
Tri-field A/C meter – used in pre-determined location on hourly sweeps (and baselines)
Digital still camera – used to document entire location

A concern of the parents was that there is a high voltage power line located directly (100ft) behind the home. We measured the A/C fields in the home as well as in the yard on the side near the power lines but there were no unusual measurements.

We did discover that there is a significant vibration to the home. This could be the cause of the shaking of the door handles, footsteps and some of the reported “shadow people”. One of the possible sources of the vibration is the pump for the open space water which is located near the home. Additional vibrations in the home appear to be caused by the commercial equipment that stored near the home.

Both A/C and Natural E.M.F. readings throughout the night were within normal range with the only noticeable area with a higher A/C reading was near the oldest daughters’ bedroom where there is a large in-room cooling unit and a fan that were running.

The temperatures inside the house were constant throughout the evening and only varied about 2 degrees.

We discovered that the home has water heat. The pipes for the heat are located in the crawlspace/basement area, but are not attached to the floor joists. Regardless of the time of year or if the heat is on, the water pump in the heater will cycle the water through the system to keep it in working order. Because the pipes are just lying on top of the supports, they will “jump” causing them to sequentially hit following the supports down the hallway. When this happens the result is what sounds like a person walking in the hallway.

Around 2:00 a.m. two investigators went outside for a break. While standing about fifty feet from the home, the sounds of growling could be heard. As time progressed the growling started coming from all around. It was determined that this was a pack of Coyotes that were looking for food. This would explain the “feeling of being followed” when out late at night walking the dog that the family had reported.

Conclusions:

The family does believe that they have seen/heard different phenomena in their home but it seems that there is a reasonable explanation for the reported activity.

Some of the claims such as seeing shapes or shadows in the home can be caused by low frequency vibrations such as those caused by the vibration caused by a combination of industrial pumps and construction equipment. This may also be aggravated by the proximity to the two creeks which would possibly cause additional sounds and vibrations.

The acoustics of the home due to the architecture (open design with high ceilings and wood floors) have some odd effects. The ability to locate the source of a sound is rather difficult. An example is when two of the investigators tried to determine the location of a cat which was in an animal crate. They had to search several places because it was not definite where the sound was originating from.

The hours that are kept by the residents are also possibly a cause to some of the reports. The parents work late hours and are up throughout the late night, so there is never really a "quiet" time in the house.

Because of what the family has reported and the stories that have been told to the youngest daughter (that the ghosts wanted to kill her) there is a predisposition to blaming natural sounds and shadows as something paranormal. This is something that the family is really going to have to work on to not only help understand what is most likely the cause of the perceived phenomena but to help the two young girls get past this psychologically confusing time.

We suggested that if/when one of the family members takes the dog for a walk, they go in pairs and not after dark. The family dog is small and would be an ideal meal for the Coyotes.

Note:

One of the initial claims had been that a toilet was flushing by itself. Before coming out we suggested that they put some food coloring in the tank and wait a few minutes, then look in the bowl. When they did they discovered a swirl of color in the bowl. We recommended that they have the seal in the toilet fixed. They did and the phantom flushing stopped.

Follow up:

After listening to our explanations of what was being perceived as "ghosts", we let the family try to work around their predispositions and use the explanations we gave them to help with their concerns. We visited them several months later and they were very happy to tell us that the things were still happening but they no longer blamed them on "ghosts" and finally felt safe in their home.

References:

1 - Human reactions to infrasound

20 Hz is considered the normal low frequency limit of human hearing. When pure sine waves are reproduced under ideal conditions and at very high volume, a human listener will be able to identify tones as low as 12 Hz. Below 10 Hz it is possible to perceive the single cycles of the sound, along with a sensation of pressure at the eardrums.

The dynamic range of the auditory system decreases with decreasing frequency. This compression can be seen in the equal-loudness-level contours, and it implies that a slight increase in level can change the perceived loudness

from barely audible to loud. Combined with the natural spread in thresholds within a population, it may have the effect that a very low frequency sound which is inaudible to some people may be loud to others.

Infrasound has been known to cause feelings of awe or fear in humans. Since it is not consciously perceived, it can make people feel vaguely that supernatural events are taking place.

Some film soundtracks make use of infrasound to produce unease or disorientation in the audience. [Irréversible](#) is one such movie.

The infrasound and low-frequency noise produced by some wind turbines is believed to cause certain breathing and digestive problems in humans and other animals in close proximity to the turbines.

Infrasonic 17 Hz tone experiment

On May 31, 2003, a team of UK researchers held a mass experiment where they exposed some 700 people to music laced with soft 17 Hz sine waves played at a level described as "near the edge of hearing", produced by an extra-long stroke sub-woofer mounted two-thirds of the way from the end of a seven-meter-long plastic sewer pipe. The experimental concert (entitled *Infrasonic*) took place in the [Purcell Room](#) over the course of two performances, each consisting of four musical pieces. Two of the pieces in each concert had 17 Hz tones played underneath. In the second concert, the pieces that were to carry a 17 Hz undertone were swapped so that test results would not focus on any specific musical piece. The participants were not told which pieces included the low-level 17 Hz near-infrasonic tone. The presence of the tone resulted in a significant number (22%) of respondents reporting anxiety, uneasiness, extreme sorrow, nervous feelings of revulsion or fear, chills down the spine and feelings of pressure on the chest. In presenting the evidence to [British Association for the Advancement of Science](#), Professor [Richard Wiseman](#) said, "These results suggest that low frequency sound can cause people to have unusual experiences even though they cannot consciously detect infrasound. Some scientists have suggested that this level of sound may be present at some allegedly haunted sites and so cause people to have odd sensations that they attribute to a [ghost](#)—our findings support these ideas."

The Ghost in the Machine

Research by [Vic Tandy](#), a lecturer at [Coventry University](#), suggested that the frequency 19 Hz was responsible for many ghost sightings. He was working late one night alone in a supposedly haunted laboratory at [Warwick](#), when he felt very anxious and could detect a grey blob out of the corner of his eye. When he turned to face it, there was nothing.

The following day, he was working on his fencing [foil](#), with the handle held in a [vice](#). Although there was nothing touching it, the blade started to vibrate wildly. Further investigation led him to discover that the [extraction fan](#) was emitting a frequency of 18.98 Hz, very close to the [resonant frequency](#) of the eye (given as 18 Hz in NASA Technical Report 19770013810). This was why he saw a ghostly figure — it was an optical illusion caused by his eyeballs resonating. The room was exactly half a wavelength in length, and the desk was in the center, thus causing a [standing wave](#) which was detected by the foil.

Tandy investigated this phenomenon further and wrote a paper entitled *The Ghost in the Machine*. He carried out a number of investigations at various sites believed to be haunted, including the basement of the Tourist Information Bureau next to Coventry Cathedral and [Edinburgh Castle](#).

*2 Studies have shown the possibility that exposure to high levels of man-made E.M.F. can cause the sensations of sensed presences, visual hallucinations, feelings of dread, and even religious experiences in people with a pre-disposition to the exposure (usually an injury or naturally occurring defect in the front right temporal lobe of the brain)