



**Investigation Findings
&
Analysis**

**“Ionia Theater Investigation”
July 17th 2009**



Ionia Theater Investigation
“Final Report”
Submitted by: Chris Forsythe

Location:

Ionia, MI

Date:

July 17th 2009

Source:

Curator / Manager

Investigation Duration:

6.00 Hours (00:00-06:00)

Investigators Present:

Chris F. – Operations / Lead Investigator

Dee – Research / Investigator

Mike - Investigator

Kathy - Investigator

Wendy – Investigator

Case History – Consultation Notes

Original Consultation / Investigation Date: 5/29/09 – 7/17/09

MPI Representative: Wayne, Chris C., Jo

Note: All permission and investigation request documentation reviewed and signed by client at the date of the consultation.

Supposed Activity:

No activity has been reported in this location prior to the investigation.

Location Condition:

Theater, with full stage show capability. One large and one small theater with up to 700 plus person capacity. Dressing rooms that connect to the stage area and modern sound and projection equipment noted. Used also as a rental unit for groups, schools, etc.

Notes: Wireless communication / internal internet system could cause false positive baseline readings on both EMF and active RF devices, also in close proximity to municipal radar / communications towers. Also the acoustic properties of this location are to be noted for possible audio contamination upon review.

This location is also on Main Street which may result in audio contamination from outside sources, also concession / HVAC machinery noise was noted during the investigation. Reflective surfaces prevalent in most areas, as well as heavy concentrations of dust noted on all cameras.

Location History:

The theater constructed prior to 1931 was constructed by the Butterfield Corporation and was built on the site of a former three story hotel known as the “Bailey House”. With its opening date of January 14th 1931 the theater was used as a center for vaudeville entertainment with an orchestra pit and lofts for an active pipe organ. The theater patterned after the New York Roxy Theater was furnished with an art deco design including murals and intricate artwork in all areas.

From the opening the vaudeville shows were a dying trend and were soon to be replaced by a new form of media called “moving pictures”. Also with the great depression gripping the country the theater was forced to update to arc type projectors to facilitate the times. The theater remained active until the late 1970’s until the decision was made by the Butterfield family to close the doors.

Location History Cont.:

In the early 1980's the theater was purchased with help from many organizations within the Ionia community and restoration began to restore this facility to its former glory. By August of 1985 the theater with all modern devices was ready for its first movie; to date the theater is used for many different functions including movies, theater groups, schools, and business organizations

Location Weather:

Upon our arrival heavy cloud cover was noted as well as falling temperatures were expected, rain at 30% forecast after midnight.

Location Weather Cont.:

Readings Taken: Continuous
Moon Phase: Waxing Crescent
Solar X-Rays: Normal
Geomagnetic Field: Quiet
Temperature: 62 F Avg.
Feels Like: 62 F
Visibility: 10.0 Miles
Pressure: 29.83 In. Rising (Sea Level)
Dew Point: 54 F
Humidity: 75 % Avg. (100% Max)
UV Index: 0.01 % Low
Wind: 12 Mph. W Avg.
Events: Light Rain

Actual Time: 6:18 AM EDT - 9:17 PM EDT

Length of Visible Light: 16 Hrs. 05 Mins.

Length of Day: 14 Hrs. 58 Mins.

Equipment on Hand:

Digital Cameras (5)
Digital Voice Recorders (6)
Laptop Computers (1)
K2 Meter (1)
CCTV DVR System (8 Cameras) IR Capability / Lorex
Camcorders Mobile Devices / IR Capability (1)
External IR Illuminators (2)
Flashlights
2 Way Radios
DIN Cables – 1250 Ft. Apprx.

Team Rally Point & Monitoring Station

Rear Dressing Room Commons Area
Operations / Technician – Chris F.

Team Assignments:

Notes: Only one team was used during this investigation due to its size, the team had entire area coverage with each one hour rotation.

Location Key:

Entire Area Coverage

Alpha – Wendy, Mike, Dee, Kathy

Team Rotation:

00:00 – 01:00 – Setup / Briefing

01:30 – 02:30 – Rotation #1

02:45 – 03:45 – Rotation #2

04:00 – 04:45 – Rotation #3

04:45 – 05:30 – Rotation #4

05:30 – 06:30 – Equipment Breakdown / Recovery

Equipment Placement “Video” / Lorex:

DVR Camera #1 – Long Hallway Rear / Lorex / Audio / 100’ Ft.

DVR Camera #2 – Dressing Room Hallway / Lorex / Audio / 100’ Ft.

DVR Camera #3 – Theater #2 / Lorex / Audio / 100’ Ft.

DVR Camera #4 – Stage Theater #1 / Lorex / Audio / 250’ Ft.

DVR Camera #5 – Break Room / Lorex / No Audio / 100’ Ft.

DVR Camera #6 – Main Lobby / Lorex / No Audio / 100’ Ft.

DVR Camera #7 – Balcony / Lorex / No Audio / 250’ Ft.

DVR Camera #8 – Projection Room / Lorex / No Audio / 250’ Ft.

Equipment Placement “Audio”:

Mobile Audio Units – Each investigative team had at least one mobile recording unit on hand during each investigation rotation and area.

Stationary Audio Unit(s) – Device #1 located with DVR Camera #6 in the main lobby, Device #2 located with DVR Camera #4 on main stage.

DVR “Camera” Audio – Channels #1 through #4 (Lorex) are equipped with direct feed audio to the DVR hard drive and will act as a stationary device for each camera position.

Equipment Notes / Checks:

All recording equipment was loaded with both fresh batteries and recording media as is MPI investigation protocol, and voice checks were performed for recognition and recording quality. All media transferred to digital file for review upon completion of the investigation.

Evidence Review & Findings:

EMF:

No major EMF fluctuations from baseline assessment were noted during the duration of the investigation.

Photographs (Digital / Film):

No anomalous photographs were noted for this report.

EVP / Audio Analysis (All):

Camera #1A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Camera #2A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Camera #3A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Camera #4A Audio (Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Device #1 Audio (DVR Camera #6 / Stationary) – No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Device #2 Audio (DVR Camera #4 / Stationary) - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Mobile Units (Audio / All):

Notes: All analog devices were outfitted with external microphones to avoid internal machine noise and stands were used during the recording sessions to avoid handling noise.

No physical evidence was captured on any of the devices present during the duration of the investigation.

Video (Lorex):

Note: All cameras were hard mounted to tripods and checked prior to the start of the investigation; all cord lines were taped and marked to eliminate false camera movement.

DVR Camera #1 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #2 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #3 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #4 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #5 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #6 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #7 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

DVR Camera #8 - No physical evidence was captured on this device at the time of the investigation.

Investigator Feeling / Personal Experiences:

(Note: Personal experiences cannot in itself determine paranormal activity in a location, unless documented by video or audio equipment)

Chris F. – No personal experiences to report.

Wendy – In the big theater I saw a shadow on the front left wall in front of the stage, in the balcony we all saw red lights that had appeared on the screen and one of the speaker with no source. Also we all noted while in this area that our left knees started to hurt, as soon as we left the area it felt better.

Dee – In the main theater I saw shadows like something was walking in front of the stage than it moved towards the first isle. Than we headed up to the balcony, once sitting my left knee really started to hurt like I pulled a muscle I decided to ask if anything present had any knee issues and Wendy asked why. I told her my knee was hurting and she told me hers was hurting as well. Than Kathy admitted that her same knee was hurting and as soon as we left that area all of our knees felt better. We also saw red lights on or near the stage and while we were in the balcony we all kept hearing odd noises.

Kathy – While we were sitting in the balcony we saw small red lights like a laser pointer on the stage several times. We tried to find a source for this and we could not find any source. When we first entered the theater my left knee felt like I had twisted it and I didn't mention it, it seemed normal until Dee and Wendy had mentioned that they felt the same thing.

Mike – No personal experiences to report.

Final:

With only minor reports of activity in this location and no stories of a definite haunting the team looked forward to be able to try and document anything that may have presented itself while in this location. As is our practice all of the equipment was set up around this facility to try and gather any data of paranormal activity, it was relatively quiet throughout the investigation but several of the investigators present did have some personal experiences in certain areas (See above). Unfortunately no further evidence was captured to support the claims of paranormal activity in this location.

We would like to take this time to thank everyone that had made this investigation possible, we hope that we may be able to in the future return and try and document the location further and try and validate the claims of activity that have been made. This report and its findings will be released to the client in a meeting scheduled for 9/07/09.

Compiled & Submitted,

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