

Hauntings in Saint Paul

By Ashley Marzolf

St. Paul is a city filled with haunted sites. Some of which include restaurants, mansions, and government buildings. These haunted haunts range from the well known to the unheard of. The stories behind these places are as thrilling as the paranormal activity that happens there.

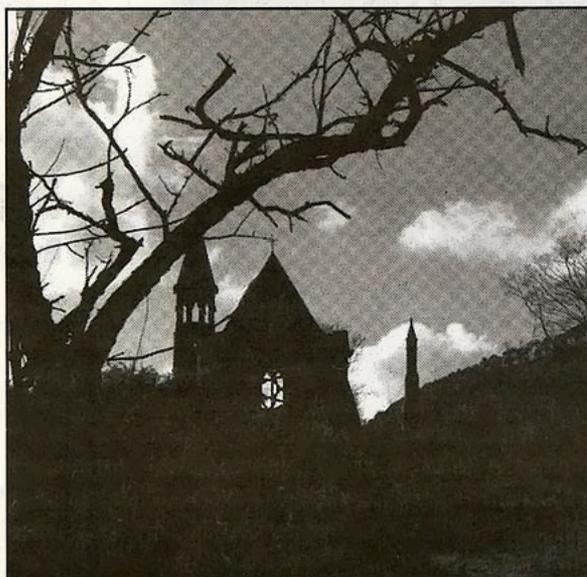
First, there is one of the most well known haunted places in St. Paul, Forepaugh's restaurant. Lindsey Vandomelen, a former Fore-

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paugh's employee shares the history of the now haunted restaurant. Mr. Joseph Forepaugh was a wealthy businessman who worked in the dry goods industry. He lived in a house near Irvine Park with his wife and a maid named Molly. Mr. Forepaugh had an affair with Molly who allegedly became pregnant, who was in love with him. A couple of years later Mr. Forepaugh and his wife moved to a new home on Summit Ave. Yet, when they sold the house they sold Molly's contract too. Molly felt betrayed, and hung herself from a light fixture in the bay window on the third floor, and haunts the house today. Mr. Forepaugh became a paranoid and depressed man and was convinced that his business ventures were failing, however all research shows that his fortune was growing steadily. After being told that Molly killed herself he went down to the river with his shotgun and killed himself. Joseph's apparition is seen standing next to employees and customers in the dining room.

Next, the Ramsey County Courthouse is said to be haunted. In 1906 a man by the name of William Williams, killed his friend, and was sentenced to death by hanging. The executioner did not consider the give of the rope. Minnesota legislature's Session Weekly magazine states that, "After Williams' feet hit the floor, sheriff's deputies scrambled to hoist the rope. The police surgeon counted the minutes on his watch, waiting for the pulse to stop. A small crowd of spectators watched as it took Williams 14-and-one-half minutes to die by strangulation." The Ramsey County Courthouse was renovated in 1992, and there were reported sightings of a man dressed in clothes from the turn of the century, hanging in the center of the courtrooms. This execution was ironically the last on held in the state of Minnesota.

Furthermore, the Griggs Mansion has been known as the "most haunted house in Minnesota". It is 120 years old and has twenty-four rooms. The ghost of a maid haunts the house after she hung herself on the fourth floor following an unsuccessful relationship. Another ghost of the Griggs Mansion is Charles Wade, who was the gardener, can be heard flipping through the pages of gardening books at night. He appears as a thin man in a black suit with a top hat. Apparently Chauncey Griggs likes to watch over his former home, and is seen in his Civil War uniform. Carl Weschke, founder of Llewellyn Publishing that specializes in paranormal and occult books, purchased the mansion in 1964. One night while working at his desk Weschke saw, "a thin, long-faced man with white hair, dressed in a black suit". There have also been reports of closed windows mys-



teriously opening, footsteps being heard on empty staircases, the sound of raspy coughing, light bulbs shattering, and paper bags leaping off the shelving and scuttling across the floor. Weschke invited two reporters from the Pioneer Press and a photographer to spend the night; they became frightened and left before morning.

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Likewise, there is the college of St. Catherine's St. Mary's hall, which is said to have a paranormal second floor. A woman in gray appears in the dormitory doorways. Students have reported feeling cold fingers on their necks, and have been tapped awake right before their alarms go off. There have also been accounts of hearing a lady rushing down the dormitory halls, despite no one being there.

Then, at the College of Visual Arts a spirit moves objects and changes the time on the timer in

the darkroom. A wealthy carpenter used to have his studio where the darkroom is today. He allegedly was cheating with the maid, yet refused to leave his wife. The maid was so devastated that she hung herself on the ban-

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ister of the main stair well. Night janitors report hearing sounds at night like the voices of children and seeing lights flicker on and off. One employee said he saw a man in a flannel shirt, presumably the carpenter.

Similarly, the Marian Center is where the Mounds Park Hospital used to be. The hospital was closed in the seventies when an off duty policeman was shot and killed while getting off the elevator at the morgue in the basement. The building was reopened in the early nineties as a nursing home. Now, if you ride in that elevator, no matter what button you push, the elevator goes down to the basement where the door opens and closes before it goes to the intended destination. There have also been reports of flickering lights and strange noises.

In conjunction with the other haunted colleges, the upstairs music hall of "old main" at Hamline University there is a portrait of a man. At night it is said that he climbs out of the portrait and wanders the hall and sometimes plays the piano.

On a different note, the caves in Lillydale Park there have been countless accounts of paranormal activity such as children screaming, white figures, and wind. This is not too surprising as the park has been the site of many suicides, rapes, and murders.

Also, on the second floor of the Minnesota state capitol there have been reports of strange noises, and it is always unusually cold. People have also been locked in room 217, which used to be a judge's office.

Then, at Bluff Park off of highway 52 a man committed suicide. It is said that if you spend the night there you can still hear him screaming that he is going to kill himself.

Finally, the building that is now the Moose Bar was the site of a suicide by hanging, thus the name of the bar. There have been reports of doors being mysteriously held open, and neon signs swinging and falling off of the walls.

In conclusion, St. Paul is undoubtedly the home of many haunted places, and a score of ghosts. This is not a complete list or history of all of the haunted places in St. Paul, but a comprehensive overview of some of the more interesting sites.