

**Muriel's Restaurant**  
**New Orleans, LA**



**HISTORY**

Muriel's, as with many of the locales in the French Quarter, is enriched with a dark and illustrious past. To truly get an in-depth look of the building, we must look at the land itself.

When New Orleans was founded in 1718, a young French Canadian named Claude Trepagnier was awarded this piece of land for his assistance in the expedition. Here, he built a small cottage, which later became a significant plot of land due to the fact of its proximity of the area that soon became known as Jackson Square during the layout of the Quarter in 1721.

Approximately 20-40 years later, Jean Baptiste Destrehan acquired the property. He was the Royal Treasurer of French Louisiana Colonies and was a man of great wealth and power in New Orleans. He tore down the humble cottage and built a suitably fine home for his family. After the death of Jean Baptiste Destrehan in 1765 the house passed to his son and was then sold at an auction when the family money ran out. In 1776 Pierre Phillippe de Marigny purchased the grand

residence. Pierre Phillippe de Marigny used the house as one of his "city homes" when he came into town from his plantation on the outskirts of the town (now the Fauberg Marigny).

Good Friday of 1788 became an infamous date in New Orleans history, as much of the city went up in flames. During the tragedy, a portion of the mansion was burnt. Marigny then sold the home to Mr. Pierre Antoine Lepardi Jourdan, who then restored the home to its original grandeur.

From the 1800's to early 1900's the home went through many owners, falling in and out of despair. The residence then became several businesses such as a saloon (The Royal Club), a pasta factory, grocery store, and several small restaurants.

In 2001, the establishment was then heavily refurbished into what is now known as Muriel's Restaurant, a fine dining restaurant.

## ACTIVITY

It is believed that the restaurant is most heavily inhabited by the former owner, Mr. Pierre Jourdan. Jourdan and his family lived in the home for a number of years. During this time, Pierre continued to battle his gambling habit. His penchant became so intense that, on one night in 1814, Pierre wagered his beloved home in a poker game, in which he ultimately lost! The shock of the loss was so intense for him that he walked to the second floor, in the area that served as the slave quarters, and committed suicide. That same area is now, suitably called the Seance Lounge.

Since Muriel's existence, staff and patrons alike have all reported strange happenings. Most commonly reported are people observing glasses literally flying several feet from the bar area. Those who have had strange experiences all have reported that they feel no threat from the presence and have even made it a part of the restaurant, cleverly keeping a table reserved for Mr. Jourdan, set with bread and wine.

## INVESTIGATION

We were absolutely elated when we were given the opportunity to conduct a full investigation of Muriel's. We started the night with a wonderful dinner, courtesy of the restaurant, which is undoubtedly one of the best restaurants in the city. Once all the guests departed, we began setting up two DVR systems, wiring 8 IR cameras through both floors. We were also equipped with the standard voice recorders, digital cameras, EMF meters, as well as our FLIR Thermal Imaging Camera.

During the investigation, several investigators reported seeing unexplainable shadows, while hearing unknown voices nearby. However, the "hot spot" of the night seem to radiate from the famed Seance Lounge, the site of Mr. Jourdan's demise. On numerous occasions, we would hear very distinct knocks on the brick wall of the lounge. The knocks seemed to occur on demand, as it would interact with multiple questions asked by investigators. During the knocking periods, several investigators, again reported seeing strange shadowed objects pass in front of them.

Evidence review produced no substantial video, however we did recover several interesting pieces of audio, which you will find below. Two of the clips are segments where the knocking is quite audible. In another interesting clip, while Rodney and Steve are investigating, you can hear

a very distinct female voice saying, "Thank you". There were no women anywhere near at the time of the recording.

In closing, we would again like to thank the owners and staff of Muriel's for giving us the opportunity to investigate such a beautiful business. We would also like to thank our good friend, Jeanne Frois, who accompanied us that night, as she was representing New Orleans Magazine and will feature us in an upcoming article for Halloween. We are currently in the process of lining up a follow up investigation at this fabulous restaurant that just so happens to have a very interesting "guest"!



