



Investigation Summary Report

Dauphine Orleans Hotel New Orleans, LA



HISTORY

The past blends seamlessly into the present in the Dauphine Orleans Hotel, which boasts a history almost as old and rich as the Crescent City itself. Records of the Dauphine Orleans' site date from 1775, and several of the original structures have survived the test of time. One of our most notable jewels is what is now known as our Audubon Cottage where, from 1821-22, John James Audubon painted his famous "Birds of America" series. The restored cottage now serves as our hotel's main meeting room.

Fourteen spacious Patio Rooms, some of them suites, located across Dauphine St. from the hotel's main building, were originally built in 1834 to serve as the town home of a prosperous merchant, Samuel Hermann. The original building contract outlines Mr. Hermann's very detailed instructions right down to the size of the nails and the number of coats of paint he required. He also demanded that only the "best country brick, sand and cypress" be used in the building's construction.

In 1991, the cottages were renovated, revealing the original brick walls and wooden posts. The handmade nails are believed to have come from the Old Jean Lafitte Blacksmith Shop, though the infamous pirate is better known for his career as a buccaneer than for his blacksmithing skills.

Beautiful stone fireplaces and the original Pecky cypress and pine beams had also been covered over with sheetrock. Today they are an integral part of the suites' unique decor. The property's initial owners were among the first families of the city's Spanish and French settlements. Ownership of the site changed 21 times until 1966, when it was purchased to house the Dauphine Orleans Hotel, which opened in 1969.

May Baily's Place, once one of the better known bordellos in the wildly infamous red-light district known as Storyville, now serves as our hotel bar. Our "Bordello" guest suite takes an appropriate featured place above May Baily's, and a red light still burns in the courtyard next to it as a testimony to its sordid history. Today guests are provided with a copy of the license issued to May in 1857, when sporting houses were legal in the Storyville District of New Orleans.

The red light, the memorabilia and the Baily name are all that remain of an era that made even decadent Old New Orleans blush.

INVESTIGATION

This is a beautiful and historical hotel in the heart of the French Quarter with an interesting past. The hotel's bar, May Baily's, was used as a legal bordello as early as 1857. The current conference room, the Audubon cottage, was used by famed artist John Audubon. This is where Mr. Audubon painted his Birds of America series. Due to the rich history and reports of paranormal activity we couldn't wait to investigate the site.

The reports of activity included sightings of a civil war soldier in the court yard and swimming pool area. Guests have also reported hearing footsteps and running overhead while staying on the first and second floors of the patio rooms. When the rooms were checked, they were reported to be vacant at those times.

The team began the night around 9pm. We set up our DVR recorders in the court yard and balconies, near the patio rooms. While investigating this area of the hotel we didn't find anything unusual. The room made available to us seemed comfortable and all EMF readings registered normal.

Around 2am, we moved across the street, into the bar and Audubon cottage. While setting up our second DVR system, one team member had some uneasy feelings towards the back of the room as well as the bathroom area. We made sure to pay close attention to those areas. Later, while in the same room, we were talking about the civil war and the reports of the soldier seen at the hotel. During that conversation we did get some spikes on our K2 meters.

Towards the end of the night, while at the bar, we were getting high EMF spikes. However, it wasn't until a male employee from the hotel came in that we started to receive those spikes. We were an all female team that night, so we thought perhaps, if there were any spirits from the old brothel, they preferred the presence of a man.

After reviewing all the evidence collected, including DVR, audio, mini DV, and photos, we didn't find anything unusual. While we didn't get evidence on these devices, the unexplained EMF spikes give us good reason to continue to look for activity at this location.